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London fashion house Qasimi creates T-shirts to support Palestine

Focus on sectors that employ the majority, experts tell government

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

ONE day after the Minister for Finance tabled the 2021/22 national budget, economists have offered tips on how the country can achieve inclusive development by stimulating growth in sectors that employ the majority of Tanzanians. Speaking at a parliamentary economic dialogue which took place here yesterday, seasoned economist Prof Samuel Wangwe said Tanzania's economic growth leaves many behind hence the need to raise agricultural productivity. He said there is a need to enhance value addition in sectors such as agriculture to enhance productivity and income as well as growth. "Tanzania's economic growth leaves behind many of the main problems due to low productivity, so there is a need to stimulate growth by increasing productivity in agriculture which employs 65-percent of

the population," he said. He said it was unfortunate that despite the majority of the population practicing agriculture, the sector only contributes 25 percent to GDP. Citing an example, he said that from 2012 Tanzania's economy grew by more than five percent annually but poverty declined from 28.2percent to 26.1-percent, thus failing to cater for increased population. The government must thus address locally specific impediments to inclusive growth, to attain transformational inclusive growth aimed at eradicating poverty, the don stated. "At the same time there is a need to form strategic alliances with governments at appropriate levels from national to local levels," he declared. In her presentation, the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) executive director Dr Tausi Kida

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Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (L) and the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday exchanging documents shortly after signing an agreement under which France will extend a 361.71bn/- soft loan for the implementation of a solar power project in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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France extends 361bn/- for 150MW solar power project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government and the French Development Agency (AFD) have signed a 130m euros (361bn/-) concessional loan agreement to finance a solar power project. Treasury Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Tutuba signed for the government while AFD country director Stéphanie Mouen accompanied the French Ambassador, Frederic Clavier at the ceremony here yesterday. Tutuba said the agreement is meant to develop a 150MW solar project in Kishapu District in Shinyanga region, to be implemented in two phases. The one-year project starts next March where the first phase will generate 50MW, he said, noting that parts of the funds will be used for grid modernization to enable the national grid integrate non-transmissible renewable energy, while stabilising the grid to reduce

“The agency is anticipating that the project will provide the foundation for a sustainable low-carbon economy by improving grid performance and deploying solar production capacity”

losses. The French government through AFD financed the feasibility study of the grid project through a grant, with an additional 0.7m euros committed as technical assistance for the project, he stated, outlining benefits arising from the project, as increasing security of grid power supply. It will also enable Tanesco to realize the goal of diversifying energy sources with renewable power. "The project will reduce dependence on hydropower during daylight hours and allow the conservation of generation capacity, creating spare capacity to be used during peak demand periods and extensive dry season," he declared. As for Shinyanga region, after completion of the project, the region will enhance its ability to supply power to gold mines, stabilise grid electricity and stimulate economic and social development, he said. The concessional loan is in line with third five year plan emphasizing 'industrialization for human development,' as no industrialization is possible without reliable and adequate power supply, he further noted. AFD Country Director Mouen said the agency is working towards an energy transition to systematic

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Police jubilant as record 30,000 earn promotions

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has sanctioned the promotion of over 30,000 personnel in the Ministry of Home Affairs, being the highest number ever uplifted at a go. Addressing reporters in Dodoma yesterday, minister George Simbachawene said that a total of 34,106 servicemen and women have already been given promotion letters. This has been done as implementation of a recent directive by the president that all those who deserve promotion be uplifted, he said, noting that thousands serving at the bottom have been promoted to a higher rank.

Beneficiaries are those who deserved and have been waiting to be promoted from the 2018/2019 financial year and the next two years, serving in the police force, Prisons Department, the Fire and Rescue force and Immigration Department. "This number of personnel promoted this time resets the record in the history of this ministry," he said, elaborating that the police force has promoted a 26,464 officers including 110 senior superintendents who attain the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police. About 110 police superintendents have been promoted to the rank of senior superintendent and 241

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Budget: Zanzibar scraps VAT on most essentials

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR authorities will remove the Value Added Tax (VAT) for cooking oils, sugar, corrugated iron sheets and cement to speed up development in the 2021/2022 financial year. The Minister of State in the President's Office (Finance and Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali unveiled the plan here on Thursday evening when tabling the 2021/22 budget estimates totaling 1.8trn/- before the House of Representatives. "The government is proposing to amend the Value Addition Act No. 4 of 1998 so as to remove the VAT levy on cooking oil, sugar, galvanized iron corrugated sheets and cement products in the next fiscal

year," the minister said. Regarding complaints of Zanzibar traders over double taxation on goods transported over Dar port, the minister said that after consultations, Zanzibar is proposing to repeal the VAT levy when importing goods into Zanzibar from the Mainland. "However, this opportunity is for those who will submit receipts to the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) for products purchased on the Mainland, he elaborated, with these moves enhancing government revenue by 15bn/- after the VAT Act number 4 is amended. To strengthen investment flows, the government will reduce VAT and customs duties to provide tax relief to textile

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan introduces members of the diplomatic corps representing their countries in Tanzania to visiting Botswana President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (to her left) at State Banquet held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: State House

'Elders' abuse constitutes violation of human rights'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima says the government will not hesitate to take steps against violence against elders.

The minister issued the warning here yesterday in her statement to the media on the international commemoration against violence and abuse on older people on to be marked on June 15 this year whose theme is 'Let us Raise our Voice Against Violence on Older People.'

She said in order to ensure the security of elders in the country the government was monitoring the 2018/19-2022/23 national strategy to eradicate the killing of older people and that the Phase VI Government was bent to see older people enjoy their old age. Gwajima said these people should

understand that the arm of the law was long and it is just a matter of time it will reach them and the law will fully take its course.

"They should know that even themselves will become old one day hence this could reciprocate on them, because the effort in the prevention of vice stems from the unity in the community by rejecting such vices," she added.

Earlier, the Minister said the 2012 Population Census show that the number of the country's old people was 2,507,568, out of who 1,307,358 were women and 1,200,210 men.

She added that according to that Census the elders made up 5.6 per cent of the country's population of 44,928,923 out of who 80 per cent of the elders live in rural areas.

She further said the National Report for Population estimates for 2013-2035 shows

that in 2020/1 the country has 2,524,559 elders, out of who 1,205,619 are men and 1,318,940 women.

In addition, she said the 2003 National Policy for elders recognizes older people to be a treasure of the nation due to their skills and experience in various economic and social issues.

She said to ensure this treasure is put to good use, the government continues with the formation of elders' council countrywide, and so far 14,883 such councils have been established at village/street/ward/district and regional levels.

She said in regard to elders who cannot fend for themselves, the government established centres for them it operates.

She said there are 12 such centres housing 262 elders, as well as coordinating 20 elders' homes run by religious and private organisations that house 537 old people.

Budget: Zanzibar scraps VAT on most essentials

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producers by waiving Value Added Tax on materials, reducing tariffs on cloth raw materials from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, he said.

The government intends to waive stamp duty on small businesses in an effort to reduce the tax burden and propel more trading initiatives, he said.

"The government intends to waive stamp duty on sales not exceeding 5m/- for those with entrepreneurial IDs issued by local governments and reduce tariff rates from 200,000/- to 100,000/- and from 732,500/- to 200,000/- per annum, he said.

The government has similarly decided to grant VAT exemption on fishing equipment such as boats starting at the length of 18 meters, boat machines and other imported fishing gear to strengthen the fishing industry, he stated.

For fiscal 2021/2022, the government does not recommend raising any taxes in its domestic sources and instead it will continue to take steps to strengthen the management and collection of government revenues, he told the House.

As for strategies in revenue collection, the minister said ZRB has started shutting down electronic vouchers issued by traders to control tax evasion, noting that about 154 machines were installed during the pilot period.

This is despite the shortcomings being experienced before the system was officially launched in the current financial year, he affirmed.

The Zanzibar Commission for Tourism (ZCT) has decided to set up an electronic system helping to identify foreigners entering the country, including tourists and the hotels they booked to find out the actual prices they pay from the services they receive before leaving the country, the minister announced.

ZRB intends to start collecting property tax after completing data collection and setting out levying rates whereby the government proposes 10,000 / - per house and 50,000 / - per apartment annually.

Regarding the development of the tourism industry, he said the number of tourists entering the country

decreased by 51.6 percent due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic as 260,644 tourists visited the Isles, down from 538,264 tourists in 2019.

The government has set out strategies to strengthen the tourism industry through the Blue Economy programme as well as service tax relief for hotels and restaurants, he stated.

The government intends to amend the Hotel Tax Act No. 1 of 1995, reducing the tax rate from 18 to 12 percent to address the impact of Covid-19 as well as amending the Port Service Fees Act No. 2 of 1999 and eliminating fees for infrastructure and transportation, the minister underlined.

The Isles Treasury has started charging depots the same amount as diesel users after it was discovered that some traders engage in fraudulent operations, he said, noting that about 164m/- has been collected after offsetting such fraud, starting mid-March this year.

The minister said the government has set ten priorities for the coming fiscal year, namely to strengthen human resource development and good governance, manage land use and assess investment potential in housing, industry and agriculture.

It will also strengthen infrastructure to ease access to social services including health, water and education.

Other priorities include exploration of renewable energy and to identifying real needs of those prospecting for minerals in Zanzibar.

The government also seeks to develop historical sites by conducting research on the history of various buildings, while incorporating conservation subjects in the teaching curriculum from primary education to universities, he declared.

"The government intends to build a modern economy by transforming the maritime resource system for fishing activities, investment, strengthening good governance by combating acts of corruption and economic sabotage," he cautioned.

The government intends to strengthen maritime transport and telecommunications as a catalyst for economic growth by boosting economic activities, he added

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explained the importance of research institutions in national development.

"Research is the key as it brings new insights on areas to work upon when formulating policies but also addresses shortfalls which arise in implementing such policies," she said.

Francis Nanai, executive director for the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) listed a number of issues to be worked upon in widening the tax base, including addressing informal activities, use of information and communication technology by digitization, and instituting fair dispute resolution mechanisms.

Lowering the cost of tax administration, enforcing property tax collection and proper supervision of indirect taxes are vital, he said, indicating that out of the nearly 60m Tanzanians only 2.7m pay taxes, a small number, thus the taxman has to focus on other ways.

The government must invest in productive sectors, prioritize the agriculture sector and others key sectors for best results, he said.

Dr Albina Chuwa, the director for the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said statistics were a key element in economic growth as this was the benchmark of formulating national policies.

After the presentations, legislators commented on the matter with the majority echoing what the experts had asserted, that there was need for more investment in agriculture.

Musoma Rural MP Prof Sospeter Muhongo said the government should invest in innovation, provide financial support to starters and embrace technology.

Vunjo MP Dr Charles Kimei urged the government to invest in agriculture and facilitate farmers with loans. There is a need to help farmers by facilitating them with the necessary resources but also ensure them markets for their produce, the veteran banker underlined.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L, front row), Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (to his left) and other legislators pictured in the august House in Dodoma city yesterday following debate on the 2021/2022 Government Budget estimates and monetary policy as tabled on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

France extends 361bn/- for 150MW solar power project

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adoption of cleaner energy. AFD's goal is to ensure everyone is able to access efficient and low carbon energy services, she asserted.

The project, among other objectives, shall make Tanzania one among a few countries in Africa with developing substantial solar potential. The plant will

contribute to improving the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix, the director underlined.

The agency is anticipating that the project will provide the foundation for a sustainable low-carbon economy by improving grid performance and deploying solar production capacity, she added.

Police jubilant as record 30,000 earn promotions

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assistant superintendents attaining the full rank of superintendent, he specified.

About 745 police inspectors now become assistant superintendent, while 890 assistant inspectors attain the rank of inspector. Similarly, about 4,148 non-commissioned officers are uplifted to assistant inspectors.

About 20,220 move from constable to corporal (13,751) from

corporal to sergeant (5,619), from sergeant to staff sergeant (800) and from sergeant to sergeant major (50).

As for prisons, he said 6,310 serving officers move up, with seven senior superintendents uplifted to assistant commissioners and 14 superintendents promoted to senior superintendents.

Also, 102 assistant superintendents become full superintendents

inspectors promoted to assistant superintendents, while 69 assistant inspectors are now inspectors while 938 non-commissioned officers were promoted to assistant inspectors.

About 5,105 non-commissioned officers attain the next upper ranks, while in the Fire and Rescue Force promotion affects 149 personnel, including four assistant inspectors who become inspectors and 145 non-commissioned officers shifting

from corporal to sergeant.

The Immigration department has promoted 1,183 officers, with nine assistant superintendents raised to assistant commissioners, he stated, noting further that 49 assistant superintendents become superintendents and 65 inspectors promoted to assistant superintendents.

About 421 assistant inspectors become inspectors and 639 non-commissioned officers attain the next higher rank, he added.



Manyara regional commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere (L) receives Uhuru Torch from his Kilimanjaro counterpart, Stephen Kagaigai, at Mirerani in Simanjiro District yesterday for the annual countrywide race to continue. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Arusha cites incest among child abuse and gender violence cases

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CASES of gender-based violence continue to escalate in Arusha with nearly 4000 such issues reported within the region annually and the city centre topping the bill among the seven districts making up the region.

Incest cases are also said to be slowly but surely starting to rear an ugly head among the increasing and notorious cases of child abuse here.

Presenting a paper on issues of Gender Violence situation before the media training held at Youth and Health Oriented Organization (DSW) Center in Tengeru, the regional social welfare officer, Dennis Mgiye pointed out that last year alone Arusha filed 3949 such cases.

Arusha-Urban District, within which the City is mapped leads the pack with 1363 GBV cases, followed by the adjacent Arusha-Rural District, which has 735 cases, then Monduli with 498 matters, Karatu with 487 issues, Meru (389), Longido (278) and finally Ngorongoro with 199 such cases.

Without mentioning figures, Mgiye revealed that bodily harm resulting from

physical assaults top all cases, while sexual defilement cases, comprising of rape and sodomy, seem to be also notorious here and these have been listed at 1276 cases capping at 32 percent of all problems.

Arusha City reported 712 sexual defilement cases, within the year 2020 alone. Apparently this is the highest figure when compared to other districts in the region. Children remain the 'quiet and helpless' victims of these matters.

Journalists in the region have thus been implored to help the community members understand the predicament so that many of these cases can be dealt with in courts of law because at the moment a number of these issues are left unsolved.

"Out of all the 4000 reported cases in Arusha it is only 531 matters (equivalent to 13 percent) got taken to courts of law, but again it is just half of the number, that is 270 cases have reached the judgement stages," said the Social Welfare Officer.

He pointed out that lack of evidence, intimidation and the fact that many cases are dealt with at home stifle justice. Plus, the fact that many of the child molesters happen to be parents, relatives

or guardians.

Sometimes a girl can also be made pregnant by her own father, uncle or brother at which, she gets forced to abort the infant, in order to save the family from the incest driven 'shame'!

Countrywide also, it is estimated that there is an average of 26,500 Gender Based Violence cases reported annually in Tanzania and if the figures from the Legal and Human Rights Center are anything to go by, then last year alone (2020) there have been 26,544 Gender Based Violence attacks against women.

In addition to those reports, the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC), received murder cases of more than 32 women who were killed by their partners within the same single-year period.

Meanwhile also the country has been recording increasing cases of child abuse 4397 issues related to cases of minors being sexually defiled in the course of last year.

Again, according to the recent LHRC report, some 7263 women in Tanzania were reportedly also violently raped in the course of last year, while more and more female children got initiated into early marriage and genital mutilations.



Work on Dar Rapid Transit road infrastructure from Mbagala to downtown Dar es Salaam in progress along the Mtoni Mtongani stretch of Kilwa Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

WB financing supports improved access to services and quality of life in Zanzibar

WASHINGTON DC

THE living conditions of 230,000 urban and rural residents in Zanzibar will improve with increased access to basic infrastructure and services and enhanced institutional capacities of government institutions, as a result of a new International Development Association (IDA) credit approved by the World Bank.

The \$150 million Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar - Integrated Development (BIG-Z) project will be implemented in both Unguja and Pemba, the islands comprising Zanzibar, and will cover Zanzibar city and selected gateway villages and town councils. It will enhance the capacities of government institutions responsible for urban

development and bring benefits to businesses in these areas and the entire population, as well as visitors and investors.

"Our recent poverty assessment for Zanzibar showed that urban development yielded higher returns to economic activities and, together with greater access to basic services and productive assets, contributed to the poverty reduction recently achieved in the isles," said Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director. "Zanzibar can leverage on this progress with cohesive investments in infrastructure and basic services and strengthened urban-rural linkages to foster inclusive economic growth."

The BIG-Z Project adopts an area-based integrated development approach to deliver

systematic solutions, with the activities organized into four components: Investments in infrastructure and basic services as well as various support programs to improve the livelihoods of residents in core urban areas, fast-growing urban areas, and towns or villages.

Strengthening institutions for improved urban management and encouraging innovation, focusing on institutional development and capacity building, including municipal finance, information and communication technology, and urban management, as well as enhancing the enabling and regulatory environment for development.

Project management, monitoring and

evaluation will finance the direct costs of the management and operation of the project to ensure smooth implementation of activities.

Contingent emergency responses to address situations that may require urgent assistance, considering the increasing climate risks in Zanzibar, particularly the risks of flooding.

"BIG-Z's activities and physical investments take into consideration the unique context of Zanzibar, including its vulnerability and exposure to climate risks, and all are designed with the purpose of improving the isles' climate resilience through both mitigation and adaptation," said Yohannes Kesete, World Bank Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Task Team Leader.

Bakhresa group invited to invest in Botswana

By Correspondent James Kndoya

BOTSWANA President Mokgweetsi Masisi has invited the Bakhresa group of companies to invest in his country to provide various social services.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday after visiting the Dar es Salaam-based Bakhresa grain milling facility located in the Buguruni suburb yesterday, President Musisi said it was very important for African countries to encourage their own investors.

He said this will enable the continent to become self-sufficient and economically strong to compete with other parts of the world.

"I would take this opportunity to welcome in Botswana. We are looking to see factory like this one. We believe in the private sector economy and you are among them," he said.

"Having a factory like this in Tanzania with an investment of up to US \$ 100 million is a great thing to be proud of. My government is ready to work closely with private companies like Bakhresa group to compete with other companies in the world" he added.

He said African competition in trade is needed to cross borders and compete with other countries in the world to become economically stable.

President Musisi added that could only be possible if African countries joined their efforts and had common economic policies with common interests.

He reminded private companies to pay taxes to enable their governments to serve its people and other commitments to the community noting that without society the private sector cannot grow.

For his part, the Minister for Industry and Trade, Professor Kitila Mkumbo said the Bakhresa wheat factory plays a big role in adding value in the whole process of reaching ultimate consumers.

Bakhresa Companies Director Salim Aziz said the family owns a total of 20 factories where 17 factories are Tanzania mainland

and 3 factories in Zanzibar archipelago.

One of the food production factories is a wheat factory which is capable of producing 2500 tonnes of wheat per day.

The Company's products are sold locally and abroad such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Somalia, Comoros, In the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

President Masisi is in two day state visit to his host President Sami Suluhu Hassan where among other the leaders agreed to strengthen the bilateral relationship for mutual benefit of people in the two countries

In her speech on Wednesday this week, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said her government was set to send a team of experts to Botswana for benchmarking to learn from the country's success in the mining sector as well as beef export which earn it hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

She said that they had agreed to strengthen the bilateral relationship in trade and investment by emphasizing their business communities in the respective countries to utilize the opportunities available.

President Samia said Botswana was leading in the mining sector and in beef exports across the continent and global, saying that it could be a lesson to her local experts.

"We are planning to send a team of experts in the mining sector to Botswana to go and learn strategies of developing and exporting minerals across the continent and the world," she said.

"Despite the fact that our country is the second among countries with a large population of cattle, Botswana is doing better. Therefore it is an opportunity to share experience to develop our sector for people development," he added

The head of state added that the trade between the two countries had increased from 731million in 2005 to 3.5 billion in the year 2020 noting that Botswana had invested US \$ 231 million and created 2128.

Stakeholders call for sustainable approach in blue economy drive

By Correspondent James Kndoya

AS both the union and Zanzibar governments begin the drive to harness marine resources under blue economy drive, environmental stakeholders have recommended employment of sustainable approaches to avoid depletion of the same.

50 representatives of the United Nations, civil society, academicians, business community and the government met in Dar es Salaam yesterday under auspices of the Tanzania chapter of the UN Global Compact (UNGCT) and suggested that encouraging aquaculture for instance, can make the blue economy drive sustainable.

Stakeholders' views complement the two government's appetite to fully utilize the blue economy to fast-track development supported by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who said her government would procure eight deep sea fishing vessels - four will be for Zanzibar and four for Tanzania mainland.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi revealed the government's appetite for economic growth with focus on 'Blue Economy'.

Speaking at the event yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the UNGCT chairman Simon Shayo said that the private sector is the fuel that can accelerate sustainable development in the country but the main challenge was how to manage all those resources.

"Consumers are increasingly willing to pay more for products and services provided by companies that are committed to positive social and environment impact" she said

He said that the blue economy had been described as the frontier of African

renaissance, with the potential to create wealth, promote trade, generate economic growth and transform lives.

The annual rate value of the African maritime industry was estimated to have reached us \$ 1 trillion.

For his part, the Aquaculture Association of Tanzania (AAT) Executive Secretary Geoffrey Rucho highlighted the need to advocate the demonstration of aquaculture practice in a friendlier environment.

He said it was a time to move from commitment to action adding that the people need to understand better harness all resources.

"We need to promote blue economy by practicing sustainability instead of jeopardize generation in future."

However to reduce pressure in the oceans caused by a number of factors including deep sea fishing, climate change and marine pollution, aquaculture still was the best way.

The president said that demand for fish was between 700,000 and 750,000 tonnes while the production was 350,000 and 400,000 tonnes annually making a big gap which of course would be filled up by aquaculture.

Canada High Commissioner to Tanzania Pamela O'Donnell said: "We need to build friendlier environment to make sustainability of the marine resources."

She said the blue economy was also very important for tourism for the country's development adding that without making or setting goals, nothing can be achieved.

"Decision makers, cooperates should make sure to understand it so that they can harness business strategies and best practices," she said.

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIAN CITIZENSHIP

MOHAMED MBARAKA OMAR SHAHBAL

The above named person whose photograph attached is applying for Tanzanian Citizenship to the Minister for Home Affairs. His nationality at present is Kenyan, and he is a Clergy at Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania in Tanga Region. He is married to a Tanzanian woman, with whom they are blessed with two children. He has been in Tanzania and residing in Tanga since 2004. Any one, who has any reason as to why Tanzania Citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the:

Commissioner General of Immigration,
P.O. Box 1181
4Mwangoi Road, Uzunguni
Dodoma.
Ref. DN. 413911.

Help enhance sunflower value chain, private sector urges govt

By Guardian Correspondent

SUNFLOWER stakeholders have recommended some of the measures to be taken by the government and other partners in order to increase the production and productivity of sunflower grains and minimize importation of edible oil in the country.

Proposed measures are strengthening the contract farming business model, reducing the number of taxes for processors, supporting farmers and processors to improve the quality of their produce and products, reducing the tariffs for the importation of basic seeds and improved certified seeds.

Speaking at the sunflower stakeholders' meeting held in Morogoro recently, they said more efforts are needed to be taken by the government in terms of utilizing the idle land and review of the laws, while farmers have to increase productivity while other players such as seed producers, agrodealers, seed companies and oil processors play their roles efficiently.

The one-day meeting themed: Repositioning the contribution of sunflower oil to the National edible oil demand was convened by Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) and facilitated by the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) and other partners. The members of the Policy Analysis Group (SAGCOT, ANSAF, Dalberg and Aspiris Tanzania) were part of this stakeholders meeting.

The main discussion question the stakeholders earmarked to address was about "Why a potential sunflower oil exporting country like Tanzania is still importing edible oil?"

The meeting started by reflecting on various studies which revealed the huge potential for Tanzania to be one of the largest exporters of the sunflower oil. Tanzania is one of the ten largest sunflower producing countries.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, there is huge demand for edible oil in the country, estimated at 570,000MT/annum while the domestic supply is 205,000MT/annum. Despite all the existing potentials for the sunflower production, Tanzania is still a net importer of edible oil, importing about 365,000MT annually.

A farmer identified as Amina Dafi, from

Singida region said Tanzania has enough piece of idle land which the government can give to farmers for sunflower cultivation. She said the government should make sure that all the idle farms be used effectively by the farmers, particularly women for production of crops, especially sunflower. Most of women farmers do not own land and if they do they are not enough, so we urge the government to provide us with land for sunflower cultivation, she said. She also asked the government to finance them and establish a special board that would oversee the sunflower value chain.

Another stakeholder identified as Ringo Iringo, said more efforts are needed to increase production of improved high yielding sunflower seeds.

He said at the moment Tanzania is facing a huge shortage of sunflower seeds which impacts on the production of edible oil. Citing he said production of sunflower seeds stands at 500 MT while actual demand is around 5,000 MT, a situation that compels some farmers to use recycled seed. Iringo who is also the Chairman of Tanzania Sunflower Processors Association (TASUPA) said that the government should make sure that there are enough extension officers to support farmers in the field.

A processor identified as Zuhura Mpinga, urged sunflower farmers to use hybrid seed for more production of edible oil. She urged seed companies to reduce the price of sunflower seeds to enable more farmers to use improved seed and get high yields.

The director of production at Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA), Dr Jackson Ringo, said the government has started to take measures in order to increase production of quality seed. He said irrigation schemes would be established to some seed farms, and the target is to increase production to 5,000 tonnes in the year 2023 from below 1,000 tonnes which is produced by the agency annually. He said the government would establish more seed distribution centers countrywide and intend to reduce its importation by a significant amount.

Tertula Swai, Business Environment Specialist from AMDT, said the meeting aimed at coming up with practical solutions that would help government to make appropriate decisions in the short term and long term to manage the edible oil situation in the country.



Selemani Jafo (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a gift to City Engineer Ltd consultant Moses Mboya for the sponsorship the company extended to the holding of the just-ended Tanzania Environmental Experts Association's annual general meeting. Photo: Correspondent Miraj Msala

EU envoy pleased by Z'bar Spices Project

By Guardian Reporter

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) Ambassador in Tanzania Manfredo Fanti has expressed his pleasure by the implementation of the Zanzibar Spices project, saying he holds high hopes the project will not only reduce poverty but eradicate it from among many farmers in the Isles.

He made the remarks during his special visit to some of the farms in Kizimbani and Biguni wards in Unguja.

He said the project, involving the cultivation of spices, vegetables and fruits, if well implemented could change the lives of the farmers, as they can grow quality crops in abundance that can attract reliable markets.

He called in the farmers not to lose

hope, but work hard as "from what I have seen, they could do more."

Some of the project's beneficiaries, including Haji Abdallah Abeid, a vanilla farmer, said education acquired through the project has helped him to improve vanilla farming as he has already started seeing the results.

"For many years I have been using traditional farming practices with meagre harvests, but now, from the education and expertise I have acquired, I have started seeing good results and many of my dreams will be realised," he added.

In regard to the market of the vanilla crop, he said they sell a kilogram of the crop at 1.6m/- per kilo, hence through the project, he believes the price will increase as they expect to produce

quality crops.

Another farmer from Binguni who grows papaws said among the project's benefits was that it has helped them to form groups that they expect to share farming experiences among members.

For her part, the project's implementation manager Amina Ussi Khamis said the coming of the EU envoy was of great benefit to them in regard to what they have invested with the aim of helping farmers.

The Zanzibar Spices and Horticulture Project is being implemented by Tanzania Media Women Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and People's Development Forums (PDF) under sponsorship from the European Union (EU).



This could amount to a flouting of road traffic regulations alongside easily posing serious danger. Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured this scene along the Mbezi stretch of Morogoro Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

THE Pangani Basin Water Board (PBWB) in collaboration with other stakeholders has embarked on cleaning up rivers, planting trees at water sources, creating awareness to public on the importance of environmental protection and conservation particularly within water source catchment areas, placing beacons at different water sources for sustainable water availability.

The move is a part of the series of activities by the board to mark the World Environmental Day that is observed on June 5, every year, under this year's theme: Ecosystem Restoration.

Speaking with this paper over the weekend at Kindi Kati area, in Kibosho division, Moshi rural district, Kilimanjaro region, the

PBWB embarks on cleaning up rivers, while planting trees at water sources

Environmental Engineer from PBWB, Arafa Maggidi explained that, apart from cleaning rivers, creating awareness on environmental protection and conservation, they are also placing beacons at different water sources including Dungi and Kwa Matei natural water springs located at Kindi ward in Moshi rural, Kilimanjaro region to avoid unnecessary water source boundaries conflicts with the members of public.

"Today June 5, Tanzania has joined all countries in the World to mark International Environment Day, and PBWB had series of activities including tree planting, creating awareness

on environmental protection and conservation to students at different schools, members of community as well as placing beacons at different water sources for sustainable water availability," she explained.

She also said that her board will also support different water user's boardies to establish tree nurseries within their areas for sustainable tree planting in water catchment areas as well as other areas for sustainable environmental protection and conservation.

Engineer Maggidi further explained that, the board is facing several challenges in different water sources as human activities

such as farming around water catchment areas, overgrazing, tree cutting, and discharging of raw waste water in the rivers.

For their part, the Environmental Officer from Moshi district council, Peter Tete, Kibosho Kindi village Chairman Sadiki Mushi, and Village Executive Officer (VEO), Theresia Mpelembwa recommended the role played by the PBWB in creating awareness to the public on the importance of environmental protection and conservation particularly in water catchment sources, as well as placing beacons at different water sources to avoid unnecessary water source boundaries conflicts with the members of public.

Soda ash project in Arusha approved, invites investors

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE soda ash factory project that was stalled due to environmental issues has now been approved after shifting from Flamingo sanctuary Lake Natron to Engaruka valley in Monduli District, Arusha Region.

The National Development Corporation Acting Director General Rhobi Satima said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the extraction project was one out of seventeen strategic projects in the country.

She said that after receiving a feasibility study on the Soda Ash project conducted by The Tanzania Industrial Research Development Organisation (TIRDO).

She said that once the project starts it will reduce loss of US \$ 12 million Tanzania incur to import soda ash for its domestic manufacturing industries annually.

The project is expected to stimulate the construction industry, boost employment, and lead to infrastructure development as well enhance the standard of living of the people living the area surrounding the proposed project.

"The completion of the study gives opportunity to local and foreign investors who are ready to invest by collaborating with the government on its strategic project," she said.

The project involves setting up of a Soda Ash Extraction Plant with the capacity of at least 1,000,000 Metric tonnes annually noting that 13 percent of the production will be used in the county while the rest 87 percent will be exported.

She said the project will be the main source of raw materials to the domestic manufacturing industries involved in making soap, textiles products, papers, and human beings and animal's drugs and in the mineral processing.

According to her, the local industries will rely on the home produced soda ash which will be cheaper hence helps to build the nation's economy and people's income.

For his part, the TRIDO Director General Prof Mkumbukwa Mtambo said that feasibility study worth 6bn/- started in 2013 was conducted at Engaruka Basin, Monduli District, Arusha Region about 160 km North East of Arusha Town.

He said project involves the construction of an extraction plant with a processing capacity of 1 million tonnes of soda ash annually.

Currently, the plant will start extracting 500,000 tonnes of soda ash annually adding the production will meet the demand of the product in the country, East Africa Zonal and International market.

Prof Mkumbukwa said an estimated 87 percent of the total production will be exported because the domestic market has capacity of consuming 13 percent adding that it will increase to 30 percent by 2030.

"Our Soda Ash project is paying, and can be implemented focusing on technology, economy and profits in the community and environment development," he assured.

Subsequent to the recent discovery of about 4.7 billion cubic metres of brine deposits in Arusha region's Engaruka Basin, it was reported that Tanzania had started an awareness campaign ahead of the anticipated construction of a soda ash processing plant.

The public awareness campaign was being carried out by Tanzania's National Development Corporation (NDC), along with the local government of the Arusha region.

The campaign is aimed at creating a sense of ownership amongst people in the area so that they see the project as theirs.



Commemorating Russia-Tanzania historical ties

We are ready to support government development projects - Russian envoy

By Guardian Reporter

The Tanzanian government's move in pushing up the economy by initiating various ambitious development plans including the hydro power project, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), revival of the state airline and building of more health care centres has drawn attention of many foreign countries, with Russia being among them.

Speaking to The Guardian recently in an exclusive interview, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Tanzania, His Excellency Yuri Popov said Russia has so many companies to assist Tanzania in its development projects such as the SGR and the Rufiji hydro power plant.

"Russian Railways is a fully state-owned vertically integrated railway company, both managing infrastructure and operating freight

and passenger train services. I think through the experience we have our companies like SINARA can assist in supplying special machinery for railway construction. With regard to the Rufiji Hydro power plant we have companies like "Power Mashines" that can supply equipment needed to this project".

Amb. Popov said during the decades of good relationship Russia has always contributed to Tanzania's development. Today both counties should use existing opportunities to support each other in achieving their development goals.

"Tanzania and Russia have had long excellent ties that began during the period of the fathers of our nations, that have been strengthening in the economic, social and political sectors" said the Ambassador.

Amb. Popov pointed out that trade between the two countries



H.E. Yuri Popov,
Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Tanzania

have been improving for the confidence that with the present past five years and expressed his government under Her Excellency

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, good things such as conducive environment are now coming to both countries. He added that recently in May Mr. Mikhail Bogdanov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa had held talks with President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Foreign Minister Liberata Mulamula and they discussed issues relating to bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen them.

The two parties shared their commitment to deepen political dialogue and to increase mutually beneficial trade, economic, investment and helpful partnership.

The Ambassador sees a bright future of Tanzania as it now opens door to the business people, investors and encourages outsiders to come and invest in Tanzania.

The Russian Federation is

ready to sign the Agreement on the Establishment of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation which will open new opportunities for fruitful partnership.

He said a number of bilateral agreements signed would start being implemented and cited the Uranium project at Mkuju River in the Southern part of Tanzania.

The Ambassador also hailed the government's shifting to Dodoma saying that even other developed countries did that, but people have to be passionate with the results as it takes time to take off due to a number of reasons such as infrastructure development.

Today, Russia, one of the supporters of Tanzania's economy is celebrating Russia Day to commemorate the formal adoption, on June 12th 1990 of the Declaration of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation.

Current Russian-Tanzanian Cooperation



President Putin and Prime Minister Majaliwa during Russia-Africa Summit at the Sochi.

Diplomatic relations between Russia (USSR at the time) and Tanzania were established on December 11, 1961. Through Dar es Salaam, which became the second home for freedom fighters all over the continent, the Soviet Union provided material support and other contribution to national liberation movements in South Africa, Mozambique, South Rhodesia and Namibia. Racism and colonialism, apartheid, discrimination and inequality on the African continent were regarded as natural evils by both Tanzania and the Soviet Union.

In recent years, Russia's relations with Africa, and Tanzania in particular, have picked up a new momentum. With continuous political dialogue, stronger economic, humanitarian and cultural ties, cooperation on matters of security and counter-terrorism, Russia is in close touch with continental and regional organizations, including the African Union, SADC, EAC and others.

Russia and Tanzania are linked traditionally by friendly relations and strong political dialogue. This year will mark the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the United Republic of Tanzania. Our two countries have more ambitious plans expressing their reciprocal interest in further building up cooperation in all areas, including the economy, humanitarian ties and political consultations.

The first Russia-Africa Summit, a truly historic event that took place in Sochi in October 2019, convincingly illustrated that Russia and its friends in Africa including Tanzania consider each other as important and promising partners. The Summit, where Tanzania was represented by the Prime Minister, Mr. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, has laid the foundation for the new interaction architecture between Russia and Africa.

To provide efficient functionality for this new dialogue mechanism the Secretariat of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum has been created. It was set up for daily contact with the foreign ministries of various African countries and the mechanisms of the African Union and other integration associations in Africa. The Secretariat oversees the organisational and practical preparations of new initiatives for the next Russia-Africa Summit scheduled for 2022 in accordance with the Sochi agreements.

Besides, the Association of Trade and Economic Cooperation with African countries was established under the Secretariat to discuss initiatives on the best ways to develop investment, trade and economic ties. Large Russian companies are members of this association including Rosatom, ALROSA, Gazprombank, Transmashholding, and the Innopraktika development institute. They are interested in developing cooperation with African states. The association will be used as a platform for helping Russian companies that want to work in African countries or with the integration

associations on the African continent.

In April 2021 Mr. Oleg Ozerov, Ambassador-at-Large and Head of the Secretariat of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum visited Tanzania where he held the meeting with Amb. Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, in Dar-es-Salaam. They discussed issues relating to the bilateral cooperation and the preparation for the next Russia-Africa Summit in 2022.

In May 2021 Mr. Mikhail Bogdanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa held talks with Hon. Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania in Kampala on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of President Hon. Yoweri Museveni. After that, Mr. Bogdanov, being on a working trip to Dar es Salaam, held consultations with Hon. Amb. Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepen political dialogue including interaction within the UN and other international organizations, and to increase mutually beneficial trade, economic, investment and humanitarian partnership. They exchanged views on relevant international and regional issues making emphasis on resolving crises and conflict situations in hotspots of the African continent. Special attention was paid to the organizational and substantive aspects of the preparation and holding of the second Russia-Africa Summit in 2022.

Over many years, we have observed remarkable and distinguished progress in bilateral relations, mainly in political and social-cultural aspects. This was demonstrated as well by the establishment of the Society for Friendship with Tanzania in Russia in May 2021. Several businessmen and public figures came up with this initiative to promote environmental and humanitarian projects at the international level. The Society's activity will be aimed at strengthening relations between Russia and Tanzania by developing "people's diplomacy." The main direction will be the acquaintance of the peoples of the two countries with the history, culture and traditions of each other. In addition, it is planned to expand ties with compatriots living in Tanzania. The promotion of the Russian language in Africa is no less important. In the future, a business council will begin to work, which will include businessmen and representatives of the public. There are also plans to organize an economic forum.

Another significant development in bilateral relations will be the establishment of a Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation for the benefits of both countries that is at the final stage. The Commission is believed to enhance relations in the areas of investment, energy, trade and economic development between the two nations. The joint commission will have significant contributions to the mining sector, gas and tourism.

There are a number of large Russian companies expressing readiness to cooperate with Tanzanians in implementing major projects and provide support and solutions for Tanzania's industrialization agenda.

Among them are state-owned railway company JPS "Russian Railways", one of the largest Russian holdings of transport engineering JSC "Sinara - Transport Machines", global power engineering company OJSC "Power Machines" and steel products manufacturer "Severstal". In the energy sector such Russian companies as the PJSC "Gazprom", state industrial corporation "Rosneft", PJSC Oil Company "Rosneft", PJSC Oil Company "Lukoil" are interested in fostering mutually beneficial cooperation with Tanzanian partners.

Considerable importance is attached to the uranium development project in southern Tanzania that is realized by the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation "ROSATOM" and its subsidiaries.

Currently Russia and Tanzania are implementing the Agreement on the disbursement of the debt of Tanzania owed to Russia on financing development projects in Tanzania (Russia-Tanzania Debt Swap Agreement).

Traditionally friendly ties between the two countries in the sphere of culture continue to strengthen thanks to the efforts of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture (RCSC), known as the Russian-Tanzanian Culture Centre (RTCC) in Dar es Salaam. Since its foundation in 1990 the Centre has recorded remarkable achievements which have immensely contributed to developing social, culture and humanitarian bonds. Some of the major achievements include many works of Russian classical and contemporary literature, especially children's literature that has been translated and published in Russia for Tanzania; and the Centre is set to continue this tradition in collaboration with a Tanzanian publishing House dubbed 'Ndanda Mission Press'. Incidentally, some of the classical works of contemporary Swahili literature like those done by Shaaban Robert were translated to Russian language and were published in Russia.

The radio program 'Tuikumbukie Urusi' deserves a particular mention. It is prepared in Swahili by the Centre is aired on Radio Tumaini every Saturday, narrating various themes about Russia. Tanzanian graduates of Russian universities are often invited to

participate, and talk about various issues including their student years in Russia.

Adding that the development of scientific cooperation between Russian and Tanzanian scientists has also grown; as the Centre has been organizing presentations by Russian scientists at Tanzanian universities and also trips of Tanzanian scientists to Russia, research projects undertaken by Russian scientists in Tanzania in collaboration with their Tanzanian colleagues, and provides support in conducting joint scientific conferences.

Besides, the Centre actively provides assistance in the training of highly qualified national personnel for all sectors of the economy, health care and science. Since independence, more than 3 thousand Tanzanians have received degrees from Soviet and Russian universities. Over the 30 years of its existence, the Centre has sent several hundred Tanzanians to study in Russia and today they are successfully working for the wellbeing of their country.

The Government of the Russian Federation continues to grant scholarships for students who wish to study in Russia. In 2020 scholarships have been awarded to 25 students. The Centre has also been providing various internships for Russian students-africanists.

Considerable importance is also attributed to Swahili studies in Russia. The beginning of Swahili studies in Russia (former the Soviet Union) can be traced back to the 1930s. Since that time Russia has become one of the world's centres of Swahili studies thanks to its strong academic basis as well as prominent linguists and historians who have greatly contributed to promoting Swahili across the globe. Today the Russian government has four universities that teach Swahili - Institute of Asia and Africa Countries at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Saint Petersburg State University, Moscow State University of International Relations and Kazan Federal University. Their graduates continue to strengthen Russian-African relations and, in particular, the Russian-Tanzanian ties in the diplomatic, economic and cultural fields.



Russian fair in Tanzania

EATV, FMF to scale up Namthamini campaign

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

EAST Africa Television (EATV) and East Africa Radio have entered into a partnership with the Flaviana Matata Foundation to scale up Namthamini campaign this year.

The campaign is aimed at encouraging the community to donate money or sanitary towels to needy students at school so that they can attend classes full time without being interrupted by menstruation.

Campaign Coordinator, Sophia Mng'anya said that the goal is to reach 5,000 girls who will receive the service of female towels for one year.

"The idea came after a study that showed that many female students in the country miss lessons due to the lack of female towels when they are in their menstrual days," said Sophia.

She said, female students, miss an average of 60 days of study per year during menstruation, due to the lack of sanitary towels, that's why EATV and East Africa Radio decided to increase the number of participants in the campaign.

"EATV and East Africa Radio managing director, Regina Mengi and the founder of the Flaviana Matata Foundation, Flaviana Matata have signed a partnership agreement in the campaign," she said.

Sophia said: "The campaign was officially launched on World Menstruation Day, which is celebrated on May 28 of each year, and what follows is to encourage the community to actively participate in ensuring that sanitary towels are available."

"We would like to take this opportunity to ask all Tanzanians to join us in this campaign, by

donating female towels or money to help girls get an education without any restrictions, ultimately achieving their goals," she said.

According to her, people can donate money through account number 0150431938200 CRDB bank, the name is Namthamini, and also one can send money through payment number Selcom Mastercard 6057 9851.

"You can submit your contribution on pads to the offices of East Africa Television and East Africa Radio located in the Mikochei Light Industrial area, Dar es Salaam because we believe that when you raise one girl, you uplift the whole community," she said.

According to Sophia, since EATV and East Africa Radio launched the Namthamini campaign in 2017, they have successfully reached more than 11,000 students in more than 15 regions in the country and provided them with feminine towels.



The idea came after a study that showed that many female students in the country miss lessons due to the lack of female towels when they are in their menstrual days



East Africa TV (EATV) and East Africa Radio managing director Regina Mengi (L) and Flaviana Matata Foundation founder Flaviana Matata exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a partnership agreement involving the two parties. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Don't buy coffee outside laid down procedures, RC appeals to traders

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

SONGWE regional commissioner Omary Mgumba has instructed for legal steps to be taken against traders who have begun buying coffee outside the laid down system.

He issued the instruction on Tuesday this week soon after receiving report on the

development of the coffee crop in the region during his meeting with the crops stakeholders in his office.

He said the government has put in place a procedure for coffee buyers to buy the crop at recognized selling centres that aim to protect the crop's quality and increase competition in the international market.

"Farmers are supposed to sell coffee to cooperatives or government recognized centres and if there are people buying the crop outside this procedure, stern steps should be taken against them," he stressed.

He also called on district commissioners to work together with their council directors in districts that grow coffee to

license traders who have come up to buy coffee.

In regard to the crop's indicative price, he said during this season there will not be any indicative price but only agreements between buyers and farmers.

According to Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), Songwe Region earned 54bn/- from coffee sales in 2020.



Vendors hunt for customers for their hand-made sandals at Chang'ombe in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

Tanzanians have been counseled to make sure that the food they buy is safe before consuming or during its early preparations.

This was said in Dar es Salaam by the Acting Director of Quality Management at TBS Gervas Kaisi, during an event to mark world food safety day which was celebrated in the city.

He said consumers have to inspect food to ensure that it does not decay, expire or be contaminated in any way.

He said consumers have the right to get information on food through descriptions written on

Ensure food safety before eating, Tanzanians urged

the labels. He insisted producers put accurate information sticking on standards, principles and regulations.

The theme for this year is 'Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow', stressing that production and consumption of safe food has immediate and long term benefits for people and the economy.

He also said the World Health

Organisation statistics show more than 600 people ate unsafe food and over 420,000 died in 2015 due to diseases resulting from unsafe food.

In Africa alone it is estimated that 137,000 people died due to the diseases whereas children and pregnant women are at more risk.

For her part WHO Representative Rose Shija, said through the World Food Safety

Day, the organisation intends to put food safety issues in its agenda in order to reduce unnecessary diseases.

According to her food safety is a shared responsibility between governments, producers and consumers. Everybody has a role to play from farm to table to ensure the food we consume is safe and will not cause damage to our health.

Govt set to introduce Universal Health Care

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is due to introduce Universal Health Care (UHC) aimed at reaching all Tanzanians. It is worth mentioning that Tanzania has a total of 12,827 million households, out of which 20% are estimated to be indigent. The Government will need more than 149bn/- in the first year to cover 30% of the 2.628 million indigent households. Allocation of budget will be increased by 10 percent every year so that by 2034/2035 all citizens will be reached.

The government continues to improve health services closer to people so that health insurance facility can be effectively used for the benefit of all citizens.

According to him, health sector is a very important sector in the well-being of our society and is one of the most important requirements in the human life.

Recognizing this, the government has done a tremendous job in this sector.

However, there is still a great work to be done due to a growing population and the changing health needs in today's generation. The citizens in various parts of the country have put a great deal of efforts in finding solutions to the challenges of access to health services in their localities.

"In various areas there are fortified buildings started by the community however, it takes long to complete, 5 up to 15 years. We also have work in progress at various construction stages of more than 1,500 health centers that have been partly developed by the communities around but they could not finish due to budgetary constraints," he said, adding that the government will complete a total of 67 health buildings by June, 2021. "However, all completed modern facilities still require the addition of two specific buildings, namely the male and the female wards in

addition to the existing buildings, namely OPD, mother and child ward, IPD, operating rooms, staff houses, building services (Laboratory and Radiology) and mortuary. We must tighten our belts and mobilise resources to address the shortage of health facilities in the country."

According to the minister, it is proposed to introduce a universal insurance coverage project (Universal Health Care) aimed at reaching all Tanzanians. It is worth mentioning that Tanzania has a total of 12,827 million households, out of which 20% are estimated to be indigent. The government will need more than 149bn/- in the first year to cover 30% of the 2.628 million indigent households. Allocation of budget will be increased by 10 percent every year so that by 2034/2035 all citizens will be reached.

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Put in place systems for raising blood collection from voluntary donors, WHO tells African govts

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) has called on African government together with blood donor associations and non-governmental organisations, to put in place systems and infrastructure needed to increase the collection of blood from voluntary donors.

During his message to commemorate the world blood donor day celebrated every 14th of June, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti elaborated on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on blood supply and demand in the WHO.

He recounted that many people have shunned from donating blood this past year due to the pandemic which has led to the decrease in blood stocks in the African region as movement restrictions and fears of infection hindered people from accessing donation sites.

“The average blood donation rate dropped by 17% and the frequency of blood drives reduced by 25%. Demand for blood also decreased by 13% with the suspension of routine surgeries in some countries and fewer people seeking care in health facilities,” he complained.

WHO RD encouraged others through this year’s theme “Give blood and keep the world beating” to consider donating blood for many to be saved.

“However, there are still around seven million patients who require this life-saving product in African countries every year,” he said.

He reminded that this day is aimed at raising awareness on the need for safe blood and blood products, like plasma. Adding that Safe blood and its transfusion are key aspects in providing quality care to save mothers hemorrhaging during childbirth and people with serious injuries.

“Blood is needed for surgical procedures, as well as to treat severe anemia, inherited blood disorders, and other conditions,”

he underlined.

Matshidiso added that blood can only be stored for a limited time and so a steady supply of donations is important to make sure adequate blood products are always available.

He said responding to the pandemic, 10 African countries have embarked on an investigation relating to the use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) therapy.

“Ethiopia, Guinea and Mauritius have collected CCP for compassionate use and randomized control trials are ongoing in South Africa and Uganda,” he intoned.

However, he saluted efforts furnished by voluntary, unpaid blood donors for this life-saving gift. “Even during the pandemic, blood donors in many countries have made extraordinary efforts to continue to donate blood,” he appreciated.

He also said the international organisation has been working with other stakeholders to improve access to quality blood supplies. Among which is partnering with the Coalition of Blood for Africa (CoBA) in November 2020 and engaging the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFILD) and the private sector.

He also mentioned the Blood Safe Program funded by the United States of America National Institutes of Health supports research to enhance availability of safe blood in African countries like Algeria, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo and Zambia.

He underscored that through this partnership, research projects in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi are underway in collaboration with universities in the United States.

“In partnership with Facebook, we have set-up a Regional Blood Donations feature, which connects people with nearby blood banks. The tool is now live in 12 countries and over 3.8 million Facebook users have signed-up to be notified of blood donation opportunities,” he added.



Zanzibar’s Tourism and Heritage minister, Lela Mohammed Mussa, pictured in Zanzibar on Thursday opening an Equity Bank meeting for businesspeople. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCC, TCCIA partner with SABF to land market opportunities in SADC region

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIA Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the South African Business Forum (SABF) that will see TCCIA members explore market opportunities of their locally produced good to South Africa and other country members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The MoU opens doors for collaboration between the two business platforms that will facilitate businesses for both sides under a win-win situation. It further aims at promoting the investment amongst the two parts for the best interest of their members.

Speaking at the signing

ceremony of the MoU held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, TCCIA’s President Paul Koyi said the collaborative agreement will bring together about 500 South African owned companies both from South Africa and their subsidiaries in Tanzania under the umbrella of SABF and over 30,000 TCCIA members scattered across the country to share experiences and strengthen trade ties.

“Today we have opened a new chapter in achieving business success for both of our members. We have signed this MoU so that TCCIA can execute its mandate to coordinate Southern African businesses to Tanzania;

And if that is the case, we do believe that we will also collaborate and work together in an honest and transparent manner thus at the end of the day

everybody is happy. We shall sit together to strategize and come up with priorities that we can advise the government to sort out chronic challenges regarding doing business,” said Koyi.

He asserted that the collaboration will serve as a platform of addressing emerging and existing business challenges of the two parts.

“In making sure that our members have access to their businesses across the continent, we are planning for a big event of about 12 countries’ chambers that will be held in Dar es Salaam in August this year. The event will bring chambers from the SADC and EAC blocs to discuss how chambers can really promote businesses and investment in their respective countries,” revealed Koyi.

The event is expected to steer more positive way forward on how regional businesses are organised in terms of market linkages and new emerging business opportunities.

On his part, Manisa Thakaar, chairman of SABF in Tanzania said that there are a number of opportunities that are yet to be explored in Tanzania in the agriculture sector, manufacturing, services and mining that South African firms are eager to invest in by collaborating with the TCCIA.

“For instance the agriculture sector remains central to Tanzania’s industrialization as it provides markets for industrial products and raw materials for industries. We SABF see it as a wise decision to partner with the TCCIA and explore this potential opportunities,” said Thakaar.



A scene at one of the sites at Kinyerezi in suburban Dar es Salaam where China Railway Seventh Group Company Limited is soon to build a commuter bus stand, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

AfDB says \$10bn Covid-19 fund fast-tracking Africa’s recovery

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has said the \$10 billion COVID-19 relief facility it began disbursing since the heat of the pandemic in 2020 is boosting the recovery of several African countries.

The Vice President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Complex, Khaled Sherif, stated this at the bank’s pre-annual meetings virtual press conference.

“Out of the 54 African countries, 43 saw a decline in domestic revenue ranging from 30 to 70 per cent. Regional trade was paralysed in many parts of Africa with the borders closed,” he said.

He also said Africa is a net importer of food, purchasing food of about \$135 billion annually while export was down from the continent. Six countries struggled to finance their sovereign debts because of the oil price collapse and the pandemic while eight others found it hard to pay their civil servants and domestic debts.

Sherif said it became imperative for the bank to find a way to assist regional member countries in terms of financing bilateral debts and ensuring that state-owned enterprises and private sector firms do not fail.

“So the AfDB created what is known as the crisis relief facility and it was a \$10 billion facility including \$5.2bn for COVID relief to help countries that were affected by Covid,” he also said.

According to the Director of

Human Capital, Youth and Skills at AfDB, Martha Phiri, Africa does not have adequate supply of vaccines so it is important for the continent to look towards developing the capacity to manufacture vaccines.

“It will be extremely important that the bank talks on this important issue at the annual meeting,” she said.

The Vice President and Chief Finance Officer, Bajubile Swazi Tshabalala, said AfDB is committed towards improving its presence in the health sector of African countries through its High Five programme that includes industrialising Africa, power supply and water and sanitation.

“We feel that responding and helping African countries respond to the pandemic lines very well with the bank’s High 5, and we are working resolutely to make sure that the continent is better prepared next time,” the officer stated.

“So the AfDB created what is known as the crisis relief facility and it was a \$10 billion facility including \$5.2bn for COVID relief to help countries that were affected by Covid

Women entrepreneurs committed to creating jobs

By Special Correspondent

CREATING employment is a key motivation for South Africa’s female entrepreneurs, with 90 percent saying that it was a “very important” (74 percent) or an “important” (16 percent) consideration when they started their business, according to the South African Women Entrepreneurs Job Creators Survey.

Dedication to job creation was consistent across business type and size, and the age of respondents. About three-quarters reported that creating a job for themselves was a “very important” consideration in starting their businesses.

The survey was undertaken by Lionesses of Africa, a network of more than 1.3 million women entrepreneurs across Africa, together with New York University,

and supported by Absa.

The survey data was collected online from 913 female entrepreneurs in South Africa between November 23 last year and April 28 this year. It was informed by a further 150 qualitative interviews of women entrepreneurs during the same period. Participants were recruited through the Lionesses of Africa network to represent a range of business types, sizes

and sectors. The survey was an opportunity for South Africa’s women entrepreneurs to share their experiences in job creation and how Covid-19 had affected this and revenue generation. Respondents also shared their post-Covid-19 outlook for their businesses, and their experience with accessing government assistance programmes and external financing during the pandemic.

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Establishment of fish farming centres in Tanzania plausible

FISH farming or pisciculture involves raising fish commercially in tanks or enclosures such as fish ponds, usually for food. It is different from aquaculture, which is the farming of aquatic animals such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs and so on. A facility that releases juvenile fish into the wild for recreational fishing or to supplement a species' natural numbers is generally referred to as a fish hatchery. Worldwide, the most important fish species produced in fish farming are carp, tilapia, salmon, and catfish.

Demand is increasing for fish and fish protein, which has resulted in widespread overfishing in wild fisheries. China provides 62 per cent of the world's farmed fish. As of 2016, more than 50 per cent of seafood was produced by aquaculture. In the last three decades, aquaculture has been the main driver of the increase in fisheries and aquaculture production. Farming carnivorous fish, such as salmon, does not always reduce pressure on wild fisheries. Carnivorous farmed fish are usually fed fishmeal and fish oil extracted from wild forage fish. The 2008 global returns for fish farming recorded by the FAO totaled 33.8 million tonnes worth about \$US 60 billion.

As part of campaign to promote fish farming, the government will in coming financial year allocate funds for establishment of fish farming centres in 80 districts across the country to be used as model farms.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Mashimba Ndaki said the move will result in many Tanzanians engaging in fish farming to generate income as well as meet the country's demand. He was briefing members of the

Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water when they visited the Kingolwira National Fish Farming Centre in Morogoro Region recently.

He said that promoting fish farming through ponds would help the nation to achieve its target of producing 50 per cent of fish through aquaculture and another 50 per cent through the available lakes, dams, rivers and the Ocean.

"We want to improve fish farming to ensure our people consume nutritional food, create jobs and eliminate poverty," said the minister noting the government is determined to improve all the aquaculture centres across the country to boost production of fingerlings.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, Dr Christine Ishengoma commended the ministry for improving the country's fingerlings production as well as educating farmers on the best fish farming practices.

Dr Ishengoma asserted that the committee will closely monitor the ministry's fund allocation in the 2021/2022 fiscal year to ensure it sets aside budgets for establishment of the fish farming centres at district level.

Assistant Director of Aquaculture Department in the Agriculture Ministry, Dr Imani Kapinga said the National Fish Farming Centre in Morogoro Region has offered training to 11,280 Tanzanians in between 2010 and 2020. He said the citizens were from different regions. According to him, the centre has also distributed six million fingerlings to fish farmers across the country. However, some of the parliamentary committee members urged the government to continue improving the centres as well as expanding its buildings.

Kudos to brewer for agro-scholarships to boost agricultural extension services

AGRICULTURAL extension is the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of 'extension' now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organised for rural people by educators from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, health, and business studies.

Extension practitioners can be found throughout the world, usually working for government agencies. They are represented by several professional organisations, networks and extension journals. Agricultural extension agencies in developing countries receive large amounts of support from international development organisations such as the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

It is not known where or when the first extension activities took place. It is known, however, that Chinese officials were creating agricultural policies, documenting practical knowledge, and disseminating advice to farmers at least 2,000 years ago. For example, in approximately 800 BC, the minister responsible for agriculture under one of the Zhou dynasty emperors organised the teaching of crop rotation and drainage to farmers. The minister also leased equipment to farmers, built grain stores and supplied free food during times of famine.

According to reports, additional 70 students from underprivileged families with an agriculture background have been given full

scholarship to study in the field by Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL).

This is the second year in a row that SBL is supporting bright students from underprivileged backgrounds to access college education in agricultural disciplines. Last year 40 students were given this opportunity as the brewer unveiled its agri-industry scholarship program known as 'Kilimo-Viwanda.'

SBL managing director, Mark Ocitti said in Dar es Salaam recently that 'Kilimo-Viwanda' programme is also meant to compliment government's effort to strengthen the existing pool of agricultural experts in the country.

Ocitti said while announcing a group of 15 scholarship recipients from Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture based in Bagamoyo, that SBL's support for agriculture development extends to 400 local farmers who last year supplied the brewer with 17,000 tons of grain equivalent to 70 per cent of its total raw materials requirement.

"SBL's association with the agricultural sector is deep-rooted. The company currently has a network of over 400 local farmers in eight regions across the country from whom we buy barley, maize, and sorghum for beer production. SBL supports these farmers by providing them with free seeds, field technical services and linking them to financial institutions to access credit facilities," he said.

In remarks at the event, Principal of Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture, Sinani Simba commended SBL for the programme while also appealing to other stakeholders to support the agricultural sector's development.

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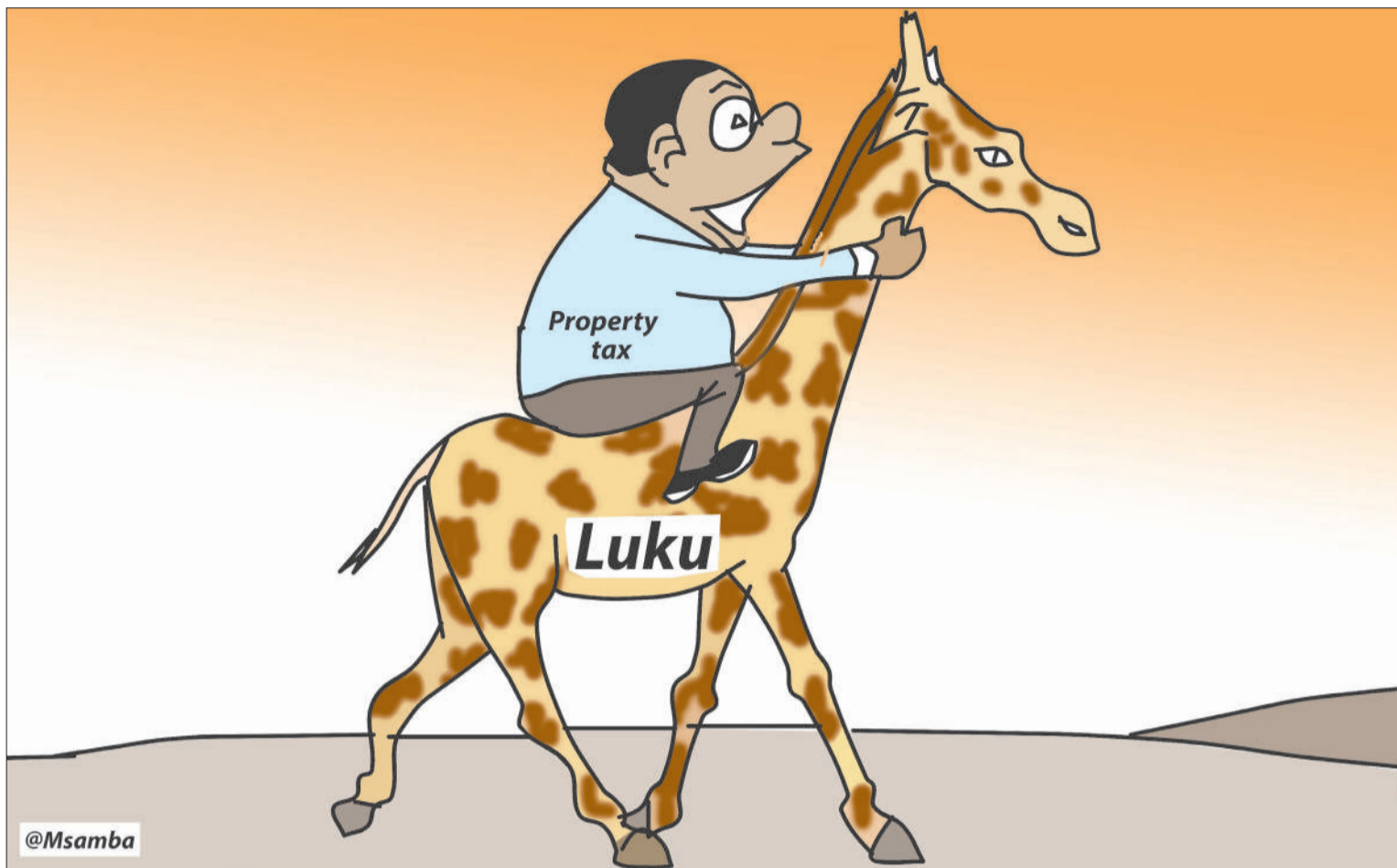
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At the G7: UK can lead on climate and vaccines

By Damian Green

THE greatest value that the G7 can provide is in making sure these rich countries, which represent over half the world's wealth, deliver on two key pledges.

By definition a pandemic is global. Therefore any recovery from a pandemic needs to be global as well. The world is only just waking up to this fact, and what it means for the behaviour of the most prosperous.

The greatest myth of the past fifteen months is the suggestion that the pandemic would be a 'great leveller', with everyone, rich or poor, suffering from the impact of the virus and the measures to combat it.

But while it is true to say that many developed Western nations have been amongst the very worst hit in terms of deaths from the Covid-19 and the initial economic impact, the story of the recovery looks to be very different indeed.

We should be rightly proud of the UK's incredible vaccination efforts, although the picture is much more mixed abroad. The United States has a strong record and the European Union - after

By Anis Chowdhury and Jomo

Kwame Sundaram

WITH the pandemic setting back past, modest and uneven progress, huge disparities in containing COVID-19 and financing government efforts are widening the North-South gap and other inequalities once again. Developing countries are struggling to cope with their generally feeble health systems. These have been weakened by funding cuts and privatisation policies prescribed by both Bretton Woods institutions (BWIs): the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Unsurprisingly, COVID-19 has become a "developing-country pandemic".

Developing countries - especially lower middle-income countries (MICs) and low-income countries (LICs) unable to afford diagnostic tests, personal protective and other equipment, medical treatments and vaccines - now account for much more and still fast rising shares of worldwide deaths and infections.

With grossly uneven vaccination, death and infection rates in high-income countries (HICs) have dropped as LIC and MIC (LMIC) shares have spiked. The Economist estimates much higher mortality

slow start - has picked up the pace.

But we should all be alarmed that there are numerous countries, most of them concentrated in the poorest parts of the world, that have had virtually no vaccinations at all, with more than 1 in 4 people jabbed in high income countries but just 1 in 500 in those with low income.

This is not just a healthcare crisis in the making, providing greater opportunity for the virus to mutate further, but an economic one too, with vast swathes of the world still extremely vulnerable to the virus and unable to benefit from any economic bounceback.

The same is true of the other great global challenge of our age: climate change. The UK and an increasing number of our Western allies can boast impressive cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and ambitious net zero targets, as part of optimistic plans for green growth and jobs over the coming years, but for many countries, they lack the financial firepower to invest in clean energy and sustainable infrastructure, with the share of emissions from emerging economies on the rise as a result.

This matters, not just for the economic wellbeing of the

Africa: Paltry international support for spending needs sets south further back

rates in developing countries than suggested by official data: 12 times more in LMICs, and 35 times greater in LICs!

The COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses have further set back Agenda 2030 for global sustainable development. UNCTAD estimates developing country output fell by 2.1% in 2020. To make matters worse, progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was poor even before the pandemic.

The world now faces greater divergence, as developing countries fall further behind due to the pandemic and disparate responses to it. The IMF management proposes US\$50bn can accelerate vaccination to end the pandemic worldwide, with benefits worth US\$9 trillion!

The IMF estimates average LIC growth declined sharply to 0.3% in 2020 from over 5% in the previous three years. It also projects 33 developing countries - including 15 in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and nine small island developing states - will still have lower per capita incomes in 2026 than in 2019.

Most developing countries

countries concerned, but for us too. Just as the global economy will not recover effectively without an equitable distribution of vaccines, we have no chance of being able to tackle climate change without developed economies providing finance for the transition.

This week, as the G7's leaders meet in Cornwall, the UK has an opportunity and a responsibility to take the lead in this mission at such a crucial time for the global economy and the environment. Success at the G7 will be crucial to making a success of the international climate conference COP26, which the UK will also host in Glasgow this November.

There is understandable focus on the G7's own climate change responses - being responsible for 27% of global emissions, there is clearly much more for these governments to do to put their own houses in order, not least by embedding climate action into their own domestic recovery plans.

But the greatest value that this month's meetings can provide is in making sure that these countries representing 58% of global wealth deliver on their promises to the rest of the world.

In practice, this means

delivering on two key pledges.

Firstly, ministers must finance a comprehensive strategy for the funding, supply and rollout of vaccines across the world, with a view to vaccinating the global population as soon as possible. This is integral to ending the pandemic and stimulating a genuine economic recovery across the world.

Second, G7 leaders must make good on the commitment made in 2009 to provide \$100bn of annual climate finance for developing countries and to do so in a way that alleviates rather than worsens the debt crisis that many of these countries face. Too often economic development in the Global South, especially by China, has driven its supposed beneficiaries further into debt and failed to tackle the structural problems that have restrained growth in the first place - we need a new approach.

Meeting the \$100 billion pledge, leveraging significant private finance and looking at what more will be needed over the rest of this decade above our existing commitments, will be absolutely critical in stimulating a green recovery and in making sustained cuts to carbon emissions.

policy space or choice, worsened by decades of neoliberal policy conditionalities and advice. Donors and the BWIs have also urged LMICs to borrow from international capital markets rather than official sources.

Meanwhile, ODA increasingly supports private businesses. Such new mechanisms, e.g., 'blended finance', promised to turn aid 'billions into trillions' of private finance for Agenda 2030. The promise has failed spectacularly, depriving countries relying on declining ODA while advancing the interests of private finance.

Thus, LMIC debt surged before the pandemic. Total (public and private) debt reached over 170% of emerging market and developing economies' output and 65% of LIC GDP in 2019. The increase in EMEs involved almost equal shares of both external and domestic debt.

This bad situation has worsened - with less tax revenue, reduced exports and ODA cuts - due to the pandemic as government spending needs rise sharply. In April 2020, UNCTAD called for US\$1tn in debt relief of developing country obligations - estimated at between US\$2.6tn and US\$3.4tn in 2020 and 2021.

Dead wood collectors turn out to be illegal loggers in Tanzania's pivotal conservancy

By Jenifer Gilla

It has been a routine for a 41-year-old Holiness Marko to wake up early in the morning to go and collect dead wood in the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA)—one of the country's 22 parks managed by the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA).

Being rich in flora and fauna, the conservancy protects the largest free standing volcanic mass in the world and the highest mountain in Africa.

Marco is one of the women in Msiri village, Marangu East ward in Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region who is allowed by authorities managing the park to only collect dead wood to serve as cooking energy, a move which is important for sustainable management of the park.

Women like Marco are living adjacent to the park and they are in-charge of family chores, including cooking. In the African context, women are responsible for ensuring that there is firewood in the house.

When they started taking advantage of the opportunity, things were easier as the dead wood could easily be found a few meters from the park's boundary. But with time, the women had to go inside the protected area, a situation that makes them to spend more time collecting the same pieces of firewood as at the initial stage.

"That's why we're waking up as early as possible so that we get into the park and get what we want on time," says Marco, who spends two hours collecting a bunch of 50 pieces of firewood, unlike in the past where she spent 45 minutes on the same amount.

Marco represents hundreds of women in the village, who rely on park, when it comes to getting firewood.

Msiri is one of 92 villages surrounding the conservancy and park, whose residents the park management allows to collect only dead wood for firewood.

But, after a while, dead wood becomes scarce, and the situation that pushes women to go deeper and deeper into the park.

But that freedom is apparently being abused. Some women are said to have turned into 'illegal loggers'; as they cut down fresh trees, which is against the law, and utilize the wood for various purposes.

"Women were allowed to only collect dead wood, but they cut down fresh trees, something which is unacceptable as the act poses a serious threat to the park's biodiversity. The law is noticeably clear on this. What we did was an offer and what they do is prohibited," said Imani Kikoti, the KINAPA Chief Conservation Officer.

According to him, women have been the main loggers in the park as opposed to the agreement of collecting dead wood and cut grasses.

"When we do our patrols among the 10 people we arrest, eight are women, this is sad because we're trusting them very much as compared to men," he said.

Reason for cutting trees

A 31-year-old Elinayike Mtui said that, although she has never cut wood in the conservation, she thinks that lack of access to energy leads some women to cut down trees in the area.

"To collect enough firewood for cooking the whole week, you need to walk miles up the hill because there is no wood is available down the hill, that's why some women are persuaded to cut trees," said Mtui.

Robson Mtui (35) claims that the fact that they are not allowed to enter the park all days of the week might be the reason for some women to cut down trees in the area.

According to the mother of three children, two days a week is not enough to collect wood for cooking the whole week.

"Woods you collect on Monday will not be enough for cooking until Saturday, livestock owners use the remains of dried grass for cooking when the firewood runs out, but how do those who do not have livestock survive?" she said.

Business

The Mamba village Executive Officer, Charles Minja, reports that the situation is worsening in the months leading up to the festival such Christmas, communions as many cuts firewood and store them inside to sell.

"For example, logging is very common in September, they cut loads of wood and hide them inside and sell them in December where the demand is high due to festivals and confirmation ceremonies."

"In September last year, we arrested 5 women for the crime and handed them over to KINAPA conservation officers who took them to the police station," said Minja.

The local leader thinks that some of those women are collaborating with men to achieve the goal as a woman alone cannot cut and carry a load of raw wood.

Committing crimes away from home

The Msiri Executive Officer, John Mtui, admitted that women have been logging in unidentified villages to cover up for their crimes.

"It's true that women are cutting down woods and are often caught by conservationists and their pictures are shown in our meetings with KINAPA, but surprisingly you are told that they were found in your village when you have never seen them."

"If you ask me, I will tell you that I have never caught a woman in this village with a raw tree, so it is possible that women from this village are also going to cut trees in other villages," he said.

Using mud

The KINAPA senior conservation officer, Mapinduzi Ndesa, said that sometimes women smear mud on fresh trees after cutting them to avoid being caught.

"When they smear the mud on woods, it is not easy to see that they are raw, and they believe that if you see the mud, you will know that it was on the floor for a long time, so you need to be very careful to fight this scourge" he explained.

They are not alone

According to Mamba Executive Officer, Minja women are collaborating with men to achieve the goal as they cannot cut and carry a load of raw wood.

"When we do a search to their houses, we see a load of raw woods that a woman alone cannot carry from the hill to the house, myself cannot carry alone that load of woods, raw woods are so heavy" he added.

The statement is supported by Msiri Executive office, Mtui, who said that April this year they caught men with loads of raw woods in the forest.

"A day before Easter Sunday we caught two men with loads of raw woods, but they escaped on the way when we were taking them to KINAPA, we have reported the issue to KINAPA, we know the men very well because they are from this village, we will not stop until we take them to court", he said.

Impact

Deforestation in the park allows climate change to affect Mount Kilimanjaro and recent data shows that ice on the mountain has fallen to 1.76 square meters due to global warming.

According to Kikoti, the fauna is also disturbed by destroying its habitat. As a result, many decide to relocate in search of places that are friendly.



"If you visit deforested areas, you will find that animals like monkeys are no longer there, because they prefer to live in wooded areas, so unless we stop them from cutting down trees, all the animals will disappear from the park", he added.

Kikoti also said the crime is also affecting tourism. "Trees in this park is what motivate tourist to visit, so cutting them means we are destroying its nature and tourist will have nothing to come for," he explained.

Education

Theonest Kagwebe, KINAPA's public relations officer, said that they provide education to 92 villages in the park, with an emphasis on women in a bid to stem the abuse of the opportunity available to them.

"In our good-neighborly meetings every month, we provide education to women. The main reason is to convince them that this park is theirs and they are allowed to enter and collect firewood so they should not abuse their freedom."

"But there are also some mistakes, if we catch them, we do not send the suspect to the police to educate them. For example, if you find a woman with a small raw wood for the first time, we educate her," said Kagwebe

Renewable energy on the way

The Environmental Officer in Moshi District, Peter Tungu, said that in collaboration with the KINAPA public relations department, they have developed strategies to deliver renewable energy.

"We have also conveyed affordable gas energy and in collaboration with Florest Company, we trained women to make charcoal from farm waste," said Tungu. However, some villagers complain that the gas has not reached them.

"We only hear there is cooking gas in other villages, but we don't have access to it. It could end the problem of park invasion," said Holiness.

Supporting projects

In addition to providing education, the department has also been supporting women's group projects, from the profit of the park.

"We have also funded various entrepreneurial groups to undertake development projects, including providing mushroom and avocado seeds to women's groups, and we often tell them that this support is based on the benefits of the park," said Kagwebe.

Method of maintaining a culture

"The education also includes urging women to plant trees in their homes to have a clean environment but also to have natural vegetation," he said, adding:

"You know a woman is the caretaker of the house, so the biggest influence we do on them, every time we meet is to give them seeds of plants such as apricots, coffee, cassava and we see satisfactory results."

24-hour Patrol

KINAPA, through the Department of Defense and Rescue, has also set up patrols around the park to prevent illegal activities including deforestation and commercial activities within the park without permission.

The Senior Conservation Officer in charge of the department, Mapinduzi Ndesa, said that a team of park rangers is working around the clock in collaboration with villagers to ensure no-poaching continues.

"We believe that by controlling deforestation activities in the reserve, we are allowing natural trees to grow well and thus control the effects of climate change," said Ndesa.

Taken to court

Women arrested in the park are referred to law enforcement agencies in accordance with the Forest Conservation Act 2002 and other related matters.

Rose Lyimo is an independent lawyer from the Moshi Resident Magistrate's Court who confirms receiving to five criminals a month who are alleged to have committed conservation offenses.

"Currently, the number of cases of encroachment on the reserve has decreased compared to previous years, due to the sentences that have been given to people who have been violating the law.

"Here we receive no more than five defendants for minor offenses, not those for commercial logging, those that have been completely abolished and we

usually punish them according to the Forest Conservation Act," said Rose.

The Forest Conservation Act of 2002, section 26- (a, b, s), and section 84-5, provide for a penalty of not less than 30,000/- and not more than 1m/- or imprisonment not exceeding two years or for both fines and imprisonment.

Challenges

As they say, good things come with challenges. So, even in the fight against deforestation in the park, the authorities face several challenges, including overcrowding.

"You know this park is surrounded by 92 villages so 'controlling' all the residents not to invade the park is a big job, so the soldiers have to do extra work," said Ndesa.

However, Ndesa is grateful to some of the villagers surrounding the park who work closely with them by informing them whenever they see signs of forest invasion, making it easier for them to work.

According to conservationist Kikoti, climate change has affected the park to the extent that, so far, the ice on Mount Kilimanjaro has decreased to 1.76 square kilometers. Because of that situation, there is need to preserve enough native trees to combat the situation.

"This story was produced with the support of Internews' Earth Journalism Network."

Why firewood collectors are threat to Kimanjaro researves

Fire wood collectors are forced to go deep into the mount Kilimanjaro reserves after the ends of trees in nearby areas

Time they took to collect 50 firewood

Time	Before	Now
Minutes	45	120

General effects comes with cutting down trees

1. Climate Imbalance and Climate Change
2. Soil Erosion and floods
3. The Decline in Life Quality of People
4. Increase in Global Warming
5. Wildlife Extinction & Habitat Loss
6. Food Insecurity in the Future

92 Number of villages around Kilimanjaro park. People in these villages rely on firewood from the reserve

4 in 5 Four in five arrested for cutting down trees are women

Source: Kilimanjaro National Park (Kinapa) and Agencies
Prepared by Jenifer Gilla

Favouritism in flight: The uneven playing field of South Africa's aviation industry

Wayne Duvénage

IN many countries around the world, the pandemic-induced economic crisis placed numerous airlines on the brink of collapse. While some were unable to survive, the governments in many countries committed to saving their aviation industries by doing all they could to assist all the participants on a pro-rata basis.

But not here in South Africa. Instead of ensuring the South African registered airline players remained healthy through various options and provisional assistance, the South African government decided to only look after their two defunct and perpetually loss-making airlines (SAA and Mango), while placing the third smaller cousin of SA Express out to pasture.

Add to this backdrop, there is substantial evidence of bias by a few of the state's oversight and management bodies, whose roles to ensure safety, sustainability, accessibility and flying convenience is applied evenly to all industry players. Among other things, these bodies ensure that all carriers are correctly licensed, financially sustainable and are approved to fly on certain routes with required permissions for access at the various airports around the country.

You could be forgiven for believing the regulations, rules and treatment of airline operations enshrined in these various oversight bodies are applied relatively evenly to ALL aviation industry

players in SA. Yet they are not.

The state's airline companies receive substantive credit from the Airports Company SA (Acsa), but not the private airlines, which would be grounded immediately if they did not pay their landing, parking fees and passenger service fees to Acsa. But not so for Mango and SAA and, instead, they receive special credit treatment of these running costs, going so far as to having their debt reflected as irrecoverable by Acsa.

Throw into this already lopsided playing field, the International Airline Services Council (IASC), a state entity that reports into the Transport Ministry and oversees the fair allocation of operating licences for routes into and out of South Africa. In the scenario of a private airline having to halt its operations (for example, due to financial woes), and thereby cease to operate along certain routes - such as that of Johannesburg (OR Tambo) and Zanzibar for months - a state airline's request to take over the unserved route would have been entertained by the IASC with little hesitation. But not so the other way around.

Mango and SAA have ceased to fly a number of routes into and out of SA, for months, and yet, despite many requests by private entities to be granted authority to take them up, nothing happens. Instead, SAA and Mango lie idle while the flying public, cargo, tourism and business that rely on these regional and international routes are expected to just suck it up. Think of the negative impact this conduct has on our economy.



Jobs in tourism, freight forwarding, airline services and so much else suffers from the irresponsible action.

It's probably more convenience than coincidence that the Transport Minister is very lethargic in its replacement of the outgoing board at the IASC, who since April has been inoperative and unable to fulfil their mandate of approving applications for these route licences.

Turning to the conduct of another state oversight entity, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (Saca), they too have been found wanting in their fair treatment that favours the state's airline. A classic example is the recent treatment of CemAir in 2018/19, a small private airline whose fleet of aircraft was grounded by Saca for several months, due to an airworthiness administration matter, which was appealed to the civil aviation authority. The outcome ruled against the state, setting aside the grounding and called the civil aviation authority's decision

"irrational, arbitrary, unreasonable and procedurally unfair". The likelihood of such treatment being meted out to SAA or Mango by Saca is next to zero.

Predatory airlines

This favouritism towards the state carriers is predatory and a worrying situation. It makes one wonder how far they will go to allow the state to operate unflightworthy aircraft or flying crew. Another more recent incident involved the SAA Airbus 340-600 flight on 24th February to fly to Brussels and collect a pallet of vaccines. To enable this specific flight, Saca bent a number of safety precautions and requirements to make it possible. In addition, they have failed to apply their own rules that stipulate they will provide a preliminary report to the public within 30 days, regarding safety incidents that transpired during flights.

Saca has not done themselves any favours when it comes to the reporting of a serious safety incident

on this "vaccine" flight, which we gather that were it not for sophisticated automation intervention, this flight may have stalled and crashed on take-off. Saca remains mum, however, would they do so if this was a private airline? Somehow I think not.

The state often defends its position to keep its failed airlines afloat, on the basis of keeping people employed. Yet it has been the state airlines that have shed the most jobs during the economic crisis, while the private companies that managed to avoid business rescue have done a sterling job to hold on to most of their employed personnel. What the state doesn't want to acknowledge is that jobs lost from their airline closure give rise to new jobs created by competing airlines that take up those lost seats. Furthermore, SAA Technical could be privatised tomorrow, with its sale (partially or in whole) to the private sector, and the chances of its people remaining employed in a growing and healthy company will be a lot more likely than if it remains in the SAA fold.

It would appear this conduct by the state and its various players, is part of a broader ploy to make it more difficult for private airlines to operate, thereby reducing competition in favour of the state's lethargic entities.

As society, we must be aware of the various elements that point to a game the state is notorious for, being that of bullying and forcing business to comply and stay in their lane, while allowing different rules for state airlines. **DM**

Kenyan pastoralists still at margins of survival amid climatic stresses

NAIROBI

MOHAMED Aden's ancestral village located at the heart of Garissa County in north-eastern Kenya has for decades been synonymous with climatic shocks that have taken a toll on the livelihoods of its nomadic dwellers.

The middle-aged pastoralist said that exposure to harsh elements at a tender age prompted him to appreciate the value of tenacity, grit and fortitude in order to survive for another day.

Aden's extended family of subsistence farmers and nomads have in the recent past toyed with the idea of taking a pause amid cyclical droughts that have taken a toll on food security and incomes.

The prolonged dry spell that has become anonymous with the greater northern Kenyan region has disrupted our livelihoods, forcing pastoralists to abandon the practice and migrate to urban centers in droves," Aden told Xinhua during a recent interview. He said the younger generation has become detached from the time-honored nomadic lifestyle of their forebears amid shrinking fortunes linked to extreme weather events.

According to Aden, water stress, loss of pasture and desertification that have escalated in northern Kenya due to climate change, have pushed nomadic communities to the edge.

"We are being forced to trek long distances under the scorching sun in search of water and pasture for our livestock. Inter-communal conflicts over dwindling water supply have also intensified," said Aden. His sentiments were echoed by dozens of pastoralists



in northeastern Kenyan counties that neighbor Somalia who felt that their main source of livelihood was staring at an uncertain future thanks to climate-induced threats.

Bishar Gure, an elderly pastoralist from Garissa County, had nostalgic memories of a bygone era when owning a large herd of cattle, goats and camels symbolized wealth and prestige. According to Gure, growing up in a nomadic family used to guarantee a child access to quality education, healthcare and opportunities in adult life, but not

any more amid weather-related disruption on the centuries-old practice. "Droughts have become frequent and harsher compared to several decades ago forcing pastoralists to explore other income sources like starting small businesses in nearby towns," said Gure. He said that prolonged dry spells that have been accompanied by loss of fodder for the livestock have forced nomads to abandon their ancestral land, to the detriment of their cultural norms and

practices.

Gure said that nomadic communities in northern Kenya are looking up to the central government to roll out some long-term interventions that can enhance their resilience amid climate-induced vagaries. "We hope the government will help us cope with the harsh weather patterns through investing in water harvesting technologies and supply of hay to our livestock," said Gure.

He said that nomads have rallied behind state-funded ecosystem

restoration projects in northern Kenyan counties to ensure they have adequate supply of water and pasture for their livestock.

Kenyan pastoralists, who comprise nearly 20 per cent of the country's population, have been pushed to the margins of survival as their ancestral habitation reel from climatic shocks. The declining fortunes of nomadic communities that inhabit the vast semi-arid land mass in northern Kenya have prompted the national government to come up with a raft of interventions aimed at turning the tide.

President Uhuru Kenyatta in late May announced new measures to revive the livestock subsector that contributes nearly 13 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in a bid to boost revenue streams for the pastoralists.

Among the interventions Kenyatta announced to help cushion herders from recurrent droughts include investments in water projects and storage facilities for hay. "We will revive stalled water projects in the drylands and partner with donors to establish feedlots to ensure that livestock are fed regardless of changing weather patterns," Kenyatta said during the handover of the revived Kenya Meat Commission to the military in May.

He said that the revival of abattoirs will be accompanied by enhanced market linkages to improve the sustainability of the livestock sector already reeling from climatic stresses and rapid urbanization.

Dubai Ali Amey, chairman of Kenya Livestock Marketing Council, acknowledged the devastating impact of climate change on the sector, adding that targeted interventions were urgent to boost the resilience of pastoralists.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

PPP has pivotal in accomplishing 2025 national development vision

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is set to implement 41 new development projects valued at 3.02 trillion/- under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in line with the country's current five-year National Development Strategy Plan.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Emmanuel Tutuba unveiled this recently in Arusha when speaking during the media sensitization workshop on Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Organized by the PPP Division which is under the ministry of Finance and Planning, the event brought on board editors from various media outlets across the country. The two-day forum was aimed at equipping them with the understanding of PPP, taking into account that the concept is still a challenge to some journalists in reporting.

He said: "As of 31st of May this year, there were 41 projects write-up prepared under Public Private Partnership, these cover various sectors including Water, Health; Education; Infrastructure; Communication; Construction and Commerce."

Tutuba who is also the country's paymaster added that 40 of the said projects have been hatched by state authorities while the private sector came up with one.

He recapped the government's stand in recognizing the important role of the private sector in helping to push the socio-economic development wheel through partnership in major investments.

According to him, Tanzania needs to utilize all available options to attract increased private sector investments being important in achieving the National Development Vision 2025 and the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) goals.

He stated PPP frameworks in Tanzania were also crucial tools that provide instruments for attracting foreign investments.

It was also learned that the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) have been identified as sustainable means to effectively address constraints of financing, managing and maintaining public goods and services as well as involving all sectors in building the nation.

Public-Private Partnerships involve the mutual agreement between public sector and private sector in which the private entities renovate, construct, operate, maintain, and manage projects in whole or in part but in accordance with output specifications.

Participation in PPP covers both productive and socio-economic services sectors including, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Education, Health, Natural Resources, Tourism, Energy, Mining, Water, Land development, Environment and Solid Waste Management.

The projects may also cover appropriate Defense Infrastructure, Sports, Communication, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Trade, Entertainment and Recreation as well as Agriculture but precisely Irrigation.

PPP Commissioner, Dr John Mboya said that despite the government's good intentions to involve the private sector in implementing big development projects - including the Independent Power Tanzania Limited (IPTL), Dar es Salaam City Water Corporation and India's RITES, the projects were not successful due to various challenges.

He however cited lack of an enabling environment in regard to procedures to follow before entering into joint PPP contracts for the nation's benefit as one of the challenges.

Dr Mboya said: "I welcome stakeholders in the private sector, because the country's PPP procedures begun as official government decision to improve an enabling environment to involve the private sector for the country economic growth.



Gautrain rapid rail link is one of the South African projects executed under PPP

"One of the government plans to implement the decision was to prepare the 2008 PPP Policy, PPP Act (Cap. 103) and their regulations."

He said the government involved the private sector to implement some of the aforementioned projects, however they were not successful.

"We continue to invite stakeholders from the private sector to work together under joint agreements in development projects including construction, education and industries to spur economic growth.

He added: "Other areas for such investment include health, ports, sports, transport and commerce. So far a total of 41 projects have been earmarked for evaluation, of which 40 have been primed by the government, while one by an investor from the private sector."

He added that out of these projects, "five are ready needing partners, the rest are in various stages of preparations."

The official said: "These efforts will contribute in building up a competitive economy, including industrial economy for human development so that by 2025/26 the government would attain expertise innovation and technology from the private sector."

Dr Mboya further said joint venture procedure was an important method as well as alternative source in financing development projects.

Media practitioners who attended the training pledged to continue collaborating with the government to announce various projects being implemented through PPP, so that people are aware of the great work being done for the development of the country.

Apart from applauding the Ministry of Finance and Planning for organizing the training, Ben Mwang'onda said described the training as 'eye-opener' to the media personnel taking into account that PPP concept is still new.

"The expert gave us enough education, we were not aware of many things, but through the two-day training we have acquired a broad knowledge concerning PPP.

"We applaud the Ministry for preparing such topics which have been potential to us, the training gave us a clear picture on what is going on in the PPP," Mwang'onda said.

"Our responsibility is to inform the public, and I will work to let the public have an understanding of PPP and how it can yield positive results through investment done by the private sector," said Selina Mathew.

Joyce Shebe from Clouds Media called upon the government to let the public have the understanding on projects executed by the state through media which is the best instrument for sending information to the public.

"We as the media, we will continue to pro-

vide information on the success of government initiatives in order to strengthen the public understanding on what the government is doing," she said.

According to her, the lessons from experts on PPP have more potential especially in the time when the government is working to boost the country's economy. The understanding of laws and regulations guiding PPP is inevitable.

"It is high time now for other institutions to learn what the Ministry of Finance is doing and to provide capacity building to the media on various activities conducted by the government so that the citizens can be aware of what is going on," she said.

Ruben Kagaruki urged the Ministry of Finance and Planning to prepare special training for reporters who gather information for them to have broad understanding in the implementation of their activities.

John Daniel, advised the Ministry to supervise effectively laws and regulations for PPP without allowing corruption and to restrict people who delay implementations of the projects on time.

He added that it is good for the Ministry to provide more time for the training to give reporters extra time to learn more things on issues of PPP.

So far the Ministry of Finance and Planning has already provided training to editors from more than 40 media in different areas concerning the responsibilities undertaken by the Ministry including Government electronic Payment Gateway (GePG).

Agro-firm goes public to support more small-scale farmers

JATU is a Public Limited Company that was established in October 2016 in Tanzania with the aim of eradicating poverty and improving human health. Our Correspondent DANIEL SEMBERYA interviewed the firm's founder and chief executive officer (CEO), PETER ISARE. Excerpts:

Question: CEO, would you kindly tell us in brief what JATU Plc is?

Answer: JATU comes from Swahili words—Jenga Afya Tokomeza Umasikini (Build Health and Eradicate Poverty). It is a public limited company that was established in October 2016 in Tanzania. It is a company that aims at eradicating and improving human health. This company was established in Africa, Tanzania in particular where most people live below the line of poverty. So, we asked how we can transform the community from poverty at least to middle income.

The target was to introduce a programme that could incorporate all the communities together regardless of the nature of the people, the level of their education, the economic capacity they have. And we looked at the better way to use agriculture.

Agriculture is a point where any person can contribute anything when considering the value chain of the whole system of agriculture from the farming, industry, and to the market.

So, JATU knew very well that people who can farm should be encouraged to farm and given an opportunity and support. Then, the products produced from those farms

should be collected and put in industries which are ready for manufacturing. And those industries should be there only by JATU.

Why JATU? Because it is a public company that can mobilise funds from different sources as a giant one and create one thing which is big!

For instance, now we are looking for the Kiteto project. This project is expected to provide market for more than 5000 farmers who have been in the industry for so long, but they did not have ready market for their produce. They were selling their produce to middle business people in local market not in a competitive price.

But now, JATU having a good industry that can consume all the food products being produced by those farmers. That means, those farmers will be encouraged to produce more and the prices will be good. That means, their living standards will also automatically change into better livelihoods.

Q: Last week you floated your shares to the public. What are you targeting?

A: The flotation of our initial public offer (IPO) to the public has targeted two main things. Target number one is to raise funds for our new projects; which are also ongoing projects but we want to expand them more.

The second target is to make more people into our company because we have a policy in our company that states that one cannot be a member of our company, especially a farmer without having shares.

You can see that last year we listed some of the shares and most people wanted to buy



JATU PLC's Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Peter Isare

shares but were not there, so we thought it wise enough to launch new shares so that we can encourage more people to come into our company. And also we can raise more funds to improve the projects we are having.

According to Reuters Financial glossary, initial public of-

fering (IPO)-The first offering of shares to the public by a privately owned company. Used by companies to raise new funds or achieve a listing on an exchange. The issuer normally offers to the public through an underwriter who sets the price and promotes the offering. Also known as flotation or go-

ing public.

Q: Is this your first IPO to the market or not?

A: This is our first Initial Public Offering (IPO). But this is going to be the second time we are going to be listing our shares. Why that? Because JATU was started as a project

within an NGO called Legal Protection and Life Improvement Organization. That NGO had members. Those members were members by contributing entry fees and other running costs in that NGO.

So, when we were creating JATU as a public company we transformed all the members from that NGO to the company. So, in order to manage them, we told them that their participation would be regarded through shares. So, you are moving from being a mere member to being shareholders...that is why we listed to the stock market.

That was why those a thousand people bought shares in a very minimal amount, but we transformed them into shares. Also at that time, we didn't want to go public before listing them; because we wanted them to be regarded as founders of this company.

So, we first said that we have to list those shares. Since the law in the capital market states that if there are more than 51 people they can be listed. And we had more than 1000 people, so, we listed them to the market.

One of the main reasons for listing our shares to the market was to find out if our shares could do well in the market. Then, we realised that our shares can do better. That was why we went further by starting a new procedure to qualify to the law that can allow us officially launch our new shares to the market. And that is what we are calling an IPO. So, in our case, this is our first IPO.

Q: Last year you listed your company on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), would tell us the ben-

efits you have got so far?

A: Our listing on DSE among others has benefited us a lot and it has tremendously added credibility to our company and made our company be widely known locally, regionally, and internationally.

It has made our company get incentives that are listed to DSE. For instance, the corporate tax is 30% for the private company; but once you are listed it is 25%. So, this is a big advantage to our company.

Once a company is listed you give more eyes to the public. So, you are open to anyone. It makes us be more efficient within. It attracts more people to come and invest in our company.

Q: Your company engages in an agricultural sector, where farmers are being faced with various challenges, like drought, pests, diseases, and harsh climate change. How, do you prepare your farmers to face and address them, and eventually be able to harvest abundantly?

A: First, we thought that it was not good to let a farmer continue farming independently the way other farmers used to do ten years ago. So, we made them form groups of farmers. Where JATU, as a company we can now introduce new skills, machinery, and programmes.

JATU negotiates with manufacturing companies who produce quality seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and other essential agricultural inputs for our farmers, without forgetting agricultural extension officers. We have a company that takes all responsibilities for our farmers.

Need to put people first and forge global synergy in fighting Covid-19

By He Yin

CHINA'S people-centered approach in human rights protection was praised by representatives of many European countries at the 2021 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights held both online and offline on Tuesday.

In its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, China has always put people and their lives first and made every effort to safeguard people's right to life and health, opening a new chapter of protecting the right to life and health in humankind's history of fighting against epidemic, which bears great global significance, according to attendees at the seminar themed "COVID-19 Pandemic and Guarantee of the Right to Life and Health."

China has achieved the most notable results in the world in the prevention and control of the pandemic, said representatives at the seminar, noting that the sense of responsibility and efficiency the Chinese government has shown in its COVID-19 response are impressive.

The approach adopted by a country determines the effects it takes to protect human rights as well as the effect of its actions.

Adhering to its people-centered approach in human rights protection, China has regarded all patients as equals and made all-out efforts to treat patients and save lives in its fight against the pandemic.

The country has spared no effort to safeguard the life and dignity of everyone, be it a 30-hour old baby or a centenarian, a foreign student or foreign national in China; the right to life and health of special groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities, children, poor and low-income people, has been protected with careful attention; in addition, the country has stuck to science-based policies and ensured a coordinated and systemic response to balance targeted routine COVID-19 protocols and emergency measures as well as epidemic control and social and economic development, thus guaranteeing people's normal production and daily life to the greatest possible extent.

All these efforts have embodied the Communist Party of China's (CPC) commitment to serving the public good and exercising power in the interests of the people and reflected Chinese people's reverence for life.

With the most strict, comprehensive and thorough measures for epidemic prevention and control, China managed to keep the infection and fatality rates at a

low level, actively fulfilling its obligation of protecting people's right to life and health set out in human rights conventions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The right to life and health is an inclusive and fundamental part of people's human rights. It's a basic guarantee of human being's living with dignity. As Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

In its battle against the COVID-19, China has brought into full play its institutional strengths and mobilized the whole country to protect people's lives and health.

China's truly all-of-government and all-of-society approach has averted or at least delayed hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 cases in the country, according to a report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19.

China's experience has fully proven that human rights mean the integration of individual and collective rights, and individual rights can only be maximized in the context of collective rights.

As ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius rightly pointed out, "The man of perfect virtue is one who, desiring to turn his own merits to account, helps others to turn theirs to account."

In the unprecedented battle against the pandemic, China's efforts to safeguard people's right to life and health have transcended national boundaries. It has done all it can to provide humanitarian aid for other countries in their en-



Covid-19 vaccines provided by China arrive in Equatorial Guinea, Feb. 10 2021. File photo

deavors to fight the pandemic, and actively promoted the building of a global community of health for all.

The country has sent medical supplies to more than 150 countries and 13 international organizations, joined COVAX, an international initiative aimed at ensuring equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, under which China has promised to provide an initial 10 million doses for emergency use in developing countries, and supplied more than 350 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the world, including free vaccines provided for more than 80 developing countries in urgent need and vaccines exported to over 40 countries.

In its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, China attaches importance to both people's health and development, an experience other countries must value, said a representative of French at the 2021 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights, who believes only in this way can countries realize global health governance based on true multilateralism.

With repeated resurgence and frequent mutations of the coronavirus, the COVID-19 situation around the world remains complicated and grim.

Countries across the world can only forge a powerful synergy against the pandemic by putting people's right to life and health first, tiding over this trying time through solidarity and cooperation, and working together to firmly reject any attempt to politicize the pandemic or label the virus, as well as selfish acts such as those aimed at pursuing vaccine nationalism.

China will continuously adhere to its people-centered approach in human rights protection and make unremitting efforts to safeguard the right to life and health of people in China and the rest of the world.

People's Daily

Bruised by border politics, some Biden officials cling to Trump restrictions

WASHINGTON

JASIBI says she fled her hometown in Honduras after a gang killed her parents and gave her 24 hours to leave the country.

The 37-year-old headed north, hoping to seek asylum in the United States, but earlier this year was blocked by a Trump-era health order left in place by President Joe Biden. The order enables U.S. officials to rapidly expel migrants at both the southern and northern borders during the COVID-19 pandemic, essentially cutting off access to asylum for most migrants.

In Mexico, with nowhere to go and few funds, she slept on the street and was kidnapped, according to a request to the U.S. government for a humanitarian exception to the order seen by Reuters. The

kidnappers wanted to extort money from her family, Jasibi said.

Jasibi - who asked Reuters not to publish her surname for fear of reprisals - called migrant advocate Ariana Sawyer at Human Rights Watch daily to check on her application for the exemption. But when Sawyer tried to call her last month with the good news that she would be allowed into the United States, she couldn't reach her - Jasibi had been kidnapped again.

Biden, who took office on Jan. 20, is under growing pressure from migrant advocates, health experts and fellow Democrats to end the policy, known as Title 42, as more evidence emerges that migrants are being expelled into danger in Mexico.

Publicly, the Biden administration insists the order remains necessary to limit the spread of the

coronavirus, although it has not provided scientific data to support that rationale and many public health experts have opposed it.

Internally, however, some officials characterize the restrictions not as a health measure but as a politically expedient tool to control the border at a time when the administration is facing the most border crossers in 20 years, according to five sources familiar with the deliberations.

Even some more liberal Biden officials are apprehensive that any further spike in migration after lifting the order could erode public support for Biden's more welcoming immigration agenda, two of the sources said.

While advocates for migrants have expressed skepticism over the administration's stated reasons for maintaining Title 42, this inter-

nal view has not been previously reported.

A White House spokesperson said Title 42 was a public health directive, not an immigration enforcement tool, and was still necessary on health grounds, as only about 40% of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated.

The White House declined to comment on the reports of internal divisions in the administration.

Biden has filled many key immigration advisory positions with high-profile migrant advocates, including some opponents of the Title 42 border restrictions.

For instance, Andrea Flores, a former deputy director for immigration policy with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), is now director for transborder security in Biden's National Security

Council. Flores criticized Title 42 last year while working for the ACLU, saying former President Donald Trump was "hellbent on exploiting a public health crisis to achieve his long-held goal of ending asylum at the border."

Flores did not respond to a request for comment. The White House declined to comment.

Former advocates now in the administration are "all in a little bit of an identity crisis," according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter, who spoke about the emotional difficulty of implementing policies that they would have fought against just months earlier.

The U.S. official also said that staff at the Department of Health and Human Services refugee office have urged the White House to end the expulsion policy, ar-

guing that families are sending children across the border alone since unaccompanied children are being allowed in.

As with others, the official requested anonymity to discuss the internal debate.

Since Biden took office, U.S. border authorities have recorded more than 300,000 expulsions under Title 42. The vast majority of the expelled migrants are Mexicans and Central Americans pushed back across the border after attempting to cross illegally. Repeat crossings are common.

The Title 42 health order, issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in March 2020, allows for rapid expulsion and effectively cuts off the ability of most single adults and many families to claim asylum in the United States.

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FRIEND INDEED

Selfless woman saves life of best friend by donating her kidney

LONDON

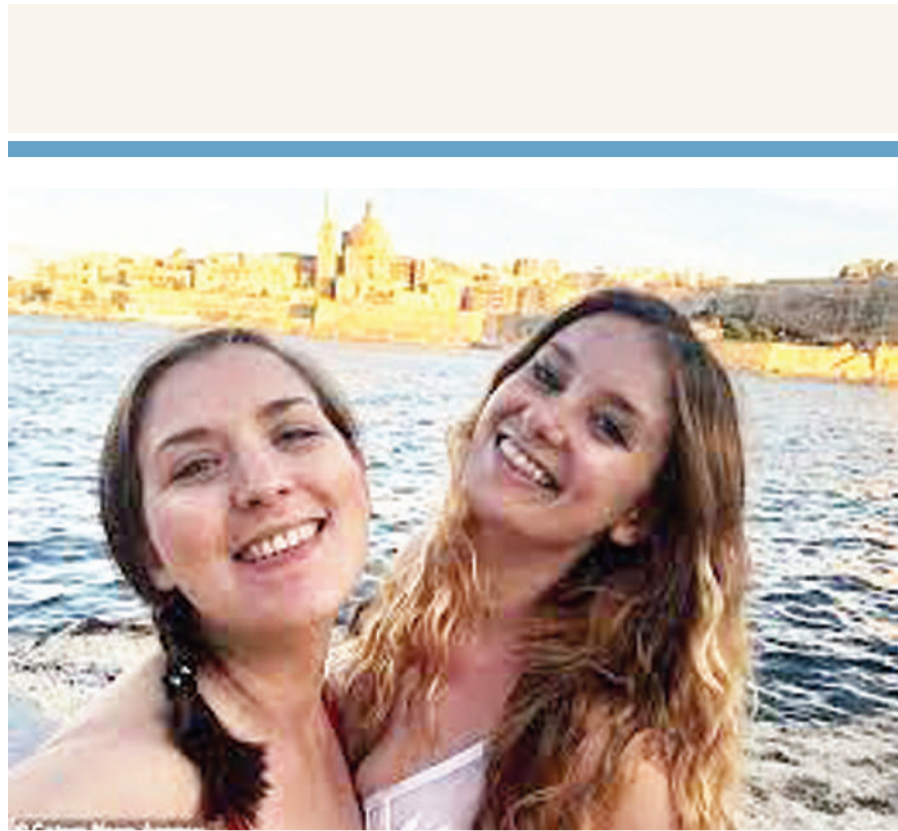
GISELLE, who works in communications, couldn't be happier and praises her friend's generosity for bringing them closer together. "I will forever be in debt to Leah. She is an incredible person to bravely donate one of her kidneys and give me the gift of life. We have been friends for over ten years, and we've always lived our lives to the full despite me having kidney disease," she says.

"But now Leah's kidney will enable me to continue to do more wonderful things. I can now put more energy into everything and finally be myself again." Giselle was diagnosed with Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis

(FSGS) - a rare disease that attacks the kidney's filtering units in 2009. She knew it would one day cause serious scarring, leading to permanent kidney damage and even kidney failure.

And in May this year, Giselle's kidney function dropped to three per cent. But now, tests have revealed her new kidney is at 90 per cent. Leah, a lead commissioner for adult social care, said, "I didn't have to think twice about donating my kidney. I offered about seven years ago as we knew one day Giselle would need a transplant."

"I hated seeing her health deteriorate over the last two years, and I volunteered as a donor as soon as I was able to. Although we were a bit nervous before the surgery, we focused



Giselle and Leah

on the positives and treated it like a celebration," says the selfless friend.

Speaking about the results of the surgery, she says, "We both cried our eyes out when we found out her kidney function has massively increased. It was the most brilliant feeling ever. This is the best decision I have ever made."

The duo is often mistaken for sisters - even by nurses at the hospital. But doctors were particularly surprised by their match. "We call each other soul sisters as we do everything together from tandem bungee jumps, holidays to water rafting," says Giselle. "But we never ex-

pected our organs to be such a perfect match. It feels like fate!"

Leah describes the transplant as just the 'beginning' of their journey. The women hope to raise awareness of kidney disease and organ donation by sharing their story. "The testing and process before the transplant surgery can take a long time and can be worrying at times. There were times when I thought it might not happen, and Giselle fell ill a few weeks prior, so I worried she might not be well enough for the transplant," says Leah.

"Thankfully, she was, and everything

went smoothly. We even named the kidney Tyson as it is such a strong kidney! It couldn't have gone better, and despite all the challenges, it has been amazing. I am so proud of Giselle - she has been so positive and resilient from day one. I am totally in awe of her strength and bravery!"

After donating her kidney, Leah was discharged from the hospital on May 30 and is now recovering at home. Giselle is still in hospital but hopes to be home soon. The women are currently fundraising for a charity that is close to their hearts called Kidney Care UK.

Giselle says, "They helped me so much when I needed support with my kidney disease. Both me and Leah joined their support group on Facebook, which has over 9 000 members who kindly share their tips, answer kidney-related questions and support each other."

Most people take their kidney health as a given, however kidney failure leaves people reliant on renal dialysis for survival, unless a kidney transplant can be performed. Fortunately, it is now possible for people with end-stage kidney disease to live well for many years with the aid of dialysis and by adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Many kidney diseases can be prevented with the following tips from National Renal Care: Quit smoking; Smokers are three times more likely to have reduced kidney function; Limit alcohol consumption;

This can help prevent heart disease and high blood pressure, which both increase the risk of kidney disease; Eat a balanced, nutritious diet and maintain a healthy weight; This also helps to prevent diabetes and high blood pressure, major risk factors for kidney disease; Drink enough water: Six to eight glasses per day this will help your kidneys flush out harmful toxins; Exercise regularly; Regularly check your kidney health with your general practitioner; and Only take medicines and supplements with your doctor's approval.

RELIEF

J&J's COVID-19 vaccine offers strong protection against variants, latest research findings show

HARVARD

JOHNSON & Johnson's (J&J) single-dose Covid-19 vaccine provides strong protection against the original virus variant first identified in Wuhan, as well as other highly infectious variants, new research published in Nature revealed.

While clinical trial data from the US, Latin America and South Africa have shown that the jab can protect against symptomatic Covid infection, there have been limited data on the immunogenicity (the ability of a vaccine to provoke an immune response) of the jab against variants of concern, the authors wrote.

Their findings are based on tests against the following variants: The original virus variant, WAI/2020, first identified in Wuhan, China; Alpha (B.1.1.7) first identified in the UK; CAL.20C first detected in southern California; Gamma (P.1) first identified in Brazil; and Beta (B.1.351), first identified in South Africa. Currently, Beta is dominating cases in South Africa and has been responsible for the large majority of the country's second wave infections.

More than 10 million Americans

have already received the vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In South Africa, the jab was administered to more than 290 000 health-care workers as of April.

The South African government has procured 31 million doses of the vaccine but is currently awaiting the outcome of an investigation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is expected to be announced soon. If they give the go-ahead to use the jab, then countries, including SA, will be allowed to continue rolling it out as part of its inoculation programme.

Strong antibody and immune responses

According to the Nature report, authored by 31 researchers, the vaccine-induced antibody and cellular immune responses against these variants in 20 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 55. "The concern is whether SARS-CoV-2 variants may reduce the efficacy of current vaccines that were designed to protect against the original SARS-CoV-2 strain at the beginning of the pandemic," senior author, Professor Barouch, Director of BIDMC's Center for Virology and Vaccine Research,



J&J vaccines

said in a news release.

Barouch is also a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. All participants were part of a larger multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 1/2a study to test the vaccine at various doses and schedules.

What they found

Compared to antibody responses against the original virus variant, there were reductions in neutralising antibodies against the Beta and Gamma variants. Neutralising antibodies fight the SARS-CoV-2 virus' ability to enter, and therefore infect, human cells.

By comparison, the non-neutral-

ising antibody responses and T cell responses stimulated by the vaccine were "largely preserved", they said. In other words, they were minimally impacted or not impacted by these variants, the researchers found. Non-neutralising antibodies cannot prevent viral infection, but previous research related to

influenza vaccines has indicated that they may exert a protective function through various immune mechanisms.

T cells are "natural killers", their job is to find infected cells in the human body and destroy them, Professor Thomas Scriba, deputy director of immunology and laboratory director at the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative, the University of Cape Town, previously explained to Health24.

In an earlier, separate paper published in Nature in February 2021, the authors noted that for most current vaccines, neutralising antibodies are considered as a measurable sign (referred to as a "correlate") of protection from disease, but that they aren't necessarily the only mechanism of protection.

Non-neutralising antibodies, they said, may also play a role, although evidence on their role has not been very clear - until now. In the new study, these non-neutralising antibodies and/or T cell responses may contribute to protection against Covid-19, and further scientists' understanding of the jab's protection against variants of concern, the researchers believe.

"Although the mechanistic correlates of protection for Covid-19 are not yet known, the vaccine's robust protective efficacy in these regions raises the possibility that non-neutralising antibodies and/or T cell responses may also contribute to protection," said Barouch. Alternatively, Barouch added, it is possible that low levels of neutralising antibodies are sufficient for protection against Covid infection.

GENEROSITY

London fashion house Qasimi creates T-shirts to support Palestine

LONDON

THE fashion house Qasimi, founded by Sheikh Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi, son of Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, unveiled two T-shirts to raise money for the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Adding to its stable of intelligent, understated men and womenswear, the two new tops will help raise funds for the non-profit, with all proceeds going towards helping Palestinian people. The tees are entitled Hami and Hayi, and are intended to be worn oversized. Both have the Arabic phrase "love is resistance" across the front, and the English words "your silence will not protect you" written on the back. They are available in white, black and khaki, with Hayi available in sizes extra-small to medium, and Hami offered in small and medium only.

Founded in London in 2008, Qasimi has built a well-deserved following for collections created around four pillars: architecture, colour, military and messaging. Realised as thoughtful collections that explore ideas and

pre-concepts, the brand is not afraid to raise difficult issues.

Case in point, its 2017 T-shirt that was reworked from one given to press during the Israel-Lebanon conflict of 1982, which read "don't shoot." The label is headed by Sheikh Khalid's twin sister Sheikh Hoor Al Qasimi, who stepped in following her brother's death in 2019.

Sheikha Hoor has built a career in the arts as the director of the Sharjah Biennial, and president and director of the Sharjah Art Foundation. Under her guidance, the label has maintained its air of mindful fashion. In 2020, it launched its first women's collection for spring/summer 2021, as a co-ed digital show.

Medical Aid for Palestinians is a charity from London that helps provide aid and assistance to people in Palestine facing hardship. With offices in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, it works towards a future in which Palestinians can have access to an "effective, sustainable and locally-led system of health care and the full realisation of their rights to health and dignity."



Farzam Ehsani, co-founder and CEO of VALR.com.

EQUALITY

Kenya's women fall for leisure shooting

NAIROBI

IN a sea of about 70 men at a Saturday morning shooting match in Kirigiti, 16 women stand out. Their skill-set matches and even surpasses that of their male counterparts, making their appearance the only stark difference. Aggressive stances and quick feet characterised their motion with each passing round. Despite the startling noise, it looked like calculated fun.

The National Gun Owners Association (Ngao-K) has seen an increase in women's membership and participation in competitive shooting in recent years. "Due to our good efforts to popularise the sport, women's participation has increased tremendously. There are currently no less than 25 active lady shooters in the country," says Martin Chengo, chairman of the association. Most of these women are in the armed forces, having received professional training that piqued their interest in the sport.

There, they find classification in six distinct categories: from novice to marksman, to sharpshooter then expert. The highest rankings in this hierarchy are master and distinguished master. There are currently no distinguished masters in Africa.

Kenya will be hosting the 2021 International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) Africa Championships this September, making it the first time this event is held in a country other than South Africa in the 15 years since its inception. In preparation, they are aiming to classify more of their participants in the level of marksman and above.

"Some civilian women are even shooting above sharpshooter cat-

egories," Sammy Onyango, Ngao-K match director told BDLife. Wangeci Muchiri, an officer with the National Police Service, is the first female sharpshooter in Kenya under the Enhanced Service Pistol (ESP) category, and the second female sharpshooter in the country overall.

She has been shooting competitively since 2009 and participates in championships regularly. Ms Muchiri was classified as a sharpshooter in a match in April 2021, bumped up straight from novice and skipping the marksman category. "I have passion, I love this sport. It also aligns with my work life and helps me concentrate better in my day-to-day activities," she says.

To her, seeing other women participate in the sport has kept her motivated, as the number of women on the range continues to grow. "The more women involve themselves in the sport, the more motivation we get to keep shooting," she says.

Belinda Akoth, an officer in the General Service Unit (GSU) who is also classified as a sharpshooter says this is more than just a sport. "You meet new people, expand your networks and at the end of the day, it's a score," she says.

In love with guns

Ms Akoth has been shooting competitively since 2016 and says that she loves guns and anything to do with them. "I fell in love with guns and shooting during training, and discovered I could make good shots," she says.

Guns have taught her to be careful. "You have to treat every gun as if it is loaded. You also have to be patient



Wangeci Muchiri of National Police Service at Kirigiti shooting range on May 29, 2021.

with the gun and with yourself," she added. Since her first IDPA shoot in 2016, Ms Akoth has participated in several championships both locally and internationally, including the World Pistol Competition held in China in November 2018.

She attended the competition along with Irene Wanjiku, an officer from the GSU Training School. Kenya ranked seventh out of 72 participating countries in the competition, a feat that Ms Akoth owed to African marksmanship over Western speed. "African countries don't have as many shooters as Western countries do," she explained, a factor that added to the intimidation during the competition.

Competitions are based on one's ability to quickly draw and change their gun's magazine. They noticed

that although they were slower than their white counterparts, they were always on target, resulting in their high ranking.

Ms Wanjiku, who was her counterpart at the event, has been shooting competitively since 2013, and has been attending Ngao-K matches since 2014. She is currently a marksman as of April 2021, bumped up from the novice category.

"Shooting skills instil discipline. Good shooters don't use their firearms anyhow," she says. She also explained that although the marks are grouped according to gender, the rest of the sport is not as gender-specific as others. "In these competitions, we are levelled the same; what you score is what you'll be classified with. It is not gender-specific; you have to compete against men even if you are

a woman," she says.

Alice Njuguna, a novice shooter and officer with the Kenya Navy, started shooting competitively about six months ago after clocking one year of service. She ranked first at a KDF shooting competition, despite being in a team full of men. This motivated her to join the sport.

"In our career, you need to have good marksmanship; shooting competitively has helped me to improve on that," she says. Ms Njuguna also encouraged civilian women as well as those in the armed forces to participate in shooting as a sport, and not be afraid to join as they too can get adequate training.

Well-respected

Well-respected in shooting circles, veteran shooter and first chairperson

of the Kenya Women Shooting Team, Nune Bonaya of the KDF, remarked on the increase of women in the sport since its inception. Currently, a Full-bore target rifle expert, Ms Bonaya has been shooting competitively for the past 35 years.

"Women's participation has definitely improved, especially in the past three years," she says, adding that this is a sport like any other, and more women should feel encouraged to join. "I love that it's a sport and is also part of training for me," she says.

Beyond being an engaging sport with lessons on discipline, shooting is also beneficial for overall physical fitness. The basic principles – stance, grip, draw, breath control, sight alignment and trigger manipulation – rely on both mental and physical capacity to guarantee brevity during a match.

"For instance, with breath control, you can decide to take a shot on an empty lung. You can take about eight shots on an empty lung as opposed to a full one, where you'll only take about four," she says. Like any kind of physical training, Ms Akoth reiterated that discipline must come from within. "When you come to train, it must come from your heart, not someone pushing you to go train, you have to want to better yourself and your skills."

She then proceeded to teach me how to aim at the target. Shooting looks easy on television, but mastering the balance between mental and physical activity requires practice and, at the time, a keen ear.

The first shot missed the target poorly, but after adjusting my grip and managing my breath, my shot rested right next to hers on the cardboard marker.

While a gun may be dangerous in the wrong hands at the wrong place and the wrong time, the set of parameters at the Kirigiti range allowed me to explore first-hand how shooting can be fulfilling as a pastime. It is all in the rush of pursuing the bulls-eye

RECTIFICATION

Activist on a mission to change perceptions about Mitchells Plain, Cape Flats

CAPE TOWN

ACTIVIST Naeem Mallick has been living in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain his entire life and although he openly admits that the suburb is plagued by gangsterism and crime, he wants to change perceptions about the area and the entire Cape Flats.

Mallick is on a mission to get others to see, through his eyes, the beauty of the Cape Flats and Mitchells Plain in particular. For years, he says, the Cape Flats has been known as a "danger zone" where people are killed or injured in gang warfare. But, as a resident of the area, he doesn't fear living in Mitchells Plain.

Mallick, 34, was upset by the documentary No-Go Zones: The World's Toughest Places because Rocklands was listed as one of the most "dangerous places in the world." But he says this is simply not the case. The documentary, which gives an account of a day in the life of a "gangster" in Rocklands, was produced in Germany by Quintus Media.

"There isn't ongoing shooting happening 24/7 in this area and we don't have gangs recruiting young people into a life of crime. Yes, there are gangs, but if the youth want to become gangsters, they approach the gangs. The gangs don't



Activist Naeem Mallick.

approach them," said Mallick. Mallick said he found the documentary, which is being sold on Amazon, and uploaded it to his YouTube channel.

He wanted to show people how it portrays Rocklands and captioned the video: "What you see is blood-thirsty monsters (which is true to an extent), what I see is ordinary people whose lives were shaped to rebel, living for anarchy and lawlessness, life on the edge because of dysfunctional families, poverty, poor mindsets, absent parents and no heroes. A product of an evil regime."

YouTube removed it from his channel a month later because it violated copyright laws. "The video portrays my area as extremely dangerous; it is advertising that nobody should come into the area because it is riddled with gangs, drugs, and prostitution. It upsets me that they think so low of the coloured community," he said.

After seeing international filmmakers label his community as "one of the most dangerous places in the world", Mallick is on a mission, to tell the truth. "[The] No-Go Zones documentary has damaged the area's reputation," he said.

He says people across the world look at the Cape Flats as a red zone just because many filmmakers perceive "colouredness" as something that is associated with gangs and crime. Mallick, who works in customer care at a call centre, is in the process of filming his own documentary about his community.

"I have lots of footage of sport and recreation, kids playing sports in the dust. I have spoken to gangsters to get their opinion on things, and I will be narrating the history of our community," he added. He said he also planned to highlight aspects of the colourful minstrels that roam the streets of the suburb, spreading joy and festivity wherever they go.

"I'm hoping that this documentary can change the mindsets of our people and let them know there is so much more than just crime on the Cape Flats.

There are people who make a living, raise their kids, there are people who love and live here," he added. The activist said he sees talented sports people, entertainers, God-fearing people, educated people and leaders in the area, and that filmmakers are not portraying this.

"It is easier to fool someone than it is to convince them that they are being fooled as a result of the influence that mainstream media has

over our youth," he added. Mallick said he would revisit all the so-called dangerous people and places listed in the No-Go Zone documentary, to see and hear the truth for himself.

Mallick says: I want to tell the real stories. I want to show that these foreign filmmakers are not giving a true portrayal of life on the Cape Flats.

The self-proclaimed "forced activist" will no longer sit back and watch filmmakers use the Cape Flats area to belittle the coloured community. "Some of the best lawyers, doctors, teachers, politicians, actresses all come out of the Cape Flats area, yet no one is making documentaries about the successes of coloured people," he said.

Mallick pointed out that he had never been attracted to the gang lifestyle but was stabbed last year after a gangster in Rocklands attempted to rob him. Today he still has the scars but maintains that he doesn't want to live anywhere else.

"Some of the best people you'll find in SA are coloured people, and the stigma around the Cape Flats people is just not true."

He plans to release his documentary by the end of this month to set the record straight about life on the Cape Flats. "I will release my documentary on my YouTube channel to show the world the 'unseen' good, bad, and great stories within the Mitchells Plain area," he said.

RECOGNITION

Moroccan designers nominated for the prestigious French prize

PARIS

THE finalists have been named for the 2021 Andam Fashion Award and it includes Casablanca by designer Charaf Tajer and Aswad by Sonia Ahmimou, both of whom are French-Moroccan.

Casablanca is among seven finalists for the Grand Prize, which comes with €300,000 (\$364,996) and a year-long mentorship with Balenciaga chief executive Cédric Charbit. Other nominees include British label Wales Bonner; unisex brand Ludovic de

Saint Sernin; Area, known for its Swarovski-encrusted designs; menswear designer Bianca Saunders; Rokh by Rok Hwang; and GmbH, helmed by Serhat Isik and Benjamin A Huseby.

Ahmimou's Aswad will compete in the accessories category for a €50,000 prize that comes with a mentorship under Swarovski's creative director Giovanna Engelbert. The brand is one of three nominated and will go up against French jeweller Samuel Francois and Austrian studio Published By. "It is an honour to have been



French-Moroccan designer Charaf Tajer.

announced as a finalist for the Grand Prize of this year's Andam Fashion Award," Tajer wrote on Casablanca's Instagram.

"We are extremely proud to show what we have achieved so far and to display our grand ambitions for Casablanca to such a prestigious and inspirational Andam jury. We're thrilled to have been nominated alongside many of our esteemed and talented designers."

The Andam Fashion Award was created in 1989 by Nathalie Dufour as a joint venture between the French Ministry of Culture and fashion organisation Deli Mode in an effort to help nurture young talent from Europe. Finalists for this year's event were chosen from more than 300 designers who applied for the award.

This year's winners will be selected by a jury that consists of K-pop band Blackpink's Lisa, Chinese singer Chris Lee and fashion designers Kerby Jean-Raymond and Phoebe Philo, among others, on Thursday, July 1. All finalists will present their collections to the jury in Paris on the day. Past winners include Martin Margiela, Viktor & Rolf and Jeremy Scott.

CONCERN

There's surely acute Marmite scarcity in SA again - and the shortage will be for months

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africans are again reporting that they can't find the yeast-derived spread Marmite on shelves – and this time the shortages are forecast to last until the end of July.

Marmite supplies ran low in 2020 too, after alcohol bans disrupted the supply of brewers' yeast from beer-makers AB-Inbev and Heineken. The spread is made from a concentrated extract from that byproduct of making beer.

Yeast of sufficient quality remains scarce, manufacturers Pioneer Foods say, and without it there's no way to make enough Marmite to satisfy demand. Pioneer says it expects supplies to normalise over the course of coming months, with on-shelf shortages reducing in August.

The competing – though many argue far inferior – Bovril spread is not affected, even though it too uses yeast; the mixed yeast required for Bovril is not in short supply, said Pioneer, which makes both. In October, Marmite brand owners PepsiCo told Business Insider South Africa it had first restarted production of 125g jars, later followed by 250g jars, as it secured the necessary yeast.

The smaller jars have become more prominent on shelves in many parts of the world, with the pandemic and associated lockdowns and restrictions reducing overall beer consumption. Though alcohol bans were not common, the likes of the UK closed pubs, which had a significant if less dramatic impact on brewing businesses. Marmite was created in the early 1900s by the German scientist Justus Liebig, who realised that brewers' yeast could be used to make a food flavouring with a meaty taste.

FIRST LADIES

Carrie Johnson gives Jill Biden novel by Cornwall-loving author

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and new wife Carrie met US President Joe Biden and Jill on Tuesday where they posed for photos and spoke to the press on Cornwall's seaford in south-west England.

During their meeting, Mrs Biden was given a first edition copy of *The Apple Tree* - a collection of short stories by 20th-century British author Daphne du Maurier, who lived in Cornwall, the picturesque corner of England that is hosting the G7 summit. Her husband was given a framed photograph of a British mural depicting black 19th-century abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

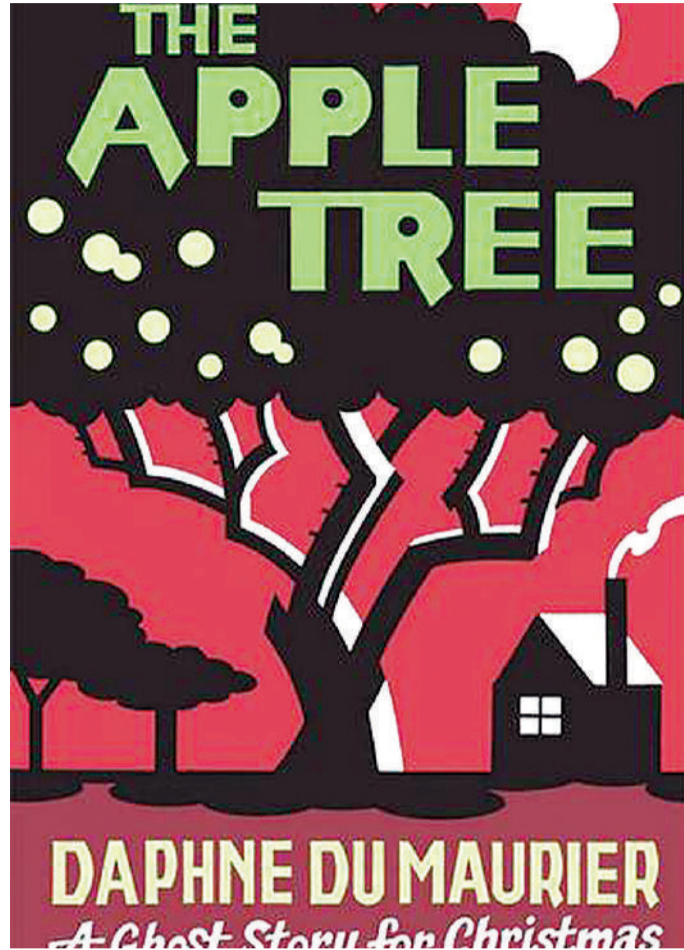
Douglass escaped slavery in the United States, going on to become an abolitionist leader who toured Britain and Ireland, the latter a country with which Mr Biden has ancestral ties.

Mr Biden cited Douglass in a 2020 speech on race at a time when the country was confronting questions on contemporary and historical racial injustice sparked by a protest movement that spread to Britain. Mr Biden reciprocated by presenting Mr Johnson, a keen cyclist, with a US-made bicycle and helmet and giving a silk scarf and leather bag made by military wives for his wife Carrie.

The mural is painted on the wall of a residential street corner in Edinburgh - a city where Douglass stayed on his tour - by artist Ross Blair who used the hashtag #blacklivesmatter when first unveiling the piece online in 2020.

Global leaders are in Cornwall for the G7 summit on Friday, during which they will discuss climate change, the pandemic and economic recovery. The event itself will take place at Carbis Bay near St Ives - an idyllic, up-market seaside town known for its museums, art galleries and restaurants.

The area is also the setting for many novels written by du Maurier, a writer known for her page-turning prose and suspenseful plots. The works of du Maurier will no doubt be familiar to Mrs Biden, who for more than four decades has taught English and writing to disadvantaged pupils.



Jill Biden was given a first edition copy of 'The Apple Tree' by Daphne du Maurier.

Du Maurier became one of Britain's most celebrated novelists in the postwar period, despite initially being dismissed by critics for her narrative style. Her books, often described as gothic with paranormal undertones, were hugely popular with the public and served as inspiration for major Hollywood titles, including Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

Born into an artistic and well-off family in London in

1907, du Maurier spent much of her life by the Cornish coast where she eventually passed away, aged 81. Her work *Rebecca* has never gone out of print since it was first published in 1938 - a testament to her ongoing appeal to readers across generations.

That work eventually catapulted her to popular acclaim in Britain, selling more than three million copies in the decades after publication. But fame did not sit

easily with du Maurier, who slid into reclusiveness before her death in 1989.

Other notable titles of hers include *Jamaica Inn*, *My Cousin Rachel* and *The Scapgoat*, novels driven by mysterious characters, noirish plots and a picturesque Cornish setting. Many readers will see strong similarities in more modern fiction such as *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn and *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins.

SUPPORT

Arab, African parliaments back Morocco in spat against Spain, EU over rogue migrants

RABAT

AFRICAN and Arab parliaments have both released official statements this week supporting Morocco, shortly after European parliament passed a resolution blaming the Kingdom for the migration crisis pitting Madrid and Rabat.

The Arab League's top legislative body, the Arab parliament said in a statement that, "the European parliament not to involve itself." The statement said the Arab parliament which represents 22 countries, stressed that "the crisis between the two countries is a bilateral issue that can be resolved through diplomatic means."

The statement added that the Arab parliament "affirmed that the Kingdom of Morocco has demonstrated its keenness to calm this tension through several constructive initiatives," mentioning King Mohammed VI's orders to facilitate the return of unaccompanied minors from Ceuta earlier this week.

In another development, Pan-African Parliament took a similar stance of solidarity in its statement by denouncing the EU resolution on the Ceuta crisis. The PAP has asked its European counterpart not to get involved in the bilateral crisis between the two nations.

The PAP reminded its European counterpart of the posture to adopt in the crisis between Morocco and Spain saying the dispute between Rabat and Madrid "is a bilateral crisis that can be sorted out by diplomatic means or through direct bilateral negotiations."

Citing commitments made by the two institutions in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) in 2017 that "all problems facing the two states fall under the bilateral relations between them, and the two legislative bodies can only intervene in case they have discussed this problem beforehand."

The outgoing president of the PAP and goodwill ambassador, Roger Nkodo Dang also welcomed the decision by King Mohammed VI to receive from Europe, all unaccompanied Moroccan minors who illegally entered the European Union.

He also hailed the various efforts made by Morocco, particularly in the fight against terrorism, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings, while respecting the principles and requirements of the partnership that unites it with the European Union and with its regional environment.

"The PAP welcomes the initiative taken by Morocco to host the first African centre dedicated to the study and examination of illegal immigration, called African Migration Observatory," Dang noted.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 12 June			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
6:00	HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	15:00	Meza Huru
7:00	Habari	16:30	Watoto Wetu
8:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	The Base
9:00	Watoto wetu	18:15	Abuu yiko rpt
10:00	Shika Bamba 5	18:45	Kipindi Maalum: TPDC
10:30	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	19:00	Alya ya Jami
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
12:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	20:00	Habari
13:00	Korean drama rpt: Jumong	21:05	Dakika 45
13:45	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	22:00	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00	Igizo: Rebecca	23:00	Habari
16:20	Shamsham za Pwani	23:30	Ripoti Maalum: Mafuriko Nkuhugu: Dodoma
18:00	Jiji Letu	00:30	Al Jazeera
18:15	Korean drama: Jumong	02:00	DWTV
19:00	Jungu Kuu	TUESDAY 15 June	
19:30	Shika Bamba	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
20:00	Habari	6:00	HABARI
21:00	Igizo: Rebecca	6:40	Kumekucha
21:30	Art and Lifestyle	7:30	HABARI
22:00	ITV TOP 10	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo	8:55	Habari za saa
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
00:30	DWTV	9:30	Soap: Uzalo
		9:55	Habari za saa
		10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
		10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt
		10:55	Habari za saa
		11:00	The Base rpt
		11:55	Habari za saa
		12:30	Alya ya jami
		12:55	Habari za saa
		13:00	Ripoti Maalum: Usajili Majina Watoto Manyara
		13:40	Shika Bamba rpt
		13:55	Habari za saa
		14:00	Shika Bamba rpt
		14:15	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	Majishi
		18:30	Matuko ya wiki
		19:30	Igizo: Rebecca
		20:00	Habari
		21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
		21:10	Mizungwe
		21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Vodacom
		22:00	Mjuzi Zaidi
		22:45	Borgo Movie: Magic House
		00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
		MONDAY 14 June	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:45	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	02:00	DWTV
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo	WEDNESDAY 16 June	
8:55	Habari za saa	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	6:00	HABARI
9:30	Soap: Uzalo	6:40	Kumekucha
9:55	Habari za saa	7:30	HABARI
10:00	Watoto wetu	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
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11:00	ITV Top 10 rpt	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
11:55	Habari za saa	9:30	Soap: Uzalo
12:00	Igizo rpt: Rebecca rpt	9:55	Habari za saa
12:30	DWTV: Kesh Leo	10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt
12:55	Habari za saa	10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt
13:00	Mjuzi Zaidi	10:55	Habari za saa
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt	11:00	The Base rpt
13:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle rpt	12:00	Al Jazeera
		12:30	Al Jazeera
		12:55	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanescio
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WORLD

UK, US agree to work to reopen travel as Johnson and Biden meet

FALMOUTH

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson and US President Joe Biden on Thursday agreed to work to resume travel between the two countries and signed a new Atlantic Charter, as they met ahead of the Group of Seven (G7) summit.

"They agreed to work to reopen travel and to continue to share information that

will help defeat the spread of coronavirus in our countries and internationally," a Downing Street spokesperson said in a statement issued after the meeting that was held in Britain's southwestern seaside resort of Carbis Bay in Cornwall.

The two countries pledged to deepen cooperation through the new Atlantic Charter that echoed the original one signed by then British Prime Minister



US President Joe Biden (left) poses for a photo with Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson during their meeting ahead of a G7 summit in Cornwall, Britain, on Thursday. (AP)

Winston Churchill and then U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt in 1941.

The new charter outlined modern-day threats including illicit finance, violent conflict and extremism, climate change, and global health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the meeting, Biden and Johnson tried to smooth over their differences on the Northern Ireland issue, but both have yet to find a real solution.

"The leaders agreed that both the EU and the UK had a responsibility to work together and to find pragmatic solutions to

allow unincumbered trade between Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland," reads the Downing Street statement.

The British government has threatened to unilaterally extend the customs grace period on Irish Sea border checks over imports of some products to Northern Ireland from Great Britain, over which the EU is vowing retaliation.

The G7 summit will be held from Friday to Sunday, and protest groups have announced multiple protests.

Switzerland announces closing part of its airspace due to Putin-Biden summit

GENEVA

SWISS authorities will close a part of the country's airspace for flights due to the June 16 Geneva summit of Russian President Vladimir Putin and US leader Joe Biden, the Swiss government reported yesterday.

"At its meeting on 11 June 2021, the Federal Council approved a temporary restriction on the use of airspace during the summit between President Biden and President Putin from 15 to 17 June 2021 in Geneva," the statement said.

The Swiss Air Force will provide air policing and tightened airspace surveillance, the government noted. The restrictions are introduced from 8 am on June 15 through 8 am on June 17 local time.

They include the airspace of the Geneva region with the center over the Place des Nations near the UN Office at Geneva. At the same time, commercial flights to and from Geneva International Airport "will not be affected by the restriction."

On Friday, the Federal Council also approved the deployment of up to 1,000 servicemen in order to provide support to Geneva's cantonal authorities during the summit. In particular, the armed forces will be responsible for protecting foreign missions.

Nigeria flags off full commercial operation of China-assisted railway

LAGOS

NIGERIA on Thursday officially started the full commercial operation of a China-assisted railway linking the southwestern cities of Lagos and Ibadan, to ease public transportation and fuel goods movement in the west African country.

At a ceremony to flag off the commercial operation of the Lagos-Ibadan railway at the Mobolaji Johnson Railway Station in Lagos, the country's economic hub and most populous city, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari described the completion of the project as "another milestone in the drive to revitalize the railway system in Nigeria."

Buhari said the commencement of full operations of the rail line, constructed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), will also establish the railway in Nigeria "as a choice of transportation for both passengers and freight."

The new rail line covers about 157 km with an extension of about 7 km to a busy port in Lagos, with a design speed of 150 km per hour.

Railway construction is a major part of the China-African cooperation and a flagship project of China-Nigeria practical cooperation and bilateral relations.

The Lagos-Ibadan railway is a segment of the Lagos-Kano standard gauge railway under construction in Nigeria.

Rotimi Amaechi, the minister of Transportation, told Xinhua in an interview at the ceremony that the railway is an "impact we have on the economy," because it will move goods, personnel and services in a record time.

"It has very good quality," Amaechi said.

Governor of Lagos Babajide Sanwo-Olu acknowledged the rail project as "a big boost to the overall vision of the national integration," saying it will encourage the private sector, local communities, and individuals to take advantage of the opportunity that the rail line has thrown up.

"With the commissioning of this rail line today (Thursday), it will now be possible for people to work in Lagos and live outside Lagos, and vice versa," the governor said. "It will radically transform the life, work, and the leisure for multitudes of our citizens along this (Lagos-Ibadan) corridor. It will open opportunities for investments, real estate corridor, urban development, commerce, and so on."

The Mobolaji Johnson Station in Lagos, where the flag-off ceremony took place, is one of the largest railway stations in West Africa, with a holding capacity of 6,000 passengers.

Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria Cui Jianchun said aside from transporting people and goods, the smooth opening of the commercial operation of the Lagos-Ibadan railway is also a real way to change and improve the quality of Nigerian people's life.

"This flag-off ceremony not only reflects China's support for Nigeria's economic and social development, but it is also a testimony of the far-sighted decision of the Nigerian government," said Cui.

He said China would continue to uphold the principle of sincerity, real result, amity, and good faith to work with Nigeria to overcome challenges and to perform a Belt and Road Initiative symphony of cooperation.

The CCECC began construction of the Lagos-Ibadan railway in March 2017, rising to the challenges of the tight construction schedule and complex construction environment amid the impact of the COVID-19, according to Jiang Yigao, the chairman of the board of CCECC Nigeria Ltd.

Xinhua

WHO urges 'massive effort' to extend vaccine access in Africa

NAIROBI

AFRICAN nations need to secure at least 225 million coronavirus vaccine doses by September to meet a global goal of inoculating at least 10 percent of the continent's population, a World Health Organization official said.

"This will really require a massive effort as our early projections indicate that without a significant boost in the availability of vaccines, only seven African countries will achieve this goal," WHO Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti said in an online briefing on Thursday.

Just 2 percent of Africa's people have received a single COVID-19 vaccine so far, with most governments dependent on the COVAX initiative for supplies.

US President Joe Biden's plans to purchase and donate half a billion Pfizer Inc vaccines

to 92 low and lower-middle income countries and the African Union is a "monumental step forward," Moeti said. She also welcomed the MasterCard Foundation's announcement of a US\$1.3 billion donation to support Africa's inoculation program.

EU

The European Parliament urged the European Union to reverse its position and support a proposed temporary lifting of intellectual property (IP) rights for COVID-19 vaccines, backing a push by many developing nations to allow more production.

EU lawmakers backed by 355 votes to 263 a resolution on accelerating the global roll-out of vaccines, the parliament announced on Thursday.

The resolution says only a fraction of the 11 billion shots needed to vaccinate 70 percent of the world's population has been pro-



Workers load boxes of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, part of the COVAX programme, which aims to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations, into a truck after they arrived by plane at the Ivato International Airport in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on May 8, 2021. (AFP)

duced and that relying on pledges of excess doses from richer nations is not enough. The text says that international trade policy needs to play a role in facilitating trade and revisiting global IP rules.

The European Parliament resolution calls for support of "proactive, constructive and text-based

negotiations" for the temporary waiver. Also, the European Union (EU) decided not to take up an option to buy 100 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J)'s COVID-19 vaccine and is considering donating another 100 million optional shots, if ordered, European officials said.

Xinhua

G7 mulls support for redirecting US\$100b in IMF reserves

BY BLOOMBERG

THE Group of Seven biggest advanced economies is considering putting its support behind a US\$100 billion reallocation of potential new International Monetary Fund reserves from richer nations to more vulnerable ones to aid their recovery from the pandemic.

The global effort would address health needs including vaccinations as well as help enable greener, more robust economic recoveries, the White House said in a fact sheet yesterday.

The G7 leaders' communique will have more details, it said. Talks begun yesterday at the summit in Cornwall, southwestern England.

The IMF is preparing to give its member countries the biggest resource injection in its history - US\$650 billion - to

boost global liquidity and help emerging and low-income nations deal with mounting debt and COVID-19.

Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said this week that she expects the fund's board of governors to vote on the proposed new reserve assets, called special drawing rights, by mid-August.

The organization is also working on ways to redirect them from rich nations that don't need them to poor ones that do, she said.

France has committed to reallocating part of its SDRs to Africa, which is earmarked to receive US\$33 billion of the US\$650 billion.

French President Emmanuel Macron in May asked other rich countries to also reallocate their expected new reserves to boost the amount going to Africa to US\$100 billion.



Minimum tax

G7 leaders also will endorse a global minimum tax of at least 15 percent, the White House said. The US said that the agreement is key to ending a decades-long competition between nations to lure corporations with lower tax

rates at the expense of protecting workers, investing in infrastructure and growing the middle class.

"By making big multinational corporations pay their fair share and raising resources to fund priorities for domestic renewal - such as infrastructure,

childcare, affordable housing, and education - a global corporate minimum tax is a key part of our efforts to deliver a foreign policy for the middle class, and will help support working families everywhere," the White House said.

Agencies

Misguiding US reports on COVID-19 origin sourcing hurt US credibility

The so-called "lab leak theory" recently fabricated by the U.S. is just lame. It followed the same old trick in which certain media outlets published biased reports and then some politicians hyped them up.

However, such "comedy duo," which has been frequently staged, further revealed the ugly intention of the White House to politicize the pandemic and stigmatize other countries.

A Wall Street Journal report published on May 23 is culpable for the resurgent "lab leak theory." The report takes "a previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report" as its

only source and is all about "intelligence," inducing the readers to put the blame of "lab leak" on China. However, it offers barely any fact and employs abundant uncertain statements, which exposed a lack of confidence in its arguments.

The Wall Street Journal says it provides facts, data and information - not assertions or opinions. However, the above-mentioned report is neither objective nor impartial, and only hurts the credibility of the U.S.

The so-called "lab leak theory" has already been denied by scientific researches. Does the Wall Street Journal really believe that an intel-

ligence report of unknown origin could overturn scientific studies? Where did it get this "previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report?" Is the report "exclusive" or "tailored?" Has the Wall Street Journal verified it?

One of the authors of the report Michael Gordon is really somebody in the U.S. media known for cooking up stories. It was him that made the hype of Iraq trying to get nuclear weapons in September 2002 when he worked for the New York Times, which later became a reason for the White House to wage a war against Iraq. However, it was finally proved

that the reason was a big lie.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, some U.S. politicians have deliberately politicized the virus while some American media organizations "held a candle to the devil."

In April last year, the Washington Post fabricated a story that the novel coronavirus came from a Chinese lab, and it was followed by a February report by the New York Times which said Chinese scientists refused to share raw data that might bring the world closer to understanding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

These American media organiza-

tions turned a blind eye to science and facts, and repeated their lies again and again, which not only is a violation of professional ethics, but also undermines the atmosphere for international anti-pandemic cooperation that is in urgent need today.

Peter Daszak, a member of a WHO-led team investigating the pandemic's origin, noted that China has become a victim of the "lab leak theory." The Nature magazine also pointed out allegations that COVID escaped from a Chinese lab make it harder for nations to collaborate on ending the pandemic - and fuel online bullying.

The U.S. politicians and media organizations are working hand in glove with each other to spread rumors and stigmatize China because they can't accept a growing China. Obsessed with zero-sum mentality and fanning confrontation, they are addicted to Cold War solutions such as information and public opinion warfare. By spending huge amount of money each year to "counter the malign influence of China", the U.S. politicians just want to keep slandering China with rumors and lies. Such bold actions once again showed the American hegemony to the world.

People's Daily

Russia does not understand Blinken's remarks on Nord Stream 2, says Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW

RUSSIA does not understand the statements made by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken regarding the need to mitigate the Nord Stream 2 pipeline effects, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

"We do not understand the remark regarding the need to mitigate the negative effects of the pipeline's operation," she said. "Any speculation on this topic implies either unfair competition or attempts to politicize the situation."

"What negative consequences? Negative consequences for the US? That they have lost the dirty game that they themselves started?" Zakharova asked. "This is their internal problem. Why start a standoff with a totally commercial, beneficial, and transparent energy project, which does not involve their continent in any way, this European business."

The diplomat underscored that this project spells no negative consequences for European countries.

"And about the fact that they [the US] had to admit that the project is done – this is great that they actually peek into reality from time to time," Zakharova noted.

On Tuesday, Blinken remarked that the US could mitigate the negative effect of the Nord Stream 2 project and will seek to do so.

He underscored that people connected to the project may face new fines. On May 19, Blinken confirmed that Washington refused to impose sanctions against Nord Stream 2 AG and its CEO Matthias Warnig, claiming that this corresponds to US national interests.

Meanwhile, Washington decided to impose restrictions against a number of Russian pipeline construction participants. The only shareholder of Nord Stream 2 AG is Russia's Gazprom.

NZ Muslims object to mosque attack film while pain still raw

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND Muslims objected yesterday to a plan for a film about the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings in which a gunman killed 51 people, saying the attack was still too raw for grieving families and their community.

The film, titled *They Are Us*, will focus on the response by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to the attacks on two mosques by a white supremacist on March 15, 2019, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The title is drawn from Ardern's words on that day. The 40-year-old leader's compassionate response to the attack united her shocked country and was praised globally.

"There are still many sensitivities around the tragic events," Abdigani Ali, spokesman for the Muslim Association of Canterbury said in a statement.

"Although recognition of our prime minister for her response to attacks is well deserved, we question the timing and whether a movie is appropriate right now? The terrorist attack is still raw for our community."

Ardern has distanced herself from the project with her office saying she and the government have no involvement with it.

Australian actress Rose Byrne is set to play Ardern in the film, the Hollywood Reporter said, and New Zealander Andrew Niccol would write and direct it.

They Are Us was not so much about the attack but the response to it, Niccol was quoted as telling the Hollywood Reporter, which described the film as "inspirational story about the young leader's response to the tragic events".

But some Muslims questioned that focus. "This is not an inspiring story," said Mohamed Hassan, a journalist and poet based in Auckland, said in a commentary broadcast on Radio New Zealand.

"It is a tragedy, one that must always be centred around the Muslim victims and their families. No one else."

#TheyAreUsShutDown was trending on Twitter in New Zealand.

Ali said he recognised the story of the shootings needed to be told but said it should be done so in an appropriate, authentic and sensitive way.

"There needs to be a lot of work done in New Zealand in terms of hate speech laws, recognising Islamophobia does exist in our society and the institutional prejudice within our government apparatus before a blockbuster film comes out stating that we've done a great job here in New Zealand," he said.

Rwanda rolls out electric motorcycle project to promote carbon-neutral economy

KIGALI

RWANDA on Thursday launched a pilot electric motorcycles project in the capital Kigali to help the country become a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

The project, which will retrofit petrol powered motorcycles that edges to the end of life into electric motorcycles with new motor and battery, was initiated by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) with financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Rwanda.

Rwanda is focusing on gradually phasing out of the use of petrol-powered internal combustion engine motorcycles by converting them to electric ones, said Rwandan Minister of Environment Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya during the launch.

"The project will help Rwanda achieve its target of becoming a carbon neutral economy by 2050," she said.

According to her, the initiative will also help to accelerate the transition from petrol-fuelled motors, which account for more than 80 percent of the total motorcycle population in Rwanda, to electric ones.

The project is also in line with Rwanda's ten-year climate action plan to reduce 4.6 million tons of carbon dioxide by 2030, she said.

Xinhua

Trump's return to spotlight highlights possible 2024 White House run

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. President Donald Trump has returned to the spotlight, underscoring the possibility that the bombastic billionaire will make a run at the White House in the next U.S. elections.

On Monday's *Varney & Co.* on Fox Business News, Trump spoke on a wide range of subjects, and hinted he might run for president during the next elections, although he did not explicitly announce his intentions.

Trump said he would consider choosing Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis as a running mate in 2024, should he decide to run. "I would certainly consider Ron," Trump told Fox Business host Stuart Varney in a phone interview broadcast on the show.

That came on the heels of a weekend rally in the U.S. state of North Carolina, where Trump made his first in-person appearance in months.

"He does want to run in 2024, if his health and legal situation can permit it," Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua.

Indeed, the former president is 74 years old, and the next elections are nearly four years away. Moreover, lawsuits aimed at holding Trump personally and financially responsible for the Jan. 6 Capitol riots are mounting.

Among other lawsuits, Democratic member of Congress Eric Swalwell is suing Trump, arguing that the former president interfered with his jobs by pushing what he called false accusations that the election was illegally stolen.

The former president has denied any wrongdoing, and experts said he will likely argue that the statements made during his *Stop the Steal* campaign – in which he accused Democrats of cheating in the election – were free speech protected by the First Amendment.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua that Trump is doing interviews and speeches to keep his name out there, so he can continue to raise funds from his base, as he is incurring large legal fees. Ramsay said the fact that Trump picked moderate-con-



Former US President Donald Trump

servative *Varney's* show for Monday's interview suggests Trump, at least for now, is more open to suggestions from the professional political operatives that are part of his retinue.

"What they want is to get the conservative fragment comfortable, the ones who are still Republicans but are sometimes unnerved by Trump," Ramsay said.

Christopher Galdieri, assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua that the interview and rally are clear signals that the former president at least wants people to talk about him as if he's running in 2024.

"He has the advantage of being the instant front-runner if he does run ... So until he makes a definitive statement, this sort of thing keeps people talking," Galdieri said.

In March, Trump suggested he may run

again in 2024, although he did not say so explicitly. "Who knows?" Trump said at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in the U.S. state of Florida.

The annual CPAC straw poll showed that 95 percent of those attending the conference said Republicans should continue along Trump's policy lines, and 68 percent of conference goers said Trump should run in 2024.

A Quinnipiac poll from last month showed 85 percent of Republicans said they wanted candidates who agree with Trump on issues. Two-thirds of participants in that poll said they want the former president to run again in 2024.

Recently a Facebook oversight board upheld the decision to ban the former president from the social media platform.

The former president has also been booted off Twitter, and that could prove

to be a hurdle in communicating with large groups of potential voters, experts said. Another hurdle will be the economy, which is expected to boom for at least the next year, after 2020 saw the deepest economic dive since the Great Depression nearly a century ago. The economy is expected to grow 6 percent to 7 percent this year, and that will put President Joe Biden on solid footing politically, experts said.

Trump is perhaps the most polarizing political figure in decades, although experts said he is a mere reflection of the deep political divisions of voters nationwide. He is particularly a symbol of the cavernous gap between rural and urban Americans, experts said.

Anna Bosch, in IT management in the DC area, told Xinhua, "I think it's great" if Trump runs, but added that she was concerned about Trump's age. Connie Bauers, a housewife in her late 50s residing just outside Washington DC, told Xinhua she would not vote for Trump, and would cast her ballot for Biden, as she did last November. *Xinhua*

GENEVA

Global child labor up for first time in two decades, warn UN agencies

THE number of children in child labor has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19, according to a report published on Thursday by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Na-

tions Children's Fund (UNICEF). Released ahead of World Day Against Child Labor on June 12, the report – *Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward* – warned that progress to end child labor has stalled for the first time in 20 years, reversing the previous downward trend that saw child

labor fall by 94 million between 2000 and 2016.

The report underlined a significant rise in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years in child labor, who now account for just over half of the total global figure.

The number of children aged 5 to 17 years in hazardous work

– defined as work that is likely to harm their health, safety or morals – has risen by 6.5 million to 79 million since 2016.

"The new estimates are a wake-up call. We cannot stand by while a new generation of children is put at risk," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. "We are at a pivotal moment

and much depends on how we respond.

This is a time for renewed commitment and energy, to turn the corner and break the cycle of poverty and child labour." The report also warned that globally, nine million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labor by the end of 2022 as a result of the pandemic.

Smart community design in Chinese cities brings convenience, benefits to residents

THANKS to the integrated application of dozens of advanced technologies, residents of a smart community located in Lijia neighborhood, Liangjiang New Area in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, now enjoy a more comfortable and convenient life.

With a facial recognition system employed at the entrance to the community, residents can pass through the gate in three seconds. If it rains and they aren't home, they can contact the property management staff via a mobile app and ask them to collect the clothes hung in the balcony. Whenever a family leaves their house, they can switch the house to a mode which will automatically raise the alarm and notify security personnel when stranger activities are found in the house.

The construction of smart community is aimed at fully leveraging new generation of information and communication technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, and mobile Internet, to provide residents with a safe, comfortable, and convenient modern living environment with smart facilities.

According to official data, as of the end of last year, the number of urban residential communities exceeded 160,000 in China, which means enormous prospects and space for smart community construction.

Yuanfenxincun village in Dalang sub-district, Longhua district, Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, had been troubled by a number of problems in governance, including serious fire hazards, shortage of business infrastructure, and defective infrastructure for public services.

To solve the problems, the neighborhood teamed up with a company providing management services for buildings and built a digitalized residential community named "V. Town" to comprehensively improve the living experience of residents with the help of scientific and technological means.

An IoT platform of the company provides the community with services concerning the use of smart water and electricity meters, which enable residents to track their water and electricity consumption, as well as facial recognition technology for door locks and entrance to the community.

Attaching great importance to forging bonds among residents for realizing



Photo taken on July 21, 2020, shows a robot patrolling a community in Shizhong district, Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong province. The robot can monitor the noise, fire hazard, illegal parking, and other conditions of the community and send messages to the local police. (File Photo)

joint contribution, shared governance, and shared benefits, the community has created more than 20 clubs and held over 400 activities, which attracted more than 4,700 participants.

"Big data capabilities hold the key to smart community construction," said an executive of "V. Town", who explained that based on big data analytics, the community can encourage and develop products that can better meet the needs of residents, and promote well-targeted improvements in the commercial complex of the community, design of space and products, and increase in the demand for value-added services.

For instance, given the high plot ratio and poor natural lighting of the community, a drying room has been introduced to help residents dry their clothes, said the executive.

According to the executive, the community has launched house cleaning service and water delivery service based on the needs of some residents. These services, which promise that professional staff arrive at customer's house within an hour after the request is made, saw a turnover of more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,566) in half a month since they were rolled out. Besides bringing convenience to residents, smart communities are also changing people's lifestyles.

In a residential community in Hengshui city of north China's Hebei province, a female resident surnamed Li put a pile of cardboard boxes into a smart trash can, and tapped the screen on the trash can to weigh the boxes and calculate their worth. Then she received an amount of money in her digital wallet of WeChat Pay from recycling these boxes.

The smart trash can consists of five recycling bins for five types of recyclable waste, namely textiles, metal, plastic, bottles, and paper. By using such trash can to "turn" people's recyclable waste into money on their account, the community intends to encourage residents to sort waste and contribute to environmental protection.

Smart community can easily give residents greater sense of gain and better experience, according to Ma Hong, deputy director of national technical committee for digitalization and standardization of intelligent buildings and residential areas.

People's Daily

HKSAR gov't refutes Britain's so-called six-monthly report on Hong Kong

HONG KONG

THE government of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) yesterday strongly objected to the false remarks in Britain's so-called six-monthly report on Hong Kong.

The central government has made it clear that it will unwaveringly implement the policy of "one country, two systems" and has repeatedly urged foreign governments to stop intervening in Hong Kong affairs, the HKSAR government said, stressing that foreign interference violates international laws and basic principles of non-intervention.

The comments in the report smearing the national security law in the HKSAR could not be further from the truth and are clearly adopting double standards, a government spokesman said.

Any objective person will see that since the implementation of the national security law, stability, which is vital to business activities, has been restored to society and national security has been safeguarded, the spokesman said, adding that Hong Kong people can continue to enjoy their basic rights and freedoms in accordance with the law.

The spokesman emphasized that any law enforcement actions taken by Hong Kong law enforcement agencies are based on evidence, strictly according to the law, for the acts of the people or entities concerned, and have nothing to do with their political stance, background or occupation.

Prosecutorial decisions made by the Department of Justice are based on evidence, applicable laws and the Prosecution Code, and cases are handled with the same benchmark irrespective of the political beliefs or background of defendants, the spokesman said, adding that the constitutional duty of judges, in the exercise of their judicial power, is to apply the law and nothing else.

The HKSAR government also firmly opposed to the misleading claims by some foreign politicians concerning the improvement to Hong Kong's electoral system.

The improvement to the electoral system is both timely and necessary, and the HKSAR government is committed to ensuring elections are conducted in a fair, just and open manner, the spokesman said.

Xinhua



SPORT



Ruvu Shooting

Ruvu Shooting in pursuit of victory over Yanga

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

RUVU Shooting information officer, Masau Bwire, has stated his team will get the better of Yanga when the two squads lock horns in a Premier League clash, which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on June 17.

Ruvu Shooting will enter the duel against Yanga with frustrating memories of a defeat in their league game against Simba, which took place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza and ended with Simba notching a 3-0 victory.

Bwire disclosed they will prepare for their next match against Yanga to get good results.

He stated they believe they can notch a victory, considering they have good players and effective tactics.

Bwire revealed: "We are out to collect three points, as it is the case for Yanga but they should not think that it will be an easy task for them, Ruvu Shooting is in good form."

"Our loss in front of Simba does not mean that we are not good, the fact is that we are good and we will follow our opponents seeking to get three points," he said.

Ruvu Shooting sits 10th in the Premier League table with 37 points after featuring in 30 matches, Yanga is placed second with 61 points.

Meanwhile, Yanga said they are waiting for the final report from the head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, before starting to line up players they should either release or sign ahead of next season.

The Jangwani Street-based club is already training, preparing for their remaining five Mainland Premier League fixtures and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final clash against Biashara United.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli revealed the coach's report will give them clear guidelines on which players they should go for.

Zahera now promises to bring Makambo to Yanga

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Yanga head coach, Mwyni Zahera, has told the club's bosses that if they have cash, he will help them complete the registration deal for Guinea's Horoya AC striker, Heritier Makambo.

Zahera issued the statement a few days after Horoya AC's management agreed to release the striker for 100m/- to an outfit willing to terminate his one-year contract with the West African club.

Makambo, who is Yanga supporters' favourite, is one of the strikers tipped to join the team next season.

According to Zahera, he is ready to fight for Yanga to secure Makambo's registration if they have the money they can offer to terminate the forward's one-year contract.

Zahera said all Yanga needs to do is to make sure they terminate the striker's contract for the amount which has been mentioned before other clubs intervene in the registration.

He added that no one is unaware of Makambo's ability to score goals, so Yanga must dish out cash to terminate the striker's contract.

The coach noted: "As I offered to sell the forward to Horoya AC, I will be able to bring him back to Yanga, so they must incur the cost of buying out his one-year contract."

He disclosed: "We have been making mistakes when it comes to signing new players as most of them find it difficult to fit in the coach's system when they come, that is why we want him to be fully engaged."

"We have not started thinking of possible players to join the club even though, there are many speculations out there of players linked to join us next season," Bumbuli said.

Bumbuli said mathematically, Yanga has not given up on seeking to win Premier League's top honour, as they have five games in hand before winding up the season.

He noted: "Until now, we are in second place and when we play equal games with Simba, it will give us a clear picture on which side will be guaranteed to lift the trophy but for now, we have not given up."

He moreover stated Yanga's Congolese midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe, who sustained an injury while playing for his country's national team in an international friendly match against Tunisia, is responding well to treatment.

"We have communicated with him and he said he is doing well. The two teams' doctors will communicate to determine the extent of his injury and see for how long he will spend off the pitch nursing his injury," he said.

Tonombe is one of the two foreign players at Yanga who earned national team call-ups for their respective countries' sides.

Forward, Yacouba Songne, was included in Burkina Faso's national team.

Yanga sits second in the Premier League with 61 points from 29 games played, six points behind leaders Simba, who have amassed 67 points in their 27 encounters.

Third-placed Azam FC has garnered 60 points after 30 matches, while Biashara United and KMC FC sit fourth and fifth with 45 and 41 points respectively.

This means the fight for second place this season will be an interesting marathon since next season, the league's runners-up will play in CAF Champions League, as is the case for the champions.

He said: "Basically Yanga should stop the stinginess of waiting for the expiration of a player's contract, well the player has shown great interest in making his way back to Yanga."

He stated: "They are supposed to have money in hand, after which they leave everything to me to manage the registration and I guarantee I can bring Makambo."

Yanga players are currently taking part in training for the remaining Vodacom Premier League clashes as well as the Federation Cup.

The outfit's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli said that they are ready for the remaining competitive matches, noting they are out to excel.

He disclosed: "At the moment the team is already in camp continuing with training for our remaining matches in the league as well as the Federation Cup."

He noted: "It is clear that the competition is fierce and we will fight to get positive results in matches, it is largely left to our fans to support us."

"The players are ready and everyone knows we have matches to play so we are ready and we believe we will do well," he said.

Yanga sits second in the Premier League's table with 61 points. The club will as well take on Biashara United in this season's Federation Cup semi-final in Tabora.

SPORTS

Yanga's Djuma Shaban signing and how it will impact the squad

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA last won the Mainland Tanzania Premier League's silverware in 2016/17 and have since been under the shadow of their age-old rivals, Simba, who are on the verge of winning it for the fourth time in a row.

After three years of choking, Yanga spent more heavily, and upgraded their first team more visibly, than any other team in this campaign.

After such an eye-catching transfer window it was no surprise to see Yanga fans being very confident of ending their trophy drought.

Yanga blew everyone away in the first few months of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League season.

From the beginning of the campaign results improved dramatically compared to last season, the players looked comfortable despite wholesale changes made to the squad that included 14 players going out and 13 others coming into the team.

They quickly won over the media and skeptical fans who were unconvinced they would have trouble given the many changes done to the technical bench and playing unit.

Expectations skyrocketed to the extent that head coach Zlatko Krmpotic was sacked five matches into his reign for what was alleged to be unhappiness with the quality of football offered despite winning four and drawing one to go top of the table.

A new coach in Cedric Kaze was brought in to implement a new system.

Even with all the sudden and unexpected change, Yanga kept pushing on and the results were good enough to convince fans and pundits this was a squad good enough to finally end the four-year title trophy dry spell.

By the end of the first round of matches, Yanga was nine points clear at the top of the table.

They went 17 matches unbeaten. On top of that, there was a hard-fought Mapinduzi Cup victory over rivals Simba in Zanzibar. Everything was going according to the script.

Then came the second-half collapse.



Djuma Shaban

One win in seven matches. In addition to failing to win direct clashes with Kagera Sugar and Prisons, Yanga also failed to achieve wins over the likes of Mbeya City, Polisi Tanzania, and most recently Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

The stunning 2-1 loss to Coastal Union ended Yanga's unbeaten run and ultimately spelled the end of coach Kaze.

Yanga won just two of their seven league games, and little over a month before they were flying high, the Burundian Kaze was sacked, and his assistant Juma Mwambusi was reinstated to steady the ship as they mulled over whether to appoint a third coach in the season or wait till the end of the campaign.

It became clear Yanga need to upgrade in many key areas. One of the weakest areas was the fullback positions.

Kibwana Shomari and Yassin Mustapha are okay, at best they should be kept as cover fullbacks in the squad.

Fans couldn't have failed to notice the right-back who badly exposed Simba SC's defense by charging up the flank with such power and intent on February 12.

Simba was playing away to Congolese giants AS Vita and the latter's fullback Djuma Shaban was the man on everyone's lips.

After the game, both Yanga and Simba fans urged their teams to sign Shaban. The Congolese right fullback was linked to all the three big clubs since then but, in the end, Yanga won the race.

Shaban is a definite upgrade for Yanga current fullback options.

Additionally, he is the type of player that will make Kibwana improve.

Initially, I thought Kibwana as an offensive full-back for Yanga, wasn't going to do it. But he has improved a lot in recent matches.

He can still improve more, he is young, but now he's a much better offensive player than when he arrived.

Shaban's arrival will reduce Kibwana's playing time but this is what makes players compete for their place, and to improve.

If you play every game, you have no competition and you can start to get in a comfort zone, it is not good for you.

Yazidu urges sports stakeholders to support boxing

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER prominent professional boxer, Omari Yazidu, has asked the government to encourage stakeholders of the sport to start boxing competitions in various regions to motivate upcoming boxers.

Yazidu, who is now a boxing coach, made the statement during the official announcement of a professional boxing fight, which will take place in Njombe region later this month.

He has organized the bout in collaboration with the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC), through the commission's president Agapeter Basil.

According to the coach, the bout is part of an effort to promote the sport in regions where many boxing stakeholders, especially promoters, have hardly focused on it.

The former boxer stated that the aim of organizing the fight is to expose the talents of young boxers in the regions which have been ignored by boxing stakeholders unlike in previous years where the sport was active in all regions.

He disclosed in recent years promoters have only been organizing bouts in regions that produce popular boxers, including Tanga, Morogoro, and Dar es Salaam.

He said the commission should look into it now as boxing has become more expensive.

He noted there have also been many obstacles in organizing the bouts, especially the street-based known as 'Gym Contest' which have produced many boxers who are doing well right now.

He disclosed: "Some of the biggest boxers who have honored the country in the likes Francis Cheka have all been produced by the competitions, which were inspiring as they were even raising money to go to the regions which had strong passion for boxing."

"At the moment no major promoter will agree to go and prepare this type of bout as they want boxers who have already been trained and will give them positive results in the fight. As they will prepare bouts of local boxers versus



Professional boxer, Leila Yazidu (L), poses for a photo with her sister, Fatuma (R), who is as well a professional boxer, and boxing referee, Pendo Njau, before a weigh-in of an international bout pitting Leila against Bulgaria's Joana Nwamerue which took place in Dar es Salaam last month. Looking on is Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) official, Chaurambo Palasa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

abroad boxers," he disclosed.

Yazidu expressed appreciation to TPBRC who have permitted him to organize the fight after following them and expressing his plan to promote boxers in other regions and ultimately produce many good boxers.

He disclosed: "I thank the TPBRC president for giving me permission to continue promoting boxing in other regions so that we can continue getting more boxers like Cheka, Hassan Mwakinjo, and Twaha Kassim 'Kiduku', a project which will benefit the country."

He stated: "In previous years boxing was not only popular in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, and Tanga but also in the other regions."

He also called on boxing stakeholders

and bouts organizers to come out in large numbers to witness the fight.

He insisted the stakeholders' presence will encourage young boxers, who dream of becoming prominent fighters, and promoting the country internationally.

In the bout to be held at Mid Town Hall, Makambako District, on June 12, boxer Burton Tweve from Tunduma will face Salmuni Nkonyani in a four-round 5kg bout.

In the day's other bouts, Fariji Pila of Mwema, Makambako Town, will trade blows with Kefa from Mwembe Togwa in a Heavyweight fight.

Another undercard will pit Stephano Wangira against Daniel Kamanga in a 69kg bout.

Alba: 'A joke' that Barca gave Suarez away

BARCELONO

JORDI Alba has said the way Barcelona gifted Luis Suarez to title rivals Atletico Madrid last September was a "joke."

Suarez, 34, went on to score 21 goals in La Liga, including the winning goal in each of the last two games of the season, as Atletico beat Barca and Real Madrid to the top spot.

"It was a joke," Barca defender Alba told Cadena Ser. "He is someone who gave a lot to Barcelona, and they practically gave him away for nothing, above all to a direct rival in Atletico."

"And look, they went on to win the league with him. I didn't like it. Aside from the friendship we have, where are you going to find a striker like him? It is difficult to find one. Yes, there are some very good players, but what Luis gave us..."

Suarez, who could eventually cost Atletico €11 million in additions, said he was "underestimated" by Barcelona after winning the league in May.

"He won the league and shut a lot of mouths," Alba added. "His last year wasn't easy at Barca, and he has had the chance to shut some people up."

"I can tell you that the atmosphere [at Barca] with Luis was spectacular. He is a guy that works hard, that was great for the group, and the numbers speak for themselves: [he is] the third highest goal scorer in Barca's history."

Antoine Griezmann, who played alongside Suarez for a year at Camp Nou, was tasked with replacing the striker at Barca this past season.

However, the France forward, despite scoring 20 goals in all competitions, didn't quite live up to the billing of his €120m price tag and he has admitted he has found it hard at times at Barcelona.

"I've earned respect in France," he told L'Equipe ahead of the start of Euro 2020 this week. "Those that know about football realise I do well everywhere I go."

"For the national team, everything goes through me, I feel freer than with Barca, like at Atletico, whether it's to ask for the ball or to shoot inside the area."

"At Barcelona, it has been complicated at times, although the criticism has sometimes been exaggerated. In 2021, though, I think things have gone better."

"At the start of the season, when I wasn't playing, I didn't feel important. I'm used to playing in the big games and then I find myself on the bench against Madrid. It is annoying to see your teammates warming up when you are not playing, but you have to accept it and try and change the coach's decision."

Griezmann also told L'Equipe that despite rumours that put him at odds with Messi, the Argentine star is a very good teammate. "On the pitch, he's obviously a super-easy player to play with. You send him a melon, he turns it into a caviar. We don't have that pressure to miss a pass with him."

"We understand each other well, sometimes text each other and talk a lot during training. On the field he is a very nice teammate."

Griezmann added that Barcelona need stability. "It has been

three managers in two years." He said the past season was "complicated" because there were "too many injuries" and "not everyone played in their best position due to the system that was used."

Meanwhile, Xavi Hernandez has said he's ready to manage Barcelona and that having to coach former teammate Lionel Messi would be a "privilege" and not a problem.

The Al Sadd coach was strongly linked with the Barca job this summer before president Joan Laporta decided to stick with Ronald Koeman.

Xavi, 41, says he has had no contact with Laporta since he took office in March, but confirmed he is open to offers as he looks to the next stage of his coaching career.

"I am always on the market," he said at a news conference Thursday to signal the start of the 23rd Campus Xavi, a summer training camp for children in Catalonia.

"The club decided to continue with Koeman and I wish him the best. In these last four months, I have not had any contact with [Laporta] or anyone from the board."

"I don't know when the moment will arrive but, for me, it would be a dream to return to Barca one day. I'm in no rush, honestly, but I hope it happens."

Xavi, who spent 24 years at Barca as a player after joining the academy in 1991, also hit back at critics who have said he doesn't have enough experience for the top job at Camp Nou.

"I understand people may think I am not ready, but I want to make it clear that I am," he added.

"I know the club, the environment... I am coaching at a professional level, not kids, and I feel prepared. People also criticised [Pep] Guardiola and [Zinedine] Zidane before they took charge at Barca and [Real] Madrid."

"But Koeman's the coach now and you have to respect that. I don't want there to be a permanent debate about that."

Koeman has a year to run on his contract and Laporta confirmed last week he will get the chance to fulfil his deal following a "period of reflection."

His future had been under threat following just two wins in the final six games of the season as Atletico Madrid won La Liga.

Xavi, who twice turned down the Barca job under the previous board because the "moment wasn't right," also said he would welcome the chance to coach former teammates, such as Messi, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets.

"For me, it would be an advantage [to work with them]," he said. "I'm in a situation at Al Sadd where I am coaching players I played with and I think it helps, because you know them."

"What coach wouldn't want to train Messi? Who wouldn't want a joker up their sleeve like Leo, who can make the difference in 0.1 seconds? Physically he is still in good shape. He is still the best. It would be a huge privilege to coach Messi."

Xavi said he's open to all proposals and would welcome the chance to work in the Premier League if an "attractive" offer arrived, although he closed the door on the possibility of coaching Barca's B team.

(Agencies)

Gundogan hoping to exorcise Champions League demons at Euro 2020

BERLIN

MANCHESTER City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan plans to use his frustrations at losing another Champions League final to help Germany find form at Euro 2020.

Gundogan lost a Champions League final for the second time in his career when Premier League winners City were beaten by Chelsea a fortnight ago, with Germany team-mate Kai Havertz scoring the winner for the Blues.

The defeat in Porto was the second time Gundogan, 30, has lost a Champions League final having also been on the losing side for former club Borussia Dortmund when they were beaten by Bayern Munich at Wembley in 2013.

"It's not easy to lose a game like that," Gundogan admitted Thursday at Germany's European Championship base in Bavaria.

"We (City) were working up to it for a year -- even eight years in my case. I lost the final again, so I'm extremely disappointed."

"Still, life goes on -- that's the beauty of competitive sport."

"Now I'm focusing on the next tasks and I look forward to the tournament (Euro 2020 finals) despite the defeat."

Gundogan was City's top scorer last season with 17 goals in all competitions.

He hit the net for his national side on Monday during a 7-1 thrashing of Latvia in Germany's final warm-up game before the Euro begins Friday.

Germany open their Group F campaign against world champions France on Tuesday in Munich, where they also host holders Portugal four days later.

"The anticipation is huge -- especially before tournaments like this. We can hardly wait," added Gundogan, who is expected to partner Toni Kroos in Germany's midfield against France.

He anticipates a busy night trying to stem the French attack, featuring Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Karim Benzema, and expects a thorough test of the shaky German defence, which has conceded 20 goals in 13 games this season.

"You know that you are playing against a team that has a lot of talented footballers. We may not have much possession," said Gundogan.

"It is all the more important that the guys at the back support us."

"It could be a key to the game, which could allow us to win a lot of ball and force the French to run after us."

Gundogan hopes his personal



Ilkay Gundogan

disappointment in Porto could even help Germany.

"Winning the Champions League gives you a boost and self-confidence, especially for Kai (Havertz), his goal will give him a lot of belief that the team could use," he said.

"I'm pleased for the boys who won (the final) -- they deserve it."

Meanwhile, Andy Robertson will be in familiar surroundings as he leads Scotland out into battle for the first time in a major international tournament in 23 years against the Czech Republic on Monday.

The Liverpool left-back, now a European and English champion with his club and captain of his country, was playing as an amateur for Queen's Park at Hampden Park eight years ago and working in the ticket office at Scotland's national stadium to get by off the field.

A tweet in 2012 from an 18-year-old Robertson that read: "Life at this age is rubbish with no money #needajob" has long since gone viral.

Released by his boyhood club Celtic at 15 due to his small stature, Robertson positively channelled that rejection into a hunger to make

it the hard way.

A football obsessive, he thought his future might lie as a PE teacher or working in sports science, but his parents agreed to support him through one more season at Scotland's oldest club in 2012/13 before focusing on further education.

Despite Queen's Park being in Scotland's fourth tier at the time, Rangers' fall to the same level that season due to the Glasgow giants' financial problems provided an unusual level of media attention on League Two and Robertson quickly caught the eye.

First came a move to Scottish Premiership side Dundee United under former Celtic right-back Jackie McNamara, who was part of the last Scotland side to reach a major final at the 1998 World Cup.

"It's a fantastic story, it's inspirational for any kids at that age who are released or let go," said McNamara. "He's done it himself with his attitude towards the game and his determination."

"I am good enough"

After just one season in Scotland's top-flight, English clubs came calling with Robertson's next move to

Hull City.

A rollercoaster three seasons on Humber side contained two relegations from the Premier League either side of success in the Championship playoffs.

But Robertson had done enough to convince Liverpool into taking a punt on him to solve their left-back troubles for just £8 million (\$11 million).

A few months previously, a 3-1 defeat to Sevilla in the Europa League final had cost the Reds millions in Champions League revenue with left-back Alberto Moreno the scapegoat for that defeat in Basel among the Liverpool fans.

Robertson still had to bide his time and prove his worth again during what he later described as a "miserable" first three months at Anfield.

He made just two Premier League appearances before December, but ended that season as his side's outstanding performer in a Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid.

A year later, Robertson was ruffing up Lionel Messi as Liverpool beat Barcelona 4-0 to reach the Champions League final again, this time lifting the trophy by beating Tottenham in Madrid.

Far from just his doggedness and determination, Robertson's quality of delivery has been an integral part of Liverpool's rebirth under Jurgen Klopp.

Only teammate Trent Alexander-Arnold and Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne have provided more assists over the past three seasons in the Premier League.

"I don't pinch myself now because I believe I am good enough to play for Liverpool and good enough to captain Scotland," said Robertson.

"It's about me trying to prove that rather than looking back on my story and that left-back amateur footballer from Queen's Park."

Robertson will forever be a Liverpool legend for the integral part he played in then ending a 30-year wait to win a league title in 2019/20.

That gave him a taste for rewriting the history books.

"Having just ended a 30-year wait with Liverpool, I now want to end a 22-year wait with Scotland," Robertson said in his book published two months before Scotland secured qualification with a dramatic penalty shootout win in Serbia.

After a long wait, Scotland have a captain who characterises the hard-work, determination and quality that has brought them back to international football's top table.

AFP

Chaotic organisation makes this year's Copa America unique

RIO DE JANEIRO

SPORTS events have been cancelled or disrupted by a myriad of complications over the years, including war, plague, economic uncertainty and political boycotts, but the series of events that have beset this year's Copa America takes some beating.

The oldest international tournament in world football, the Copa America is South America's equivalent of the European Championship and is a big deal for Latin players such as Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar.

The tournament's difficulties began with the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 version was postponed to 2021.

The year's delay forced guest participants Australia and Qatar to pull out due to scheduling conflicts.

That left two groups of five teams instead of six.

However, rather than alter the format, the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) insisted that the top four teams in each group qualify for the quarter-finals, meaning only two of the 10 teams are eliminated after the first round.

CONMEBOL has made a show of copying the European model of organisation in recent years and the latest Copa was to be the first with a co-hosting model, featuring Colombia and Argentina, at opposite ends of the continent.

This May, less than a month



before kick off, Colombia was removed as a co-host after civil unrest in the country and soon after Argentina pulled out when COVID-19 cases surged.

Enter Brazil to save the day.

Brazil's right wing President Jair Bolsonaro agreed to host the tournament with less than two weeks notice in spite of the country's own terrible coronavirus record.

Almost half a million people have died in Brazil, more than any country outside the United States, and thousands are still dying each week.

PLAYERS UPSET

The decision, arranged by Rogério Caboclo, the president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), appeared to upset the Brazilian players and they promised to

take a stance.

Local media reported that the players could refuse to play in the tournament.

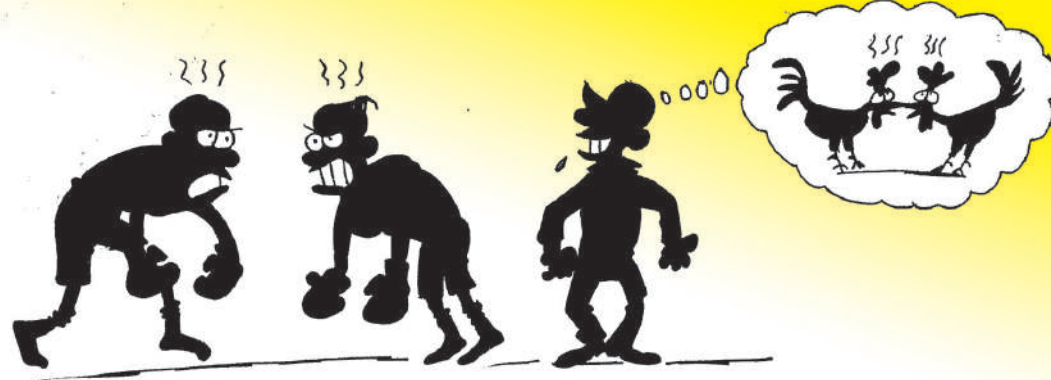
Instead, yet another reverse appeared to appease them. Caboclo was suspended pending an ethics investigation and two days later the players made their position public.

"For different reasons, be they humanitarian or professional, we are not satisfied with the way the Copa America has been handled by CONMEBOL," they wrote on social media.

Stressing they did not want to take a political stance, the players made no mention of Caboclo, the CBF, or Bolsonaro, much less the pandemic.

"I confess that I was naive in thinking that the players might really take a historic position in empathy with our people," wrote former Brazil striker Walter Casagrande.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Gundogan hoping to exercise
Champions League demons at Euro**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Azam FC forward, Iddi Selemani (L), gets the better of Biashara United's Boniface Maganga in a Premier League match, held at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC gives up on fighting for VPL silverware

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC management has made it clear that there is a great challenge for the club to win this season's Vodacom Premier League top honour due to their huge points margin with Simba SC that tops top-flight.

The top-flight standings show Azam FC is positioned third with 60 points after playing a total of 30 matches, whereas Simba has collected 67 points.

The two outfits' first difference is in the number of matches played, Simba has played a total of 27 matches whilst Azam FC, coached by Zambian George Lwandamina, has featured in 30 fixtures.

According to Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zakaria, it is difficult for the squad to win the championship due to the points' gap and matches they have taken part in.

He disclosed: "It is very clear that it is difficult for us to win the league title due to our opponents who are placed at the top have three games in hand."

He stated: "But that doesn't make us despair of losing out on lifting the silverware. We will continue to fight until the end and by then our fate will be known."

Azam FC is also vying for the Federation Cup title which is in the hands of Simba, the sides will face each other in the show-piece's semi-final in Ruvuma.

The semi-final winners will face winners of the last four tie bringing together Yanga and Biashara United.

In another development, Azam FC has recruited left fullback, Edward Manyama, who was playing for Ruvu Shooting.

The defender had previously been linked with a move to Simba for a two-year deal and now Azam FC has turned tables, roping in the player on a three-year deal.

This is the first major signing for Azam FC for a new player apart from those who have had their contracts extended, including midfielder Bryson Raphael.

According to reports from Ruvu Shooting, the defender's contract with the squad is on the verge of completion so he was free to join any team that will present a good offer.

Manyama made his debut for JKT Ruvu in the Premier League, he was later recruited by Yanga.

He was roped in by Ruvu Shooting after he was released by the Premier League giants.

His move to Namungo FC was brought about by the influence of the squad's former head coach, Thierry Hitimana.

The coach was later sacked at the end of 2020, following a spate of incidents.

Hitimana recognized Manyama's potential when he coached Biashara United.

Manyama was as well on the radar of Yanga last season when he was featuring for Namungo FC.

Geita allocates 1bn/- for construction of new venue

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

GEITA has allocated 1.9bn/- for the construction of a new football stadium that will be used for hosting Premier League matches.

Acting Executive Director of Geita Town Council, Felix Nlallo, issued a report on the construction of the stadium before the Geita district political committee's members when they arrived to inspect the progress of the construction of the stadium.

Nlallo said that the process of finding a contractor to build the stadium, which will accommodate more than 18,000 people, has been completed.

He disclosed the council has set aside the money which is local revenue as well as 1bn/- from Geita Gold Mine Limited presented for Community Social Responsibility.

He said that while the construction of the fence is underway, it will coincide with the architecture of the platforms and later artificial grass will be installed.

He pointed out that construction is expected to be completed in four months.

Geita Branch's CCM Chairman, Barnabas Mapande, said that apart from the people getting a chance to attend league matches at the stadium upon completion, the regional authorities will also collect revenue.

"This stadium is important for Geita as we now have a Geita Gold FC, which has secured promotion to the next season's Mainland Premier League so the stadium should be completed quickly," he stated.

In addition, Geita District Commissioner Mwalimu Fadhili Juma said that Geita people are eager to watch Mainland Premier League games at the Geita Stadium.

He said that recently the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia arrived in Geita and visited the Magoga area of Bombambili Ward during the construction of the stadium.

Karia promised to cooperate with the area's football stakeholders in the construction by bringing in experts who have specialized in designing football stadiums.

Robinson takes 'short break' from cricket

SUSSEX

OLLIE Robinson will not be part of Sussex's squad for their first two T20 Blast fixtures as he takes a "short break from the game" following his suspension from international cricket pending an ECB investigation into offensive tweets he posted as a teenager.

Sussex condemned Robinson's tweets and said that they would "turn [their] attention to supporting Ollie in his commitment to continue to educate himself", but he will not face further disciplinary action from his county.

Robinson is not a centrally-contracted England player and the ECB clarified at the time of his suspension that he was available for selection at county level if Sussex opted to pick him, but the club released a statement on Thursday confirming that he would not be involved at the start of the Blast.

"After a difficult week, Ollie has decided to take a short break from the game to spend time with his young family," the statement said.

"Player and staff welfare - including mental health and wellbeing - is a priority for the club and, as such, Sussex Cricket fully supports Ollie in his decision.

"When he is ready to return, Ollie will be welcomed back to the club, where discussions with the remainder of the squad over the last week have made clear that he retains the support of all his Sussex teammates. We remain in close contact with Ollie from a welfare perspective and will issue further updates on his availability at the relevant times."

The statement went on to describe Robinson's tweets as "completely unacceptable", adding that "their content is totally at odds with our stated ambition to inspire people from every background in our county to say, 'I feel part of Sussex Cricket'."

"Ollie is a very different man from the one that wrote those tweets and has clearly learned much in the intervening years," the statement continued.

"He has made clear the shame, embarrassment, and remorse he feels for the discriminatory comments he made.

"As a result of his actions, Ollie has had the opportunity to represent his country suspended, is at the centre of intense public and media scrutiny and faces the possibility of further disciplinary action from the ECB. Sussex Cricket will not be adding to these significant penalties.

"The club will turn its attention to supporting Ollie in his commitment to continue to educate himself in the area of equality, diversity and inclusion. Ollie has more to learn in this area. We all do. We all have a responsibility to improve and to make cricket a game for everybody."

The ECB released a statement on Tuesday evening after further unsavoury tweets emerged from England players, including members of the current Test squad, saying that it would "discuss how we deal with issues over historical social media material in a timely and appropriate manner".

AGENCIES

Bruno Tarimo set to fight for IBF Championship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN professional pugilist, Bruno Tarimo, has climbed to sixth place in the International Boxing Federation (IBF) Super Featherweight (59kg) rankings.

The promotion to the sixth position now enables Tarimo, alias 'The Wingman', to fight for the IBF World Championship.

The boxer said that moving to the position gives him the motivation to fight as he is looking forward to one day competing and winning the IBF World Championship title.

He disclosed the progress moreover gives him morale to participate in intensive training so that he can fight and continue to do well and land the opportunity to showcase his virtuosity in other bouts.

He said that after successfully defending his IBF International Super Featherweight title and also taking the International Boxing Organization Super Featherweight title, he gained the morale to continue to do well to rise further in the rankings of the best boxers in the world.

On April 21, the boxer defeated Australian boxer Kye MacKenzie in a 10-round Super Featherweight bout held at WIN Entertainment Center, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, and won the title after two judges scored 97-93 each for Tarimo and a third judge gave Tarimo 94 points against 96 of his opponent.

"I thank God for successfully making it into the sixth place in the rankings as I was desperate to win every fight in my career to put myself in the best position in the list of the best boxers in the world and now I am thankful this has come true," he noted.

It should be recalled that in December last year the boxer won the World Boxing Association Oceania and had an IBF bout against Australian boxer Paul Fleming being declared a draw.

The bout's referee, Will Soulos, declared the fight a draw after judges handed out similar marks to the boxers.

In the bout, for the first time, Tarimo broke MacKenzie's record, as the Aussie was neither beaten



Bruno Tarimo

nor drawn in 26 fights he had participated in.

Tarimo firstly defended his IBF International Super Featherweight title after defeating his rival, Nathaniel May by points in a fight held on December 6, 2019,

in Sydney, Australia.

He won the IBF title for the first time after beating Serbian boxer Serif Seka Gurdijeljac in a 10-round bout at Hala Pendik Novi Pazar on August 31 in the same year.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

