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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY, 2022

ECONOMY



DR MWINYI: AFRICA MUST HAVE ROBUST INSURANCE SECTOR PG 3

BUSINESS



UPLIFT BANS TO BOOST CROSS BORDER TRADE PG 4

ELECTRICITY



POWER PRODUCTION AT LOWER KIHANSI ON COURSE PG 5

AGRICULTURE



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE PG 6

BUSINESS Business women losing out in internet access says Stipro researchers

CGE retracts statement on the effects of Covid-19 vaccines on reproductive health impact

KQ rivals raise competition with Valentine's cargo plan

INSPIRING GENE INNOVATION & I

Page 13

Dar set for 10-day power cut

Tanesco starts expanding Kinyerezi power station

Business lobby wants Mutukula one-stop border post operational

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS have appealed for the full operationalisation of the Mutukula one-stop border post between Tanzania and Uganda for trade facilitation.



She dwelt on the need for harmonization of COVID-19 response measures, explaining that during the lockdown families broke up and businesses collapsed

Officials need to be deployed to ensure 24 hours services on the Uganda side as customs agencies on the Tanzania side offer 24hrs services but on the Uganda side, only the immigration department operates around the clock at the border post.

Joseph Cosmas, an official from the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) made this appeal at an open dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders, organized by the East African Business Council (EABC) and TradeMark East Africa (TMEA). At the discussion convened at the Mutukula OSBP yesterday, he said the import ban on maize from Uganda by Tanzania is affecting the competitiveness and growth of intra-EAC trade. Trucks

TURN TO Page2



Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) director general Maharage Chande (2nd-L, gesturing) makes remarks while touring Kinyerezi 1 power station in Dar es Salaam yesterday for a first-hand account of progress in the implementation of the facility's expansion. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (Tanesco) has announced 10 days of power cuts beginning Tuesday to pave the way for the expansion of Dar es Salaam Kinyerezi 1 power station.

Managing director Maharage Chande said during a tour to inspect progress of extension work at the power station yesterday, that the firm is extending the station's capacity from the current 150 megawatts to 335.

For the capacity extension work to go on seamlessly, electricity generation facilities operated by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Authority (TPDC) and Pan

TURN TO Page2

The task of expanding Kinyerezi 1 is in good progress whereby 70MW will be added in the national grid by April, and by August 2022 the whole task will be completed."

Govt eyes idle farms, clearing wildlife corridors



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses journalists in Maputo during her one-day state visit to Mozambique yesterday. Right is her host and Mozambican counterpart, Philippe Nyusi. Photo: State House

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Babati

THE government is set to retake idle farms in Kiru Valley in Babati District, Manyara Region, and distribute them to farmers and pastoralists who have encroached protected areas.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed regional authorities and Babati District officials to conduct fresh surveys of the neglected plots of land in the area, during his recent tour of Manyara Region.

The intention is to secure alternative land for farmers and pastoralists invading wildlife corridors such as the Kwakuchinja area and in the Burunge wildlife management area.

"Farms and plots of land that remain undeveloped must be reclaimed from the owners and distributed among local residents," he stated, inspecting the new Babati District Hospital built in the Mwada area on the vicinity of Tarangire National Park.

"There are some wealthy people who, using the 'investor' façade, have been hoarding big estates without developing them or doing anything constructive on the land," he asserted, noting further that while a few individuals are sitting on large pieces of land, thousands of local residents are scrambling for limited space.

Manyara has always been plagued by land live related conflicts as farmers and

TURN TO Page2

Duni, Hamad battle for ACT chair today

By Correspondent James Kandoya



Our party has shown – not by words but by deeds – that it is fully democratic," he declared, elaborating that seven members expressed interest to vie for various posts in the NEC

THE National Executive Committee of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo, which sat in Dar es Salaam yesterday has endorsed leading Zanzibar cadre Juma Duni Haji to vie for the party's national chairmanship.

The NEC meeting also approved another Zanzibari, Hamad Masoud Hamad, to seek the

chairmanship of the party ahead of the special national congress today where delegates will vote for either of the two.

Briefing reporters in Dar es Salaam, the party's head of Ideology and Publicity, Salim Bimani said the NEC had also endorsed Othman Masoud Othman, the First Vice President of Zanzibar, and Juma Said Sanani to vie for the vice chairman position.

The names have been endorsed after being received from the party central committee and will be submitted to the national congress, he said, elaborating that once the election is over, the chairman's post will be filled after a twelve months hiatus.

The party's secretariat opened its

TURN TO Page2



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Business lobby wants one-stop border post at Mutukula working

FROM PAGE 1

carry export goods to Uganda and return empty, instead of bringing back to Tanzania the harvested maize during the deficit season. Moses Kadera, the chairman of the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) said the excise tax on rice was increased by Uganda from 6 percent to 13 percent paralysed trade on the produce at the border post. Such barriers risk promoting unnecessary business rivalry and retaliatory restrictions at the expense of the wider East African public, he declared. Eugenia Mwesumo, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation lauded the dialogue event for coming up with energetic solutions to facilitate cross-border trade. Benuza Jane, the chairperson of the women cross-border traders cooperative based at Mutukula on the Uganda side, called for the full operationalisation of the EAC simplified trade regime protocol, reporting that no list of the most commonly traded goods, covered by the protocol, is found at the border post. She dwelt on the need for harmonization of COVID-19 response measures, ex-

plaining that during the lockdown families broke up and businesses collapsed. Women cross-border traders opted to do business on the Tanzania side due to the lockdown on the other side of the border, apart from the 14-day quarantine requirement on the Uganda side, she stated. Charles Omusana, a Ugandan principal economist for investment and private sector promotion at the EAC Secretariat, said that border agencies have a duty to ensure benefits of EAC integration are felt by citizens and intra-EAC trade thrives. Matia Etedu of the Ugandan Ministry of EAC Affairs said the ministry is deeply committed to promoting intra-regional trade, asserting that non-tariff barriers (NTBs) bottlenecks will be quickly resolved. International Trade Centre (ITC) data for 2020 indicated that Tanzania goods exports to Uganda reached \$743.6m while imports stood at \$95.1 million. The EABC-TMEA public-private dialogue at Mutukula OSBP attracted around 50 participants from foreign affairs ministries, trade facilitation agencies, importers, exporters, transporters, women cross-border traders and the Eastern African sub-regional support initiative for the advancement of women (EASSI).



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents a Mabati-Cornell Kiswahili Award for African Literature for 2021 to winner Khalfan Sudyi (L) during a prize-giving ceremony ALAF Limited organised in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

FROM PAGE 1

Dar set for 10-day power cut

African Energy (T) Ltd (PAET) will have to switch off a section of the facilities at Songosongo gas processing and power plant

A tentative schedule on the power rationing exercise will be issued to ensure that people are prepared on adapting activities to the situation. Tanesco was currently expanding the Ubungo III power station expected to produce 112MW upon completion.

Ubungo III power station now produces 60MW connected to the national grid already and is set to double its production capacity to power outages brought about by drought in recent months.

"The task of expanding Kinyerezi I is in good progress whereby 70MW will be added in the national grid by April, and by August 2022 the whole task will be completed," he said, un-

derlining that the station is being extended to vastly increase production capacity.

But while the general public awaits an end to all electricity supply snags, the power utility said that Kinyerezi expansion will lead to shortage of power in several regions, three months after Tanesco alerted the public to reduce power use as electricity production falls in its hydro-

power plants.

The company warned on likelihood of rationing due to low water volumes in Kihansi, Kidatu and Pangani dams and power stations.

Tanesco is now looking to enhanced natural gas use to mitigate the crisis, increasing production by hastening maintenance of natural gas plants like Kinyerezi I, he stated.



Assistant Inspector of Police Christopher Newton from Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Police Gender and Children Desk teaches students from primary and secondary schools in Mwananyamala ward earlier this week on how to fight off sexual harassment. This was in implementation of a pilot project coordinated by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and various other stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Govt to retake idle farms and clearing wildlife corridors

FROM PAGE 1

stock keepers fight to secure land for their farming, grazing or settlements.

Apart from Babati, the problem also arises in other districts like Mbulu, Kiteto, Hanang and Simanjiro, with activist organisations insisting that there is plenty of land but much of it is being hoarded by some individuals.

Earlier on, Babati legislator Daniel Sillo had appealed to the premier to intervene to solve the land shortage by helping villagers get back the dormant land that is under the clutches of a few individuals, citing the vast Kiru Valley in Babati District.

It has a number of farming estates that are still undeveloped but residents are not allowed to venture near them, he stated, elaborating that livestock keepers are compelled to steal their way into conservation areas to graze their animals.

They end up being arrested or losing their cattle as rangers confiscate them, he said, pointing out that many villages have built settlements in important wildlife corridors such as the Kwakuchinja passage linking Tarangire and Lake Manyara national parks.

The Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has experienced invasions of livestock keepers and farmers in Babati Rural District, he added.

Duni, Hamad battle for ACT chair today

FROM PAGE 1

doors from January 4 to 17 this year for members wishing to vie for the chairmanship post, while the election committee sorted out the names, conducting interviews and forwarding the most suitable for central committee endorsement, he stated.

On February 17 last year, ACT-Wazalendo lost its chairman, Seif Shariff Hamad who succumbed to disease, opening the way for application of section 84(4) and 116(4) of the ACT Constitution (version 2020), requiring that the replacement should be done within 12 months, he said.

"Our party has shown - not by words but by deeds - that

it is fully democratic," he declared, elaborating that seven members expressed interest to vie for various posts in the NEC, citing names of Chrisant Msipi and Ester Thomas. Others are Fungo Benson, Johnson Gagu, Msafiri Mtemelwa, Jafet Masawe and Fidel Christopher. Preparations for the congress have been completed, he said, assuring members and well-wishers that the poll will be free and fair, the first top level election since Maalim Seif died while undergoing treatment, at the age of 77.

Born on the island of Pemba, then part of the British protectorate of Zanzibar, he became a teacher and was thus known as Maalim, becoming one of the younger lieutenants of party

chairman and first phase president Julius Nyerere after CCM was formed in 1977.

Hamad was head of economic planning for the ruling party and then Isles Chief Minister up to 1987 when he fell out with the party leadership over succeeding third phase president Ali Hassan Mwinyi. He shifted to opposition politics demanding greater autonomy for Zanzibar and liaising with Mainland dissident groups.

He was at the core of upheavals in the archipelago for the 30 years of its multiparty politics until his demise, leaving behind a legacy of throwing in the gauntlet of confrontation and accepting to shed divisions and build the Zanzibar economy in harmony

Education stakeholders discuss students education curriculums

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

Education stakeholders in Tanzania are collecting suggestions from members of the public in reviewing the current education curricular and towards coming up with a new improved teaching guidance expected to sail in three-year's time.

Speaking in Arusha, the Director General for the Tanzania Institute of Education, Dr Aneth Komba, explained here that they are collecting suggestions, ideas and advice from members of the community, in order to come up with an improved, future-proof curriculum.

"After getting the compiling suggestions from Tanzanians,

we shall compile the draft curricular which again will be brought back to the residents for final approval and adjustments before coming up with the final guidance," she said.

Dr Komba explained further that in addition to collecting ideas from stakeholders, her institute was also going through other curricula from neighbouring countries to see if they can learn a few things from such documents as well. Among areas of discussions include, the number of years for Primary and Secondary classes; the proper age for starting school among young children, the medium of teaching and training, types of text and set books, extra-curricular activities and

teachers' guides.

If approved, the Proposed New teaching curriculum for Kindergarten, Primary, Secondary Education as well as Teachers Training is expected to go into operation effective from 2025, starting with lower levels of education.

Tanzania has revised the country's education curriculum five times within its 60 years of independence.

According to the Director of the Tanzania Institute of Education, the proposed new education curriculum targets to empower pupils and students to gain applicable knowledge and skills to make them ready for job markets, self-employment, innovation and technology ready.

It will also prune some out of the unusable lessons to create more time and space for new types of learning.

The Chairperson of Tanzania Education Officers, Jelmana Mng'ao, who is also the Morogoro Regional Education Officer, stated that it is now time to review and adjust the country's teaching guidance and set-up, because the world is changing rapidly.

Mwalimu Shomari Ally, a teacher from Tandahimba District in Mtwara Region, said what they need now is some participatory form of teaching in which pupils can actively take part in class activities instead of just being listeners and teachers lecturers.



Dr Ashura Miraji Mpatani (2nd-L), Medical In-charge of Zanzibar's Rahaleo health centre, briefs CCM Ideology and Publicity secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka (C) during the latter's inspection tour of the implementation of the CCM Election Manifesto in Unguja's Kikwajuni constituency on Thursday. Second right is Kikwajuni legislator Hamad Yussuf Masauni, who doubles as Home Affairs minister. Photo: Correspondent Fahad Asraji

Mwinyi: Africa must have robust insurance sector for economic transformation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said in order to African countries to be able to bring about economic transformation and develop their people, there must be a robust insurance sector and institutions thereof that should go in tandem with the science and technology speed of the 21st century.

Dr Mwinyi (pictured) made the remarks here on Wednesday at the opening of Africa Insurance Conference. He said in developing the modern economy, the existence of robust laws and procedures for the management of insurance activities is essential in order to provide investors' confidence and certainty over the safety of their capitals.

He said apart from gains scored in the insurance sector, Africa is supposed to continue strengthening it in order to reach all groups of people engaged in various economic activities, especially in rural areas.

He said many people have been carrying out their economic activities without insurance cover, and used the occasion to call on African countries to educate their people on the importance of insurance at small cost.

He said the Zanzibar Government plans to establish universal health in-



urance as a step to strengthen health services to the people, saying for a long time could not do so due to depending on its budget by 100 per cent.

He also used the occasion to invite Africa's insurance companies to invest in Zanzibar in order to develop its blue economy sector, saying there are a lot of investment opportunities in that sector.

Dr Mwinyi assured conference participants that the Zanzibar Government will continue cooperating with Africa's insurance companies in order to provide better insurance services to the people both in urban and rural areas.

For his part, the minister of state in the President's Office (Finance and Planning), Jamal Kassim Ali said it was the right time for conference participants to discuss on health insurance business in Africa, in line with the Abuja Declaration.

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Gas production at Mnazi Bay increases by 24 percent in 2021

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

GAS production at Mnazi Bay surged by 24 percent in the year 2021 to 81.6m ft3/day on the back of strong demand, one of the project's developers Wentworth Resources has reported.

Output grew to a record 91.5m ft3/d in the fourth quarter, Wentworth said, noting that the country's reliance on natural gas has increased due to weaker hydroelectric power generation. Wentworth has raised its 2022 output guidance for Mnazi Bay by 5m ft3/d to 75-85m ft3/d.

Mnazi Bay is operated by France's Maurel & Prom with a 48 percent interest, while Tanzania Petroleum Development Corp has 20 percent and Wentworth 32 percent.

Wentworth has also gained from a bump in the contracted price for gas produced at Mnazi Bay effective January 1, 2022, owing to a rise in the US Consumer Prices Index used to calculate it.

"Wentworth continues to go from strength to strength and we are proud and delighted to have achieved an all-time quarterly production record at Mnazi Bay in the final quarter of last year," the company's CEO Katherine Rose commented.

She added: "This continues to indicate that demand has recovered from the lower levels of 2020 associated with COVID-19 and means Wentworth will continue to have a leading role in providing low-carbon energy as Tanzania rapidly grows and industrialises."

Wentworth said it remained debt free with \$22.8m of cash in hand at the end of 2021. It noted that the proposed work programme and budget at Mnazi Bay would cost \$20.1m, including \$12.8m in operating costs and \$7.3m in development costs.

Foundation, Lions Club, MMC donate sanitary pads to deaf children in Moshi

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

THE Moshi-based Kence Foundation in collaboration with the Lions Club of Moshi Kibo and Moshi Municipal Council has donated various items including sanitary pads to the students at Msandaka deaf school.

Through the project-'Sanitary Awareness to Msandaka Deaf Center' Kence Foundation together with Lions International and Lions club of Moshi Kibo have provided both disposable and reusable sanitation pads to girls at the school.

Kence Foundation Director General, Kenneth Fulgence, said that girls were also taught on how to use the pads. He said they also gave the girls several gifts including learning materials and other school necessities as part of their corporate social

responsibility (CRS) policy.

Last year, Kence Foundation donated wheelchair and assistive devices to the Mawenzi referral hospital, a move that aimed at supporting people with health problems who cannot walk themselves as well as people with different physical and other disabilities during their medication at the hospital.

The donated wheelchair will be used by medical attendants in provision of services. He said the organization will continue to provide assistive devices to other hospitals nationwide.

According to him, Kence Foundation in collaboration with other organizations participated in provision of HIV/Aids training to the youth in Kilimanjaro Region aimed at creating awareness on how they can prevent themselves to reduce the number of new infections among youth.

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BAHARI BEACH HOTEL LTD inatanzaga kupotea kwa kadi za magari zenye namba za usajili T 962 BUL, T 684 BSC, T 655 BSC, T 680 BSC, T 487 AJP, T 532 BSH, T 428 AVE na T 700 ASZ. Yeyote atakayeziona atoe taarifa kituo cha Polisi. Taarifa ya polisi: KW/RB/325/2022.

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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-12-01	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FULLY AUTOMATIC CONTAINERIZED 30,000 LPH ULTRA-FILTRATION PLANT (POTABLE WATER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialised in supply & installation of potable water plant with minimum Class 5 CRB registration Experience working with similar works in last 2 years Competence in UF System design and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / E&I Engineer /Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. QA / QC officer should be NACE certified or equivalent List of equipment's - Resource list - specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).

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

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA - Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentages
- A copy of current local content plan approval or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Indicate reference number BUL-21-12-01 and description on your Expression of interest submission.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 18:00 on the 07th February 2022. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number BUL-21-12-01 in the subject line of your email.

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

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

'Small gold miners using 18.5 tonnes of mercury per year'

By Guardian Reporter

EDWARD Nyamanga, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (VPO), has said the artisanal gold mining sector in the country uses more than 18.5 tonnes of mercury per year.

Nyamanga made the remarks when opening a training workshop for environmental inspectors in Dodoma yesterday whose aim is provide ways to improve work performance in the management of the use of mercury in gold mining areas.

He said the quantity of mercury being used in disregard needed precautions can cause adverse health effects to both humans and the environment thereby affecting the country's sustainable development.

He mentioned serious health hazards caused by the chemical as including the 'Minamata' diseases that affect human' nerve system, lack of energy, damage to kidneys and poor eyesight.

Other defects include loss of hearing and speaking, miscarriages, loss of memory, lack of sleep, heart stroke and even death.

"It is estimated that between 25 to 33 per cent of small gold miners in the country have been affected by mercury," he added.

He explained that so far there

hasn't been an alternative to the mercury and what was being done is to make sure the use of the chemical is safe by using protective gear and technology to protect miners' health and the environment.

He added that mercury is among dangerous chemicals that has been affecting human health and destruction to the environment worldwide.

"Because of these hazards, including research made in the last 50 years in various places in the world that found mercury to be responsible for its effects to human health and environmental destruction, the Minamata Treaty - Environmental Health and Pollution Management Programme (EHPMP) established in 2013 to which Tanzania rectified on October 19, 2020," he said.

He said in implementation the Treaty's management plan, the government established a five-year to reduce the use of mercury or even eradicate it altogether in the artisanal mining areas in the country's seven gold mining regions.

The regions include Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Singida, Mbeya and Songwe.

He said the treaty officially started October 26, 2020 and involved the Ministries' sectoral institutions that are engaged in the control of mercury.



Mrs India World 2021 Dr Namrata Shah (4th-L) poses for a photo with some Incredible Naari Group members at a recent meeting in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Uplift trade bans to boost cross border business within EAC, urges EABC

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Business Council (EABC) chief executive officer John Bosco Kalisa has attributed the decline of intra trade within the East African Community (EAC) from 21 percent in 2015 to 14 percent with Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs).

Speaking during a public-private dialogue at the Busia One-Stop Border Post organised by EABC and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), Kalisa urged the EAC partner states to avoid taking unilateral actions and uplift all product import bans for trade to

flourish.

Some of the factors affecting cross border business between Kenya and Uganda via Busia One-Stop Border Post includes unilateral bans on products, high fees by Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)-Kenya, trade information asymmetry and single lane road on Kenya side.

Cross border traders decried the impounding of fish from Kenya destined to the Democratic Republic of Congo worth Ksh.40 million in October 2021 by Uganda and import ban on eggs and sugarcane by Kenya.

He stated that EABC-TMEA

public-private dialogue's discussions and resolutions are set to transform Busia OSBP as a model OSBP in Africa.

Different COVID-19 measures, fees resulted in a traffic queue of cargo trucks at the Busia border.

Philip Koech from Kenya Revenue Authority Customs said: "Cargo snarl-up at Busia border has reduced from 30km to 10km."

Uponja Emmanuel from the Uganda Revenue Authority said: "Clearance of cargo used to take 2 to 3 days before the establishment of the One-Stop Border Post but now it takes between three and four

hours less than 30 minutes for transit goods."

Charles Omusana, Principal Economist (Investment & Private Sector Promotion), EAC Secretariat lauded the public-private dialogue at the border as a platform to listen to how the EAC and trade facilitation agencies have been performing at the eyes of East Africans and businesses.

Mariam Babu, Chairperson of Busia Women Cross Border Traders -Uganda said: "The EAC Simplified Trade Regime (STR) has enabled women to cross border traders to move from formal to informal trade at Busia border."

She stated that COVID-19 restrictions on lockdown collapsed businesses for small-scale cross-border traders.

She urged for the removal of product bans such as sugarcane and eggs as these are commonly traded goods under the EAC Simplified Trade Regime.

David Erulu Chairperson of Busia Cross Borders Association said "Uganda is our largest trading partner as a Kenyan cross border trader"

He urged for more support to modernize the trade information desk to enable traders to access information on currency rates, most selling prod-

ucts for the season foods, and new regulations among other data.

Charles Achieng Chairperson Busia Traders Association called for a structured engagement mechanism for traders at the border to the national and regional level to inform the formulation of policies.

Lamech Wesonga, Manager Policy & Standards explained that the East African Business Council in partnership with East African Law Society has rolled out a legal clinic at the Busia border to support cross-border traders.

The Public-Private Dialogue recommended for upgrading

of the trade information desk; fiscal support for business recovery of small cross border scale traders, regular holding of joint borer committees, harmonization of domestic taxes in EAC, infrastructure upgrade and elimination of non-tariff barriers such as roadblocks and updating of commonly traded goods under EAC- Simplified Trade Regime.

The EABC-TMEA public-private dialogue at Busia OSBP attracted over 60 delegates composed of trade facilitation agencies, importers, exporters, transporters and women cross-border traders.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga addresses a news conference in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, chiefly on recent killings in various parts of the country. Right is the centre's empowerment and accountability director, Felista Mauya. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Morogoro Municipal Council set to spend 100m/- for construction of 150 small-scale traders' stalls

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Morogoro Municipal Council is set to spend 100m/- to complete construction of over 150 small-scale traders' stalls at Bundi area in the Morogoro region.

Municipal engineer Juma Gwisu said this yesterday when the council's finance committee visited the construction site to see its progress. He said once the booths are completed, machingas will conduct their activity smoothly and in a conducive environment which have all the required infrastructures.

"So far we have completed 88 stalls, our goal plan is to build 150 huts, but we will make sure we complete on time all the remaining booths so that traders can start using them to improve their income," he said

Pascal Kihanga, the council's finance committee chairman said the construction of the new 150 booths for petty traders is the continuation of the council's programme as it was done in the Chief Kingalu market in 2021.

He said the construction of the huts is aimed to bring petty traders in one area and thus address congestion of the machingas in walkways, road reserves and other areas which are not legal for the businesses.

"The congestion of petty traders along the roadsides has often threatened even their lives as well as customers and non-customers who pass in the areas due to limited space," Kihan-

ga said.

Flora Msangi, one of the traders in Morogoro commended the council's leadership for implementing the project which will see machingas conducting business in safe areas.

Early this week, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said the government is set to build modern markets in all cities countrywide for petty traders which will be operating 24 hours being connected with all required systems and infrastructures. She said Dar es Salaam when she met leaders of petty traders to discuss the best ways to continue working together to address various challenges facing the group for the country's development.

"We are currently constructing the Kariakoo market, we have also got funds to commence construction of Jangwani market, then after this, the Karume market will follow, but for the meantime, traders at Karume may continue using it until the government comes up with a project to re-construct it in a modern and attractive manner," she said.

She said the government will also choose some open space areas to construct markets for the traders so as to bring the affordable services closer to people.

She said the government recognizes the value and contribution of petty traders in the country's development and thus it has been taking several measures to support them to grow.

'Incredible Naari group' to provide stage for women in Tanzania, other countries to market businesses

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN women living in Tanzania have come up with a new platform dubbed 'Incredible Naari group' to provide a stage for women in Tanzania and other foreign countries to market their businesses and exchange ideas on various issues.

The group's founder, Lalita Mathur Chauhan said yesterday that Incredible Naari would also be conducted virtually through social networks including Facebook.

Lalita created the group in May 2020 to-

gether with Jaya Choudhury, Abidha Saluja and Binita Dev from India. So far, the group has more than 2500 members from more than 40 countries.

The group's motto is 'Inspire, Appreciate and Motivate ladies around us and spread positivity'.

"Our group, Incredible Naari, programs online platform for women empowerment, live programs for women's health and education," she said.

"We invite Tanzanian women to join our group so that we can share experience on

various issues relating to women empowerment, health and education," she said noting that during weekends women will interact with speakers like, gynaecologist, dietician, parenting coach and conducts learning sessions with group members.

One of the founders of the group, Jaya Choudhary said that from 1st January 2022 they have been conducting 'Digital Women' series whereas women entrepreneurs come live and showcase their work. She said the women also answers a num-

ber of queries from members.

She they have also selected some active members who have been appointed as ambassadors of the group in their respective countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya and India.

According to Jaya, group members living in the same country often meet to interact for inspirational stories and learning.

Founders of the group organize the called 'INMEET' once a year, where a fashion show is organized to find Miss Incredible Woman.

She said the Incredible Naari meeting that was held on January 22nd this year in Dar es Salaam was a successful whereas Subhadarshini Monalisa, wife of the High Commissioner of India to Tanzania attended the vent and inspired many women.

The meeting was attended by nearly 60 women, among them, 20 women participated in the ramp walk. Geeta Badlani was awarded the title of Incredible Naari 2022 after she emerged the winner while Alpa Patani and Hiba Yusra emerged second.



Serengeti Breweries Ltd managing director Mark Ocitti (L) exchanges greetings in Dar es Salaam on Thursday with the principal of Muleba District's Igbiro Agricultural Training Institute, Sadock Stephano, shortly before announcing the firm's sponsorship of 102 agricultural students through its Kilimo-Viwanda programme. Right is Binito Mwenda, rector of the Moshi-based Kilalacha Agricultural and Livestock Training Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt directs TVLA to operate commercially

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Tixon Nzunda has instructed Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) to operate commercially to enable it run independent of government subsidy.

The PS made the remarks yesterday during his first visit since he was appointed to the post on January 8 this year.

"Operate commercially and ethically, use the ranches that are being invaded by people by allocating funds in your budgets to be surveyed so that they can no longer be invaded," he said.

Nzunda also directed the use of electronic system to be strengthened at all TVLA centres.

In regard to challenges on shortage of staff in the Agency, Nzunda told TVLA managing Director to channel applications to hire new staff to the Office of the President, Public Service Management.

He also directed for the protection and care of Agency property so as they can be used for the aims intended.

Nzunda also directed the Agency to work closely together with the Government Communications Unit (GCU) in the Livestock and Fisheries Ministry to advertise the good work performed by TVLA.

The PS also called on the Agency to concentrate in finding foreign and local markets for the veterinary vaccines.

Earlier, in his brief on TVLA performance, its managing Director Dr Stella Mitanyi said the main job they do is investigating and identifying animals' diseases and pests that spread them as well as verification on the quality and safety of animals' fodder.

She further said the Agency, through Tanzania vaccines Institute (TVI) produces seven types of vaccines against animals' diseases.

"Animals vaccines produced by TVLA include Temevac, Tecoblast Brucellosis, CBPP and CCP," Dr Bitanyi added.

She also said in order to bring their services close to livestock keepers, TVLA centres were established in Arusha, Dodoma, Iringa, Mtwara, Mwanza, Sumbawanga, Tabora and Simiyu regions.

Power production at Lower Kihansi hydropower plant satisfactory - govt

By Correspondent Friday

Simbaya, Morogoro

THE Deputy Minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato, has expressed satisfaction with the power production at the state-owned Lower Kihansi Hydropower Plant in Morogoro Region.

Byabato who represented

Energy Minister January Makamba said the water levels at the Kihansi dam is high facilitating production of 180MW of electricity. He said that water level has now reached 1,145 meters above the sea level due to ongoing rains across the country.

During the visit, the deputy minister was accompanied by experts from the Tanza-

nia Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), officials from TANESCO in Morogoro Region as well managers and supervisors of the Lower Kihansi Hydropower Plant.

Byabato said the Kihansi Dam is located on the side of Iringa Region but its power plants are on the Morogoro side, and explained that at the end of last year there was

a slight challenge to electricity generation after water levels in most of the dams drooped due to delayed rains.

The situation was also observed at other dams such as Ruvu and Kidatu.

He said the county has several sources of electricity generation with the main being Kidatu which generates

about 200 megawatts, followed by Kihansi (180MW) and many others like Mtera, Pangani Hydropower System, Nyumba ya Mungu and Hale.

He however noted that human activities such as agriculture that are conducted near the water sources contribute to environmental degradation. He said resi-

dents near the sources have been conducting non-environmental friendly agriculture and sometimes cut trees for charcoal production.

Byabato added that such human activities reduce the flow of water at the Kihansi dam, thus affecting power production.

Kihansi dam Manager, Eng Levocatus Mishaki said that

environmental degradation is the major challenge that has been contributing to reduce water levels.

Kihansi Hydroelectric Power Station is a 180 megawatts hydroelectric power station located in Kilombero District.

The power station is one of the largest dams in the country operated by TANESCO.

PWDs urged to participate fully in public procurement process

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

SPECIAL groups in Tanzania including youths, women, people with disabilities (PWDs) have been urged to participate fully in the public procurement process so as to grab government procurement opportunities.

Speaking during the Policy Forum Breakfast Debate held in Dar es Salaam yesterday under the topic, "Preferential Public Procurement: What are the Challenges Faced by Youth Owned Businesses," the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Training and Advisor Services Gilbert Kamnde said the government through the Public Procurement Act 2011 reserved 30 per cent of all government tenders for youth, women and persons with disabilities as part of efforts to ensure self-reliance.

Procurement entities are required by law to set aside 30 per cent of their annual procurement to registered special groups with youths accounting for 10 per cent, PWDs with 10 per cent, women accounting for five per cent and elderly accounting for five per cent.

Kamnde noted that almost 70 per cent of the Government's budget is spent on procurement of various goods and services for instance procurement of government's goods and services to implement Government's strategic projects.

He said Tanzania created an electronic system (e-portal) called Tanzanian National e-Procurement System (TANePS) to facilitate public procurement processes across the country.

"The public procurement guidelines clearly stipulate the need for special groups to take part in the public procurement process. Upon the award of the tenders however, these special groups should ensure value for money in accordance with the terms and

conditions of the tender," he said.

He urged the youths to form joint venture companies that will give them an added advantage during the procurement process.

"The good part is the 30 per cent target for tenders reserved for special groups does not cater for other categories. We do special audits to ensure that beneficiaries are youths, women, PWDs and elderly," he added.

Earlier, Werner Hillary, a representative from Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) noted that public procurement stimulates the economy by providing opportunities to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) especially those owned by youth.

"Increasing MSMEs competitiveness increases their likelihood of success, expansion and job creation. By 2012, MSMEs contributed to 27 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employed more than 5.2 million people in Tanzania," he said.

On her part Judith Sando a Financial Inclusion, Gender and Advocacy consultant during the meeting stressed the need for training and mindset shifts for youth and women noting that the country's education system trains job seekers rather than job creators.

"This mindset shift entails strengthening the skills of young entrepreneurs through training and mentorship as well as providing financial support to empower them," she said.

Mohammed Nsengo, a participant from the National Institute of Transport (NIT) however called upon PPRA to embark on a national public procurement awareness drive across the country to sensitize the public on the available opportunities for the special groups.

"There is a need for PPRA to embark on a national sensitization drive as very many people are not familiar with the issue of public procurement and the opportunities available.



A technician with the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency in Musoma District pictured yesterday working on a major pipe meant to supply water from Lake Victoria to Nyambono and Bugoji wards under an ongoing project being implemented in Musoma Rural constituency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwanza City Council to award teachers for last year's National STD 7 and Form Four examinations

By Correspondent Wilhelm

Mulinda, Mwanza

MWANZA city council plans to award teachers whose schools performed well in last year's national Standard Seven and Form Four examinations.

Speaking to the Guardian

yesterday, the city's Primary School Education Officer, Ally Almas said that selected teachers will also be provided with certificates.

He said the award ceremony scheduled for February 25th 2022, will also see schools receiving prizes as well as local government leaders in which the schools

are located. He said the aim of the awards is to recognize the ward executives' contributions in the development of the education sector.

Almas noted that some of the prizes to be given to teachers include different items including home appliances.

"We are doing this to rec-

ognize teacher's efforts in ensuring pupil's good performance in national examinations.

The awards would motivate them to continue working harder, thus push forward the development of the education sector," he said.

He added that in the last

year's Standard Seven national examinations, Mwanza city council emerged number one in the region and fifth countrywide. He said the city council is taking various measures to ensure the good performance is maintained.

He however said the city council has reduced fees at

its newly established Nyanza English medium school to 400,000/- to enable more pupils to be enrolled.

Almas urged students to continue studying hard and avoid being involved in acts that can ruin their academic performance. He said the government spends a lot of money in ensuring provi-

sion of quality education for both primary and secondary schools.

Over 70 percent of government schools are now doing well in national examinations contrary to previous years, he said linking the good performance with government efforts in developing the education sector.

Exim Bank discloses winners of its 'Weka Mkwanya Tukutoe!' promotion contest

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has announced the winners of its mega promotion dubbed 'Weka Mkwanya Tukutoe!' aimed at encouraging a 'saving culture' among customers by rewarding them with various prizes including cash to six (6) monthly winners and a grand prize of Toyota Vanguard car.

The final draw, like the previous monthly ones, was done electronically under the guidance and supervision of the Gaming Board of Tanzania and in front of various invited media outlets.

As part of the three-month campaign promotion, existing and new customers of the bank, who did a deposit starting Tshs. 500,000 and onwards, entered the draw to win 1m/- monthly prizes for 6 winners and a final prize of Toyota Vanguard car. The promotion was for both individual and small medium enterprises customers. A total of 18 customers emerged winners of 1m/- each and one customer emerged the grand prize winner of Toyota Vanguard.

Work of Mary (Focolare Movement Tanzania) from Iringa was the lucky winner of the grand prize, walking away with the grand prize of Toyota Vanguard. In addition, Didas Patrick Moshi, SN Partners Architects Limited, Amira-li Hassanali Alarakhia / Tahir Amir Alarakhia, Fatma Saleh Tambwe, Stewart Emmanuel Kinunda and Peter Tulizo Sewa walked away with cash prizes of 1,000,000/- each.

Commenting on the initiative, Andrew Lyimo, the Bank's Head of Retail said: "In keeping with our tradition of providing only the finest rewards and benefits to customers while continuing to offer world class banking solutions, Exim Bank is pleased to announce the winners of



Andrew Lyimo (C), Exim Bank's head of retail banking, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday while naming the grand winner of the bank's mega promotion dubbed 'Weka Mkwanya Tukutoe!'. The drive is meant to encourage customers to cultivate a saving culture. Flanking him are the bank's head of marketing and communications, Stanley Kafu (L), and Gaming Board of Tanzania official Elibariki Sengasenga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

the 'Weka Mkwanya Tukutoe!' promotion.

The campaign helped achieved the intention of boosting the savings culture amongst the Tanzania public," he said.

According to Lyimo, the promotion not

only encouraged customers to save with the bank in a responsible manner, but also emphasized saving their hard earned income in a safe place that is in a bank and in return rewarded them significantly for

their efforts.

"We are delighted to reward the lucky winners of the 'Weka Mkwanya Tukutoe!' Campaign and we hope they will inspire many others to develop good savings cul-

ture. We will continue to drive the savings culture in the country and allow customers to realize their long- and short-term life goals by banking with Exim Bank," added Lyimo.

FAO and Japan seek to empower East African women and youth in agriculture

ADDIS ABABA

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Sub regional Office for Eastern Africa and the Japanese government mission to the African Union have launched a project aiming at fostering employment among women and youth in agriculture and agribusiness in six Eastern Africa countries.

The project - Promoting Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities among Women and Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness

in Eastern Africa' is being implemented in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.

It is set to facilitate and ensure enhanced knowledge and application of digital solutions in agri-food systems with a particular focus on women and youth. It is also strengthening human and institutional capacities, while providing agripreneurs with the opportunities to access finance for agri-food systems development.

During the virtual launch event, David Phiri, FAO Sub-

regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AU and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), recalled that the Eastern Africa sub-region was home to 50 percent of the highly food insecure population of the whole of Africa and, hence, aiding this sub-region meant supporting the whole of Africa.

He further noted that the sub-region was experiencing stress due to multiple shocks, such as desert locust

infestation, climate-induced shocks, conflicts and political instability, and socio-economic strains.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed additional risks, which significantly compromised the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly the youth and women.

To alleviate this challenge, FAO, in collaboration with development partners, was engaged in several interventions, supporting decent employment, agripreneurship and resilience building

for youth and women in the agriculture sector.

"This project, which supports nations to explore new ways to tap into their youthful, energetic, innovative and industrious resources by creating opportunities for jobs, where agriculture is the most viable sector, is one of the timeliest engagements of FAO and the government of Japan," Phiri commented.

Horiuchi Toshihiko, Ambassador of Japan to the African Union, asserted that

the Japanese Government was glad to work with FAO in addressing food security challenges in Eastern Africa, where the livelihoods of millions of people are highly dependent on agriculture.

"Agriculture and food security are a fundamental basis of all the socio-economic activities, and hence they will be the priority agenda of TICAD8 - the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development - to be held this year," Ambassador Horiuchi highlighted.

Recalling the declaration of the AU Heads of State and Government that marked 2022 as year of nutrition, with the theme, 'Building Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development', Horiuchi underscored the significance of the project as a catalyst to foster ongoing efforts to improve the agri-food systems through agricultural transformation.

"This project is very relevant to the sub-region in the



Dr George Kabona (2nd-L), coordinator of neglected tropical diseases in the Health ministry, briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on the climax of the commemoration of events relating to NTDs to be held at the national capital tomorrow. He is with other officials from the ministry. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Health minister to officiate world neglected tropical diseases Day in Dodoma tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Dodoma

HEALTH minister, Ummy Mwalimu is expected to officiate at the climax of the World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD) tomorrow.

National Coordinator of NTDs national elimination programme in the Ministry of Health, Dr George Kabona said the climax of the commemoration will be held at Nyerere Square grounds in Dodoma whereas different dignitaries are expected to attend.

Dr Kibona said Tanzania is among many nations which were mostly affected by tropical diseases and it has been implementing the programme to eliminate them.

He said the intention is to remind stakeholders on how far the country has succeeded in eliminating the diseases and inform the public on what the government is doing to fight them.

"We use the day to remind ourselves on how far we have done, discuss the existing challenges and way forward to ensure the NTDs are eliminated by 2030.

He said there are a lot of neglected diseases in the country but the government has decided to single out five of them because they have affected majority of

Tanzanians all over the country. They are schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminth, ochoserciasis, trachoma and elephantiasis.

He said for over 10 years government through the Ministry of Health has been fighting these diseases and there are a lot of success despite some few challenges.

Dr Kabona said that campaigns against all five neglected diseases started many years but national programme to eliminate them as single unit started 2009 where by the government decided to join them so that it became very easy to tackle them.

(NTDs) are widespread in the world's poorest regions, where water safety, sanitation and access to health care are substandard. NTDs affect over 1 billion people globally and are caused mostly by a variety of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi, and toxins.

These diseases are 'neglected' because they are almost absent from the global health agenda, enjoy little funding, and are associated with stigma and social exclusion.

They are diseases of neglected populations that perpetuate a cycle of poor educational outcomes and limited professional opportunities.

By Guardian Reporter

GT Bank launches 'Jibakishie' product

CUSTOMERS banking with the Guaranty Trust Bank-Tanzania Ltd (GTBank) will now benefit from an interest of up to 3 percent by just putting up a savings of 5 percent or more from any expenditure transacted through their accounts.

The Bank's relationship manager, Mercy Uriyo said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists in the city.

She was introducing a new product 'Jibakishie' which basically entails clients transacting through their bank accounts.

According to her, a customer only needs to direct the bank to deduct a

certain percentage from their transactions, be it purchases or payments for a number of issues including house rents that will be saved in their accounts and at the end of the month get an interest rate of up to 3 percent depending on the market rates.

"The service will benefit our customers who will get an interest rate from their savings at the end of the month and be able to access the money anytime they want," she said.

She said the percentage interest rate depends on the loan rates set by the market. According to her, what the cus-

tomers need to do is to direct the bank on the percentage to be deducted from any expenditure done through their savings in the account.

The Bank's Chief Executive, Odunayo Akinyede said GTBank's primary aim is focused on providing Tanzanians with innovative, efficient and convenient banking solutions that genuinely add value to their lives and businesses.

He said Guaranty Trust Bank has been operating for 30 years in 11 countries globally.

However, he said that in Tanzania the Bank has been operating for four years

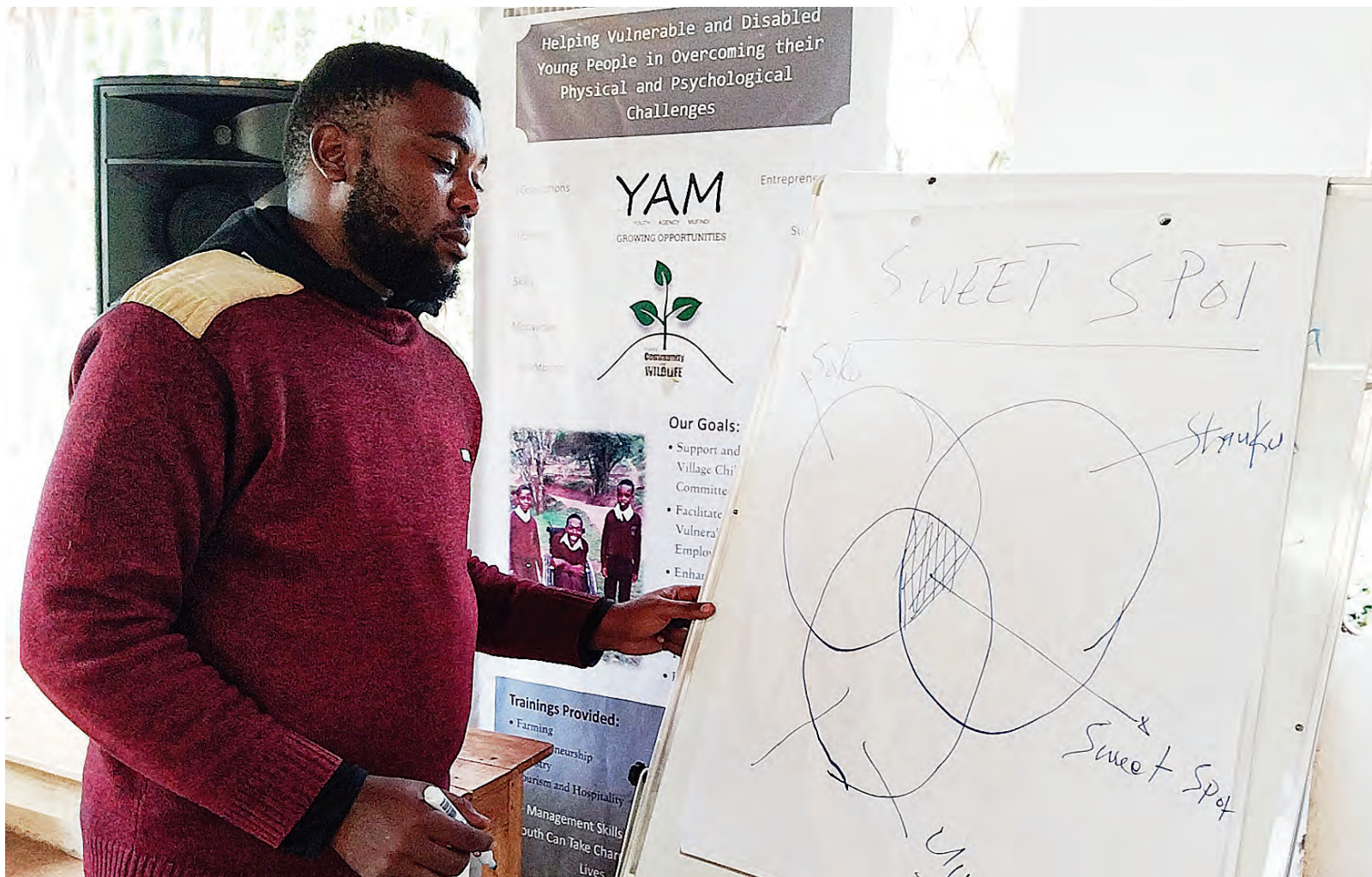
now and it currently has one branch.

He noted that they provide services to individuals and all kinds of businesses.

Guaranty Trust Bank (Tanzania) Limited is a subsidiary of Guaranty Trust Bank PLC, a foremost Banking Group headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria as a full-fledged commercial bank and ten African countries; Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. GT Bank PLC shares are listed on the Nigerian stock exchange and main market of London Stock Exchange.



The service will benefit our customers who will get an interest rate from their savings at the end of the month and be able to access the money anytime they want



R Labs Tanzania instructor John Kalolo conducts entrepreneurship training for 80 vulnerable youths from Ihanu, Luhunga and Mbabulo wards in Mufindi District on Thursday. It was organised under a Youth Agency Mufindi project with funding from the governments of Tanzania and Finland. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Appeal made to govt to improve road infrastructure in Kitulo National Park

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

HEAD conservator at Kitulo National Park located in Mbeya-Njombe regions, Theodora Batiho, has appealed to the government to improve road infrastructure in the park in order to continue receiving tourists at all time of the year, as opposed to now when seasonal rains have been keeping tourists away.

Batiho made the appeal here yesterday when speaking to this paper on the Park's strategies to advertise its tourist attractions, saying they have made great efforts to advertise the Park but the main obstacle has been poor road infrastructures.

"We thank Tanzanians and visitors who continue to be attracted by the beauty of our park from its good scenery, including its flora, wildlife, its natural ecosystem, hills and valleys and waterfalls that have been attracting both investors and tourists," he said.

He added that apart from the government's good efforts in advertising the country's tourist attractions, including the mobilisation for domestic tourism, but there was still the challenge regarding

poor road infrastructures.

He said in advertising its attractions, Kitulo National Park has organised a special programme that will involve university students from Mbeya and other regions to for a festival whose slogan will concentrate in advertising the Park.

He said the programme will provide opportunity for the Park to advertise its tourist attractions through the students.

Some of Mbeya Region residents have said that the existence of Kitulo National Park has opened employment opportunities for many youth, including as tour guides.



We thank Tanzanians and visitors who continue to be attracted by the beauty of our park from its good scenery, including its flora, wildlife, its natural ecosystem, hills and valleys and waterfalls

Buckreef Gold commits 321m/- to funding community projects in Geita

By Guardian Correspondent

BUCKREEF Gold Company has expressed commitment to invest 321m/- to support implementation of various projects in four wards in Geita District Council, Geita Region.

Buckreef is a Joint Venture between Tanzanian Gold Corporation and the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO).

Speaking during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between

Buckreef and Geita District Council here Buckreef's acting general manager, Isaac Bisansaba said the company strives to support the government's aspirations of sustainable social and economic development in host communities.

The MoU is aimed to collaborate in the management of Buckreef's investment in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

He said the company further endeavours to cooperate with the local authorities as

well as the communities in the identification, implementation and management of key projects for the sustainable future of the Geita Region"

"The signing of the MOU reaffirms Buckreef's commitment to support the community through sustainable social investment in strategic sectors of health and education," he said.

The beneficiary wards with their respective allocated funds are Kaseme - 75m/-, Lwamgasa - 75m/-, Busanda - 75m/- and Bugululu 96m/-.

STAMICO's acting managing director commented STAMICO being 45 percent shareholder in Buckreef project is committed to ensure the continuity of this community caring spirit as friendly means to foster social licence to operate for the project sustainability.

"Buckreef will continue working closely with the local government authorities to support various community projects in health and education. The investment in Social Responsibility will

increase over time and as the mine expands its production and activities it is expected to have an increasing social-economic impact through its local content initiative".

The company is building a significant gold project that is based on an expanded Mineral Resource base and the treatment of its mineable Mineral Reserves in two standalone plants. The project has already completed phase one of construction of the 1000+ tpd plant for oxide ore processing. This first

phase managed to install and commission a 360tpd ball mill and associated CIL tanks circuit. The second phase is in good progress and is expected to be complete in the second quarter of 2022.

Buckreef Gold Project is proud to have 100 percent of its employees as Tanzanians. The project is located in Geita District within the Geita Region south of Lake Victoria, approximately 20km southwest of the town of Katoro.

While advancing its production and exploration, the

Project continues to support the community through its CSR programme and local content initiatives. Most recently the project has supported the construction of classrooms at Tembo primary school in Kaseme ward and contributed desks to Kaseme secondary school in Kaseme ward.

The company is also in the final stages to complete compensation of land and property to Project affected persons (PAPs) within the licence area.

Tanzanians need national dress - deputy minister

By Beatrice Philemon

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Mary Masanja has called on local stylists to come up with ideas which will help design a national costume so as to enable the country to have its cloth identity and culture which is known globally.

Masanja made the call recently when addressing at the 19th National College of Tourism (NCT) graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

"I know Tanzania has a lot of people and designers who can create our exceptional national outfit that will be one of our nation's identities so as to further strengthen our national self-confidence and distinguish us from other nations," she said.

Masanja said: "As Tanzania we have never had a national dress, but we have a lot of traditional dresses in various tribes across the country, let us work on it and help Tanzania to be recognized for our national outfit."

She called on graduates to be creative by coming up with new ideas especially on events organisations.

"Use the knowledge and skills gained from NCT to design memorable events that will fulfil your clients and market what you offer in terms of event management," she said.

The deputy minister added: "Also show your clients and even advertise it, to start with, you can visit the district councils or regional offices and have a face-to-face discussion to see how you can work with them to organise events."

The Ministry's director of tourism, Philip Chitaunga lauded stakeholders who have been supporting the National College of Tourism to produce a highly skilled workforce suitable in the tourism sector and hospitality.

He said the ministry will continue to supervise the NCT to ensure it provides the best education and obtains the best service providers to meet the tourism market demand.

"While in your working areas, be good ambassadors for NCT and if you need advice on how to operate your work or business you have, visit your teachers they will assist you," he said.

"Tanzania is considered to be one of Africa's safest destination, safety is a very important factor for a tourist in choosing a destination, our wildlife is abundant, easily visible and diverse, we have a rich and diverse culture and most of all boast of having one of the continent's most friendly people," he said.

Chitaunga added Tanzania offers diverse tourism attractions; which accommodates tourists of all sorts of interests and needs.



Anna Lukindo (2nd-L), councillor for Mbezi Juu in Dar es Salaam, pictured earlier this week presenting one of eight 'Bajaj' tricycles worth 25.5m/- in total to Justine Kato, chairman of a group of women, youths and people with disabilities living in the city. They were issued as a loan by the Kinondoni Municipal Council. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

CCBRT receives support from RYTHM foundation

By Guardian Reporter

THE Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation Tanzania (CCBRT) has received an assortment of essentials worth Usd3000 (approximately 7m/-) donated by RYTHM Foundation Tanzania.

RYTHM Foundation which is QNET's community service arm, donated various basic provisions like beddings, cleaning supplies, toiletries, utensils, mosquito nets and

other essentials.

Speaking during the donation handover event in Dar es Salaam this week, the Head of Nursing Unit at the hospital Emelda Lwena appreciated the foundation for the support saying it will support their efforts to change lives.

"On behalf of CCBRT, I would like to thank RYTHM for the generous support, you have demonstrated your commitment to our work of changing lives. We at CCBRT Hospi-

tal are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of supporters like you who answer the call to give again and again," commented the Head of Nursing.

She said since 2003, CCBRT has performed more than 10,000 fistula surgeries thus bringing back smiles to many affected women.

"Since 2003, CCBRT exempts all fistula patients from treatment fees by covering fees to and from the hospital

and by doing so, addresses barriers to fistula treatment," she added. On his part, Regional General Manager of QNET Sub-Saharan Africa Biram Fall said the donation aims to enrich the lives of the underprivileged in the society where they operate and is aligned with the company's philosophy of Raise Yourself to Help Mankind (RYTHM)

He said the donation reflects the company's corporate social responsibility

(CSR) mandate and its commitment to making a positive impact within the communities it operates in.

"Poverty puts people at greater risk of getting infected, and also makes them carry the brunt of its economic fallout," he explained.

He went on to detail that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many have lost their source of income and are living in uncertainty.

"We wanted to do the little

we could to bring some joy and happiness to those who need it the most," the Regional General Manager added.

Through its community service arm the RYTHM Foundation, QNET, a leading Direct Selling Company, has marked the New Year with several impactful donations to underserved and less privileged communities, families and children across many countries in West, Central and East Africa.

Other than Tanzania, QNET also made donations in Kenya and Uganda in East Africa and in West Africa, the company donated similar aide products in Ghana, Togo, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso

In all these locations, recipients of the company's social responsibility mandate expressed gratitude to the company and stated that their New Year has started on a positive and inspiring note.

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 2022

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Blood donation should be part of our life culture

Blood is a body fluid in humans and other animals that delivers necessary substances such as nutrients and oxygen to the cells and transports metabolic waste products away from those same cells. Blood performs many important functions within the body, including: supply of oxygen to tissues (bound to hemoglobin, which is carried in red cells); supply of nutrients such as glucose, amino acids, and fatty acids (dissolved in the blood or bound to plasma proteins (e.g., blood lipids)); removal of waste such as carbon dioxide, urea, and lactic acid; immunological functions, including circulation of white blood cells, and detection of foreign material by antibodies; coagulation, the response to a broken blood vessel, the conversion of blood from a liquid to a semisolid gel to stop bleeding; messenger functions, including the transport of hormones and the signaling of tissue damage; regulation of core body temperature and hydraulic functions.

Because blood connects us all we ought to thank blood donors and highlighting the dimension of sharing and connection between blood donors and patients. We ought to share life by giving blood and drawing the attention to the roles that voluntary donation systems play in encouraging people to care for one another and promote community cohesion.

There had been campaigns aiming to highlight stories of people whose lives have been saved through blood donation, to motivate regular blood donors to continue giving blood, and motivate people in good health who have never given blood to begin doing

so, particularly young people.

We thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.

Transfusion of blood and blood products helps save millions of lives every year. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions live longer and with higher quality of life, and supports complex medical and surgical procedures. It also has an essential, life-saving role in maternal and child care and during man-made and natural disasters.

In Tanzania, demand exceeds supply, and blood services face the challenge of making sufficient blood available, while also ensuring its quality and safety. An adequate supply can only be assured through regular donations by voluntary unpaid blood donors. WHO's goal is for all countries to obtain all their blood supplies from voluntary unpaid donors by 2020. Today, only 62 countries get close to 100 per cent of their national blood supplies from voluntary unpaid blood donations, with 40 countries still dependent on family donors and even paid donors. Tanzania faces acute shortages in the national blood bank due to poor collection.

However, several institutions are now at the forefront encouraging their staff members to donate blood. National statistics indicate that 80 per cent of the 432 deaths in every 100,000 Tanzanian mothers that occur every year are caused by lack of blood.

We should not relent on war against illicit drug

SUBSTANCE abuse, also known as drug abuse, is the use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. It is a form of substance-related disorder. Differing definitions of drug abuse are used in public health, medical and criminal justice contexts. In some cases, criminal or anti-social behaviour occurs when the person is under the influence of a drug, and long-term personality changes in individuals may also occur. In addition to possible physical, social, and psychological harm, the use of some drugs may also lead to criminal penalties, although these vary widely depending on the local jurisdiction.

Drugs most often associated with this term include: alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, methaqualone, and opioids.

Tanzania has made great strides in the fight and control of drug trafficking and use in the past 60 years of independence that led to the arrest of 45,784 suspects.

The country has also managed to improve provision of services to drug addicts including establishment of centres to accommodate the victims and rehabilitation centres.

The involvement of women in the trade clearly signals that war on drugs is a continuing battle. The magnitude of the illicit substance is indeed worrying.

Certainly, illicit drug abuse tears the fabric of any decent society. Studies have shown that the majority of those involved in illicit drug abuse are the youths. And youths are the future leaders of the country. Aside from being the most active portion in the country's population, they also

play a key role in any meaningful development.

Drug use is harmful to our health, especially cocaine and heroin, which can be lethal.

We have seen a recent surge in crime rate in the country as a result of illicit drug abuse by youngsters.

There exists factors that make many youngsters vulnerable to drug addiction. But that shouldn't be a reason for one to engage into drug abuse. In every situation, there is a way to get out of such circumstances.

Another worrying issue is the rise in the number of our young girls engaged in illicit drug abuse. Most of them are influenced by lifestyle making rounds of social media sites and other online media.

It is high time parents monitored the activities of their children and the type of friends they mingle with. A lot more is needed through career guidance and counseling. Through this we can change the mindset and perception of many as regards drug use.

We all have a role to play in making Tanzania a drug free nation. So each one, teach one. priority of any addict is to anaesthetize the pain of living to ease the passage of day with some purchased relief.

The development of the fight and control of drug trafficking followed the efforts by the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) which was officially established in February 2017 taking over from the Drug Control Commission.

Since its establishment in 2017, DCEA in collaboration with other security organs managed to arrest a total of 45,784 suspects, 356,563 kilograms of illicit drugs as well as 628.75 acres of cannabis farms.

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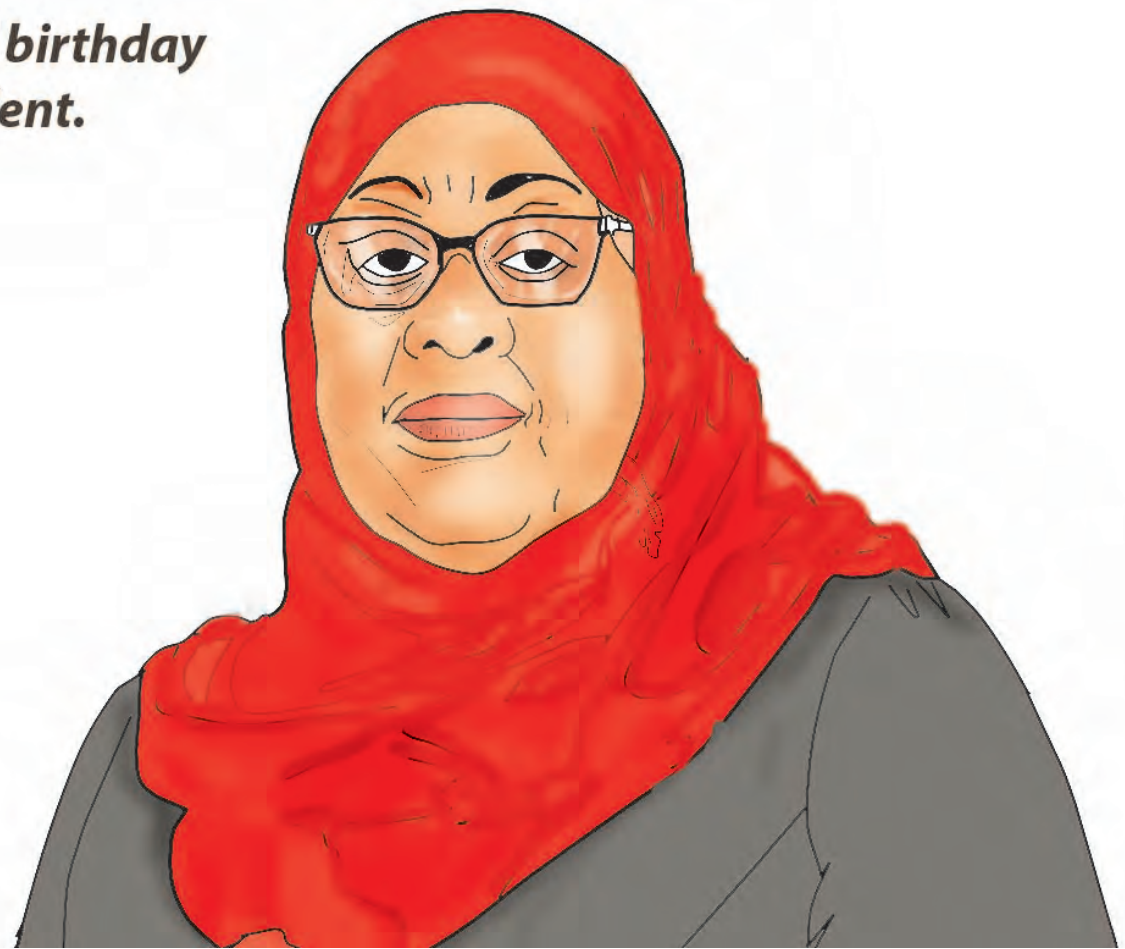
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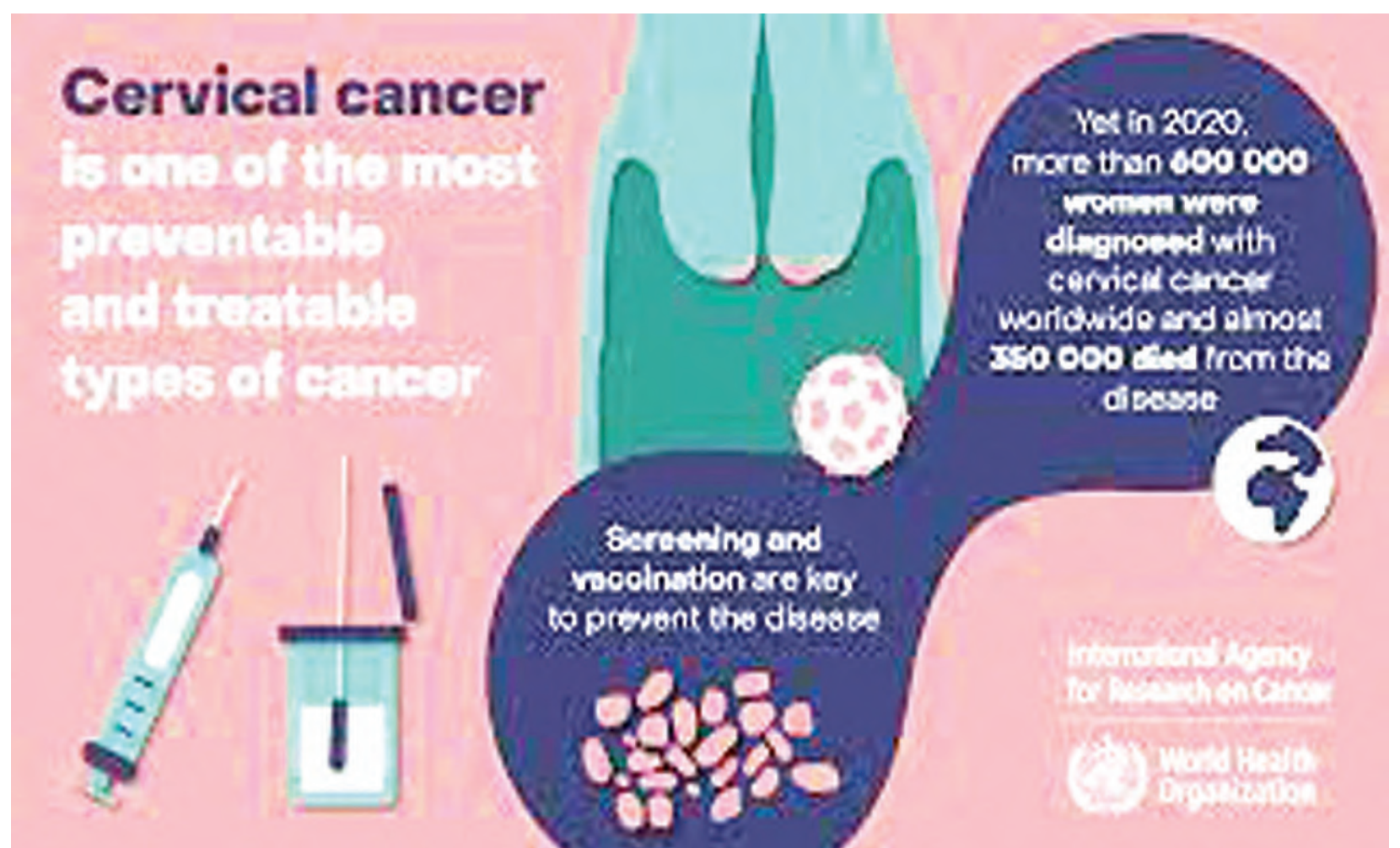
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Happy belated birthday Madam President.



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2022

Tanzania must accelerate effort to eliminate cervical cancer



By Special Correspondent

IN August 2020, the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health challenge and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020-2030.

The assembly urged 194 Member States to implement the interventions recommended in the global strategy to end cancer of the cervix.

The strategy outlines three key steps: vaccination, screening and treatment. Reaching the targets outlined in the strategy would put the world on the path towards the elimination of the disease within the century.

This month - January - is a cancer awareness month across the globe. It's noteworthy that Tanzania is among the top ten high-burden countries for cervical cancer globally.

The WHA also recognized the importance of a holistic health systems approach to cervical cancer prevention and control, integrating vaccination, screening and treatment programmes, adolescent health services as well as HIV and sexual and reproductive health services.

Cervical cancer develops from repeated infection from high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPV) in the cervix. Almost all cervical cancer cases (99 per cent) are linked to HPV infection transmitted through sexual contact.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women. The year 2018 saw an estimated 570,000 women diagnosed with the condition worldwide, with some 311,000 suc-

cumbing to it. It was meanwhile estimated in 2019 that Tanzania witnessed cervical cancer causing 6,400 deaths annually per every 100,000 women.

Cervical cancer is curable if diagnosed and treated early. The tragedy is however that, while this type of cancer is preventable, poor access to prevention, screening and treatment contributes to 90 per cent of deaths due to the condition.

Tanzania launched a two-dose HPV vaccine for girls aged 14 in 2018. In 2020 the programme coverage had reached 82 per cent of the targeted women for the first dose and 58 per cent for the second dose.

Global targets require that 90 per cent of girls are fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15.

Screening is a secondary prevention route. In 2020 in Tanzania one in ten women had been screened for cervical cancer for the last five years.

Global targets of elimination of the condition require that 70 per cent of women are screened with a high-performance test by 35 years of age and again by 45 years of age.

As one of the WHO member states that committed to the efforts to end cancer of the cervix by 2030, Tanzania must accelerate its efforts.

To gather momentum, the country must develop guidelines to strengthen early detection of the very first symptoms at primary health care level, develop a clear referral system from primary care

to secondary and tertiary care and have an operational national screening programme for cervical cancer.

With the Covid-19 pandemic still prevalent, it is also important to watch that we do not lose sight of the need to prevent cervical cancer through vaccination of girls.

HPV vaccination rates globally fell from 15 per cent in 2019 to 13 per cent in 2020, this amidst health service disruptions and school closures mainly induced by the spread of the coronavirus disease. Tanzania must work to keep to its achievements in the first dose and strive to match the second dose to the same level.

The global strategy emphasized the need to adapt global action to national contexts and priorities embedded in strong health systems aimed at achieving universal health coverage.

In principle, this means that each country ought to assess its strengths and opportunities and, thereafter, adopt its programmes to end cervical cancer accordingly. Tanzania has established infrastructure and programmes relating to sexual and reproductive health for women, some of these focusing on maternal health and HIV. These can be used to extend primary and secondary prevention programmes for cervical cancer.

Some innovations that have worked elsewhere could be explored for possible contextualisation. Examples would include the use of self-sampling - endorsed in recently published WHO guide-

lines - to allow women to collect their own cervical swabs.

This option can reduce stigma for women, while also providing access to those living far from health facilities and helping congested health centres maintain safe services and while also observing Covid-19 safety measures.

The self-collected samples could be run on the same laboratory platforms that various countries have been investing in to support PCR testing for Covid-19, and therefore piggy backing cervical cancer programme on the highly supported Covid-19 response programme.

Much the same could be done through integration with HIV and family planning programmes that usually see implementing partners reaching rural areas.

Incidentally, PCR stands for polymerase chain reaction. It's a test meant to detect genetic material from a specific organism, such as a virus. The test detects the presence of a virus if one has the virus at the time of the test.

The global targets of ending cervical cancer as set in 2020 at the WHA are achievable. They are achievable by 2030 but only if health systems, individuals and families wake up to the reality that cancer of the cervix is preventable and curable by tools that are within our reach.

The Tanzania Office of the World Health Organisation emailed this piece to The Guardian for publication.

Samia now part of global leaders' efforts to end NTDS

By Guardian Reporter

It was not birthday celebration alone for President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Thursday. For, she joined other like-minded leaders in a virtual meeting to support global efforts to end Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

The meeting came ahead of the World NTD Day this Sunday to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the London Declaration and kick off endorsements to the Kigali Declaration on (NTDs)—a high level political declaration which aims to mobilise political will and secure commitments to achieve the targets set out in the World Health Organization (WHO) NTD road map 2021-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target on NTDs.

"This meeting will lay a platform to transform the lives of individuals, including millions of women and girls in Tanzania and around the world who are at risk of being infected with NTDs. I believe the commitment we are going to pledge in this meeting today will help with equitable access to quality essential health care, which is paramount to limit the transmission of these preventable diseases. It is only through country leadership and ownership that we can truly end these diseases. I commit to offer my full support and call on world leaders to commit and endorse the Kigali Declaration on NTDs," she said.

Apart from Samia, other heads of government supporting the kick-off of the Declaration include the Prime Minister of Rwanda Édouard Ngirente, President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari and Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, James Marape.

NTDs are a group of 20 diseases like blinding trachoma, intestinal worms and elephantiasis which are preventable and treatable, but still affect 1.7 billion people around the world. By preventing children from going to school and adults from being able to work, NTDs trap individuals and whole communities in cycles of extreme poverty.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has joined global efforts to end NTDS

The Kigali Declaration on NTDs will be the successor to the ground-breaking London Declaration on NTDs that was launched in 2012 and expired in 2020. The London Declaration galvanized donor countries, philanthropists, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations, academia and research organisations to come together and commit to prioritising NTDs.

Key successes since the London Declaration include over one billion people reached with treatment for NTDs each year, five years in a row; 35 countries have eliminated at least one NTD bringing the overall total to 43 countries; and 600 million fewer people now require NTD treatments. Preliminary data shows that

only 14 cases of Guinea worm disease were reported globally in 2021, representing the lowest case total, since the beginning of the eradication programme in the mid-1980s. This progress proves that ending NTDs is possible, however, there is still more to be done.

The Kigali Declaration aims to protect the gains that have been made, whilst accelerating action by putting country ownership, integration, and cross-sectoral collaboration front and centre. This will ensure the long-term sustainability of these programmes and the achievement of the WHO NTD road map and SDG 3 targets.

Commenting on the Kigali Declaration, Dr Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda said: "More commit-

ments and endorsements for the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are needed, to achieve a better future for our people and reach the 2030 targets".

Driving endorsements and commitments towards the Kigali Declaration is the 100 per cent committed to ending NTDs campaign, also launched yesterday. The 100 per cent committed campaign will be led by countries affected, backed by bold financial and political commitments, and championed by civil society, influencers, and people affected by NTDs calling for action.

The campaign will drive commitments that will relieve needless suffering from NTDs, decrease the health-related drivers of poverty, make health

systems more resilient and the world a more equitable and safer place.

Significant challenges remain in the journey to elimination of NTDs, including climate change, conflict, emerging zoonotic and environmental health threats, as well as continued inequalities in access to healthcare services, adequate housing, safe water and sanitation. There are also major gaps in current intervention packages of diagnostics, treatment and service delivery models.

Remarking on what action is needed to tackle NTDs, Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of UNCTAD and Chair of Uniting to Combat NTDs said: "Efforts to tackle neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a global health success story and show

that ending NTDs is possible. But there is still a lot more work to be done. Building on previous success, and recognising the changing global landscape, we are using World NTD Day 2022 as a catalyst to translate awareness into action, to secure increased resources for NTDs, and crucially to facilitate political leadership and ownership of NTD programmes from around the world. By working together, adopting people-centred approaches, and collaborating across sectors in an integrated manner, we can, and we will, achieve the targets of the World Health Organization NTD roadmap."

Mark Suzman, CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, also added: "The partnership between the private and public sectors on NTDs, exemplified by the London Declaration, has led to one of the great public health successes of the past decade. The sheer scale of the accomplishment - one billion people reached with treatments each year for the past five years - means that hundreds of millions fewer people are at risk compared to 2012. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is pleased to join many of our long-standing partners in welcoming the new, country-led Kigali Declaration to build on this incredible progress. Funding for NTDs is an investment in health equity—with a focus on integrating NTDs into strengthened health systems, the Kigali Declaration promises a chance at a healthier life for people affected by these debilitating diseases."

Eliminating NTDs is at the core of strengthening health systems across endemic countries. "We have achieved unprecedented progress in the elimination of neglected tropical diseases - with 43 countries eliminating at least one NTD - in large part due to our shared commitment to the London Declaration. At its 10-year anniversary and on World NTD Day, the biopharmaceutical industry reaffirms its commitment to combat NTDs as a supporter of the Kigali Declaration. Through continued joint action, we can sustain the success we've seen in access to NTD treatment and

care and co-create solutions for stronger health systems. We welcome the Declaration's emphasis on country ownership and the importance of mobilizing domestic resources in a sustainable manner and look forward to working with the global health community to bring innovative solutions to accelerate progress", remarked Thomas Cueni, Director General, IFPMA.

Now in its third year, World NTD Day (January 30), aims to generate awareness and action around the need to end neglected tropical diseases. The day was officially recognized by the WHO in 2021 following the unanimous adoption of a resolution proposed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) alongside Oman and Brazil. This year, World NTD Day will see over 100 key landmarks across the globe light up in unity to bring attention to NTDs with support from more than 350 global partners.

Demonstrating country support for World NTD Day, Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation said: "On World NTD Day, the UAE stands with our partners and friends all around the world to demonstrate that collective action grounded in global solidarity can in fact eliminate these preventable and treatable diseases and lift billions of people out of extreme poverty."

Amanda Milling MP, Minister of State, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom also added: "I am pleased to join partners in celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the London Declaration, and the achievements we have made over this last decade. The UK Government is proud to have supported the delivery of over half a billion treatments across 30 countries and contributed to strengthening health systems in countries most affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). It is great to see the Kigali Declaration take forward progress we have made, to ensure countries most affected by NTDs are at the centre of the response."

THE LAW & YOU

How unbridled land conversion impacts customary tenure

By Telesphor Magobe

LAND is a precious resource for it provides the means of livelihood and sustenance, and is the basis of human life.

In Tanzania, it is in great demand due to population increase, rise in investment opportunities and market value - all of which make it increasingly scarce and a source of conflict and disputes in some parts of the country.

Thus, there is a need to make land a constitutional category to ensure rights and interests in land are adequately protected against unduly competing forces that often lead to unlawful evictions and land grabbing without regard to adequate, fair and prompt compensation.

Tenga, W.R. and Mramba, S.J. in their book of 2014 entitled "Theoretical Foundations of Land Law in Tanzania" argue that "Constitutionalism of land is critical in emphasising people's security of tenure to land, which is required for sustainable investment. It remains apposite, therefore, for crucial contours of land to be clearly enshrined in the Constitution especially bearing in mind incidents of un-procedural land acquisitions and evictions that have taken place in the country."

Tanzania's land laws provide for the protection of a customary right of occupancy, which is "in every respect of equal status and effect to a granted right of occupancy" (Section 18 of the Village Land Act, 1999, as amended until 2019). The laws also provide for land dispute settlement machinery.

In practice, the equality between customary and granted rights of occupancy is not all that evident due to the fact that some laws contain provisions that override the customary right of occupancy.

According to Section 34(3) of the Land Act, 1999, as amended until 2019 (see also Land Form No 25: Notice Requiring Holders of Customary Right of Occupancy to Move under Section 34 of the Land Act), a customary right of occupancy may be converted into a granted right of occupancy.

This provision dilutes the very idea that 'a customary right of occupancy is in every respect of equal status and effect to a granted right of occupancy'. It also creates a legal loophole that paves the way for land conversion into a statutory right of occupancy. It states: "Where a right of occupancy includes land, which is occupied by persons under customary law, it shall be a condition of that right of occupancy that those customary rights shall be recognised and those persons so occupying the land shall be moved or relocated..."

Village Land Form No 8: Notice of Intention to Transfer Village Land to General Land or Reserved Land (under Section 4) of the Village Land Act is evidence that a villager, whose customary tenure has been affected, is required to acquiesce to customary land conversion into statutory land tenure.

Moreover, Section 8 of the Urban Planning Act, 2007, Section 22 of the Forest Act, 2002 and sections 9 and 16 of the Wildlife Conservation Act, 2009 override the customary right of occupancy. Therefore, there is a need to seal legal loopholes and harmonise conflicting provisions to facilitate equitable access to and use of land by all citizens and strengthen security of land tenure.

Commenting on the precarious protection of customary tenure in their book entitled "Theoretical Foundations of Land Law in Tanzania" of 2014, Tenga, W.R. and Mramba, S.J. argue that "a customary right of occupancy is still poorly secured and is prone to conversion through a declaration of planning areas or transfers into general or reserved land."

Fimbo, G.M in his book entitled "Land Law Reforms in Tanzania" of 2004 argues that "this conversion arises from 1) a grant by the government of a right of occupancy to a parastatal organisation or an investor over a large stretch of land occupied under customary tenure and 2) expansion of a city or town that extends to village land."

Urban expansion, according to Tenga and Mramba, has led to the shrinkage of land under customary tenure. "Such uncon-

trolled conversion of customary lands to statutory lands has the effect of reducing the operation of customary rules on land management and limits the freedom and security of occupiers of customary tenure."

Although the judiciary has been progressive in reaffirming the equality between the customary and granted rights of occupancy, effective compensation for and resettlement of the affected families have been more of an ideal than a reality.

When land is compulsorily acquired for public purpose [Section 4(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1967, as amended until 2019], affected families are entitled to adequate, fair and prompt compensation. Yet, protracted delays without regard to procedural requirements [Section 3(1) (g) of the Land Act, 1999] do not reflect what adequate, fair and prompt compensation is. Such delays neither reflect the spirit of "fair and adequate compensation" [as provided for in Article 24(2) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, as amended until 2005] nor "full, fair and prompt compensation" [as provided for in Section 3(1) (g) of the Land Act, 1999, as amended until 2019].

Since the majority of Tanzanians live in villages, where a mode of land tenure is customary, it makes sense to strengthen legal protection of customary tenure. The use and enjoyment of land should be for all Tanzanians. This should be well-stated in the Constitution.

An aggrieved person having an interest in or right over land should be able to challenge compulsory land acquisition in a court of law. He or she should also have a right of access to judicial relief and be entitled to prompt and adequate compensation. Nyerere's doctrine of land value needs fresh emphasis. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere is quoted to have said: "When I use my energy and talent to clear a piece of ground for my use, it is clear that I am trying to transform this basic right from God so that it can satisfy a human need...by clearing the ground, I have actually added its value and have enabled it to be used to satisfy a human need. Whoever then takes this piece of ground must pay me for adding value to it through clearing it by my own labour" (quoted in Rwegasira's book of 2012 entitled "Land as a Human Right: A History of Land Law and Practice in Tanzania").

Today's proverb: "He is not poor he who has little, but he who desires much."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Future of coral reefs in time of climate change

BEYOND the economic cost, coastal degradation takes lives and destroys livelihoods - as noted in the World Bank publication (14 March 2019) in "West Africa's Coast: Losing Over \$3.8 Billion a Year to Erosion, Flooding and Pollution" in <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/west-africa-coast-losing-over-38-billion-a-year-to-erosion-flooding-and-pollution>

Today, with many nations and communities practicing sustainable ecological programs, human perceptions of nature, the environment, climate and the oceans is changing. Undoubtedly, humans are an integral part of creation, nature, and the environment and therefore developing a new concept of environmental ethics is essential for a sustainable future for the planet.

There are projects that range from education programs, plastic pollution control, Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) eradication, coral nurseries, renewable energy development, and responsible stewardship.

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GCF) is a 10-year, USD 625 million blended finance vehicle consisting of a grant window, designed to incubate a pipeline of investible projects, and an investment window which GCF is funding as noted by GCF staff (11 Nov 2021) in "Global Fund for Coral Reefs brings together

grant and investment windows at GCF COP26 event" in <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/global-fund-coral-reefs-brings-together-grant-and-investment-windows-gcf-cop26-event>

Marine biologists vigilantly monitor coral reefs with the help of scuba divers and by deploying autonomous or human-operated underwater vehicles to capture visual data on coral reefs. There are research materials on the effects of oceanographic variables, such as sea temperature, turbulence, salinity, and nutrients feeding coral reefs and their influence on coral growth, reproduction, mortality, assimilation, and adaptation.

Coral plantations are costly and time-consuming, and species introductions are often very challenging. King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), located on the shore of the Red Sea, offers a unique combination of wonderful access to coral reefs and world-class research laboratories.

KAUST is working to identify heat-resilient corals and crossbreed them with coral populations elsewhere to increase their heat tolerance - as noted by Marta Vidal (17 Jan 2022) in Deutsche Welle (DW) News in "Could the Red Sea's heat-resilient corals help restore the world's dying reefs?"

Community organisation and solidarity in Peru reducing hunger in pandemic

LIMA

It's nine o'clock in the morning and Mauricia Rodríguez is already peeling garlic to season the day's lunch at the Network of Organized Women of Villa Torreblanca, one of more than 2,400 solidarity-based soup kitchens that have emerged in the Peruvian capital in response to the worsening poverty caused by the partial or total halt of economic activities in the country due to COVID-19.

Up to Mar. 16, 2020 - when the government of then President Martín Vizcarra declared a state of national emergency in an attempt to curb the pandemic - Mauricia made a living selling snacks and meals at a school, while her husband drove a rented motorcycle cab, with which he provided local transportation services. But from one day to the next, they were left without their livelihood.

They were not alone. In this Andean country of 33 million people with solid macroeconomic fundamentals, the pandemic exposed structural flaws that cause deep inequality gaps. For example, seven out of 10 workers were working in the informal sector as of 2019, lacking pensions, health insurance and other labor rights, and with no possibility of saving money, like Mauricia and her husband.

As a result of the health emergency measures and the pandemic more than six million people became unemployed in 2020, most of them in the informal sector in the areas of commerce and services, where women play a predominant role. In Latin America, 34 million jobs were lost that year, according to the International Labor Organization.

In addition, according to a report by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), poverty had climbed 10 percentage points to 30 percent, pushing another 3.33 million people into a precarious situation, who could no longer afford the basic basket of goods, estimated at 360 soles (92 dollars) a month.

Families in impoverished neighborhoods in the capital were among the hardest hit.

"The already existing poverty was aggravated by the pandemic. We saw people getting desperate, they had nothing to eat," Esther Álvarez, a lawyer in charge of advocacy at the non-governmental CENCA Urban Development Institute, which has been working for more than 40 years in poor neighborhoods on the outskirts of Lima, such as those in the San Juan de Lurigancho district, told IPS by telephone.

Soup kitchens spontaneously emerged thanks to food donations and community organization based on solidarity, reciprocity and a humanitarian and rights-based approach, combining efforts with the local parishes, to address the growing hunger in areas invisible to the authorities, in the country's capital itself.

In Lima, where a third of the national population is concentrated -almost 10 million inhabitants- poverty climbed from 14.2 percent to 27.5 percent, and it is estimated that with the crisis another 250,000 people have fallen into extreme poverty, unable to afford a basic food basket of 196 soles (49 dollars) a month.

Álvarez explained that in alliance with other civil society institutions, they organized the soup kitchens that emerged in different districts of Lima, creating a permanent online communication space, which continues to this day, while promoting the



Fortunata Palomino is an experienced community organizer from Carabayllo and general coordinator of the Network of Soup Kitchens of Metropolitan Lima, which includes 2,247 soup kitchens. She is critical of the neglect by the authorities and hopes that women will be trained, certified and incorporated into the labor market with respect for their rights. CREDIT: Mariela Jara/IPS

formation of the Network of Soup Kitchens of Metropolitan Lima.

The network and online communication space enable interaction between the organizers of the soup kitchens, mainly women, who have emerged as leaders in the fight against hunger and for the right to food, issues that should be addressed by the authorities.

Solidarity-based community efforts for a better life

The Network of Organized Women of Villa Torreblanca soup kitchen emerged

in the upper part of the district of Carabayllo, located on the slopes of hills in the northern part of the capital. A few days after the national pandemic emergency was declared, it began to operate in the wooden house of Elizabeth Huachillo.

A native of Ayabaca in the northern highlands of Peru, she came to Lima at the age of 15 to find work and today, 40 years old and the mother of Lizbeth, 17, and Tracy, seven, she is the driving force behind the soup kitchen.

Huachillo drove a motorcycle taxi to support her family, but as a result of the lockdown she was unable to work and they were going hungry. "We had nothing to eat and I began to investigate how to create a soup kitchen. I looked up Señora Fortunata, who is a well-known and respected leader in the district, and together with her we launched it on Mar. 23," 2020, she says while showing IPS the fish that will be served in today's lunch.

Fortunata Palomino is 57 years old. From her native Ayacucho - a central Andean region devastated by the 1980-2000 internal armed conflict - she was sent to the capital by her parents when she was still a child. She went through many difficult situations to get ahead and put a roof over her head. She has four daughters who have managed to become professionals and she is proud she was able to make it possible for them to have an education.

While she and her husband ran their household, she became involved in different organizations to promote the rights of local people, including nutrition and a life free of violence for women and children.

She is familiar with the district and the plight of its people, especially in the shantytowns built on the hillsides where the houses are made of wood, families have no drinking water or sanitation and the roads are unpaved. "The authorities are absent here," she complained.

She feels like a survivor when

she thinks back to March 2020 and the terrible uncertainty, anxiety and fear that swept through the poorest families in her neighborhood.

"We were the first to start up a soup kitchen in Carabayllo, and many more followed suit, until there were 137," she said.

In order to coordinate and strengthen their activities, they formed the Network of Soup Kitchens of Metropolitan Lima, of which she was elected general coordinator. As of November 2021, a total of 2,468 soup kitchens were registered there, feeding 257,000 people a day.

"Here in our soup kitchen we served 250 lunches a day at the peak of the crisis. Now we make 120 because some people have managed to return to their jobs as collectors, drivers or street vendors," said Elizabeth Huachillo.

The solidarity price is two soles (51 cents). But nothing is charged in special cases, such as the elderly or people with tuberculosis. When the women find out someone has COVID, they leave the meals in plastic containers on their doorstep. And children orphaned by the death of their parents due to COVID-19 also receive free meals.

According to the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, in 2021, there were 98,000 minors orphaned by the pandemic.

"We are doing what the authorities should be doing because we could not remain indifferent to such desperation. Despite our efforts, it has been a struggle to achieve legal recognition of the soup kitchens so they can access budget funds; the law was passed last year and now it is time for it to be implemented," Huachillo said.

With the political instability that Peru has experienced in recent years, four governments have already managed the pandemic, and each one has made some achievements in coordination with civil society organizations and the Food Security Board of the Municipality of Lima, a multisectoral body that brings together social organizations, non-governmental institutions and the State.

Esther Álvarez of CENCA said the challenges for this year include achieving the implementation of the food emergency law and the allocation of a budget for the soup kitchens to address the food emergency, and to get the government to approve a regulatory framework that incorporates them into a Zero Hunger Program.

For her part, Fortunata Palomino is thinking about the post-pandemic world and suggests that the government should train and certify the women currently running the soup kitchens in various activities so that they can join the formal labor market in the future. "We need our own incomes with jobs that respect our rights," she said.



Three women community organizers whose solidarity and efforts contribute to the food security of impoverished families in the area stand outside their local soup kitchen. From left to right, Mauricia Rodríguez, Fortunata Palomino and Elizabeth Huachilla. During the visit by IPS, the menu, cooked with firewood because of the lack of cooking gas, consisted of rice with panamito beans and fried bonito, a fish rich in Omega 3. CREDIT: Mariela Jara/IPS

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 UMJUAVYO 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

Gates foundation unveils its new board members

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation yesterday appointed a board of trustees, with Strive Masiyiwa, Baroness Nemat (Minouche) Shafik, Thomas J. Tierney, and Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman joining co-chairs Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates as members.

A statement released yesterday by the foundation said the board members will work alongside Gates and French Gates, bringing independent and diverse perspectives to help strengthen the foundation's governance.

Suzman announced the board members in the foundation's inaugural annual letter. The letter highlights the foundation's efforts to fight poverty and disease; its goal of creating a better, fairer world; and its commitment to listening to diverse perspectives and deepening engagement with partners and communities where its work is focused.

The board announcement comes at a time of unprecedented global challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed, halted, and even reversed hard-won gains in global health and development around the world. After nearly two decades of steady progress, tens of millions of people have been thrown back into poverty, childhood vaccination rates have dropped, and diseases from malaria to tuberculosis have resurged. Since January 2020, the Gates Foundation has committed more than \$2 billion to the global COVID-19 response, with a focus on making sure support reaches marginalized communities as quickly and effectively as possible. The pandemic has had devastating impacts on these communities, and it will take many years for them to recover.

This governance change comes

after the death in late 2020 of Bill Gates Sr., Bill Gates' father, an honorary co-chair, and a long-time guiding voice at the foundation, as well as the decision by Warren Buffett last year to step down as a trustee after nearly 15 years. It also represents an explicit recognition by Gates and French Gates, especially in the wake of their recent divorce, that the foundation will be well served by the addition of independent voices to help shape its work in the future. The board could include up to nine total members, with conversations ongoing about adding to the initial slate to enhance representation across gender, geography, and expertise.

"We are honored that these three deeply knowledgeable and respected individuals have agreed to join the foundation board," writes Suzman. "Between them, they bring an incredible track record of impact across global business, philanthropy, and development, and we couldn't be more excited to work with them."

In addition to introducing the new board members, Suzman discusses the foundation's efforts to maximize its impact while ensuring that its work is increasingly inclusive. That includes deepening engagement with developing country agencies and governments, establishing offices and growing its staff outside of the United States, and expanding grants to institutions closer to affected communities. He also emphasizes that in its next phase, the foundation will continue to prioritize areas where its resources and expertise will be most catalytic and to invest in higher-risk areas where it's more difficult to deploy public resources, from funding innovative treatments for malaria to supporting cutting-edge disease modeling.

"Our new board members are



strong, qualified leaders who will support the foundation and its partners in our work to promote a healthier, safer, more equal world for all. I am deeply proud of all that we have accomplished over the past two decades and energized to work with them to drive progress on some of the most important issues the world faces today," said Melinda French Gates.

Suzman and Connie Collingsworth, the foundation's chief operating officer and chief legal officer, led the work to strengthen the foundation's governance at Gates' and French Gates' request, conducting a strategic review in consultation with external experts on best governance practices. The new board members will bring their diverse expertise, experience, and perspective to advise the co-chairs and the foundation's leadership team on budget and strategy. The board will meet three times a year to guide the work of the foundation and approve the annual budget and four-year plan. They will also have the responsibility to review the CEO's performance and approve the CEO's compensation.

Board members serve three-year terms, with a two-consecutive-term limit.

"Over the past 20 years, the scale and scope of our foundation's work has evolved to include some of the most complex and urgent challenges the world faces," said Bill Gates. "As we look ahead, I'm excited to welcome our new board members. Their wide-ranging experience and expertise will have enormous impact on our ability to tackle the complexity of these challenges and bring us closer to realizing a world where everyone has the chance to lead a healthy and productive life."

Since its establishment 21 years ago, the foundation has provided more than \$60 billion in grants, with the annual payout regularly increasing year over year. With a more than \$50 billion endowment, Gates and French Gates' additional commitment of \$15 billion last year, the expectation of future pledges, and the requirement to spend down the endowment after the co-founders' deaths, the foundation is uniquely positioned to continue its work of fighting poverty, disease, and inequity in the United States

and around the world, while maintaining a major role in the field of philanthropy for decades to come.

Strive Masiyiwa, chairman and founder of Econet Group, said: "Over the last 20 years I have worked with the Gates Foundation, beginning with efforts to improve agricultural production for more than 400 million smallholder farmers in Africa, to improving livelihoods for the poorest people across Africa and the world. We have worked together to address global health crises like the Ebola and COVID-19 pandemics. I am honored to join the co-chairs and the incredible team at the foundation in fighting disease and poverty throughout the world."

Baroness Shafik, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, said: "I am honored and delighted to be joining the board of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and I look forward to working with my fellow board members to support its mission of advancing human flourishing. I've spent my career working in some of the world's great international and academic institutions because, like

Melinda and Bill, I realize that the hardest problems facing humanity are not confined to a single country or sector, but are universal challenges that call for reason, empathy, and cooperation. I've long admired the foundation for standing for those values across borders and all parts of society. The pandemic, climate change, and other crises have shown its work to be more relevant and necessary than ever. I will dedicate my service as a board member to upholding those collaborative values within an organization that exists to enable everyone to live a healthy and productive life."

Tom Tierney, co-chair and co-founder of the Bridgespan Group, said: "The Gates Foundation is an extraordinary organization with over two decades of persistent, pragmatic, and disciplined experience fighting poverty, disease, and inequity around the world. The opportunity—and the imperative—to accelerate the foundation's impact has never been greater. My aspiration as a new board member is to do my share in helping the co-chairs and the leadership team capture this potential, in service of society."

EAC embarks on capacity building for plant health inspectors

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) secretariat has embarked on capacity building on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for plant health inspectors at its One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) to ensure the region is protected from threats of pest infestation against key agricultural

commodities.

The SOPs were developed to operationalize the Pest Risk Analysis (PRAs) for maize, beans and rice that are the most widely traded in the region.

Speaking at the opening of the capacity building workshop for plant health inspectors at the Kabanga-Kobero OSBP bordering Tanzania

and Burundi, EAC Director of Productive and Social Sectors, Jean Baptiste Havugimana, said that the initiative on Pest Risk Analysis (PRAs) commenced more than one decade ago.

"The first activity we embarked on was the development of pest lists. The second stage entailed development, validation and adoption of

PRAs for maize, beans and

rice," said Havugimana, adding that the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security held in June 2021 adopted the SOPs for operationalizing the PRAs three key agricultural commodities. "Utilization and application of the SOPs at the border points by plant health inspectors is a turning point in the entire process," said Ha-

vugimana.

He added that the capacity-building workshops were meant to induct plant health inspectors at key OSBPs and ensure that they have a clear and deep understanding of the procedures contained in the inspection manual. Speaking at the occasion, the Kabanga-Kobero Tanzania Revenue Authority Station Manager, Elpid-

ius Bigirwamungu, hailed the capacity building workshop noting that it was of significant importance to the customs operations at the border.

In her remarks delivered on behalf of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Esther Muchiri, the Regional Coordinator at the Africa Food Safety Initiative (AFSI), disclosed that AFSI, which is funded by USDA,

had been designed to support interventions in the areas of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) - plant health, food safety and maximum residue levels. Muchiri said that USDA had made arrangements for procurement and donation of essential items to support the work of inspectors at the Kabanga-Kobero and other OSBPs.

Plans to decongest Kenya-Uganda border are on track - commissioner

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has been assured that the backlog of trucks at Malaba One-Stop-Border Post (OSBP) will be cleared and normalcy has been returned by yesterday (Wednesday).

Uganda Revenue Authority Commissioner of Customs, Abel Kagumire made the assurance when speaking at the EABC-TMEA public-private dialogue at Malaba OSBP.

He stated that the backlog of 4000 trucks has been reduced to 2500 trucks and the traffic queue has been reduced from 40KM to 25KMs following the implementation of the resolutions for the bilateral meeting between the Ministers of Works and Transport of the Republics of Uganda and Kenya held on Saturday.

EABC CEO John Bosco Kalisa said: "In future solution to NTBs should be derived without waiting for Ministerial and Head of State decisions."

He called for the formation of Responsive Border Committee to quickly resolve future trade bottlenecks and NTBs to reduce the cost of doing border-crossing trade.

The EABC boss also called for a borderless East Africa for free flow of cargo. He further urged for closer collaboration among transporters, importers, exporters, cross-border traders, customs, immigration and other trade facilitation agencies on both sides of Uganda and Kenya.

Matia Etedu from the Ministry

of EAC Affairs Uganda appreciated and called more public private dialogue to facilitate cross border trade in region and beyond as the EAC bloc will soon commence trading under African Continental Free Trade Area.

Charles Omusana, Principal Economist (Investment & Private Sector Promotion), EAC Secretariat urged for a regional coordinated approach and innovative solutions to tackle Non-Tariff Barriers amid the pandemic for quick economic recovery and growth.

"80% of cargo destined to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan from the Port of Mombasa pass via the Malaba OSBP," said John Changole, Manager of Customs Kenya Revenue Authority Malaba OSBP Kenya.

On average the Malaba OSBP clears 1500 trucks per day.

Amwanga Dinah, Chairperson of Malaba Cross Border Traders Cooperative Society Kenya said lack of structured policy engagement between women cross border traders and border agencies, low level of knowledge on customs procedures, police harassment and un-harmonized COVID-19 measures are among challenges facing women cross border traders.

On her part, Chairperson Melisa Omuma of Malaba Women Cross Border Traders Cooperative Uganda said that lack of a market facility, narrow pedestrian passages at the border, corruption on accessing the



EAC Simplified Trade Regime also hinder women to trade.

Simon Omondi of Kenya Transport Association stated that inadequate parking area and incomplete and narrow road causes delay in scanning of goods a process taking up to 10-15 minutes.

Chairperson Kennedy Osiya of Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (KIFWA) stated that there are no police deployed to protect drivers and cargo despite the long queue of trucks and appealed for a vaccination station for drivers to be set up at the border.

Leaders of Clearing & Forwarding Associations called for exemp-

tion of customs rent for importation of bulk products exceeding 21 days at the port of Mombasa.

Juma Wakhungu urged the women cross border traders to always report all corruption matters to the Manager of OSBP for quick resolution and to participate in the Joint Border Committee Meetings.

Regional Coordinator in Charge of Kenya Revenue Authority Western Part of Kenya, Ms. Pamela Hago said, the Government of Kenya is committed to implement the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement and have engaged the Kenya National Highway Authority to quickly finalize the road to the scanner at the OSBP to has-

ten movement of cargo.

Martin Makokha of Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) urged the traders to utilize the online catalogue of East African Harmonized Standards to avoid standards related barriers to trade.

Stanley Elongi elaborated on the role of Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and noted that fees and charges related to plants import and exportation in the EAC should be harmonized.

Emile Sinzumusi of Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Corridor Authority called for a green channel for Authorized Economic Operators, pre-arrival processing of cargo, interlinkage of

northern and central corridor to reduce congestion at the borders.

In his closing remarks, EABC CEO Kalisa, called for special trade information desk for women small scale traders, Mutual Recognition of COVID-19 test and vaccine certificate via the EAC Pass, use of Regional Electronic Cargo and Truck Drivers Systems (RECDTS) and Regular holding of joint border management committee meeting at the borders.

The EABC-TMEA public-private dialogue at Malaba OSBP attracted over 65 delegates composed of trade facilitation agencies, importers, exporters, transporters and women cross border traders.

Boys sold by trusted villager-turned-human-trafficker

LUCKNOW, India

FRIENDS Ajay and Durgesh were lured from the same village in the remote and poverty-stricken countryside of eastern Uttar Pradesh (UP) in January 2021.

The boys, aged 16, were whisked away from their homes, transported, and sold as bonded labour to a garment factory in Rajkot in the western state of Gujarat. Rajkot is some 2000 km from Ajay and Durgesh's village in UP.

Along with two other boys from the same village, Sanjay (15) and Pavan (14), Ajay and Durgesh were befriended by a man, only identified as Gulab, and promised an eight-hour a day job, with a salary of Rs 7500 (about US 100 dollars) per month at a garment factory. The boys accepted the offer immediately because Gulab was from the same village and had known them since childhood.

"At the factory, the boys were thrown in with dozens of other children who were never paid. They were woken at 7 am and forced to work till 11 pm. The factory owner threatened to kill them if they stepped out of the factory," Dalsinghar told IPS speaking from Lucknow. "The children were abused and kicked when the supervisor felt that they were not working fast enough. None of the children was given enough to eat."

Dalsinghar, who goes by his surname, is a trade union leader and head of the UP office of the All India Bonded Labour Liberation Front. With ActionAid India, Dalsinghar helped to rescue the four boys in August 2021. The boys are now fin-



Friends Ajay and Durgesh are returned to their families with the help of ActionAid India and the All India Bonded Labour Liberation Front. The boys were tricked into bonded labour by a trust-

ishing their studies in their village.

These boys are lucky to have escaped the clutches of traffickers. Ajay found a mobile phone one day and quickly called his family. He told them the exact location of the factory in faraway Gujarat.

The family got in touch with Raju, a volunteer with ActionAid India, who lived near their village. With the

help of Dalsinghar, Raju and the district administrations of Kushinagar in UP and Rajkot in Gujarat, the boys were rescued, and their eight-month ordeal at the hands of the garment factory owner ended.

There are numerous incidents of victims being deceived by people they know.

Take Gulab as an example. Gulab came from the same

village as the four teenagers he trapped and sold to a garment factory owner.

In the hope of avoiding deprivation and starvation in difficult economic times, the teenagers took up Gulab's offer. They trusted him and fell for his lies because it did not occur to them that he would betray them.

ActionAid quotes other instances when a loved one has tricked victims. When that happens, the victim often does not fight back.

Sita was sold to traffickers by her alcoholic father in a West Bengal village as a bride. She was taken from place to place until she found shelter in an ashram in a city in UP. The police were informed, and she returned to her village in West Bengal.

Frequently missing children and adults cases include abduction and trafficking. Most of the time, missing people are not reported to the police, and if reported, the reports are not registered.

Children from the poorest of low-income families are most vulnerable. They are the main target of traffickers as poor and illiterate families are most likely not to approach authorities for help. There are instances of children and adults leaving home searching for glamour and fortune in big cities like Mumbai. Once there, touts find them and force them to beg or work as sex slaves without remuneration or concern for their health.

ActionAid India continues to work in villages providing support to survivors of trafficking and violence with medical, psycho-social and legal support. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that times are extremely challenging for communities. Schools closures and work opportunities in most villages have shrunk, which means that social activists like Dalsinghar need to be more vigilant today than ever before.

Nobel Peace Prize winners Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai have rescued thousands of children from the worst form of child labour and trafficking. Satyarthi has led a Bharat Yatra, a nationwide march in India to demand legislation against child rape, child sexual abuse and trafficking.

The Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation conducted a study in 2020 that concluded there was a high likelihood of an increase in human trafficking in the post-lockdown period for labour.

About 89 per cent of NGOs surveyed said that trafficking of both adults and children for labour would be one of the biggest threats in the post-lockdown period as household incomes of the most vulnerable deplete.

There is concern that the desperate and vulnerable populations of unorganised workers, who are in no position to negotiate wages or their rights, will be a massive pool for cheap labour. Many of these labourers could be children, forced out of school and forced to earn a living.

The fear is that thousands of children will likely be trafficked across the country to work in manufacturing units where they will be paid meagre to no wages and will most likely face extreme physical, mental and sexual violence.

Thousands of children like Ajay, Durgesh, Sanjay and Pavan are easy targets for an organised crime network of human trafficking. It is feared that many more children will be enslaved during the pandemic by those looking for cheap labour when many economic activities have come to a standstill.

"It is tragic when people betray the trust of children," concludes Dalsinghar.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 212 00--

WORD-FIT

3 letters SEE, ASS, TRI, SUE, ROT

4 letters RARE, ECTA, ALHA, NENE, SURE,

5 letters SHARE, AMUSE,

6 letters MEDDLE, UTOPIA, ZEALOT, YACKER

7 letters CENTRAL, LAICIZE, DROUGHT

8 letters TIGRINYA, INTRENCH, RESTRICT

9 letters MOUNTAINS

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- Evil spirits
- Togo's Capital
- a risky or daring journey
- the size of a dose of a medicine
- the person who leads
- a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress
- primeval
- A very longtime
- not previously known
- a cereal
- central
- the subject of a talk

Down:

- grow or cause to grow and become larger
- damage property
- insect infests human skin and hair
- the sale of goods to the public for consumption
- one of the limbs for walking
- on one's own
- not often
- perfume
- stiff hairs- like or bristle-like structure
- the state of being famous
- a position of an object

By Magzeta : 07/55429240 telksmagzeta@gmail.com

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JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS



CGE spokesperson Javu Baloyi.

CONTROVERSY

CGE retracts statement on the effects of Covid-19 vaccines on reproductive health impact

JOHANNESBURG

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) has withdrawn its statement that Covid-19 vaccines have an impact on women's reproductive health.

In a statement on Thursday night, the commission said it "erroneously quoted an article published in a medical journal which alleges possible negative consequences of vaccination on women's sexual and reproductive health."

Earlier this week, the health department and other vaccinology experts called on the CGE to withdraw its statement. On 16 January, the commission released a statement, which quoted a medical journal that alleged possible consequences of vaccination on women's reproductive health.

The Department of Health disputed claims made by the CGE, saying it didn't consider all available evidence and the substantial benefit associated with vaccinating women of reproductive age and pregnant women.



"erroneously quoted an article published in a medical journal which alleges possible negative consequences of vaccination on women's sexual and reproductive health."

"We further regret that it led to unnecessary distraction of public attention away from our common fight against the Covid-19 pandemic," CGE spokesperson Javu Baloyi said in a statement. The commission said its objective was to foster democracy through ensuring the protection of vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Baloyi said this would ensure the information shared by the commission was reflected accurately. To rectify the recent misinformation, the CGE said it would coordinate various education drives, in collaboration with health and medical experts.

"The CGE wishes to reiterate its support for existing government policy and guidelines on vaccination, and to express our confidence in current medical expertise and knowledge as provided by the country's medical scientific community."

The commission encouraged South Africans to exercise their right to access information and to take necessary steps to increase their understanding, through available medical information and expertise, of the risks posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you come across Covid-19 vaccination information that you do not trust, read Covid-19 vaccine myths debunked: Get the facts here. If you can't find the facts you're looking for, email us at the address mentioned in the article and we will verify the information with medical professionals.

TECH SAVVY

Business women losing out in internet access, says Stipro researcher

By Guardian Reporter

A study conducted last year by the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organisation (Stipro) has established that women business owners have limited access to internet compared to their male counterparts.

Stipro lead researcher Dr Dennis Mwigusa said in Dar es Salaam yesterday while presenting findings of the research on business owners access to internet that the findings indicated that 77.8 percent of them of which 48.8 percent were female and 29 percent male said that the internet is not affordable and that the costs associated with internet connectivity is too high for them to access it as they wish.

"Furthermore, 81 percent of the respondents of which 46 and 35 percent are female and male respectively reported that even if one manages to access the internet, the speed is too low," Dr Mwigusa said.

The study which was financed by Southern Voice Network and titled, 'Leaving no one behind in digital delivery of public services: The case of business registration in Tanzania,' also established that internet service providers are marketing internet bundle packages that do not reflect reality when purchased.

Dr Mwigusa who teamed up with Lanta Daniel and Bitrina Diyamett also from Stipro said



Dr Dennis Mwigusa makes his presentation during an online roundtable yesterday. Photo courtesy of Stipro.

the aim of the research in gathering data from business owners and Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) was to understand challenges around online business registration -disaggregated by gender.

About 63 business owners, of which 30 were men and 33 were women, were randomly selected for questionnaires out of which five female owners were interviewed. The exercise of interviewing the five female business owners was done by using a purposive sampling method so as to better answer the research questions with

qualitative information.

"It is worth mentioning that during compilation of the population of the micro and small business in the area, it was evident that most of the business owners from the population were women," he noted saying the most of the business owners fell in the age group of between 25 and 34 accounting for 42.9 percent while the age group from 65 years and above were the least with 3.2 percent.

In order to be able to use digital tools, couple of things including English language literacy are paramount and these are taught in

schools. Since the level of education is an important factor in accessing digital technologies, this information was sought from the interviewees, Dr Mwigusa added.

According to the findings, most of the business owners attended school whereby 41.3 percent have a bachelor's degree while 30.2 percent have at least a postgraduate education while 14.3 percent have certificates and 44.8 percent have at least finished form six education.

Another important determinant of the use of digital technologies is income of an individual, and therefore this information was also sought from the interviewees. "The findings show that 27 percent of the business owners approached for data collection are having an income status of up to US\$ 44 per month while 25.4 percent indicated their income status to be around US\$44 to US\$217 and 23.8 percent indicated to be receiving between US\$ 217 to 434 as income per month.

"Since affordability of the internet for usage in accessing online services is a critical barrier for most users, the observation from our sample of respondents indicated that business owners with an income of US\$400 and above had utilised the online registration service. In terms of the income status of the close family of the respondents, the findings showed that 38.1 percent were earning more than US\$434 in a month, 31.7 percent were earning between US\$ 217 to US\$434," the Stipro Lead Researcher noted.

COMPETITION

KQ rivals raise competition with Valentine's cargo plan

NAIROBI

Qatar and Ethiopian airlines are seeking approval from the aviation regulator to operate direct cargo flights from Nairobi ahead of this year's Valentine Day, stepping up competition with Kenya Airways which has previously opposed the move.

The airlines have applied for ad-hoc flights from Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) to boost the limited capacity at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). Ministry of Transport in November said it would not grant Ethiopian Airlines permission to fly directly from Nairobi to Europe without making a stopover at its base at Bole International Airport after Addis Ababa denied KQ rights to fly directly from Bole.

Normally, foreign airlines are not allowed to fly directly from Kenya to any other part of the country without making a stopover at their hub, but KCAA can allow ad-hoc flights within a certain window. KCAA director-general Gilbert Kibe confirmed that Ethiopian Airlines and Qatar Airways have sought approval for direct flights but did not indicate whether they will be allowed.

Ethiopian Airlines country manager Tigist Terefe said they will offer capacity according to their operation schedule during this peak season, without saying whether they have received approval. "We will avail capacity depending on how our operation will allow us," Ms Terefe said in an interview with the Business Daily.

This window is normally lucrative to airlines given high the demand and volumes of cargo to be transported directly to the market. Flower farmers were in November last year forced to throw away a



Ethiopian Airlines' country manager in Kenya, Tigist Terefe.

quarter of their produce due to a drop in airline traffic imposed on rival carriers to protect Kenya Airways and it remains to be seen if Ethiopian Airlines, which has also made a request will be allowed.

In 2020, local freight operators including Kenya Airways protested after Ethiopian Airlines was issued with ad-hoc flights between Nairobi and Europe, a decision that KCAA defended. Kenya has said it will not approve additional freighters from Ethiopia Airlines after Addis refused to allow KQ to fly cargo directly to Europe from Bole International Airport, forcing the national carrier to route through Nairobi.

KQ has increased flights to Europe and it is now operating daily on that route coming as a major boost to the horticulture industry. JKIA has a capacity deficit of between 1,600 and 2,000 tonnes at the moment and additional capacity is needed during this peak period to save farmers from losses.

The stakeholders in the sector met with the official from the government on Monday to discuss the need for adding more capacity at JKIA to cater for an increase in flowers. "The government has assured us that they will increase freight capacity by approving some of the airlines that have applied for ad-hoc

flights in order to cater for huge volumes expected this February," said an association of exporters.

The additional space is likely to address the current cost of freight charges that range from \$4.5-5.3 per kilo, which is one of the highest in recent months. Before the Covid-19 disruption, a kilo of cargo was going at an average of \$3.5. The cost is based on the airline and destination where the cargo is being flown to. Europe accounts for nearly 70 percent of Kenya's cut flower exports and the limited cargo capacity and high freight costs are making it difficult for Kenya to serve this market, threatening thousands of jobs.

EXPANSION

Information minister wants TTCL to dominate EAC region's market

By Guardian Reporter

THE management of the state-owned at state-owned Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited has been challenged to enhance efficiency and professionalism so that it can compete with peers in East African Community region.

Information, Communications and Technology minister, Nape Nnauye said in Dar es Salaam this week after visiting TTCL headquarters in Dar es Salaam that his ministry will make sure that the state owned telco excels in the market.

Nnauye who was recently appointed to the docket by President Samia Suluhu Hassan said that TTCL management and board will be accorded all the support needed from his ministry to deliver on its targets.

"Our target as the ministry is to make TTCL a competent telecommunications company in east and central Africa. I want us to come up with a joint mechanism to ensure that the target is realised," he



Minister Nnauye (C) addresses TTCL employees when he visited the company earlier this week. He is with TTCL board member Rajabu Yacoub (R) and managing director Waziri Kindamba. Photo: Guardian Reporter.

said.

He said TTCL management had informed him of the many challenges that the company is facing some of them can simply be turned into opportunities while others will have to be addressed by his ministry after consultation with experts in the field.

"We have received the challenges that you are facing and I am going to sit down with experts at the ministry to see how best to address them," Minister Nnauye promised

saying challenges that need intervention at higher level in the government will be referred to appropriate authorities.

He mentioned one such challenge which TTCL is facing as restrictions of the public procurement law

which forces the company to delay purchasing vital things for up to six months, if routinely followed. "In contrast, private companies which compete with TTCL in the market, take almost a day or two to do so," the ICT Minister stated.

ANGEL

Unemployed Cape Town man provides free haircuts to kids

CAPE TOWN

A resident of Bonteheuwel in Cape Town is offering up his time and providing free haircuts to kids in the area before the school year kicks off on Wednesday. Allistair Pedro, 36, told News24 that more than 20 kids have taken up the opportunity to get fresh haircuts.

"I'm definitely no professional barber. But I've been cutting hair since I was in my early teenage years. It's something I enjoy doing, and I know there are kids in the area whose parents do not have the means to let them go get a haircut before school starts, so I wanted to take that burden off from them," he said.

Pedro added that he had put out a social media post last week Thursday, notifying parents in the area that he would be doing free haircuts until Sunday, but has since decided to extend it till Tuesday.

He said: "I don't have any kids myself, but I resonate with the young boys who will be going back to school and want to make a good impression. I mean who doesn't love a good, clean, fresh haircut." According to Pedro, when the kids show up at his home for their haircuts it's all "smiles and happy vibes."

He added that some of the parents have offered to pay for their children's haircut, but he has respectfully declined. "It would defeat the purpose of offering the free haircuts. I can't be promoting free cuts for the kids and then accept cash on the side, it just wouldn't sit right with me," Pedro added.

According to the former customer services consultant, word started spreading like wildfire in the area about free haircuts, and he says it is a wonderful moment for him to see kids happy. "I try and make them as comfortable as can be so that they don't move too much when I cut their hair. In most cases I'll put on some cartoons for the kids to watch, they love that," he added.

Kids as young as four, right up to the age of 14 come and have their cut. Pedro said: "I've had to extend the free haircuts to Tuesday because more kids have started coming to me and I obviously don't want to turn them away." Pedro, a self-taught barber, said he uses his own clippers and does the regular fades and straight cuts for the boys.

"The cuts are decent because they need to go to school. Some of them have told me that they also want to look 'cute' for school, so I'm making them look 'cute' for school," said a proud Pedro. He added that he always has had a soft spot for parents who take care of their kids and protect them.

"My biological mom had asked another woman to raise me as a young baby. I owe my life to the 'strangers' that once raised me, and even though later in my life I got to know my biological mom, I still hold a very special place in my heart for parents that have relationships with their kids, it's amazing to see," he said. Pedro said he will stop doing haircuts from Tuesday, but should kids knock on his door for a haircut he says he will "never" turn them away."

PROMOTION

Bank's 'MastaBata' cash prize winners top 400

By The Guardian Reporter

ANOTHER 100 NMB Bank Plc's customers have won 100,000/- in a weekly draw for the ongoing 'MastaBata' promotion taking the total number of winners to 400.

The third edition of the digital finance promotion competition started late in December 2021 to entice the bank's customers and new ones to transact more digitally using its NMB MasterCards.

NMB Card Centre Manager, Sophia Mwamwitwa said after the fourth draw of the campaign that the lucky winners have so far pocketed 40m/- of the prize money. "We have so far 400 winners who each has pocketed 100,000/- that sums up to 40m/-, therefore there is still over 160m/- left to be won," Mwamwitwa said in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

During the three months of the campaign, more than 1,000 customers will win cash prizes ranging between 100,000/- and 3m/- at the climax of the promotion in March. "The aim of this campaign is to encourage and motivate our customers and

all Tanzanians in general to use NMB MasterCard and Masterpass QR when making payments and in their internet banking transactions," she added.

The NMB Card Centre Manager further noted that apart from weekly draws, there will also be monthly winners with a grand finale of the competition in March. Two monthly raffles will be held during the campaign to pick the 25 winners of 1m/- each. The first draw will be next week and the promotional drive will climax with 30 customers winning 3m/- each.

NMB Bank Plc has been running the MastaBata campaign series since 2018 to principally promote the nascent local digital economy and support national efforts to make Tanzania a less cash society. The lender is also using the campaigns to reward loyal customers who have transformed together with it in its digital transformation journey. In addition, NMB is also using the investment that has equally helped to advance e-commerce in the country to lure new customers for consolidating its market leadership status.



NMB Bank plc card centre manager Sophia Mwamwitwa (C) speaks before conducting a draw to determine 100 cash prize winners of the fourth draw of the bank's 'MastaBata Kiviyakovyako' raffle held at the bank's head office in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of NMB.

INNOVATION

Meet Niyoyita, producer of first Made-in-Rwanda high-tech white cane



Amani Niyoyita, a Rwandan young innovator, is the one behind the first Made-in-Rwanda high-tech white canes that are being distributed to visually impaired people.

KIGALI

Amani Niyoyita, a Rwandan young innovator, is the brains behind the first Made-in-Rwanda high-tech white canes that are already being distributed to visually impaired people on the market.

"The stick helps the visually impaired person in different ways. It helps them to detect the obstacle which they might bump into. While the previous stick would only detect an obstacle when one touches it, the technology advancement allows one to detect from a long distance as it uses sensors," he said.

The high-tech white cane which is the first of its kind to be made in Rwanda uses ultrasonic ranging technology to detect obstacles in a distance of 1.2 meters and alert the user through vibrations and sounds.

The smart white stick, he said, also helps to detect if it is night or day time to improve efficiency for users and interaction with other members of the public. "If they reach any darkness such as in any place, the smart

white cane immediately detect darkness or light," he said.

At night the cane turns blue and red to increase visibility of the user. With easy operability, practicality of use on public transport or cars, being light to carry, and being waterproof, the high-tech white cane, he added, can be tracked.

"With this smart blind stick you can track where they are located because it has GPS or red lights that inform other road users that the cane user needs special attention. The sounds help those who are visually impaired but are able to hear. The high-tech white cane which is the first of its kind to be made in Rwanda uses ultrasonic ranging technology to detect obstacles in a distance of 1.2 meters.

Niyoyita said that the sticks can sound with audible and vibrant sounds and it has traffic or red lights that inform other road users that the cane user needs special attention. The sounds help those who are visually impaired but are able to hear. The high-tech white cane which is the first of its kind to be made in Rwanda uses ultrasonic ranging technology to detect obstacles in a distance of 1.2 meters.

For those with multiple disabilities- deaf-blind, the stick is fitted with vibration capability that warns them as needed. He said that the smart cane is rechargeable to be able to be used for five days with electricity adding it can be charged using a normal phone charger, he said.

The smart white cane itself is made from aluminium, which makes it lighter, portable and easy to fold, and be carried in a bag. "It also has an insulator to avoid danger in case they touch electric wires," he said.

How the innovative idea came He said that the idea to produce the "electronic and smart blind stick" came, in 2018, after identifying challenges being faced by visually impaired people.

"We visited different people with disabilities assessing challenges that they were facing considering the white cane that was in existence until we managed to create a solution," he said. Niyoyita, who studied electronics and telecommunication, was the first one to come up with the idea, he testified.

RECORD

First hijabi Miss World contestant reaches top 40

SAN JUAN

Khadija Omar, the first hijab-wearing Miss World contestant and the first to represent her home country, Somalia, has made it to the top 40.

The world-renowned beauty pageant, which was postponed in December after an outbreak of Covid-19 among contestants and staff, recently announced its fast-track 15 winners and 25 judges' choices.

Miss Somalia was chosen by the judges, alongside participants from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Malaysia, China and Iceland, to name a few. Miss Philippines and Miss India were both announced in the top 15, alongside women from England, the US and Nepal.

"Words cannot express how proud I am of the milestones we've crossed this year and last," Omar

wrote on Instagram as the top 40 names were announced. "Somalia has made so much history and continues to do so."

"Making the top 40 has shown me just how much hard work really pays off and how dreams really do come true. To everyone who supported me through this journey, I will forever be grateful. To my country and my team, thank you for giving me this opportunity, I will do my best to continue making you proud."

The reigning Miss World is Toni-Ann Singh. She is the longest title-holder in history following the delay of the annual beauty pageant for the second year. Singh, who is Miss Jamaica World 2019, was crowned Miss World in 2019 but held on to her title after the event was cancelled in 2020 owing to the coronavirus pandemic. The 2021 finals will now take place

in Puerto Rico on March 16.

"Congratulations to our Top 40 who are invited to return to San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 12th to continue their quest to be crowned the 70th Miss World," read a post on Facebook from the Miss World Organisation.

"Julia Morley and her Miss World team would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the contestants from the 97 countries that have contributed so much to this year's event. We are sad that you cannot all return for the finale, but we really hope that every country will join with us online on March 16th."

While these 40 will be moving ahead in the competition, all 97 Miss World contestants in 2021 will be featured in the 70th Miss World final, which will be broadcast live from the Coliseo De Puerto Rico Jose Miguel Agrelot.



Khadija Omar is the first Miss World Somalia and the first hijabi contestant to take part in the beauty pageant.

MILESTONE

Airtel Africa joins FTSE 100

LONDON

INDEX manager FTSE Russell has announced that Airtel Africa plc will be joining the FTSE 100 on Monday 31 January 2022. Through its mobile telecoms and mobile money services, Airtel Africa plc is transforming lives of over 122 million people across the 14 African markets in which it operates.

The Group floated on the London Stock Exchange in June 2019, and has since demonstrated significant growth in its customer base, revenues, profits, margins, and cash generation, as well as strengthening its balance sheet through reduced leverage. The Group continues to execute its growth strategy to deliver on the significant market potential afforded by the demographics and market dynamics across voice, data and mobile money services.

We continue to invest in our infrastructure and distribution

networks across the countries where we operate, supporting their economies and communities. Sustainability is at the core of our strategy, driven by our guiding purpose of "Transforming lives" across Africa, with people, businesses and governments seeking access to more and better connectivity and improved financial inclusion. Segun Ogunsanya, CEO, Airtel Africa, commented: "I am immensely proud that Airtel Africa will be joining the FTSE 100 only two and a half years after we listed on the London Stock Exchange."

This achievement has been on the back of all the hard work and success achieved by everyone at Airtel Africa. We look forward to growing the Company further as we continue to sustainably bridge the digital divide, expand financial inclusion and meet the evolving needs of our customers."



Segun Ogunsanya CEO for Airtel Africa.

Unique exposition places Saint Laurent among Paris treasures

PARIS

Tucked away like Easter eggs in the most prestigious Paris museums, a unique commemoration of designer Yves Saint Laurent cements his status among the greats of French cultural history.

"I am utterly eclectic," the designer once said, and the point is proven by how easily his clothes fit into museums covering very different eras and artistic styles. In the Apollo Gallery of the Louvre, alongside the crowns and jewels of French kings and queens, the almost absurdly ornate "Versailles jacket" covered in gold leaves and rock crystals, looks perfectly at home.

The Louvre is one of six museums taking part in the unique collaboration to mark 60 years since the designer's first catwalk show,

when he was 26. Head across town to the Centre Pompidou, France's mecca for modern art, and you find a very different Saint Laurent on display.

Dresses in the abstract styles of Piet Mondrian, Sonia Delaunay and US pop artists hang alongside the portraits that inspired them. Saint Laurent was often ahead of the game: his Mondrian collection came out to rave reviews in 1965, four years before the Dutch artist, who died in 1944, had his first career retrospective at the Orangerie Museum.

"It was precisely that moment when fashion changed and started to become an art in its own right," said Aurelie Samuel, of the Yves Saint Laurent Museum, which is displaying some of his drawings as part of the city-wide exhibition, which runs until May.



ITV	18:00	10:55	10:00	Tues 25 Jan
MONDAY 24 Jan	Jiji Letu	Habari za saa	Shika Bamba 5	06:00 Al Jazeera
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	Yu wapi	The base	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	07:00 Deutsche Welle
6:00 HABARI	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	Habari za saa	Chetu ni chetu rpt	09:00 Al Jazeera
6:40 Kumekucha	Uchumi na biashara	Al Jazeera	Hawavumi lakini wamo	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
7:30 HABARI	Jarida la wanawake	Ijue sheria rpt	Korean: Jumong	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	Soap: Uzalo	Habari za saa	Igizo: Rebeca	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
8:55 Habai za saa	20:00 Habari	13:00 Shamsham za pwani	Habari za saa	16:30 Soapchat rpt
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Soap: Love to Death	17:30 Meza huru
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Nisf	14:55 Habari za saa	16:15 Igizo: Rebeca	19:00 Innovation
9:55 Habari za saa	21:25 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	15:00 Meza huru	17:00 Shamsham za Pwani	19:30 Our Earth
10:00 Watoto wetu	21:45 Chetu ni chetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	Jiji Letu	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
10:55 Habari za saa	22:20 Soap: Love to Death	17:00 The Base	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
11:00 ITV Top Ten	23:00 Habari	18:00 Jiji Letu	Jungu Kuu	21:30 Capital Prime
11:55 Habari za saa	23:30 The Base	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	Shika Bamba	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	Jagina	Habari	22:30 EcoAfrica
12:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt	02:00 DWTW	19:30 Usafiri wako	Igizo: Rebeca	23:00 Al Jazeera
12:55 Habari za saa	WEDNESDAY 26 Jan	19:00 Soap: Uzalo	21:00 Art and lifestyle	
13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	20:00 Habari	ITV TOP 10	Wed 26 Jan
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	6:00 HABARI	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	Hawavumi lakini wamo	06:00 Al Jazeera
13:55 Habari za saa	6:40 Kumekucha	23:00 Habari	Soap: Uzalo rpt	07:00 Deutsche Welle
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	7:30 HABARI	23:30 The Base	01:15 DWTW	09:00 Al Jazeera
14:15 Soap: Love to Death	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	00:30 Al Jazeera	SUNDAY 30 Jan	09:00 Al Jazeera
14:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	02:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:00 Our Earth Rpt
15:00 Meza Huru	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	FRIDAY 28 Jan	6:00 HABARI	12:30 Innovation Rpt
16:30 Watoto Wetu	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:40 Kumekucha	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
17:00 The Base	9:55 Habari za saa	6:00 HABARI	Habari	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
18:00 Jiji Letu	10:00 Watoto wetu	6:40 Kumekucha	Al Jazeera	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
18:10 Albu yako rpt	10:25 Uchumi wetu	7:30 HABARI	Jiji Letu	16:30 Culinary delight rpt
18:15 Mapishi	10:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	Bongo Movie rpt:	17:00 Innovation rpt
18:30 DWTW: Kesho leo	11:00 The Base rpt	8:55 Habai za saa	Tamasha la Michezo	17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Atya ya Jamii	11:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	Mwangaaza	19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Soap: Uzalo	12:00 Al Jazeera	9:55 Habari za saa	ITV Top 10	19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Habari	Jarida la wanawake	10:00 Watoto wetu	Kipindi cha kikristo	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
21:05 Dakika 45	12:55 Habari za saa	10:25 Usafiri wako	Jiji Letu	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	13:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	Mapishi	21:30 Capital Prime News
22:15 Soap: Love to Death	14:00 Soap: Love to Death	11:00 The Base rpt	Matukio ya wiki	22:00 Dakika 45:
23:00 Habari	14:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	Igizo: Rebeca	22:45 The Décor
23:30 The Base	15:00 Meza huru	12:00 Al Jazeera	Habari	23:15 Al Jazeera
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02:00 DWTW	17:00 The Base	13:55 Habari za saa	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	06:00 Al Jazeera
TUESDAY 25 Jan	18:00 Jiji Letu	14:00 Chetu ni Chetu rpt	Mizengwe	07:00 Deutsche Welle
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:15 Mapishi	14:15 Igizo: Rebeca rpt	Mjuzi Zaidi	09:00 Al Jazeera
6:00 HABARI	18:30 Igizo: Rebeca	15:00 Meza Huru	Bongo Movie:	12:00 Our Earth rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	19:00 Soap: Uzalo	16:30 Watoto Wetu	Soap: Love to Death rpt	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
7:30 HABARI	20:00 Habari	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	02:05 Al Jazeera	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	21:00 Albu Yako	18:00 Kislam	CAPITAL	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
8:55 Habai za saa	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	18:15 Jiji Letu	Mon 24 Jan	16:30 Business edition rpt
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	21:35 Ripoti Maalum	18:30 Korean: Jumong	06:00 Al Jazeera	17:00 In good shape
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:10 Soap: Love to Death	19:00 Shamba lulu	07:00 Deutsche Welle	17:30 Meza huru
9:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Habari	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	09:00 Al Jazeera	19:00 Turning the spotlight
10:00 Watoto wetu	23:30 The Base	20:00 Habari	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	19:30 Tanzania yetu
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12:30 Atya ya jamii	6:40 Kumekucha	SATURDAY 29 Jan	17:30 Meza huru	06:00 Al Jazeera
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13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	8:55 Habai za saa	6:40 Kumekucha	Series: Beats of Love	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	7:00 Habari	20:45 The Monday Agenda	12:30 Dw News Africa rpt
14:00 Soap: Love to Death	10:00 Watoto wetu	8:00 Al Jazeera	Capital Prime News	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
14:55 Habari za saa	10:25 Shamba lulu	9:00 Watoto wetu	22:00 Kipima Joto	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
15:00 Meza Huru			00:00 Al Jazeera	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Watoto wetu				16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:00 The Base				

WORLD

Rwanda to re-open border with Uganda as relations thaw



Rwanda's President Paul Kagame

KIGALI

RWANDA will re-open on Monday a border crossing with Uganda that was shuttered nearly three years ago, even as tensions rise between the central African neighbors, fueled by accusations of espionage and support for each other's dissidents.

Rwanda had repeatedly accused Uganda of supporting rebel groups planning to topple the government in Kigali while Kampala accused Rwanda of carrying out illegal espionage activities in Uganda.

In a statement on Twitter on Friday, Rwanda's foreign ministry said the country would

re-open the common border on Jan 31.

"Rwanda has taken note that there is a process to solve issues raised by Rwanda, as well as commitments made by the government of Uganda to address remaining obstacles," it said in the statement.

Various attempts, including mediation efforts by Angola, to restore normal relations and open the border had yielded little.

The border closure in March 2019 had severely disrupted the trade links in the region.

For its external trade, Rwanda primarily relies on a transport corridor that runs from the Indian ocean port of Mombasa through Kenya and Uganda. The same road also fun-

nels goods through Rwanda to Burundi and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Rwanda and Uganda have long harbored mutual suspicions and hostilities, partly stemming from historical ties between both countries' politics and security.

Paul Kagame, Rwanda's current leader, grew up in Uganda and participated in the guerrilla struggle that brought Uganda's president Yoweri Museveni, 77, to power.

The move to re-open the border followed a meeting in Kigali last week between Kagame and Museveni's son, Muhoozi

Kainerugaba who is also a general in the military and who the public widely believes is being prepared to take over from his long-serving father.

A resumption of normal trade at the two countries' border crossing is potentially a much needed impetus for jump-starting regional economies battered by effects of COVID-19 containment measures.

Rwanda and Uganda are members of regional trade bloc East African Community alongside Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and South Sudan.

Agencies

FM calls on Washington to honour its words on ties

THE United States has continued acting and speaking wrongly against China, which has affected bilateral ties after the virtual summit between the two heads of state last year, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday as he urged Washington not to interfere in the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics.

In a phone conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Wang said that the US should also stop playing with fire over the Taiwan question and cease creating various small anti-China cliques.

Wang said the world can see Washington has made no substantial change to its China policy, even though US President Joe Biden told President Xi Jinping in November that the US was not seeking a "new Cold War" with China, or to strengthen its alliances to counter China or support "Taiwan independence".

Wang said pressing China will only make the Chinese people more united, and creating confrontations will not prevent China from getting stronger. He said the most important task for both sides is to put into practice the important consensus reached at the virtual summit.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the issuing of the Shanghai Communiqué an important diplomatic document signed by China and the US during then US President Richard Nixon's visit to China Wang said the premise of normalizing China-US relations was that both sides not attempt to change each other. This should also be the guarantee of future peaceful co-existence between the two countries, he added.

Faced with a new situation and new



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) meets with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Rome, Oct 31, 2021. XINHUA

challenges in the post-pandemic era, competition between major countries will not help solve the problems faced by the US and other countries, Wang said. He called on China and the US to expand the positive aspects of bilateral cooperation and constructively manage their differences.

According to a Foreign Ministry news release, Blinken affirmed the significance of frequent communications between the foreign ministers and stressed there has been no change to the position Biden stated during the virtual summit.

The US is willing to manage differences in a responsible way and its one-China principle has not changed, Blinken said, adding that the US will cheer on its athletes competing in the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Blinken also briefed Wang on Washington's position regarding the Ukraine issue. Wang said that China calls on all parties to stay calm and refrain from doing things that agitate tension and play up the crisis.

Wang stressed the importance of returning to the new Minsk agreement, the starting point, in order to solve the Ukraine issue. The agreement, which was approved by the United Nations Security Council, is a fundamental political document recognized by all parties and should be effectively implemented, he said.

The original and new Minsk agreements, reached in September 2014 and February 2015 respectively, are the basis of the work of the Normandy format, the four-party diplomatic group which was set up to resolve the conflict

in the Donbas region in Ukraine, Xinhua News Agency said.

Wang said as long as efforts are made in line with the direction and spirit of the new agreement, China will support them.

He told Blinken that one country's security cannot be at the expense of another's, and regional security cannot be guaranteed by strengthening or even expanding military blocs.

While a balanced, effective and sustainable European security mechanism should be established through negotiations, the reasonable security concerns of Russia should also be valued and solved, Wang said.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are increasing military activities in Eastern Europe amid tensions regarding Ukraine, despite Russia warning that the strengthened NATO presence near its borders is a "national security threat".

Li Haidong, a professor of US studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said that the Ukraine issue was an important topic of the phone conversation. The US is once again showing it is taking a self-interested approach to its China policy, he said.

The main detail of the Ukraine issue is very clear, that is, that the US and NATO have completely overlooked respect for Russia and its status and interests during the establishment of a European security mechanism, Li said.

"It is contemptible that the US still takes it for granted that China should offer it assistance on issues concerning Washington's own interests while the US is competing and even confronting China on various topics," he said.

Agencies

UN remembers victims of Holocaust's 'unprecedented horror and calculated cruelty'

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations held a virtual ceremony to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Thursday, in remembering the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust during the Second World War.

The Holocaust "defined the United Nations," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the ceremony, recalling that the UN Charter was drafted in San Francisco "as the Dachau concentration camp was liberated."

In remembering the Jews who perished in the Holocaust, along with the Roma and Sinti, and countless other victims of its "unprecedented horror and calculated cruelty," the UN chief reminded that "our very name was coined to describe the alliance fighting the Nazi regime and its allies."

"The United Nations must always be on the frontline of the fight against antisemitism and all other forms of religious bigotry and racism," underscored the UN chief. Across the globe, xenophobia and hatred are on the rise, said the top UN official.

Guterres described rising antisemitism, intolerance and proliferating Holocaust denials, in which "no society is immune." "We must never forget that the Holocaust could have been prevented."

The desperate pleas of the victims fell on deaf ears. Too few spoke out, too few listened - fewer still stood up in solidarity," he said. He urged everyone to never be indifferent to the suffering of others, forget what happened in the death camps, or let it be forgotten by others.

In his address, Abdulla Shahid, president of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, mourned the losses of the women, men and children who "perished during the worst atrocity in human history."

"We honor those whose lives were cut short by ruthless and intolerable acts fueled by bigotry, antisemitism, and hatred," he said. "We ensure that they live on in legacy and in memory."

And to prevent history from repeating itself, everyone must remember and keep "telling this story." "In memory of the Holocaust victims, and out of respect for the survivors, let us never forget. Let us unite for truth, peace, and justice for all."

Kicking off the day's events, the UN Chamber Music Society featured Jewish composers in performing a moving concert, designed to preserve the memory of the tragedy for future generations.

It also featured special performances from Argentine-Israeli Maestro Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, and artwork by Israeli New York-based artist, Roy Nachum.

The ceremony was followed by a virtual seminar entitled Legacy of Medicine During the Holocaust and its Contemporary Relevance, which was aimed at healthcare trainees and professionals to reflect on their core values in the service of humanistic and ethically responsible patient care.

US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer announces retirement

WASHINGTON

US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer announced on Thursday that he will retire later this year in a letter to President Joe Biden.

Breyer, a longtime liberal, wrote that he intends the decision to take effect when the Supreme Court rises for the summer recess, assuming that by then his successor has been nominated and confirmed.

Biden held an event at the White House marking Breyer's announcement.

In his remarks, the Democrat said he will nominate the first black woman to the US Supreme Court.

"I have made no choice at this point. Once I select a nominee, I'll ask the Senate to move promptly on my choice," he added.

US Senator Chuck Grassley, a Republican and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued a statement later, saying that Breyer's successor "should be an individual within the legal mainstream who can receive similar broad, bipartisan support."

The US Supreme Court is the final appellate court of the US judicial system, with the power to review and overturn the decisions of lower courts. It also has original jurisdiction in certain cases involving public officials, or disputes between states.

To be appointed to the US Supreme Court, a candidate must be nominated by the president and then confirmed by the Senate with a simple majority.

The US high court consists of nine justices, who have life tenure and can serve until they die, resign, retire, or are impeached and removed from office.

Agencies

Pandemic poses challenge for everyone, and can be contained only together, says Medvedev

GORKI

NO state can deal with the current novel coronavirus pandemic on its own, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview with Russian media outlets, including TASS.

"The first lesson is easy on the one hand, but, on the other hand, it is very difficult: no one can deal with the pandemic alone, one state can-

not deal with it on its own, it cannot be contained just by closing borders. Pandemic is a common challenge that should be addressed collectively," he said.

The Russian official underscored the importance of developing international cooperation in this domain, and called upon states not to become isolated.

"Look at the fresh example of the Omicron strain: apparently, everyone is already

used to living in the conditions of a different strain, which is maybe even more severe than Omicron.

Various strategies of therapy and systems of communication had been created, but when Omicron emerged, people in every country started to fall ill in tens and hundreds of thousands. And this puts a totally different load on the healthcare system," he said.

Medvedev noted that although the Omicron variant

was less lethal than its predecessors, lots of people were falling ill and required medical assistance.

"This is a new challenge, and we need to tackle it together as well, and learn from each other's experience," he added.

Commenting on his article, headlined 'Six lessons of one pandemic,' Medvedev stressed that it was not just an appeal to the international community.

"To be more precise, it was a description of the general situ-

ation worldwide, and of common challenges that we are facing, and of lessons that we learned by that time," he said. "I wrote an article on this issue in early 2020, and I decided one year later that I need to speak out on this matter once again."

According to the deputy chair of the Russian Security Council, "the entire crisis response system" of Russia was transformed during the pandemic.

Agencies

US health agency has 'persistent deficiencies' in crisis response

THE US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has "persistent deficiencies" in its ability to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, the US congressional watchdog warned in a report released on Thursday, citing concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

HHS is at "high risk" of mismanaging a future crisis, the Government Accountability

Office (GAO), the Congressional auditing agency, said, noting that the department failed to implement some previously made recommendations to improve its pandemic response.

The GAO said in its report that well beyond the pandemic, there are various threats that underscore the need for being prepared.

"As devastating as the COVID-19 pandemic has been,

more frequent extreme weather events, new viruses, and bad actors who threaten to cause intentional harm loom, making the deficiencies GAO has identified particularly concerning," the report said. "Not being sufficiently prepared for a range of public health emergencies can also negatively affect the time and resources needed to achieve full recovery."

As one example of the lack

of preparedness by HHS, the GAO said that it had warned about shortages of COVID-19 tests beginning in September 2020 and then recommended in January last year that HHS develop a comprehensive national testing strategy.

In its response in May 2021, HHS told the watchdog it would provide a document stating its plans. "However, to date, HHS has not provided this document," the GAO re-

port said.

"The department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted longstanding concerns we have raised about its ability to execute its role leading federal public health and medical preparedness for, and response to, such public health emergencies," the GAO said.

HHS responded in a statement on Thursday: "We share GAO's focus and urgency in

battling this once-in-a-century pandemic and desire to ensure we never again face a pandemic of this magnitude."

The report cited continued problems in coordination among public health agencies and in collecting infectious-disease surveillance data.

The United States has had the world's largest official death toll from the coronavirus pandemic, with over 870,000 recorded deaths.

The total number of cases stands at over 72 million, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Earlier this month, Reuters reported that the GAO had warned that HHS appeared unprepared to assume full responsibility for the nation's COVID-19 vaccine program, according to a draft report by the GAO.

Let us all work together for a shared future!

By Xue Yuan

“IN just over a month, the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will open. Greater public involvement in winter sports also contributes to the Olympic Movement. We will spare no effort to present a great Games to the world. The world is turning its eyes to China, and China is ready,” said Chinese President in his 2022 New Year address.

The Beijing 2022, accompanied by people's wishes for and expectations of the new year, will soon kick off. Looking back on China's over six years of preparations for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the country, guided by the vision of hosting “green, inclusive, open and clean” Olympic Winter Games, has made continuous efforts and steady progress with every passing day, which makes it more confident and better prepared during the sprint for the sports event.

All 12 competition venues for the Beijing 2022 filled with sci-tech elements are completed, and operation teams of the venues are already in the Games-time state.

The finishing touches to and improvements on non-competition venues are gathering pace, and the three Olympic Villages for the Beijing 2022 are well dressed. Besides, the renovation of venues for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing 2022 has been successfully completed.

The Beijing, Yanqing, and Zhangjiakou competition zones of the Beijing 2022, which are located in Beijing and Zhangjiakou, the co-host city in north China's Hebei province, are all ready to welcome guests from across the world.

From Oct. 5 to the end of December last year, eight of the 12 competition venues hosted 10 international competitions, three training weeks and two domestic trials in an orderly manner, with the aim of testing all factors of the Games. These competitions and activities were joined by over 2,000 overseas athletes, team officials, and other personnel.



A running enthusiast passes a sign for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games with Chinese characteristics on Aoti Middle Road, Beijing, Nov. 24, 2021. (Photo by Chen Xiaogen/People's Daily Online)

Such all-factor tests, which featured closed-loop management throughout the process for safety amid COVID-19 and accorded with the operation standards in actual competitions, are believed to lay a solid underpinning for ensuring the safe and smooth hosting of the Beijing 2022 as scheduled.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has received “unanimously positive” feedback from athletes in the Beijing 2022 test series, according to IOC sports director Kit McConnell.

The venues they were experiencing in Beijing are absolutely outstanding, noted McConnell. “There is a lot of excitement from them,

not only regarding the participation at these events but looking forward to their participation in Beijing in just a few months. It is great to see their feedback both on the technical side and their personal excitement,” he said.

China is stretching out its arms to greet outstanding winter sports athletes from various countries. These athletes, who have superb athletic skills gained through repeated practice and are pursuing beautiful dreams with perseverance, will gather together in China under the Olympic flag.

Athletes are both opponents in competitions and messengers of the Olympic values of

excellence, friendship, respect, and solidarity. They inspire each other and help each other improve their performance.

Olympic Games are like a miniature version of the global village, where athletes, while trying their best for dreams and honor, live under the same roof in Olympic Villages.

By communicating with each other, they get to know the distinctive charms of different cultures and sow the seeds of peace, friendship and progress in all directions, turning the world into a united team.

Aiming to link countries more closely via sports, the Beijing 2022 serves as a grand stage where numerous good stories will take place.

In 2021, the IOC amended the Olympic motto for the first time in over a century, adding into which the word “together”. The new motto now reads “Faster, Higher, Stronger-Together”.

The revision represents a clear message sent by the Olympic Movement to the world, and harmonizes with the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

By holding a simple, safe and excellent Winter Olympic Games, China will inject impetus into the irresistible trend of the times characterized by peace, development and win-win cooperation.

Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions and Chinese strength, together

with the Olympic Movement, will add strong momentum to the construction of a better world.

Engaging more people in ice and snow sports is an inherent purpose of the Olympic Movement.

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games will connect the Chinese people with the world, and the country's vision of involving 300 million people in ice and snow sports will change the history of winter sports forever, pointed out Thomas Bach, President of the IOC.

As a firm promoter and practitioner of the Olympic spirit and the Olympic Movement, China is unfolding a splendid scroll painting depicting winter sports in front of the world.

As the COVID-19 epidemic rages across the world, the Olympic spirit and the power of sports play unique and crucial roles in countries' joint response to the challenge.

People in various countries are looking forward to the opening of the Beijing 2022, which will be an occasion when the value of passion and dreams, courage and strength, as well as teamwork and solidarity will be applauded by the whole world.

Let us all expect the moment when the Olympic torch lights up the sky in Beijing and makes the flame of hope shine in everyone's heart.

Let us all work together for a shared future!

2022 Olympic Winter Games ignites passion of Chinese for winter sports

By Liu Yiqing

CHINA has involved 346 million people in winter sports since Beijing won the bid to host Winter Olympics almost seven years ago, according to a report.

This means that the country has fulfilled its vision of getting over 300 million Chinese to participate in winter sports ahead of schedule, said the report, which was released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China, entrusted by the country's General Administration of Sport.

The wide participation suggests that the passion for winter sports ignited by the upcoming Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games not only has led to a high expectation of the people for the Winter Games, but also promoted the popularization of the sports played on snow and ice.

Northeast China's Jilin province enjoys perfect natural environment for winter sports. As one of the earliest provinces in China to promote winter sports and relevant industries, it is at the forefront of the country in terms of both competition performance and popularization of winter sports.

Since 2018, the province has launched a popularization campaign for winter sports among primary and middle school students, to make every one familiar to at least one winter sport.

Under the campaign, primary and middle schools in Jilin province started offering cross-country skiing courses, and the first week of every winter vacation is designated as “winter holidays” during which students are encouraged



Photo taken on Nov. 20, 2021 shows people ski at the Silkroad Resort, Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Nov. 2021. (Photo by Zhang Xiuke/People's Daily Online)

to join winter sports.

Between 2018 and 2020, Jilin province has invested over 18 million yuan (\$2.83 million) in running skiing courses in urban primary and middle schools, bringing the sport to more than 450,000 students.

Winter sports, and skiing in particular, have rigid requirements on the environment. They were once kept far away from the people due to a lack of facilities, high expense, and the long distance between the people and winter sports facilities. Therefore, to improve hardware and build more facilities is a prerequisite for popularizing winter sports.

A ski resort in Tonghua, Jilin province, which was built in 1959, reopened to the public in December last year after renovation. Now, the resort is surrounded by a skiing museum, an indoor ice rink and a cross-country skiing training base, which are all newly built as auxiliary facilities of the resort. It is widely welcomed by local residents as a facility that's close to them.

Well-built sports facilities are a foundation for the national fitness program, especially that for winter sports. By learning the demands of the people, making science-based plans and improving service capabilities, local



Primary students join a skiing activity at a ski resort in Liupanshui, southwest China's Guizhou province, Jan. 13, 2022. (Photo by Deng Gang/People's Daily Online)

authorities across China are working to draw more people into winter sports.

Comprehensive promotion of winter sports should start with children. According to an instruction on winter sports education issued by Jilin in 2019, students are required to learn snowman building and skating in their younger years, and to learn snowboarding, ice hockey and curling as they get older, which guarantees the students' safety to the maximum extent and introduces them to the fun of winter sports in a progressive manner, said a physical education teacher.

Mobilization efforts should be made to popularize winter sports and build

up people's health. The first national skiing champion of China Shan Zhaojian said he cares more about how the upcoming Winter Games could better promote winter sports culture and skiing in China.

Today, more and more professionals are joining the mobilization efforts to advance the development of winter sports, including Olympic champion Zhou Yang who is currently coaching adolescents in a winter sports popularization campaign in Jilin, former short track speed skater Wang Yang that started developing skates after retirement, and Olympic medalist Li Jianrou who runs a skiing club that trains children.

China endeavors to make winter sports accessible in all seasons

By Pan Junqiang

AS winter sports infrastructure in China constantly improves, ice and snow sports are no longer restricted to low-temperature environment in winter, and ski and skating enthusiasts in the country can now enjoy winter sports whenever they want at indoor facilities.

The Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, which will soon kick off, have greatly fueled people's enthusiasm for ice and snow sports and created historic opportunities for their development in China.

In recent years, regions across China have built new facilities, created new scenarios and developed new projects for ice and snow sports through scientific and technological means, making ice and snow sports available to citizens in all seasons.

In China's capital city Beijing, many citizens can have fun skiing on ski simulators near their homes; in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, ski enthusiasts can ski freely on dry



Students of a primary school in Gangyao township, Jilin city, northeast China's Jilin province, practice curling skills, March 17, 2021. (Photo by Zhu Jianlun/People's Daily Online)

ski slopes; and in Jilin city, northeast China's Jilin province, residents are able to enjoy winter sports at a ski resort converted from an air-raid shelter project all year round.

China's goal of involving 300 million people in winter sports couldn't have been achieved without the country's efforts to construct and improve relevant facilities.

In the past, China only

had a few ice and snow sports fields and facilities, which were small in scale and provided uneven services, and therefore were unable to suit the development needs of winter sports.

Just a few years ago, Shijingshan district of Beijing had no ice rink or ski slope, said Liu Xiaodan, vice president for business at the sports school of Shijingshan district, adding that when the school first

organized on-ice training for students, it had to use the outdoor facilities of other districts in Beijing.

In recent years, Shijingshan district has increased financial input and attracted investment in winter sports, establishing facilities including an ice and snow sports center for citizens and a dry ski center. With these facilities, students of the sports school can now receive ice and snow sports training near their school.

In an effort to popularize winter sports and develop relevant fitness and leisure activities, various regions in China have actively built fields and facilities for winter sports, including outdoor ice rinks and ski resorts as well as portable ice rinks, meeting the growing demands of people for ice and snow sports.

Recently, a several-centimeter-thick dry ski mat made of special materials has won favor with consumers as it is easy to carry and use and is very practical.

The application of special materials to winter sports, represented by the dry ski mat, has freed winter sports from dependency on sea-



Elementary school students practice cross-country skiing techniques at the schoolyard in Yichun city, east China's Jiangxi province, Sept. 16, 2021. (Photo by Zhou Liang/People's Daily Online)

sons and facilities.

Portable alternative materials and facilities have broken the constraints of time and space on winter sports and diversified the scenarios of these sports, allowing people to skate and ski whenever they want.

In many regions, residents can take part in ice and snow sports activities in urban areas, learn winter sports skills in shopping malls, and

experience the fun of these sports in parks and communities.

Relevant activities and facilities have greatly increased public awareness of and participation in ice and snow sports.

As the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games approach, the country is enveloped in an atmosphere of winter sports.

More and more people find pleasure in ice and snow sports, which have been gradually integrated into people's daily life.

It is believed that the Beijing 2022 will further stimulate the development of ice and snow sports in China.



Waluguru Original Music Band's drummer, Kelvin Sayona, puts his skills to show at the troupe's recent show held in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Waluguru Original Music Band to perform in Mwanza

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOROGORO'S Waluguru Original Music Band has received an invitation to perform in Mwanza, with the troupe set to use the opportunity to reach more fans.

The troupe's director, Deogratus David 'Killer Boy', disclosed in an interview that the show will be held in the first week of next month.

The troupe, the artist noted, will stage show for the first time in the Lake Zone region.

"This is a great opportunity for us to show our edge, get more dance music fans from various regions of the country due to the fact that we have only toured a few regions," David said.

He said domestic dance music fans have always believed that good music is the one played by Dar es Salaam-based troupes.

He was adamant that Waluguru Original Music Band, though, wants to get rid of the notion because there are good bands outside Dar es Salaam.

"We have our album titled 'Kikao Cha Wahenga', some of its songs are 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapenzi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nilewe', we will introduce the album there," he said.

He said although the band has started preparing new songs, it will have to introduce the album, as it will be the first time for Waluguru Original Music Band to perform in Mwanza.

"Our popularity in Morogoro has helped us gain popularity elsewhere, as our band has also participated in a show, dubbed 'Wafia Dansi', to promote dance music in the country," he said.

The director further disclosed that Waluguru Original has been performing with the oldest bands in Dar es Salaam and gained experience that has made it popular in the local dance music circle.

"Getting an invitation to perform in Mwanza shows how dance music stakeholders recognize our band's contribution to this industry," he said

Mbaraka Mwinshehe took 'mizuka' from an unknown band, plus the consequences

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

PLENTY in the history of a country isn't told in books but in oral transmission from one generation to another, but while the formulation gives an idea of young people being told what happened in the past by elders, in reality the matter is a lot different.

It is a matter of the society, or a section of the public, being told what happened at a certain stage, as even elders who were youths at that period didn't know that this or that was occurring in a certain music group.

Nor did they tune in when it was being explained say 20 years later, and thus even 50 years after those events many elders are still learning issues of 1960s music.

That is an impression one gets when listening for instance lately, to an interview with a retired secondary school teacher, Robert Mfulage, who supervised a music group at Kwiros secondary school in far off Mahenge district in Morogoro region.

The school, on the basis of an online write up, is a sort of competitor with Mzumbe Secondary School (now leading up to university apparently on an extended campus) in the same region, and one area it excelled more than its rival was in music.

And this rivalry was also the genesis of an uncanny pop music motif, identification mark for maitre Mbaraka Mwinshehe.

The elderly musician was telling an FM radio station interviewer lately that it was the music group at Kwiros, which was noticeable especially for the saxophone output it yielded over the years (surprisingly known in Swahili was the 'wind instrument') that created the 'mizuka' brand name.

It is preferable to use this term as it is unlikely that 'mizuka' was a dancing style as such, since it blended with the usual rhumba, and even a bit of 'Calypso' or 'Pachanga' which never distinguished themselves as actual modes of dancing.

In the early 1960s people knew



The late Mbaraka Mwinshehe.

what 'Twist' was all about, just like 'Reggae' later, but the rest is rhumba.

The music teacher said that when Mbaraka Mwinshehe, then leading Morogoro Jazz Band, started using 'mizuka' to identify the rhythms of his music or rather that of the group, it was a lift off from the school brass group or jazz band (as it was called earlier).

The term 'jazz' band started palling out in substance as 'jazz' was attempted proximity with distinctive Afro-American music but it never really settled.

The music that was evolving in the Congo had bits of those elements, but its slow moving fashion, not far from European blues, won the day as the predominant style. But

we remained with NUTA Jazz Band, etc.

It is a matter of guesswork if the two band leaders with whom the term 'mizuka' is linked understood the term in the same way, as Mbaraka never wrote a song to make out some clarity on the use of the motif.

But in his 1970 praise song on the regional soccer side winning Taifa Cup, there was a bit of insight.

There was a line at the start of the song praising 'mizuka' and then the players - was it the music 'style' that was being praised or rather ancient spirits being praised on the occasion of the region attaining glory?

The clear response there is that it is the music motif rather than ancestors, but in language

psychology the possibility of being understood that way is open and even intended, as if the group did not like 'mizuka' in the spiritual sense of the term they would hardly bring it up as their identifying brand name.

It was not strange that the group, either in the school or in the street music enterprise, would see animation in the term, as for most of the decades following independence traditional culture was held in profound respect.

Things are changing now, as hidden spirituality especially relating to diseases expose its soft underbelly.

This discovery or rather loud public whisper in a night interview about the origin of 'mizuka' is vital as an issue of fate, as many people do not understand that the star musician during the first two decades of independence and slightly beyond fell to precisely the forces he was praising in his music.

He is not the first, as many more cases can be elicited, where spiritual motifs that are carried into music or art have a way of extracting tribute.

The one attaining fame due to their presence is gobbled up as tribute, sacrifice.

One or two examples may suffice for this quest, namely the early death of Michael Jackson after his 'Thriller' blockbuster in 1982, staying on for around four years, but by 1987 during the 'Bad' album he was actually a different person.

That song tells the secret of the shift but it is hidden, and has never been told even after the Michael Jackson, whose nose was dropping off as if it was made of plaster, died in 2009 with his secret.

There was a lecturer at UDSM who in the mid-1970s wrote the play, 'Mashetani', chiefly anchored in Rufiji zone, soon he left the 'Hill' to the village, and 20 years later he was selling at a 'genge.'



Artists making a traditional music group, known as 'Wanne Star', perform at the Cornell Kiswahili Literary Awards Ceremony of Africa organized by Alaf Steel Company in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Nadal reaches Australian Open final, within 1 win of record

MELBOURNE, Australia

RAFAEL Nadal is within one victory of a record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

The 35-year-old Spaniard advanced to the Australian Open final for a sixth time with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win yesterday over seventh-seeded Matteo Berrettini.

After the last point, Nadal stopped, beamed a wide grin and then punched the air three times.

Nadal arrived in Australia not knowing how long he'd last after months off the tour dealing with an injured foot and then a bout of COVID-19. He skipped Wimbledon after losing in the French Open semifinals to Novak Djokovic, and

didn't play at all after August last year.

"Every day has been an issue in terms of problems on the foot. Doubts still here ... probably for the rest of my career because I have what I have and that's something that we cannot fix," Nadal said. "But for me it's amazing ... (to) just compete and play tennis at the high level again, facing the most important players of the world."

Nadal won a tune-up tournament and has taken six straight matches at the first Grand Slam event of the year.

One more and he'll break the record of 20 major championships he shares with Roger Federer and

Novak Djokovic. Nadal would also become just the fourth man to win all four Grand Slam titles at least twice.

In the championship match on Sunday, he will play the winner of the later semifinal Friday between U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev and French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Nadal's win over Wimbledon runner-up Berrettini, under a closed roof at Rod Laver Arena because of heavy rain, was his 500th on hard courts at tour level. He's only won the Australian Open once, in 2009.

Adding a second was his lone focus after yet another semifinal win. AP

Curry, Thompson shoot Warriors past Wolves, 124-115

SAN FRANCISCO

STEPHEN Curry found his sweet shooting stroke again after a rough stretch and Klay Thompson kept the pressure on from the perimeter and with drives through the paint, healthy again at last.

First-time All-Star Andrew Wiggins complemented them both.

Curry scored 29 points, Thompson added 23 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 124-115 on Thursday night.

"With Klay, it's easy to play with him because he's obviously an amazing scorer, amazing shooter, commands a lot of attention out there," Curry said. "The hardest part is just trying to keep things simple because you can always try to do something special on every possession and there's where you get in trouble and we have a tendency to do that from time to time."

Wiggins added 19 points, five rebounds, four assists and a pair of blocked shots facing his former team again in Golden State's 11th straight home win against the Wolves - still relishing in his All-Star nod from earlier in the day.

Wiggins loves being part of it all.

"It's special. The NBA's never seen shooters like them," Wiggins said of the Splash Brothers. "Playing alongside of them, it's fun. You never know what's going to happen, you don't know what crazy shots they're going to make. We know the energy they bring to the team and the energy they bring to the building, the



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) watches his 3-point basket against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. (AP Photo)

arena, everyone just feeds off them and from there we get going."

Karl-Anthony Towns had 31 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota, which trailed 97-81 going into the fourth before beginning the final period on a 10-0 run to get back in it. Anthony Edwards added 27 points, six rebounds and six assists.

It was only a matter of time for Curry to get hot again, as he was motivated by his recent slump: 37 for 127 from deep this month before Thursday.

Curry shot 6 for 10 from long range - 10 of 20 overall - after going 3 for 23 on 3s his previous two games. He also

contributed eight rebounds and six assists. The reigning scoring champion and career 3-point leader sat out a 119-99 loss at Minnesota on Jan. 16.

Wiggins knocked down a key 3 with 5:56 remaining. He dominated the last time the Wolves visited Chase Center, scoring 35 points on 14-of-19 shooting in a 123-110 win on Nov. 10.

"Klay, he was great against Dallas the other night and tonight he was even better, so he's adapting quickly and I loved his drive and kicks, he made some excellent passes," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's fun to see Klay and Steph back together and it's really fun to see Wiggins with them, I think he complements them really well."

The Warriors began the game with consecutive turnovers and fell behind 8-0 in a hurry before Otto Porter Jr.'s 3-pointer at the 10:10 mark.

D'Angelo Russell sustained a bruised left shin in the third quarter and didn't return for Minnesota, which had won two in a row and four of five.

Wiggins beamed before the game, pondering how he will be an All-Star starter in his first career appearance at last.

"It means the world. It's always been a goal of mine, I've worked hard and I'm in a situation where I was given an opportunity to be an All-Star, and I'll never take that for granted," he said. "It's a big thing for me and my family, where I'm from, so hopefully I can build on it."

Brazil's Alisson sees two red cards overturned in WC draw with Ecuador

QUITO

BRAZIL goalkeeper Alisson Becker had two red cards overturned by VAR reviews as Brazil hung on for a controversial 1-1 World Cup qualifier draw with Ecuador on Thursday, with both teams having a player dismissed.

Alisson could count himself lucky after a straight red card in the first half, for a high boot on Enner Valencia, was downgraded to a yellow and then a second yellow card in injury-time was also overturned on review.

Ecuador could be forgiven for feeling aggrieved as four VAR reviews, two to check possible dismissals and two for penalties originally awarded by Colombian referee Wilmar Roldan, all went against the hosts in Quito.

Even so, the point inches them closer to World Cup qualification with three games left.

Brazil and Argentina have already booked their tickets for Qatar.

Casemiro gave the visitors, who were missing the injured Neymar, an early lead but Ecuador center-back Felix Torres equalized 15 minutes from time.

Ecuador should have been in front within two minutes but alone and unmarked at the back post four yards out, Valencia somehow missed the target from Pervis Estupinan's free-kick.

It took just four minutes for Brazil to make Ecuador pay.

The hosts made a hash of clearing a corner as Brazil pinged the ball from one side of the box to the other before Philippe Coutinho's cross was headed goalwards by Matheus Cunha.

Goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez blocked the ball on the line but Casemiro pounced to stab home the loose ball from a yard out.

Ecuador were a mess at the back and Dominguez compounded matters with a rash attempt to reach a Fred through ball before Cunha.

The keeper got his toe to the ball but drove his studs into the forward's neck with his follow through and was rightly dismissed.

Following a lengthy VAR check to see if the foul was inside or outside the box, Coutinho fired the resulting free-kick high over the bar.

In an eventful start to the match, Emerson Royal was given his marching orders after picking up two yellow cards inside the first 20 minutes as numeric parity was almost immediately restored.

Five minutes later, Alisson was initially shown a straight red card for an almost identical offense to Dominguez's.

Having also won the ball at head height, he brought his follow through down in an axe kick on Valencia's head.

AFP

Taremi fires Iran into 2022 World Cup finals with win over Iraq

TEHRAN

MEHDI Taremi was on target as Iran confirmed their spot in the 2022 World Cup finals in Qatar with a 1-0 victory over Iraq at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran on Thursday.

Porto forward Taremi scored the winner after 48 minutes to send Iran through to a World Cup finals for the sixth time, and third in a row.

Iran are unbeaten in the third stage of qualifying, having won six of their seven matches, with a draw against South Korea.

Team Melli consolidated their position on top of the Group A table with 19 points, two points ahead of South Korea.

They extended their impressive unbeaten run since Croatian head coach Dragan Skocic took over in February 2020, with 11 wins and one draw.

On Thursday, they recorded their second win over Iraq on the road to Qatar.

The Iraqis struggled for momentum and failed to break down the famed Iranian defence, with the hosts clearly the dominant side on front of their home fans.

Taremi, who only arrived in Tehran on Thursday, picked up an Alireza Jahanbakhsh assist after the break sending in a right-footed shot from inside the box.

Both teams were hit by the absence of players following positive tests for Covid-19.

Sardar Azmoun, who plays for Bayer Leverkusen, was among the five Iranian players missing, along with eight Iraqi players.

Iran have played in the World Cup finals five times in the past - in 1978, 1998, 2006, 2014 and 2018 - while Iraq's last and only participation was in Mexico 1986.

Iran have never gone beyond the group stage in the tournament.

- Celebrations all round -

Following the victory, Iranian players on the pitch carried big flags, saluted fans and took victory photos.

There were some fireworks going off with loud cheers from spectators as women were allowed entry to an Iran football match for the first time since October 2019.

At the exit of the stadium, young people were jumping, cheering, waving flags and honking with vuvuzelas.

'We are happy, we are going to the world cup', 'this is our team, these are the lions', they chanted.

AFP

Liverpool stars Mane and Salah on track for Africa final showdown

YAOUNDE

STADIO Mane and Mohamed Salah have helped Liverpool conquer England and Europe, now both crave Africa Cup of Nations winners' medals.

Both sharpshooters will be in quarter-finals action tomorrow in Cameroon with Mane-inspired Senegal tackling surprise packets Equatorial Guinea while Salah and his Egypt teammates confront Morocco.

Mane says he would "swap all the medals he has won for a Cup of Nations gold gong" while Salah talks of the "desperation of the Egyptian people for another title" after last being champions in 2010.

If they continue winning, twice runners-up Senegal and record seven-time champions Egypt will meet in the February 6 final of the marquee African sporting event.

Here, AFP Sport looks ahead to the quarter-finals with Tunisia, Cameroon, Egypt and Senegal favoured, but shocks are almost inevitable in a tournament where the form book has constantly been mocked.

*Burkina Faso v



Egypt forward Mohamed Salah (L) shields the ball from Ivory Coast defender Ghislain Konan during an Africa Cup of Nations last-16 match in Douala. (AFP)

Tunisia

One of the biggest shocks came last weekend when struggling Tunisia took the lead over previously impressive Nigeria through veteran Youssef Msakni and held on for a 1-0 last-16 triumph.

The Carthage Eagles should be stronger today as they welcome back head coach Mondher Keibaer and several stars, including captain and

forward Wahbi Khazri, who have recovered from coronavirus.

Tunisia have been unpredictable and are the only quarter-finalists to lose twice in Cameroon, but Burkina Faso have been equally hard to judge when winning once, drawing twice and losing once.

The countries have met twice at the last-eight stage with the Stallions winning both

and hopes of a 'hat-trick' will hinge heavily on how well captain and Aston Villa forward Bertrand Traore performs.

*Cameroon v Gambia Five-time champions Cameroon have scored nine goals in four outings -- the most of any contender -- but the Indomitable Lions are also the only one of the quarter-finalists to concede in every match.

Six of the goals have

come from captain and tournament chart-topper Vincent Aboubakar and fellow forward Karl Toko Ekambi has netted the other three, so Gambia know where the main threats will come from.

Debutants Gambia have been the surprise team among the 24 qualifiers, defying being ranked 150th in the world to remain unbeaten and conceding only once, from a penalty.

Musa Barrow from Italian Serie A club Bologna has become an overnight star in Cameroon and Ablie Jallow is another Gambian Cameroon need to shackle.

*Egypt v Morocco This showdown between north African giants stands out as the highlight of the four quarter-finals with Morocco holding a 3-2 lead from previous Cup of Nations tournament clashes.

Egypt showed the defensive solidity the country is famed for when holding a star-studded Ivory Coast attack goalless in the round of 16 before winning on penalties.

Salah works tirelessly but has scored only once in Cameroon -- the winner against Guinea-Bissau -- and the extra shooting practice ordered by coach Carlos Queiroz has

yet to deliver dividends.

Morocco boast potential match-winners in forwards Youssef En-Nesyri and Sofiane Boufal while last-16 victims Malawi will attest to the free-kick expertise of Paris Saint-Germain full-back Achraf Hakimi.

*Equatorial Guinea v Senegal

Mane says he is "very well" and "what does not kill you makes you stronger" amid concerns that he may have been concussed in a collision with Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha in a laboured last-16 win.

Only when the Cape Verdeans were reduced to nine men by two red cards did Senegal score, and they have failed to find the net in two of four matches.

But a defence marshalled by Napoli centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly with Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy behind him has not conceded a goal -- they are the only quarter-finalists to achieve four clean sheets.

Having ended the 35-match unbeaten run of Algeria and upset Mali after a shoot-out, the Equatoguineans will look to outstanding central defenders Saul Coco and Esteban Obiang to contain Mane.

AFP

Favourite son Eto'o is pride of Cup of Nations host city Douala

DOUALA

SAMUEL Eto'o left for Europe to become one of the greatest African footballers of all time but it was in the city of Douala that he first made his name and where residents continue to idolise the former Barcelona superstar.

Cameroon's economic capital is a loud and chaotic port city, hot and humid.

It is here that the country's Indomitable Lions will face Gambia in the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals on Saturday as Cameroon come to Douala for the first time in the tournament having played their previous matches in Yaounde.

Eto'o, who also starred for Inter Milan and wore the number nine for his country, moved to Douala with his family from the capital as a young boy.

He was raised in an unremarkable house on a dusty street in New Bell, an impoverished district where the locals are only too happy to talk about the man who put their neighbourhood on the map.

"He grew up here but he was blessed by God," says Valentine, a 49-year-old caterer sheltering from the scorching mid-afternoon sun just across the street from the Eto'o family house.

"Eto'o has helped a lot of people in this neighbourhood. Recently he came back here and laid on food for everyone in New Bell."

- Immortalised -

Just along the street is a bar where the exterior walls are decorated with



A statue of Samuel Eto'o in the green, yellow and red of Cameroon stands in the New Bell neighbourhood of Douala where he grew up (AFP)

pictures of the four-time African Footballer of the Year.

Nearby the moto-taxis that can make navigating the streets a hazardous task pass in front of a statue of Eto'o in the green, yellow and red of Cameroon, with whom he won the AFCON in 2000 and 2002.

Eto'o was just 20 when he led the Indomitable Lions to that second continental title and it would be another two years before he signed for Barcelona and teamed up with players including Ronaldinho and a very young Lionel Messi.

In Douala it was clear Eto'o was a special talent from a very young age.

"He was little, lively

and loved football," recalls Jean Rene Noubissi, who took Eto'o under his wing as he was starting out at local side UCB.

"He calls me his first president. I helped oversee his development.

"When he played for UCB he scored goals in

every game and I would give him a little bonus as a reward.

"Even then you could see the discipline he had. He believed in his potential and knew where he wanted to go."

The walls of Noubissi's cramped office in the Akwa business district are covered in pictures of him with Eto'o, including one with Barcelona president Joan Laporta.

- 'Role model' -

Eto'o was on the books at Real Madrid and starred for Mallorca before joining Barcelona, but before all of that he went to France to try his luck only to return home with his tail between his legs.

"When he came back he had no club but he was still very famous, everybody knew about him in Douala. When he was just 14 he was the one feeding the whole family," says Hiondi Nkam, author of a new book about Eto'o called "Les Anges et Les Demons" (Angels and Demons).

He was not yet 16 when he made his international debut and barely

17 when he went to the 1998 World Cup after newly-appointed coach Claude Le Roy decided he could not ignore such a precocious talent.

"I wanted to give a chance to all the locally-based players to see if there were any gems among them, and I saw this young player who seemed so comfortable tactically and so intelligent," Le Roy told AFP.

"He was just a kid but he wasn't afraid of all the big names in the team."

Having retired from playing in 2019 aged 38, Eto'o has quickly transitioned into a leadership role off the field and in December, he was elected president of Cameroon's Football Federation.

"People believe that he is not there for money or fame, but he is there to help," says Nkam, who sums up what Eto'o means to New Bell.

"He is a role model. He was selfish on the field of play but very, very human off it. Some people would say that after God comes Samuel Eto'o."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool stars Mane and Salah on track for Africa final showdown

PAGE 19

Geita Gold FC all out to bundle Tunduru Korosho FC out of Federation Cup



Geita Gold FC

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

THIS season's NBC Premier League outfit, Geita Gold FC, says it will not underrate Tunduru Korosho FC when the two sides meet in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s round of 32's clash at Nyan-kumbu Stadium in Geita tomorrow.

Geita Gold FC's information officer, Hemed Kivuyo, said they have intensified preparations for the encounter.

He said playing the match in their backyard is an advantage to them.

"We will face Tunduru Korosho FC in the ASFC, our opponents are not known to many but, in football, anything can happen so we

will not underrate them," Kivuyo disclosed.

"We are preparing well, the good thing is that our players are ready for the game," he said.

Geita Gold FC comes from a goalless draw against Bisahara United in the NBC Premier League fixture which took place at Karume Stadium in Mu-

soma last week.

Kivuyo said his outfit's results against Biashara United are water under the bridge and now they are looking forward to the next assignment.

"We have intensified preparations for our next game against Tunduru Korosho FC, it will not be an easy fixture, we are well prepared for the

match," he said.

In the ASFC's round of 32's other fixtures that were set to take place yesterday, Namungo FC locked horns with Lindi United at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi.

The round's other fixture saw Azam FC take on Transit Camp FC in an all-Dar es Salaam tie at Azam Complex.

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Tanzania's athletes take part in a recent National Cross-Country Championship, which took place in Arusha.

All set for National Cross-Country Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's National Cross-Country Championships get underway today at Burkana Estates ground in Arusha.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer, Rogath Stephen, said more than 300 athletes from across the country will compete at the championships.

According to Stephen, the showpiece will be opened by Arusha City Mayor, Maxmillian Iranqe.

"All is set for the National Cross-Country Championships, we invited all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar and the response is good as we expect more than 300 athletes to compete and the guest of honour is Arusha City Mayor," he said.

The championships will be used to select 12 athletes, six male, and as many females, who will represent the country at the East Africa Cross-Country Championships which will be held in Ethiopia on February 12.

He said after the National Cross-Country Championships, AT will unveil coaches who will train the team ahead of the East Africa Cross-Country Championships.

The AT official disclosed that selected athletes will enter camp immediately after the National Cross-Country Championships.

The East African Cross-Country Championships is also known as the Eastern Africa Cross-Country Championships.

The showdown is an international cross-country running competition involving the nations of East Africa and is organized by the Confederation of Africa Athletics (CAA).

It is typically held over one day in February and features a senior and junior race for both men and women.

All four races contain an individual and team competition. Senior short course races were also held during the period where that event was present at the IAAF World Cross-Country Championships.

Paralympic Committee meeting set for tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary-general, said all is set for tomorrow's AGM and delegates have started arriving for the event.

He said the AGM is important as it provides the platform for TPC affiliates to endorse, reject or amend proposals from the committee's board.

The committee's affiliates that will attend the AGM are Para Athletics Association, Wheelchair Tennis Association, Para Swimming Association, Para Powerlifting Association, Amputee Football Association, and Wheelchair Basketball Association.

Namkoveka revealed: "All is set for our AGM, the meeting is the decision-making body of TPC. At the meeting, the board will report activities that took place in the preceding year to affiliates who form the AGM."

"Decisions made at the meeting bind both the affiliates and the board," he said.

Namkoveka added that such decisions determine the future of Paralympic sports in the country since they are made by the highest decision-making body with affiliates from all over the country.

He said delegates will also discuss how Tanzania should prepare



Tanzania's national amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' players participate in training at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

for the 2024 France Paralympics, next year's All-Africa Games, and this year's Commonwealth Games to enable the country to compete for medals.

Ahead of the AGM, TPC held its executive meeting last week, in which delegates made some recommendations and agendas for tomorrow's meeting.

Namkoveka mentioned the agendas as the financial and executive report

for last year, the report on TPC constitutional amendment, and the report from members of the committee.

Recently, Namkoveka disclosed that the meeting was postponed so that the committee should prepare well on other logistics.

"The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) also advised us to make some amendments on our constitution, it wants a constitution which will

go in line with its constitutional vision and mission," Namkoveka disclosed.

"We sent the IPC the draft of our constitution for its approval," he noted.

Namkoveka said if delegates to the annual general meeting approve the amended constitution it will be sent to the register of sports for final approval.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW WAS THE WEEKEND?

WHY? WHAT DID YOU HEAR?

