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UK ex-premier in Dar, pledges to link us with vaccine firms

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday discussed various issues with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair who promised to help Tanzania secure Covid-19 vaccines.

The meeting took place at the State House in Dar es Salaam where the former premier said he would connect Tanzania with vaccine manufacturers.

Blair is the founder and chairman of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change which focuses on government advisory practice, and at present it has dedicated its activities to the fight against Covid-19 after its outbreak, as the organisation is currently focused on Covid-19

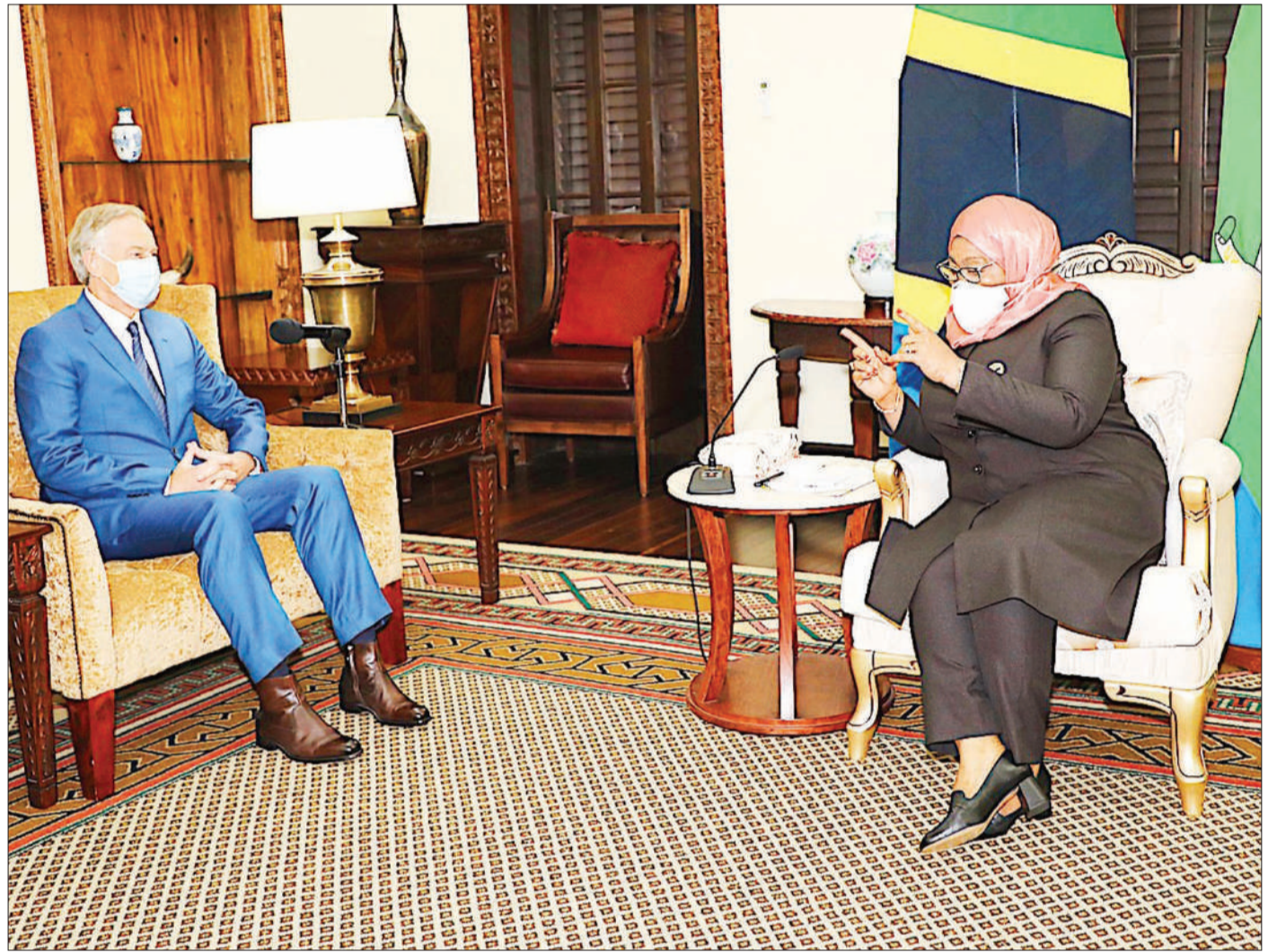
testing and vaccine access.

The global change entity is currently working in 16 African countries to help government implement certain priorities but for the past year and half in the wake of the Covid-19 challenge.

President Samia welcomed the Tony Blair Institute in its vocation to help the government implement its various development initiatives, the statement indicated, noting that the president outlined the government's Covid-19 control plan, including coordinating a mass vaccination rollout.

It similarly noted that the institute can

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House



Samia hails late Mghwira for diligent public service

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has mourned former Arusha Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira who passed on yesterday, saying she served her country diligently.

Mghwira (pictured) died yesterday at Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital where she was receiving treatment. The cause of her death was not immediately released.

The president said she received the news of Mghwira's death with deep sadness, noting that she made immense contributions in the building of the nation, a State House statement noted.

"The president sends her heartfelt

condolences to the family of the deceased, friends and all Tanzanians at this difficult moment."

The late Mghwira was born on January 23, 1959 at Mungumaji Ward in Singida town, joining Nyerere primary school from 1968 to 1974 and Ihanja secondary school from 1975 to 1978. She joined the Lutheran Seminary for advanced level secondary education from 1979 to 1981.

She pursued theology at Tumaini University, Makumira Campus and then worked for an LLB at the University of Dar es Salaam, than obtained a master's degree in law from Essex University in England in 2000.

Mghwira has worked for international and local organisations attached to women's empowerment, community development and assisting refugees.

Her political journey started in early youth, as a member of the party youth league, but she scaled back her participation in politics at the end of the 1970s to focus on education, eventual career and family.

She returned to politics in 2009, when she joined Chadema and in March, 2015 left Chadema for the newly formed ACT-

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Mbowe shifted to Dar, police retain 15 cadres

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Mwanza yesterday admitted to be holding 15 Chadema cadres who were arrested Wednesday morning, hours before a planned conference to demand a new constitution.

Regional Police Commander Ramadhani Ng'anzi told reporters here that Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe who was also arrested alongside the 15 cadres was immediately taken to Dar es Salaam for interrogation "in relation to a separate criminal investigation."

"Once the ongoing interrogation is complete in Dar es Salaam, he (Mbowe) will be brought back to Mwanza," he said.

Among the main opposition party's cadres who were arrested alongside Mbowe are the party' youth wing (BAVICH) national chairman John



Chadema in Dodoma region has called on the police to release party members including the national chairman unconditionally by 4:00 pm today (Thursday) failure to which we'll call for region-wide demonstrations until they are freed

Pambalu and former Tarime Rural MP John Heche.

A statement released by the RPC listed 15 suspects other than Mbowe, whom the police said was arrested together with them during a raid well before daybreak.

On Monday, Mbowe announced at a press conference here that the party was to hold a meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on the push for a new constitution.

Hours after this proclamation, Regional Commissioner Robert Gabriel made an announcement banning all meetings in the region except religious congregations "as a containment measure against Covid-19."

Meanwhile, Polycarp Machira reports that Chadema in Dodoma Region yesterday threatened to stage region-

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Govt finalises electronic issuing of work permits

By Henry Mwangonde

AN integrated electronic system for application and issuance of work permits is set for launch next month and billed to attract more investors in the country.

Labour Commissioner Brig. Gen. Francis Mbindi (pictured) said at an awareness meeting with members of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) that the e-system enables applicants to lodge documents from anywhere in the world.

It has thus reduced the number of days spent in seeking a work permit, from 14 to



only one day, he explained, noting that the system is based at the Labour Commission in the Prime Minister's Office while being linked to BRELA (the Business Registration and Licensing Agency), TRA (the Tanzania Revenue Authority) and the Immigration Department.

He said the new system will replace manual applications where one was required to deliver to the commissioner's offices in Dodoma. The launch of the system is part of reforms to facilitate foreign investments, which goes together with amending the Labour Act of 2015.

"The new system will reduce costs and time, vested with an easy top carry smart card with details of the holder instead of a whole file as it used to be," he stated, noting that this was part of new policies to address structural and legal challenges impeding

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Mbowe shifted to Dar, police retain 15 cadres

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wide demonstrations from today if Mbowe and the 15 others are not released unconditionally.

Addressing a press conference there, party regional secretary Mathias Nyakapala said the party had given the police until yesterday evening to release Mbowe and their

other colleagues.

"Chadema in Dodoma region has called on the police to release party members including the national chairman unconditionally by 4:00 pm today (Thursday) failure to which we'll call for region-wide demonstrations until they are freed," the secretary intoned.

Authorities in Zanzibar destroy over 30m/- worth goods unfit for human consumption

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

GOODS valued at more than 30.7m/- including 5.6 tonnes of rice has been destroyed in Pemba by Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (ZFCPC) after they were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Addressing reporters here after destruction of the goods at Pujini Kisiwani in Pemba, the Director of Consumer Protection Division in ZFCPC, Emanuel Juma said the goods were seized from various markets, shops and warehouses through the commission's routine operations.

He said the Division has been conducting crackdowns at market places and from traders to verify the quality of the goods to protect the lives of the people for the months of April to June this year.

He said even though the expiry date of the rice destroyed had not passed, it was found to have gone bad and unfit for human

consumption.

He said they operate under the provisions of Sections 63 and 64 of the 2018 law (No 5) that gives them the mandate to remove from the market any expired goods and those unfit for human consumption.

He called on all traders to be careful in storing their goods in their warehouse as it was found out that many of the goods are badly stored.

He advised them during storage they should not place together food and soap.

He also called on the people to adopt the habit of first checking expiry dates on goods they purchase before they pay for them.

For his part, Ali Omar Massoud, a ZFCPC official stationed in Pemba said it would be better for the people to be extra careful to avoid using goods whose dates have expired to protect their health.

He said using bathing soap whose date has expired may harm the user's skin.

Govt issues 1.5bn/- for roads upgrading in Morogoro South-East constituency

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has provided 1.5bn/- for upgrading of gravel roads in Morogoro South-East Constituency.

Speaking to his constituents when distributing meat to residents for the celebration of Eid-Al-Adha, the Constituency Member of Parliament Hamisi Shomari (aka Babu Tale), said the money has been provided via Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA).

He said from the money given, 1m/- will be used to revamp existing roads to simplify transportation of crops to the market.

He said the constituency leads in the production of various crops

including fruits, vegetables and cereals - rice and maize.

He said 500m/- will be used to construct the Ngerengere-Kidunda road at gravel level, as the road was in very poor condition.

He also praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for keeping the pledge by her predecessor, late John Magufuli, a few days before his death, for permitting the start the construction of Bigwa-Kisaki road.

For his part, Ghwata Ward Councillor, Zongo Zongo said in the short period of his tenure as MP, Babu Tale has transformed the constituency by fighting for its development as it was left behind by other areas in Morogoro region.



Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (R), Zanzibar's Health, Community Development, Gender, Women, Elderly, Women and Children minister, presents treated bednets to Unguja resident Khadija Ali Haji at yesterday's launch of an Isles malaria control campaign. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

Samia hails late Mghwira for diligent public service

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Wazalendo, where she was later nominated the party's national chairperson, working with the top leader of the party and its founder, Zitto Kabwe.

Upon the taking office of the fifth phase, and impressed by the work of President John Magufuli, she was one of ACT-Wazalendo cadres who publicly paid allegiance to the president, despite being in opposition.

She was appointed Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner and in December 2017 she rejoined the ruling party to streamline her work, especially as she was now the chairperson of the regional defence and security committee, a key organ in the ruling party.

Mghwira was among the few female candidates to have ever contested in presidential elections, others being Anna Claudia Senkoro (1962-2017) of PPT-Maendeleo and Queen Sendiga (ADC-Alliance for Democratic Change) later appointed Iringa Regional Commissioner by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

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help with advice on governance issues, where the president's emphasis was on Tanzania's efforts to improve ease of doing business, with private sector being involved in a seamless manner in the implementation of the third five year development plan (FYDP III).

Along with Government Advisory Practice, the Tony Blair Institute has a Policy Futures unit which delivers analysis and advice to help countries mitigate the climate change impact, harness the power of technology and "position themselves for the rebuilding to come," especially in the wake of the pandemic.

After taking office late March, President Samia shifted the Covid-19 narrative by adopting the World Health Organisation (WHO) position, at a moment that a new wave of the pandemic was hitting the world, especially the delta variant first noticed in

India. UN agencies, diplomatic missions, international organizations and some private entities were recently reported to have shipped in vaccines and inoculated their staff and families.

Speaking at an Eid Baraza in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said Covid-19 vaccines were available in the country and that anybody willing was free to be vaccinated, without the type of vaccine being named. The government hasn't as yet recommended any particular vaccine, observers noted.

Similarly, Zanzibar authorities announced last week that it had started administering the Sinovac Biotech Ltd. Jabs, the Chinese vaccine, to health sector employees. Health minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui reportedly said that a sizeable consignment of the vaccine for the public rollout was yet to arrive in the country.



Residents of Goba on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam buy water from a bowser yesterday amid reports of scarcity of the all-important liquid in the suburb in recent days. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt finalises electronic issuing of work permits

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trade and private sector growth

CTI first vice chairman Hussein Sufian said the new law will go a long way into facilitating investments as currently the law does not allow expatriate workers but manufacturers often need them. The reforms will go a long way into promoting investment, he

emphasised.

The government has embarked on streamlining rules and procedures aimed at simplifying the issuance of work permits to expatriates to ease operations in business and investment.

The changes are an aspect of initiatives towards full implementation of the Tanzania

Business Blueprint drawn up during the fifth phase government, which proposes to improve the business environment by reducing regulatory burdens and risks faced by businesses in complying with regulations.

Current reforms seek to cut down compliance costs and in turn increase productivity, officials

noted.

Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) working groups were tasked with scientifically informing policy makers on the best way of implementing business environment enabling reforms through dialogue between the government and the private sector, they added.

Strive to remain on top, PM tells defence college

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the management of the National Defence College (NDC) to invest in strategies that will enable it remain one of the best, efficient and vibrant institutions in matters of security.

Majaliwa made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the 9th graduation ceremony of the college in various courses of defence and strategic issues.

He wanted the college to implement its duties well and the government will do its part in supporting the college's vision to become a centre of excellence in provision of higher education to officers, executives from various defence bodies and public officials.

He said that the government recognises and values the huge contribution of the college in promoting national defence and security.

"A number of officials have been trained on security and strategic issues, over 300 officials from security bodies inside and outside the country have been trained and well mentored by the college on key security issues," he said.

The premier said that the college has remained an important place in building and strengthening relationships among individuals, organisations and countries that attend various courses at the college.

In addition, the Prime Minister

wanted the college to continue improving its teaching and expertise so as to be able to overcome various security risks of the 21 century including terrorism, human trafficking, illicit drugs, cyber-crime and Covid-19 pandemic.

The premier further commended all the countries which have been supporting the college urging them to bring more officials for training.

"I am so happy to see a number of graduates from various countries here including Bangladesh, Burundi, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. Their presence shows clearly how they trust and value this college, so NDC should continue providing quality education," he added.

He urged the graduates to go, demonstrate and make good use of the knowledge and skills in strengthening defence and security strategies in their home countries.

He further wanted the college to ensure that it monitors the movements of its graduates to see if they make proper use of what they have learned.

Ambassador Dr Marten Lumbanga assured the premier and the public that the college will continue supervising quality in all courses offered at the college so as to enable it maintain its international status.

The graduation saw 40 graduates of defence and strategic issues, 28 graduates of excellence degree, 11 diploma graduates and one certificate graduate.



NMB Bank Plc's Mkuranga branch manager, Peter Msaki (L), pictured earlier this week showing Mkuranga district commissioner Khadija Nassir Ally (C, in headscarf) chairs and tables donated by the bank to Mkugilo Secondary School as well as 62 desks meant for Mwandege suburb's Chatembo Primary School situated at Mwandege - all worth 10m/-. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lissu, Lema plan their 'imminent' return to Tanzania

By Marc Nkwame - Arusha

THE Presidential Candidate during the 2020 General Elections, Advocate Tundu Lissu, has just announced that he was intending to soon return to Tanzania, to resume his political aspirations left on cue when he flew into exile shortly after the last October polls.

Speaking from abroad, Lissu made the announcement 'live' on twitter, as he addressed more than 6000 participants in specially staged discussions, in the late night of Wednesday, the 21st of July 2021.

Holed up in Belgium, the 54-year-old, charismatic politician and lawyer, was speaking during a live debate on Wednesday night, hosted by one of the country's top activists Maria Tsehai Sarungi on her twitter's space where he insisted the importance for the country to write a new constitution.

When Lissu left the country last November, it was his second time to fly abroad, the first time was in September 2017. The lawyer, politician and activist, was airlifted to Nairobi in a critical condition after being ambushed by unknown

assailants in Dodoma, who showered him with bullets, injuring the politician badly.

The Twitter anchored 'Maria Space' live discussions in the night, attracted over 6500 speakers, among them politicians, activists, members of the international press as well as passive followers.

Also among the speakers was the former Member of Parliament for Arusha-Urban constituency, Godbless Lema who, together with his entire family, also fled the country through Kenya, shortly after last year's General Elections.

Lema, who expressed concern over the recent arrest of the chairperson of the opposition Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) Party, Freeman Mbowe, also promised his 'soon to happen' return to Tanzania, 'against all odds,' in the very near future.

God bless Lema, who was Member of Parliament for Arusha City via the Chadema party ticket, between November 2010 and October 2020, is reportedly living in Canada where he was granted asylum after he ran away from Tanzania, through Kenya, citing threats to his life.

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

Dar RAS encourages more students to take part in this year's Young Scientist Tanzania competition

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Hassan Rugwa has encouraged more students to participate in the Young Scientist Tanzania (YST) competition to demonstrate their talents and address development challenges.

Rugwa made the call on Tuesday when speaking at the regional exhibition and awarding ceremony to the six projects selected to participate in the national competition.

The RAS said the country still needs science experts in different fields of health, engineering, agriculture

and transport sector to fast track development.

He said the projects were mainly focused on finding practical solutions to development challenges in health, agriculture, environment, education, social relations, and social problems.

"YST has inspired many young people in the country to engage in science and innovation. Please use the opportunity to bring changes," he said. He said the exhibition was an excellent opportunity for teachers,

students, science stakeholders, and the public to see and appreciate the scientific creativity, inquisitiveness of the young people as they present scientific projects addressing social-economic changes.

He said the exhibition was an excellent opportunity for teachers, students, science stakeholders, and the public to see and appreciate the scientific ingenuity and inquisitiveness of the young people as they present scientific projects addressing social-

economic changes. Rugwa called on other stakeholders to continue supporting the young scientists as they strive to develop their scientific potentials.

During the exhibition, a total of six projects were selected to participate in the national science competition scheduled for October this year.

Some of the schools whose students were selected for the national competition are Agha Khan Secondary School, Waamuzi Secondary School,

Feza Secondary School, and Manzese Secondary School.

Recently, in a press conference, YST Executive Director Dr Gozbert Kamugisha said that at least six projects will be selected from each region to participate in the virtual science national exhibition.

He said prior to the exhibition the students will have submitted video recordings and presentations of their projects and submitted their projects reports. He said the virtual national exhibition will be a prelude to what is called "Young Scientists Tanzania Academy Awards" to be held in November this year in Dar es Salaam.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Zytee Nanda Mangal, changed my name in The Republic of India to Zyti Mangal Nanda through Notarized Affidavit No. R.C. 4836, in accordance with the Laws of The Republic of India.



Administrative Assistant (m/f/x) – Tabora Region, Tanzania

Enabel is the Belgian development agency. It implements Belgium's governmental cooperation. The agency also implements actions for other national and international donors. With its partners in Belgium and abroad Enabel offers solutions addressing pressing global challenges: Climate Change, Urbanisation, Human Mobility, Peace and Security, Economic and Social Inequality, and Global Citizenship. With 1,500 staff, Enabel manages about 150 projects in twenty countries, in Belgium, Africa and the Middle East.

Background
Enabel is operating in Tanzania as a public limited company under public law with a social purpose in accordance with article 7 (iii) of the General Agreement between The United Republic of Tanzania and The Kingdom of Belgium on Development Co-operation signed on 16th of October 2002, and the introduction Letter from the Embassy of Kingdom of Belgium N° 2018/023 signed on 25th January 2018 on the transformation from BTC into Enabel.

The project on beekeeping, funded by the European Union, has a duration of 4 years with an inception phase of 6 months.

The project is taking place under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme for Tanzania (2014-2020) in which Sustainable Agriculture is a specific objective to "enhance management of natural resources, including forests, and ecosystem services for sustainable agriculture development and climate change adaptation". The European Union Action Document for Beekeeping Value Chain Support contributes to that objective and the pillars.

Job Description

- Your tasks and responsibilities as Administrative Assistant:
- You support various administrative tasks (filing, archiving, ..) in order to guarantee efficient support to the department/supervisor/co-workers/project.
 - You organize internal and external meetings, workshops, conferences and ensure that all participants or invited stakeholders, (e.g. Management, invitees, etc.) receive necessary materials for the meeting.
 - You ensure adequate support for the functioning of the service.
 - You ensure relevant correspondence and documents are filed and kept properly.
 - You receive and welcome guests, receive phone calls and transfer them to right address them and/or orient them towards the internal contact needed.

The Administrative Assistant reports to the Accountant

Your profile

- Required qualifications and experience
- A Tanzanian National
 - Diploma in Business Administration or Management from recognised institution.
 - Minimum 5 years of relevant experience in Administrative tasks.
 - Working in International NGO is an added advantage

- Required skills and knowledge
- Good knowledge of Computer software (MS word, MS Excel etc.)
 - Excellent communication skills (verbal and written).
 - Excellent management and organisational skills ;
 - Good Listening and Comprehension skills.
 - Excellent customer care skills.
 - A Good Team Player
 - A mastery of Time Management.
 - You are fluent in spoken and written Swahili. Consider the international environment in which you work, excellent knowledge of English is required.

Applicants are also required to commit to the vision, mission and values of Enabel (<https://www.enabel.be/content/enabel-mission-mission-values>).

We offer

- A fascinating job in an international environment.
- A contract of 36 months. You are based in Tabora Region.
- A salary package that comprises the monthly gross salary, in accordance with our salary scales (Class 3), hospitalization/healthcare insurance, 13th month, double holiday allowance and reallocation allowance.

Every person who fulfils the conditions listed in our job advertisements may apply. Enabel is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in its workforce. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability status or any other factor

Following this recruitment procedure a shortlist of successful applicants may be constituted which may be sourced in the next three years for similar job openings.

Women are highly encouraged to apply

Are you interested?

Apply here <https://jobs.enabel.be/> at the latest by 07/08/2021 and include your application letter and updated CV. If you have any further questions, please send an e-mail to peter.mhuwa@enabel.be. We thank you in advance for your interest in our company.

Only applications submitted via the above link will be considered.



MEDA is currently seeking a Senior Manager – Implementation for its FEGGE (Feminist Entrepreneurs Growing Greener Economies) project

Project Description

The FEGGE project aims to improve economic prosperity of female and male feminist SMEs and small entrepreneurs (SEs), promoting gender equality and climate-smart business in the dryland regions of Tanzania, using a feminist business approach to an improved and gender-equitable business environment.

Position summary

The Senior Manager – Implementation, will be the Technical Lead for the value chain and finance components of the Project. Responsible for leading and building capacity within the operations team on technical value chain approaches, including value chain financing, to ensure effective implementation of market systems development strategies and project performance targets. Responsibilities include building capacity of local staff and partners in value chain and market systems development approaches in the context of the project's specific sectors and sub-sectors; serve as the principal liaison between MEDA and the local financial service partners, including banks, micro-finance institutions and other financial service / value chain actors.

Key Responsibilities

- Oversee the operational components of the Value Chain, Finance and (Small and Medium Sized Enterprise) business development approaches, in all different targeted regions by the project.
- Have a strong understanding of a market systems approach to implementation.
- Help build capacities of local staff and partners in value chain and market systems development.
- Ensure effective and efficient management of the Operations officers' team in the field within project's compliance with planning, monitoring, evaluation, performance, and reporting as established and defined by the relevant contracts and by MEDA's standards.
- Assist the Country Director in setting bases, in managing, developing, and monitoring the project to obtain all expected results, to achieve performance targets and sustainability of the project.
- Assist the Country Director in executing Country Strategy and ensuring alignment with regional and/or corporate strategy.
- Support strict budgetary adherence and monitoring.
- Work with Project Management team to set up grant pipelining, awarding, monitoring, and close out protocols.
- Establish a grantee and partner monitoring system.
- Ensure positive relations with donors are maintained, as well as with other local development organizations, local governments, and the business community.
- Ensure positive relations with colleagues and develop teamwork spirit.
- Manage relationships with Key Facilitating Partners and grant partners, ensuring positive relationships are maintained and targets achieved.

- Ensure quarterly reports are submitted and reviewed on timely basis by working in collaboration with Finance and M&E colleague,
- Ensure and adhere to all MEDA management, professional, finance, audit, legal, human capital, security, corporate and other policies as required
- Undertake a program of planned visits on a regular cycle to the project sites as well as those with all partners to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes are achieved.
- Submit regular reports, coordinate, and work closely with the Project Manager in Tanzania.
- Experience in managing a team of staff, as direct reports.
- Apply MEDA's values in all activities – cultural sensitivity, equality, transparency, and integrity in all relationships.

Qualifications

- A minimum of seven years' (10 preferred) experience implementing value chain/economic development projects including managing teams to deliver economic growth outcomes.
- University degree (ideally Masters) in business, international development, enterprise development, economic development, agriculture, or related field.
- Strong understanding of and proven experience in women's economic empowerment programming in a development context
- Strong understanding of competitive market environments; inclusive subsector development, business development, marketing, and facilitation of value chain development and M4P approaches.
- Strong understanding of business decision making in competitive market environments; inclusive subsector development and value chain development facilitation methods.
- Understanding of the principles and mechanisms for value chain financing.
- Demonstrated ability to mobilize stakeholders and lead and facilitate collaborative processes.
- Proven and adaptable interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills. Ability to communicate with individuals professionally and effectively at various levels.
- Good leadership skills with ability to work as a catalyst and facilitator.
- Direct private sector experience is desirable.
- Sector experience in agriculture/agribusiness is desirable.
- Relevant post-graduate qualifications.
- Fluency in both English and Kiswahili
- Prior work experience in Tanzania and specifically in the drylands and semi-arid regions of mainland Tanzania
- Appreciation and support of MEDA's values, mission and purpose

**** This is a local position and partial for a female candidate ****

To apply, please send your current Curriculum Vitae, with at least three references with current e-mail and telephone contacts, with a cover letter describing your interest in the position and area of preference. **Deadline: 30th July 2021** Send your application to Human Resources at any of the following: **Email hrtz@meda.org** Women are strongly encouraged to apply. **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

Eid el-Hajj as marked in Dodoma, Iringa, Pemba



Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwinyi (2nd-R) arrives at the Zanzibar House of Representatives grounds on Pemba Island on Wednesday for an Eid el-Hajj 'baraza'. Photo: Correspondent Abdi Suleiman



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman arrives at the Zanzibar House of Representatives grounds on Pemba Island on Wednesday for an Eid el-Hajj 'baraza'. Photo: Correspondent Abdi Suleiman



Police brass band plays performs at the Zanzibar House of Representatives grounds on Pemba Island on Wednesday shortly before the start of an Eid el-Hajj 'baraza'. Photo: Correspondent Abdi Suleiman



Muslim faithful in Iringa municipality skin cows and goats slaughtered on Eid el Hajj day (Wednesday), with the meat later distributed to orphanages and elders' centres. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin



Dodoma city Muslim faithful listen to regional sheikh Mustafa Rajabu during the Eid el-Hajj prayers held at Gaddafi Mosque on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Eid el-Hajj prayers under way at Dodoma city's Gaddafi Mosque on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Muheza town Muslims disperse shortly after Eid el-Hajj prayers. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Muslim faithful attend Eid el-Hajj 'baraza' at the Zanzibar House of Representatives grounds on Pemba Island on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Abdi Suleiman



Vodacom Tanzania Plc representative Anwar Zaidy (2nd-R) symbolically presents medical equipment and supplies donated by Vodacom Foundation to Masasi District's Mkomaindo Hospital in support of medical care for premature babies. Receiving the donation are Masasi District Medical Officer (L) Dr Salum Gembe and district health board chairman Issa Makwelanga (2nd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MV Mafanikio maintenance nears completion - TEMESA

By Guardian Reporter

FERRY services for residents of Msangamkuu and Msemo in Mtwara Region are set to resume as maintenance of MV Mafanikio nears completion.

Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) Eng Japhet Maselle made the revelation here yesterday during his tour at the Songoro Marine yard in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam where the maintenance job is being carried out by Songoro Marine Transport Limited.

Speaking to journalists shortly after inspecting the on-going repair job, Eng Maselle said the contractor has been urged to speed up the work and ensure maintenance is completed within schedule for the residents to start enjoying the ferry services.

"We have brought the ferry for repair at Kigamboni because it is cost effective compared to the prices of buying and transporting spares from Dar es Salaam to Mtwara. Working on it from Mtwara would have taken a longer period,"

said the TEMESA boss.

He said they have embarked on a programme to renovate all the ferries operating under TEMESA to ensure safety and security of passengers. He said experts recommend regular maintenance of ferries because vessel's bodies may be damaged by salted Ocean water.

"We always take our ferries for repair after a certain period. Mtwara Residents should be patient as we work to ensure them with convenient marine transport services," he said adding the agency has now provided them with alternative boats—MV Tangazo and MV Kuchehe.

Director of the Songoro Marine Transport Limited, Khalid Songoro said the repair job has now reached 85 per cent, and that they are expecting to complete the job by August 15th 2021.

"We are finalizing the work. We will hand over the ferry to TEMESA within schedule," he said.

MV Mafanikio has the capacity to carry 100 passengers, six vehicles and 50 tonnes of cargo. It operates between Msangamkuu and Msemo in Mtwara town.

Two die after falling asleep with burning charcoal stove in the room

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

TWO people said to be lovers - Benth Mbatia (23) a bus tout and Njombe town resident and Jazila Said (27), resident of Namtumba in Ruvuma Region have died after they slept with a burning charcoal stove in their room to keep them warm.

Confirming the incident, Njombe Regional Police Commander Hamisi Issah said it happened on July 17 at around 11:00 pm in National Housing Corporation (NHC) housing estate in Njombe town.

"After they met their death no body new about that," said the RPC, and added that the cause of the death was the burning charcoal stove they placed in their rooms for warmth, and added that this is the practice of people in Njombe to protect themselves from bitter cold.

He called on the people of Njombe to stop the practice, and find other ways to keep warm from cold as burning charcoal stoves produce toxic fumes (carbon dioxide) that are dangerous.

Narrating the incident, the owner of the house the deceased duo slept in, Amani Samson Mwalongo said "I found them dead as I decided to go and visit them in their room."

One of the neighbours said the deceased used to come here to collect fire and chips saying he had a visitor, but after some days he was not to be seen and after one day we saw the police descending on the house.

Police in Lindi holding five over marijuana cultivation

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

POLICE in Lindi Region have detained five people, including a woman all residents of Namkongo Village, Mapingo Ward for allegedly being involved in the cultivation of marijuana.

Lindi Regional Police Commander Mtiro Kitinkwi told this reporter during the exercise to destroy the farms in Mangalaganda forest.

He mentioned those detained as Salum Mtopwa (70), Saidi Mohamedi Songea (43) Somoe Mohamedi (31), Seif Issa (20) and Mudhilihi Omari (20), all of who are alleged to own four farms of marijuana with a total of seven acres.

RPC Kitinkwi said one of the suspects, Salum Mtopwa, apart from being involved in the cultivation of the illicit drug, also owned a firearm - a rifle.

The RPC said it was suspected that Mtopwa was using the firearm contrary to the conditions of the permit as he was found that he was making his own ammunition, instead of buying the same from legally authorized dealers.

"We are still conducting investigations on this firearm, whether it was legally acquired or not," he added.

During the exercise to set fire to the farms, the police, with assistance from good citizens, impounded several bags of dried marijuana hidden in various areas of the forest.

RPC Kitinkwi said all the suspects will appear in court after investigations are completed.



UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Despite strong competition in the cement manufacturing industry and uncertainties brought about by COVID-19, Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) delivered a strong operating result when compared to the year 2020. Both the sales volume and revenue increased compared to year 2020. Revenue increased by 16% compared to the same period last year.

The operating performance and the availability of the plant and machinery was good, thus

ensuring clinker production level higher than year 2020, all within an environment where the Health and Safety of our employees and contractors is paramount. The continued focus on delivering excellent customer service, the selling of high quality products, and the belief in maintaining strong customer relationships enabled TPCPLC to again demonstrate its strength as the leading player in the industry.

Prospects

The cement demand in Tanzania and in the East-African region has been growing steadily in recent years. TPCPLC is well placed to meet this growing demand and will continue to work to maintain its leadership.

Appreciation

The Board would like to thank all its stakeholders for their support. We have every confidence that TPCPLC will continue to deliver value for the shareholders and community in the future.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Hakan Gurdal
Chairman of the Board
15.07.2021

	JAN - JUN 2021 TZS'000	JAN - JUN 2020 TZS'000
INCOME STATEMENT		
Revenue	210,825,663	181,454,388
Cost of sales	(126,277,122)	(113,688,511)
Gross profit	84,548,541	67,765,877
Other operating income	821,403	2,278,447
Selling and administrative expenses	(1,552,643)	(1,585,357)
Administrative expenses	(9,314,386)	(9,315,110)
Depreciation and amortisation	(8,681,096)	(8,626,083)
Other operating expenses	(1,091,706)	(1,467,018)
Operating profit	64,730,113	49,050,756
Financial items	1,298,145	1,585,255
Profit before tax	66,028,258	50,636,011
Taxes on income	(19,937,458)	(15,692,080)
Profit for the year	46,090,800	34,943,931

	2021 TZS'000	2020 TZS'000
BALANCE SHEET		
ASSETS		
Intangible fixed assets	797,216	823,264
Tangible fixed assets	130,771,416	131,529,045
Other non-current assets	4,286,500	10,358,097
Non-current assets	135,855,132	142,710,406
Inventories	69,747,539	58,987,795
Trade and other receivables	60,811,816	56,934,604
Cash and cash equivalents	73,260,020	60,817,350
Current assets	203,819,375	176,739,749
TOTAL ASSETS	339,674,507	319,450,155

	2021 TZS'000	2020 TZS'000
EQUITY & LIABILITIES		
Equity	230,868,930	214,565,616
Lease liabilities	3,196,726	6,610,379
Long term provisions	6,621,779	8,070,602
Provision for deferred taxes	12,940,597	16,188,193
Non-current liabilities	22,759,102	30,869,174
Lease liabilities	-	-
Current income tax payable	3,447,885	1,568,115
Trade and other payables	79,801,715	69,100,427
Dividend payable	2,796,875	3,346,823
Current liabilities	86,046,475	74,015,365
TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES	339,674,507	319,450,155

Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company
P.O.Box 1950
Dar-es-salaam
Tanzania
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AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION TANZANIA LIMITED

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF BANK PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 AND 8 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 2014

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2021

(Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Quarter 30-Jun-21	Previous Quarter 31-Mar-21
A ASSETS		
1 Cash	4,762	3,013
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	9,864	11,430
3 Investment in Government Securities	42,827	44,150
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	5,883	3,830
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-
6 Interbranch float items	-	-
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-
8 Customers Liabilities on Acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	105,943	104,467
10 Investment in Other Securities	-	-
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Probable Losses)	125,435	130,214
12 Other Assets	25,783	26,974
13 Equity Investments	1,000	1,000
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	6,231	-
16 TOTAL ASSETS	328,325	331,310
B LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits From Other Banks and financial Institutions	101,584	104,164
18 Customer Deposits	110,991	111,016
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-
20 Special deposits	-	-
21 Payment Orders/ transfers payable	-	-
22 Bankers Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-
23 Accrued Taxes and Expenses payable	-	-
24 Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25 Interbranch float items	-	-
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	-	-
27 Other Liabilities	1,464	1,842
28 Borrowings	76,856	75,705
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	290,894	292,727
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	37,431	38,584
C CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
31 Paid - up Share Capital	122,954	122,954
32 Non - Distributable Reserve	1,716	1,716
33 Retained Earnings	(86,263)	(86,263)
34 Profit (Loss) Account	(1,965)	(612)
35 Other capital accounts	989	989
36 Minority Interest	-	-
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS	37,431	38,584
38 Contingent Liabilities	2,374	2,618
39 Non performing loans and advances	19,109	21,126
40 Allowances for probable losses	12,796	15,127
41 Other non performing assets	-	-
D PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	11.40%	11.65%
(ii) Non performing Loans & Advances to total gross loans	13.82%	14.54%
(iii) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	65.03%	67.54%
(iv) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	38.20%	39.30%
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	47.89%	47.89%
(vi) Deposit Growth	-1.21%	-1.16%
(vii) Assets growth	-0.90%	-1.03%

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE 2021

(Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Quarter 30-Jun-21	Comparative Quarter 30-Jun-20	Current Year Cumulative Profits/Losses 30-Jun-21	Previous Year Cumulative Profits/Losses 30-Jun-20
1 Interest Income	9,931	10,642	20,065	20,887
2 Interest Expense	(4,954)	(4,678)	(9,786)	(9,429)
3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	4,977	5,964	10,278	11,458
4 Bad Debts Written Off	-	259	-	859
5 Impairment losses on Loans and Advances	36	(106)	113	(524)
6 Non Interest Income	1,040	844	2,291	1,916
6.1. Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	215	223	507	703
6.2. Fees and Commissions	234	169	434	350
6.3. Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
6.4. Other Operating Income	591	451	1,351	964
7 Non Interest Expense	(7,186)	(7,277)	(14,536)	(14,625)
7.1. Salaries and benefits	(2,524)	(2,486)	(5,098)	(5,021)
7.2. Fees and Commission	-	-	-	-
7.3. Other Operating Expenses	(4,663)	(4,792)	(9,437)	(9,604)
8 Operating Income/(Loss)	(1,134)	(316)	(1,853)	(915)
9 Income Tax Provision	(19)	(34)	(112)	(68)
10 Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax	(1,153)	(350)	(1,965)	(983)
11 Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
12 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	(1,153)	(350)	(1,965)	(983)
13 Number of Employees	161	167	161	167
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	-47%	-14%	-20%	-10%
15 Diluted Earnings Per Share	-	-	-	-
16 Number of Branches	6	6	6	6
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	-0.70%	-0.22%	-1.19%	-0.62%
(ii) Return on Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	-6.07%	-1.63%	-10.34%	-4.59%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	118.44%	106.89%	115.64%	109.35%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	1.41%	1.82%	2.92%	3.49%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30th JUNE 2021

(Amounts in million shillings)

	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Non-Distributable Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
Current Year 2021							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	122,954	-	(86,262)	1,716	-	989	38,396
Profit for the year	-	-	(1,965)	-	-	-	(1,965)
Issue of share	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	122,954	-	(88,228)	1,716	-	989	37,431
Previous Year 2020							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	122,954	-	(86,525)	139	-	1,065	43,623
Profit for the year	-	-	(4,152)	-	-	-	(4,152)
Issue of share	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	(1,566)	1,566	-	(76)	(76)
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the previous period	122,954	-	(86,262)	1,716	-	989	38,396

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE 2021

(Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Quarter 30-Jun-21	Previous Quarter 31-Mar-21
I Cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	(1,134)	(719)
Adjustment for:		
- Impairment/amortization	803	886
- net change in loans and advances	4,778	3,738
- gain/loss on sale of assets	-	-
- net change in deposits	(2,605)	(2,527)
- net change in short term negotiable securities	1,324	(972)
- net change in other liabilities	(378)	(1,171)
- net change in other assets	1,191	829
- tax paid	(19)	(93)
- Net change in SMR	-	-
Net cash provided(used) by operating activities	3,960	(30)
II Cash flow from investing activities:		
Dividend received	-	-
Repayment of long-term debt	(1,399)	(534)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-
Others (specify)	-	-
Net cash provided(used) by investing activities	(1,399)	(534)
III Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayment of long-term debt	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-
Payment of cash dividends	-	-
Net change in other borrowings	1,150	1,065
Issue of preference shares	-	-
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	1,150	1,065
IV Cash and cash equivalents:		
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,711	501
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the quarter	122,741	122,240
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter	126,452	122,741

	Name	Signature	Date
Managing Director	I. John		22nd July 2021
Head of Finance	H. Kharbush		22nd July 2021
Head of Internal Audit	J. Kilato		22nd July 2021
We, the under-named, non executive members of the board of directors, attest to the correctness of the above statements. We declare that the above statements have been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief have been prepared in conformance with the instructions and are true and correct.			
	Name	Signature	Date
1 Director	P. Ishengoma		22nd July 2021
2 Director	Mr.R. Dave		22nd July 2021

MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES

	PRICING (TZS)	PRICING (US \$ / EUR)	PRICING (GBP)
PERSONAL BANKING			
SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
IZZE			
Account Opening Fee	Free	NA	NA
Opening balance	Free	NA	NA
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NA	NA
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 10,000.00	NA	NA
Monthly Service Fee	Free	NA	NA
FAHARI			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 10,000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 10,000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 50,000.00	\$ 100.00	£ 100.00
Monthly Service Fee	TZS 1,500.00	\$ 2.00	£ 2.00
MWANGAZA JUNIOR ACCOUNT			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 20,000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 20,000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 20,000.00	\$ 500.00	£ 500.00
Monthly Service Fee (1 free withdrawal per quarter)	Free	Free	Free
Extra fee for more than 1 withdrawal per quarter	TZS 5,500.00	\$ 2.00	£ 2.00
WEKEZA SAVINGS ACCOUNT (BALANCE BUILD UP)			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	N/A
Opening balance	Free	Free	N/A
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	N/A	N/A
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 100,000.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
Monthly Service Fee*	Free	Free	N/A
CURRENT ACCOUNT			
AMANA			
Account Opening Fee	Free	N/A	N/A
Opening balance	TZS 20,000.00	N/A	N/A
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 3,000.00	N/A	N/A
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 3,000.00	N/A	N/A
MARIDHAWA			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 25,000.00	\$ 25.00	£ 25.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 6,000.00	\$ 5.00	£ 5.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	NA	NA	N/A
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 10,000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
PREMIUM			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 35,000.00	\$ 30.00	£ 30.00
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 15,000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 15,000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
SME BANKING			
AMANA BIZ ACCOUNTS			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 50,000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 50,000.00	\$ 100.00	£ 100.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	NA	NA	NA
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 15,000.00	\$ 15.00	£ 15.00
SME TIERED CURRENT ACCOUNT			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	NA
Opening balance	TZS 100,000.00	\$ 100.00	NA
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	NA
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	NA
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 20,000.00	\$ 15.00	NA
JAMI CURRENT ACCOUNT			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 100,000.00	\$ 100.00	£ 100.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 5,000,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
Monthly Service Fee*	Free	Free	Free
CORPORATE BANKING			
CORPORATE CURRENT ACCOUNTS			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 500,000.00	\$ 250.00	£ 250.00
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	NA	NA	NA
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 25,000.00	\$ 20.00	£ 15.00
CORPORATE CALL ACCOUNTS			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 10,000,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 10,000,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 1.00	\$ 1.00	£ 1.00
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 20,000.00	\$ 20.00	£ 15.00
CORPORATE TIERED INTEREST ACCOUNTS			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	NA
Opening balance	TZS 500,000.00	\$ 250.00	NA
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NIL	NA
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 50,000,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	NA
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 25,000.00	\$ 20.00	NA
GENERAL CHARGES			
Bankers Cheque	TZS 50,000.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
DISHONORED/UNPAID CHEQUE			
Fund related	TZS 120,000.00	\$ 50.00	N/A
Technical	TZS 30,000.00	\$ 50.00	N/A
Cheque book Processing Fee:			
25 leaves	TZS 15,000.00	\$ 15.00	£ 15.00
50 leaves	TZS 25,000.00	\$ 20.00	£ 20.00
100 leaves	TZS 50,000.00	\$ 35.00	£ 35.

Don't spread rumour that PLWHA are prone to COVID-19, NACOPHA chairperson calls upon Tanzanians

By John Badi

THE National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) Chairperson Leticia Kapela has urged Tanzanians to refrain from spreading rumors that people living with HIV/Aids (PLWHA) are susceptible to Covid-19.

Kapela made the call yesterday when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam, saying that a person living with HIV/Aids is the same as other people as there are those who have suffered from Corona disease, but with proper treatment from health professionals and following instructions, they have recovered.

"Because people living with HIV, have CD4 deficiency, they are more at risk of getting Corona infection which is not true as PLWHA is like anyone else can deal with this disease if they follow the rules and procedures as issued by health practitioners," said Kapela.

The official requested the

government to provide adequate education on the Covid-19 vaccine to various groups, especially PLWHA on its availability, benefits, side effects, and even its quality to build a good foundation and help those who need to make the right decisions to get the vaccine.

Kapela called on religious leaders and the media to ensure that they continue to play a role in providing appropriate education to the surrounding community and the general public on Covid-19 and also to alleviate their concerns with misinformation or intimidation.

She also instructed all NACOPHA staff, leaders, and coordinators, facilitating groups, medical consultants, and their families to take precautions and adhere to the instructions of experts and the statement of president Samia.

She tasked them to heed the instructions and take all precautions not only in the

workplace but also in their homes as a whole and also to protect those who serve them.

The council also has advised PLWHA to ensure that they continue to receive appropriate HIV services throughout the period without being affected by the presence of Covid-19 and we urge PLHIV to report as soon as they see any changes in the provision and availability of health services in our areas, from anyone else.

NACOPHA also commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for setting up a special Covid-19 Committee in April 2021, which continues to provide technical advice on various controls and prevention strategies based on the ongoing Coronavirus infection worldwide.

"I'd like to urge and encourage PLWHA, our families and Tanzanians in general to protect themselves from this pandemic because prevention is better than cure.



National Council of People Living with HIV and Aids (NACOPHA) CEO Deogratius Rutatwa (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on various issues relating to the impact of Covid-19 on PLHIV. He is with chairperson Leticia Kapela (C) and deputy CEO Scholastica Williams. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BAKWATA hails Samia for intervening in online money transfer charges saga

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TANZANIA Muslim Council (BAKWATA) in Singida Region has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her quick intervention to the complaints from poor people in regard to the newly introduced charges on mobile phone money transactions.

The praise was given here on Wednesday by BAKWATA Acting Singida Regional Sheikh Alhaji Issah Nassoro in the speech during Eid El-Adha prayers conducted at Ipemba Primary School grounds.

Alhaji Issah said due to the importance of the issue that

touched all Tanzanians, President Samia did not hesitate in taking quick deliberate steps to deal with the challenges that was facing poor Tanzanians in their monetary transactions.

"I therefore take this opportunity to thank her, as the issue must have touched her and showed that she was not at all happy with it, hence she directed for its review," he added.

For his part, the Secretary of Singida Central Mosque Hamisi Dinya said the issue of mobile monetary transactions has created many challenges to the people, Muslims and non-Muslims alike as the charges for

these transactions are exorbitant beyond the ability of many people wanting to transfer funds via their mobile phones.

"There are some people who have already switched ways to transfer money by opting to use banks, all this is due to the high cost to transfer money via mobile phones," he stressed.

A resident of Singida Municipality Ally Ndimbe said: "In the past Tanzanians were registering complaints about the hard lives they experienced after the new charges, but President Samia heard these cries and directed for their review, and we thank her for that decision."

KNCU appeals to govt, private sector to use its properties for sustainable growth

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Kilimanjaro Native Co-operative Union (KNCU) has appealed to the government, private institutions, individuals utilize its properties for sustainable growth of the union and the country in general.

Presenting the evaluation report of the 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) here yesterday, KNCU acting general manager, Godfrey Massawa said that the union has come up with a five-year strategic plan 2021/22-2025/26' with the aim of establishing a special department that will deal with prevention and utilizing their resources from burglary scams, as well as creating a conducive environment for the national and foreign investors for sustainable growth of the institution and cooperative in the country in general.

"We need to improve our coffee export market, promoting local

consumption of coffee by opening new affordable coffee shops and coffee bars in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam by collaborating with local and international investors," he said, adding that the union is set to improve its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) system to improve its online marketing and other services.

Gabriel Ollomi who was the chairman of the KNCU 36th AGM explained that, there is a high need of producing high quality coffee that will be competed in local and international markets.

Ollomi who is also a General Manager (GM) with the 32-Kilimanjaro New Co-operative Initiatives Joint venture Limited (G-32 KNCI-JVE LTD), there is also high need of producing organic coffee that have good markets both local and international markets.

He appealed to coffee growers to practice organic coffee farming for sustainable high-quality coffee production for the good health of

consumers.

According to Ollomi, the organic coffee world market is expanding day to day, appealing Kilimanjaro coffee producers to switch themselves to organic farming.

"Apart from high demand of organic coffees in the world market, its production is also very low as farmers are not buying industrial fertilizers in their production, thus they are using only ecologically based pest controls and biological fertilizers derived largely from animal and plant wastes and nitrogen-fixing cover crops.

Ollomi who is also a coffee producer at Lyamungo village, in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region further explained that producing coffee through organic farming is cheaper than using industrial fertilizers and other agriculture inputs like coffee pest controls which are sold at high prices, and the world market for organic coffee is expanding everyday.

AZANIA BANK LIMITED



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Azania Bank Ltd is a Commercial Bank currently with two vacant positions that need to be filled in its Treasury and Capital Markets Directorate. For those who are willing to join well motivated work teams of Azania Bank family please apply as follows:-

1. Manager FX and Bond Trading. 1 position (Head Office)

Job Purpose

Managing the FX and Bond Trading Unit whilst developing income generation strategies aiming at meeting profitability targets with strict adherence to the bank and regulatory limits and policies.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Review and develop daily operational trading strategies plan for currencies, derivatives and fixed income.
- Explore hedging solutions for the bank and clients in commodities.
- Trade derivatives (FX SWAPS, IRS, OPTIONS) to hedge the Bank's exposure and to generate income.
- Manage the Banks Foreign Currencies positions and trading activities to ensure compliance with Internal and External Statutory requirements aiming to achieve FX Trading revenue targets.
- Supervise the preparation of Daily Exchange rates to be circulated before commencement of business to branches and other business units for their and client's consumption.
- Forecast and monitor FX and other Commodities price/rate movements in the market and analyze their implications to the Bank's proprietary trading positions to ensure that it is in line with the trading strategy.
- Limits monitoring such as Net open Position (NOP) and ensure individual currency overnight limits, Stop loss limits and daily counterparty trading limits are adhered to by traders.
- Ensure that traders adhere to and all trades are done as per the day's defined currencies trading strategy.
- Liaise with other market participants and implementing initiatives aiming to develop the fixed income market with compliance with regulations and adoption of best practice standards.
- Review and contribute to the enhancement of the various policies and procedures in line with changing business needs.
- Provide oversight of Risk and Compliance in both market and operational risks
- Preparation and circulation of regular reports relating to the FX and Bond Trading issues while also providing inputs for the ALCO pack.
- Establish, enhance and manage relationships with interbank counterparties both local and international including those with brokers and the Regulator.
- Coach/Mentor and develop junior staff aiming to strengthen the bank's succession plan

Qualification, Experience and Competences

- Bachelor's degree, preferable Accounting/Economics/Business Administration or a related discipline
- Professional Membership with ACI/CPA/ACCA/CFA would be an added advantage.
- More than 5 years' banking experience
- More than 5 years' experience in Financial market
- Thorough understanding of banking products and financial instruments.

Knowledge and skills required

- In-depth knowledge of Treasury products (FX/Fixed Income/Derivatives & Commodities).
- Well-informed of the market competitive structure, industry practices and regulations for foreign exchange market/Fixed Income /derivative & commodities.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills, internally and externally.
- Selling and Negotiation skills.
- Ability to present complex matters in an easily understood yet accurate way
- Knowledge of strategic planning and risk management techniques.

Personal qualities

- Articulate
- Hardworking
- Time management
- Strong analytical skills
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication skills (verbal, presentations and written)
- Should be able to work independently and as part of the team.
- Self-starter /Passionate / energetic
- Work well under pressure
- High level of Professionalism
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Commitment to excellence

Others

- Carry out work in accordance with Azania Bank Limited policies and procedures.
- Perform the assigned tasks with due diligence
- Eliminate waste of whatever form, suggest the use of new practices and contribute to the continuous improvement of the bank.
- Perform specific duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by management.

2. Manager Assets and Liabilities Management (ALM) 1 positions –Head Office

Job Purpose

Managing the Assets and Liabilities Unit whilst optimizing balance sheet efficiency and growth while properly managing bank's liquidity and meeting profitability targets with strict adherence/compliance to the bank and regulatory limits and policies.

Duties and Responsibilities

- She/he is responsible for advising and optimizing an efficient Balance sheet Structure aiming to drive annual approved ALM revenue and overall bank profitability goals.
- Project, review and develop daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly liquidity management plan so as to meet the

bank's operational efficiency while also apprising the management.

- Build and manage the bank's government securities investment portfolio in HTM and AFS buckets to meet regulatory compliance and generation of income.
- Forecasting and planning of both actual and contingent funding while also offering initiatives on alternative funding sources and structures through critical balance sheet analysis.
- Appropriately guide other stakeholders on liabilities growth while also provide competitive pricing within approved limits aiming to grow and retain the bank's deposits.
- Management and protection of Net Interest Margin (NIM) while proposing interest rates to be used by the bank in interest sensitive assets & liabilities.
- Forecast and monitor interbank market liquidity trends and interest rate movement and analyze their implications to the bank.
- Ensure strict adherence to both internal and regulatory limits and that all trades are done within counterparty limits.
- Review and contribute to the enhancement of the bank's various policies and procedures in line with changing business needs.
- Provide oversight of Risk and Compliance in both market and operational risks
- Preparation and circulation of regular reports relating to the ALM issues while also providing inputs for the ALCO pack.
- Establish, enhance and manage relationships with interbank counterparties both local and international including those with brokers and the Regulator.
- Coach/Mentor and develop junior staff aiming to strengthen the bank's succession plan.

Qualification, Experience and Competences

- Bachelor's degree, preferable Accounting/Economics/Business Administration or a related discipline
- Professional Membership with ACI/CPA/ACCA/CFA or a Master's degree would be an added advantage.
- More than 5 years' banking experience
- More than 5 years' experience in Financial market
- Thorough understanding of banking products and financial instruments.
- Experience in advanced analytics and Market risk measurement and reporting

Knowledge and Skills required

- In-depth knowledge of Treasury products (MM, FX/Fixed Income/Derivatives & Commodities).
- Well-informed of the market competitive structure, industry practices and regulations for Money Market, Foreign Exchange Market/Fixed Income /derivative & commodities.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills, internally and externally.
- Selling and Negotiation skills
- Ability to present complex matters in an easily understood yet accurate way
- Knowledge of strategic planning and risk management techniques.

Personal Qualities

- Articulate
- Hardworking
- Time management
- Strong analytical skills
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication skills (verbal, presentations and written)
- Should be able to work independently and as part of the team.
- Self-starter /Passionate / energetic
- Work well under pressure
- High level of Professionalism
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Commitment to excellence

Others

- Carry out work in accordance with Azania Bank Limited policies and procedures.
- Perform the assigned tasks with due diligence
- Eliminate waste of whatever form, suggest the use of new practices and contribute to the continuous improvement of the bank.
- Perform specific duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by management.

Remuneration

Attractive remuneration packages await successful candidates to the above post as per Azania Bank Limited Salaries and Incentive Schemes as reviewed from time to time.

General Information

Shortlisted candidates will be required to meet all costs associated with their attendance to the interviews. Please note also that successful candidates will be required to meet their relocation costs to Dar es Salaam.

Mode of Application

Azania Bank Limited is an equal Opportunity Employer. Applications must be attached with detailed resume, Copies of relevant certificates, names and addresses of at least two referees. Please provide telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of referees. The deadline for submission of applications is ONE week after the appearance of this advert. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please apply in confidence to: MANAGING DIRECTOR, AZANIA BANK LIMITED, MAWASILIANO TOWERS, SAM NUJOMA ROAD, P. O. BOX 32089, DAR ES SALAAM. hra@azaniabank.co.tz

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Avoiding unnecessary gatherings can't stop infections, but it's vital

GRACING an Eid el-Hajj event in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa appealed to the public to avoid unnecessary gatherings as a way of taming the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the effort was decisive as the country awaits a mass rollout of vaccines, noting that the spread of the disease can only be controlled if people adhere to containment measures recommended by health experts.

No one can contest or belittle the need to continue washing hands regularly with soap and running water, using hand sanitisers and wearing face masks recommended - and approved - by the relevant authorities.

There are truisms that can't be avoided, with the sort of experience so far gathered in the fight against Covid-19. Unfortunately, there are doubts whether the public is ready to take up and dutifully observe the premier's assertion that it is the duty of all Tanzanians to observe social distancing as a means of denying the virus ease of spreading.

Nor, indeed, is it evident that many of those in the more luxurious category can rapidly build a culture of exercising in the knowledge that keeping fit means an immense lot in the war on the pandemic.

Exercises help to keep at bay all manner of infections although, admittedly, there is sometimes a constraint in terms of availability of time.

The level of the effectiveness of some precautions is also at times imperilled by the availability of public transport and other resources.

Nor, again, can be it said that all of a sudden people will lose

their usual failings like weakness in older age or relative levels of obesity, or find ways of precluding infections propelled by pre-existing conditions such as heart, asthma or diabetes.

In these scenarios, it is essential but near-impossible for one to be more careful than other people when on board the same commuter buses or attending the same prayers.

This matter was debated last year as Covid-19 broke out and the government attained considerable success in that area. It is however unclear how far the headway made was due to the measures taken and how much was just luck.

There is now a third wave of the pandemic though public impressions are that we are still doing relatively well despite reports of rising numbers of infections hospitalisations.

Slightly over two months ago, the Dar es Salaam Catholic Archdiocese head remarked in a church sermon that, going by how people sit or stand in commuter buses, the number of those putting on face masks is virtually negligible.

While cases are reported rising in some parts of the country, there is altogether no panicky atmosphere generally - including in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

It well might be this that makes people relax and observe fewer precautions, which is bad, but it is also an environment where people don't live in fear of the disease as an all-encompassing menace.

The issue is how far this will remain the case as preventive efforts help but infections elsewhere show that the recommended social distancing and the washing hands with soap and running water are no magic wand. We all need to take greater heed of expert advice.

While others' problems giving us crop markets, we have to fight on

AN air of celebration must be high in Tanzania's grain marketing circles with the country having sealed accords for grain exports to Kenya and South Sudan, while making progress in seeking market outlets elsewhere.

Latest reports say that Tanzania will this harvesting season export over 200,000 tonnes of cereals - maize and sorghum - to Kenya and South Sudan. This follows a one-year agreement signed between our Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) and Kenya's Grain Industries Limited that allows Tanzania to export 144,000 tonnes of grain worth 7.5bn/-.

This convivial atmosphere follows an ironing out of differences with Kenya regarding trade in general and cereals trade quite specifically, with CPB reporting that 1,000 tonnes of maize have so far been transported to Kenya.

The amount expected for the whole year is quite high seeing that the board is allowed to export a monthly 12,000 tonnes of maize across the border.

Meanwhile, Tanzania has also secured a huge market for maize flour and white sorghum flour in South Sudan. To start with, 60,000 tonnes of white sorghum flour will be freighted there this season.

For Kenya, the market opening followed a State visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, while the South Sudan pact was reached thanks to a business to business (B2B) meetings in Juba.

Discussions with the South Sudan business community and the country's industry minister touched on agro-exports with a

South Sudanese firm.

The World Food Programme is also being approached to take up 50,000 tonnes of maize, with a warehouse in Nairobi storing up to 102, 0000 tonnes of our maize for sale.

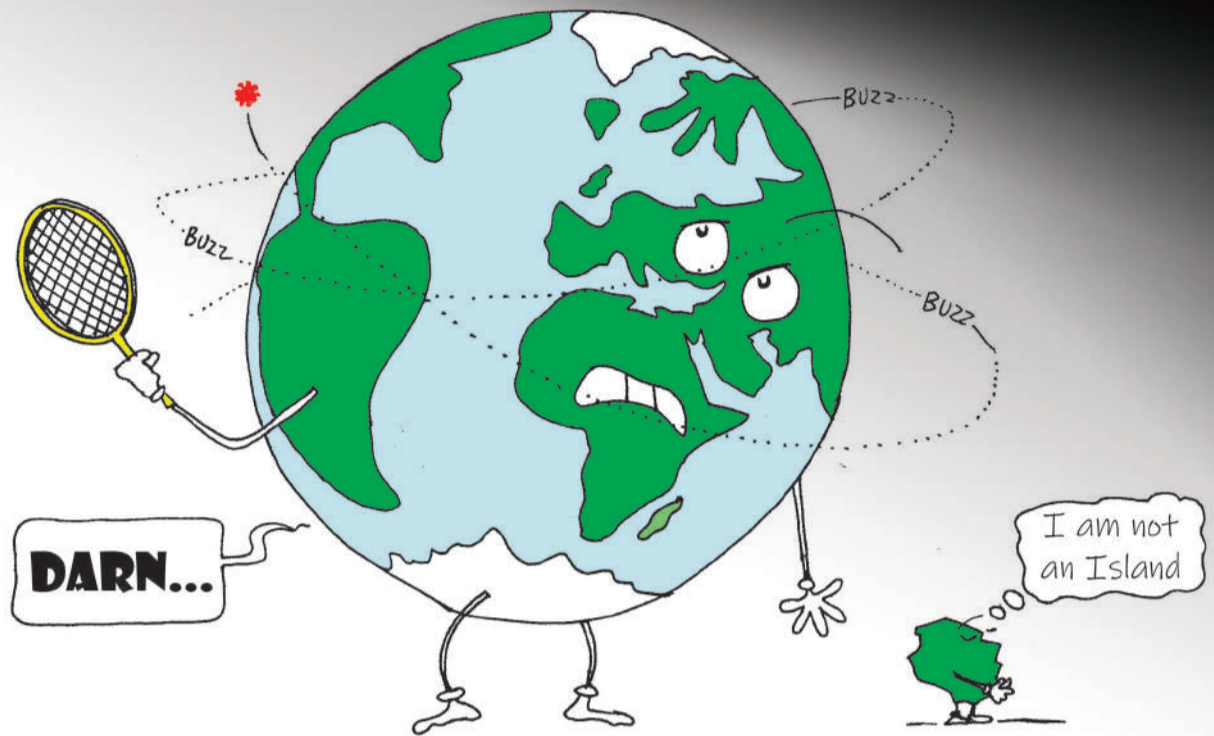
These developments are heartwarming for Tanzania's cereals board and the farming community, but we ought to realise that the reason for these openings isn't rising consumption levels in Africa but dire conditions persisting for agro-sector performance in various countries in the region.

For instance, Kenya has a vast arid zone and north eastern vast border with Somalia. Tanzania has no region that is completely arid and is thus an ideal country for agro-based growth strategies, if one pays attention to experts. Yet, we are just tapping this potential now.

There are efforts to seek out other grain and cereals markets, with Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda saying that the focus is now on potential markets in Burundi, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and other nearby states to ensure that farmers obtain even more reliable and coordinated market outlets.

The outlook is such that Tanzania intends to dispatch extension officers to Morocco for training in order to increase the number of skilled extension officers.

Agro-based entrepreneurs are becoming more receptive to such initiatives and the going looks good, but even more reforms are needed. One measure is to apply Dodoma city agglomeration methods for dispensing with village land for easier transactions with investors.



Kenya brings together youth in supporting war on malaria

Kilifi, Kenya

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta (pictured) of Kenya on Thursday launched the Kenya Malaria Youth Army (KeMYA), a social movement that brings together young people from all the country's 47 counties determined to champion nationwide malaria control and elimination.

The movement will support advocacy, communication, innovation and community efforts geared towards ending the killer disease, improving maternal and child health, and advancing access to universal healthcare.

The unveiling of the Kenya Malaria Youth Army (KeMYA) builds upon the bold and ambitious agenda by President Kenyatta - the chair of African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) - to eliminate the disease in Africa.

In his four-point agenda, Kenyatta envisioned an 'ALMA youth army'. This is meant to ensure that, at the continental, regional and national levels, young people are mobilised through existing structures into a 'youth army' movement to contribute to ending malaria and expanding universal health coverage.

"Now is the time to leverage the potential of young people to eliminate malaria by 2030 and work with them for faster and more effective delivery of health services at all levels," said Kenyatta.

"Young people constitute the majority of our population, partnering with youth was a missing link in our concerted efforts as leaders to defeat malaria," he added.

KeMYA will consist of young people aged between 15 and 35 and will draw its membership from existing youth platforms, including youth groups, youth alliances, youth councils, youth societies and youth associations in Kenya.

The army will be open to diverse cadres of young people, among them students, young professionals, young leaders in political realm, public service and private sectors, and any other young persons willing to volunteer their time towards the malaria fight.

To fulfil its mandate, the youth army will support awareness raising, community sensitisation activities and dissemination of malaria messages in a bid to drive action towards elimination of the disease.

The army will advocate



resource mobilisation and policy implementation while supporting community-level malaria prevention and control efforts.

These include community-facing actions, including the distribution of insecticide-treated bed-nets, spraying larvicides at malaria mosquito breeding sites and performing indoor residual spraying of homes in the lake and coastal malaria-prone counties of Kenya.

The youth will also take a lead in innovating and scaling up the delivery of proven tools that will prevent, diagnose or treat malaria infections in a bid to save lives.

At the launch, President Kenyatta called on young people to amplify their voices in crusading for greater accountability from government decision-makers and the private sector as well as for the strengthening of health systems.

He underscored the need for young people to crusade for improved malaria surveillance and data sharing as well as for malaria decision-making spaces to get more inclusive.

"There has been no better time for the young generation to advocate their own future - now is the time to own the malaria agenda," he said.

The president noted further: "I encourage the malaria community to leverage the #KenyaNiMimi youth campaign, the Sawazisha Gumzo by the National Youth Council, and other initiatives for youth dialogue and engagement in social, economic and leadership processes in the country to contribute to malaria and the broader health and development agenda."

Upon launching the movement, President Kenyatta urged young people to support malaria prevention and control activities at the grassroots level.

The youth army will leverage on existing frameworks such as the National Youth Service (NYS) and the Kazi Mtaani initiative to perform indoor residual spraying of homes in malaria-prone counties of Kenya.

The newly launched Kenya-Cuba project in the Health ministry will also engage young people in spraying larvicides at mosquito breeding sites.

National Youth Council CEO Roy Sasaka Telewa meanwhile said: "Every two minutes, malaria claims the life of a child. This deadly disease has been stealing our future for far too long. From today, we shall demonstrate that as young people that if we come together, we are the generation that will eliminate malaria in our lifetime."

During the launch, the President witnessed a demonstration on the use of drone technology in spraying mosquito breeding sites - an initiative of the End Malaria Council. The initiative demonstrates the use of public-private partnership in end-malaria efforts.

With the launch, Kenya has become the first country in Africa - and globally - to have a national malaria youth army.

KeMYA has been established upon the premise that, while significant progress has been made to combat malaria, action must be taken to accelerate progress and overcome challenges related to Covid-19.

The youth army is also built on the idea that meaningful engagement of

young people is essential in driving the gains realized towards better health and wellbeing for all.

Malaria remains the leading cause of illness and death in Kenya and accounts for over five million outpatient visits reported in health facilities in the country - with the most-at-risk population for the disease being pregnant women and children under the age of five years.

ALMA is a ground-breaking coalition of African Union Heads of State and Government working across 55 African countries with various partners including Regional Economic Communities and development partners to eliminate malaria by 2030.

On assuming the coalition's chairmanship for the 2020-2022 period, Kenyatta set an agenda outlining four key results-based priority areas.

The first is digitalisation meant to provide real-time access to health-related data, including sharing of Scorecards for Accountability and Action at country level to facilitate evidence-informed policies and programmes.

Two: engagement with Regional Economic Communities as the key pillars to implement AU Malaria commitments.

Three: establishing End Malaria councils and Funds to boost multisectoral action, accountability, resource mobilisation and accountability.

Four: creating an ALMA Youth Army to create a broader social movement to fight malaria, improve maternal and child health, and improve access to universal healthcare.

Reporting the crisis in Myanmar: Lessons from the ground

By Alice Hérait

MYANMAR faced the largest uprising in its history this year. Since the military coup in early February, activists say that by early June about 850 civilians had been killed and more than 5,000 arrested - including 87 journalists.

The Myanmar junta immediately sounded the death knell for what limited freedom of the press Myanmar had, hard won during the country's ten years of civilian rule.

In order to control the media and discourse, the junta banned the word "coup" from use, and in early March intensified its crackdown on journalists.

During the week of March 8 alone, five media outlets had their licences revoked and another was prosecuted. Most continue to cover the news from secure locations, which sometimes requires leaving the country.

"I depend on NGOs and my local contacts for sources, but at least I report the news freely," said one Myanmar journalist in exile. After covering the country for 12 years, this press agency employee had to leave his country because of the increasing danger.

"I no longer felt safe in Myanmar, firstly, as a Myanmar citizen and secondly, as a journalist," he said, adding: "There is no longer any rule of law in the country. Many people know that I work for the press, I could be reported (top the junta) at any time." The reporter did not wish to give his name or his current location, which he says he does not share with anyone, even his sources: "For my interviews, I paid for an option on Skype, which locates my phone number in the US."

Covering Myanmar is as much about protecting oneself as it is about protecting one's sources. Anyone who talks to a reporter there is at risk. Getting an initial contact



may seem difficult, while interviewing someone often requires an introduction by a third party. Aye Min Thant, an American-Myanmar journalist confirmed this: "People really want to talk, as long as they have a safe way to do it. I give them a direct way to contact me via an encrypted application."

Because of Covid-19, journalists were already accustomed to reporting remotely. Since the coup, however, they have conducted all of their work on the internet.

Like China, Myanmar has an intranet: the

junta actively controls the web, while social networks such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram have been banned since the coup, and cuts occur regularly.

Although banned, though, the use of VPNs remains relatively widespread and platforms such as Twitter are still widely used to talk politics, often under the hashtag #WhatshappeninginMyanmar.

But journalists report that, while people involved in the anti-coup movement are actively using social networks and the encrypted app

Signal, it remains difficult to reach certain people, especially in rural areas.

"Sometimes it takes several days to interview people, especially as they change locations, phone numbers... it greatly delays the release of articles," said American journalist Emily Fishbein. "Most of my stories are from anonymous sources," said Min Thant. Journalists must be careful to gain their contacts' trust, and take precautions to protect their sources.

"I present myself clearly and as transparently as possible from the first contact," said

Fishbein, adding: "I let interviewees read their quotes and don't insist when they don't want to talk to the press."

Far from the field, journalists must do their best to gather information. "I have adopted a collaborative work model," noted Fishbein.

Meanwhile, exiled Myanmar journalist Maung Moe, a pseudonym, relies mainly on user-generated content - for example, photos and videos posted on social networks. She also discussed teamwork with local contacts: "My friends in Myanmar all have two, or even three, cell phones."

She added: "One has a VPN with all the forbidden applications and stays at home, while the others can be used to go out. So there is no problem in case of control. Also, all their files are sent to me on the cloud, so they can quickly delete them in case the military organises a raid at their houses."

Taiwanese freelance journalist Pei-hua Yu, who specializes in Southeast Asia, recounted her own experience reporting from Myanmar.

"At first I thought there were already a lot of journalists covering the events," she said, adding: "But after receiving a message from an activist asking me to put her in touch with journalists, I realized that a number of stories on the ground were not being heard by the international press."

The young reporter, who then began writing about Myanmar, insisted on the need to humanise the crisis. "The first week, there were a lot of papers analysing the causes of the coup, but we didn't see many human stories. I wanted to report on how the events influenced people's lives."

The press has never been free in Myanmar; the coverage of the crisis is the result of courageous collaboration between journalists both on the ground and outside the country. "Keep on covering Myanmar. Even from a distance, we will happily help you," urged Moe.

Alice Hérait is a French journalist based in Taiwan. Her work has been published in Le Monde diplomatique, Mediapart and Asialyst. This article was originally published by IJNet's French site. It was translated to English by Sedera Ranaivoarinosy.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNSHIP AT ATCL

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is a legal entity owned by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and established under section 4 (1) of the Air Tanzania Corporation (Re-Organization and Vesting of Assets and Liabilities) Act, Cap. 205 R.E of 2002 and incorporated under the terms of The Companies Act, Cap 212, Act No. 12 of 2002.

Intern Details:

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Tanzanian graduates for internship in the following areas/programs at ATCL:

1. Aircraft Maintenance (4 Positions)

Minimum Requirement:

- Bachelor Degree of Aeronautical Engineering or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.

2. Customer Service and Reservation (4 Positions)

Minimum Requirement:

- IATA Diploma in Reservation and Ticketing
- Bachelor Degree of Business Administration and Marketing from a recognized institution is preferable.

3. Cargo Sales (5 Position)

Minimum Requirement:

- Trained /qualified in Cargo operations (IATA Diploma in Cargo, Dangerous goods Regulations) or Diploma or Degree in Air Transport management.

4. Traffic Liaison (4 Positions)

Minimum Requirement:

- Diploma in Air Transport Management or IATA Diploma in Ground Handling Services or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.

5. Aviation Quality and Safety (4 Positions)

Minimum Requirement:

- Certificate in Flight Operation or Airline Quality and Safety from a recognized institution.

Other Requirements:

- Possession of Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) is a must.

- Computer literacy (E.g. Ms. Word and Excel).
- Good communication (English and Swahili) and Interpersonal Skills.
- Excellent analytical skills.
- Must be ready to adhere to ATCL internal guidelines.

Mode of Application

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the applications attached with the following:

- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including Secondary School), other relevant certificates and licenses. **(Tanzanian applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities. i.e. Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) or National Examination Council (NECTA).**
- Two recent passport size photographs,
- Names and addresses of at least two reachable referees,
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone numbers.

Note: - Misrepresentation of facts and qualifications during application shall warrant legal consequences.

Closing Date

Application letters should reach the undersigned within 14 working days from the first date of this announcement: -

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,
P.O. BOX 543,
DAR ES SALAAM
DATE ISSUED: 23.07.2021**



VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT - READVERTISED

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is making some reforms in its structure, internal operations and staffing to accommodate business needs. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following position.

1. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (1 POST)

(a) Qualifications

- At least a Form IV Certificate with a Diploma in Secretarial Studies.
- Must have passed Shorthand and Hatimkato 80-100 w.p.m
- Must have attended Management Development Course for Executive Assistants Level I or relevant qualifications
- Hands on Working experience of not less than five (5) years in a reputable organization
- Outstanding command in communication both in English and Kiswahili (writing and speaking)
- Candidates with a strong background in working in competitive business environment with heavy administrative workload as well as handling Senior Executives will be given preference

(b) Duties and Responsibilities

- Providing assistance to top executives of the Company
- Assisting in coordinating secretarial functions with other departments.
- Typing letters and other documents
- Undertaking routine correspondence with prior approval of his/her senior.
- Arranging meetings and appointment schedules for the Senior Executives.
- Assisting in drafting and proof - reading reports and write-ups for the executives.
- Coordinate official appointments and travel arrangements
- Deals with confidential matters in the office of the Executives.
- Keep record of events and documents
- Performs any other duties as may be assigned by his/her senior.

2. REMUNERATION:

Five (5) years contract with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Scales and Incentive Scheme.

3. MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the application attached with the following:

- A curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school), other relevant certificates/licenses. Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council-NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.

Note: Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other fact/information on application shall warrant legal consequences.

4. CLOSING DATE:

The application letters should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of issue of this announcement.

The application letters should be directed to the following address: -

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,
P.O. BOX 543, DAR ES SALAAM
23.07.2021**

Innovator puts Tanzania on the map in the world of engineering

By Guardian Correspondent

MKONO-1, a locally developed 3D-printed functional prosthetic hand, has for quite some time given Tanzanian amputees an affordable solution for improved mobility and independence.

Charged by a simple mobile phone battery, the hand was developed by Tanzanian medical doctor Atish Shah and his RoverLabs co-founders to empower people with upper limb amputations.

The innovator, now, also a biomedical engineering master's candidate, put Tanzania on the map in the world of engineering in the Africa Prize Engineering for Innovation (APEI) organised by the UK Royal Academy of Engineering.

He is the fifth Tanzanian alumnus of the Africa Prize since 2015. That year, Tanzanian chemical engineer Doctor Askwar Hilonga won the Prize for his Nanofilter innovation, a low-cost sustainable water filtration system, to provide clean

and safe drinking water.

In Tanzania, prosthetics are unaffordable for those in middle and low-income communities, and no other battery-powered prosthetics are being developed in the region.

Across Africa, as little as 17 per cent of people with amputations can afford prosthetics or rehabilitative devices.

Mkono-1 is the first locally designed and manufactured myoelectric hand in Tanzania. The technology amplifies the electrical impulses of the amputated limb's muscle tissue, and these signals are processed to allow the user to move the hand.

Shah and his team at the Dar es Salaam-based RoverLabs are passionate about helping amputees regain access to economic opportunities as well as the confidence and independence that come with improved mobility.

Mkono-1 is manufactured using high-performance servomotors to mimic the movement of each finger, and multifilament braided high-tension strings to function as



tendons. The microcontroller is the heart of the circuit.

It is battery-powered and can be recharged with a mobile phone charger. It requires minimal maintenance, and spare parts are readily available. The RoverLabs team has tested three prototypes and continue to improve their design. Current development includes incorporating artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms, which will improve response time, giving users quicker reflexes.

The team is also looking to expand its market across East Africa and move into Central Africa, where up to 96 of every 1,000 people have an amputated limb.

Dr Shah and his colleagues said in a recent statement: "We found that the communities most likely to suffer major injuries like amputations are often those who can least afford prosthetics. Mkono-1 is our first step in providing more affordable options to people with mobility challenges, and we hope it will significantly change our customers' lives."

Rwandan farmers pin hopes on new tech to tackle food losses

KIGALI

RWANDA is trying to reduce post-harvest loss by relying on new technologies to increase the amount of food available for consumption and help smallholder farmers confront some challenges caused by the overproduction of staple crops.

For over 20 years, Cyriaque Sembagare, a maize grower from Kinigi, a mountainous village in Northern Rwanda, had survived on farming to feed his extended family but struggled with the loss of a significant portion of his harvest to rot. High levels of aflatoxin prevent farmers in remote rural Rwanda from selling maize to high-value buyers.

"I have been selling maize on the market, but I was given a low price because of the harvests highly perishable nature," the 56-year-old farmer told IPS in an interview.

Post-harvest losses are high in Rwanda, with smallholder farmers losing an average of 27.5 percent of their production annually.

A comparison with the global and African scenarios indicates that Rwanda does well on preventing food loss and wastage (72.5 percent). The country is slightly lagging on average in sustainable agriculture (71 percent). It is among the lowest performers while tackling nutritional challenges (71.2 percent), according to the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition (BCFN) sustainability index.

To boost resilience and reduce post-harvest losses, the government and different development partners have supported thousands of farmers facing several barriers, ranging from a lack of knowledge to poor market access.

The initiatives include innovative solutions in post-harvest handling to improve food security in this East African country. The country is ranked 59th among 67 countries on the latest Food Sustainability Index (FSI), developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit with BCFN.

While Rwanda is ranked on top among nine low-income countries, especially in Sub-Saharan African, the country is lagging in addressing food waste.

FSI research by the Economist Intelligence Unit, based on data from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), indicates that in terms of annual food waste per head, Mozambique comes on top of African countries with 1.2kg, followed by Rwanda (1kg).

This high level of waste has prompted the government and partners to promote modern technologies to tackle post-harvest losses, including two types of dryer machines: Mobile grain dryer machines and Cob Dryer machines that tested successfully on maize, rice and soybean.

"The aim was to reduce the risk of crop degradation or



Rwanda has introduced mobile dryer machines as part of an innovative solution to reduce post-harvest losses of food.

contamination by different fungi which occurred when dried naturally and affects the availability of food," Illuminée Kamaraba, the Division Manager in Post-Harvest Management and Biotechnology at Rwanda Agriculture Board, told IPS.

During the implementation phase, Rwandan researchers had embarked on

testing Cob dryer machines on other crops like Roselle (Hibiscus). Some 400kg were dried before samples were taken to the laboratory to verify if the nutrients remained intact. This method focuses on limiting the harvests' exposure to aflatoxin.

Before expanding the technology countrywide, a study to measure the impact

of these innovations, especially the use of dryer machines, is planned for testing this year.

"The new technologies are complementary with some traditional methods for food preservation," Kamaraba said.

Currently, Rwanda has acquired ten mobile dryer machines for the pilot phase to

process 57 to 84 tons of well-dried and cooled cereals per day.

The mobile grain dryers mostly use electricity but could be connected to tractors to run on its diesel-powered burner where there is no electricity supply system.

For the cob dryer machine, its tractor and fan depend on the supply of three-phase electricity and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) gas, while the cob container (the wagon) is a tractor-drawn vehicle.

According to official projections, the new technology, promoted through private and public partnerships (PPP), aims to help Rwanda achieve 5 percent of post-harvest losses by 2024 - down from the current 22 percent for cereals and 11 percent for beans.

Jean de Dieu Umutoni, one of the experts from Feed the Future Rwanda, Hinga Weze, a non-government organisation working to increase the resilience of agriculture and food systems to the ever-changing climate in Rwanda, told IPS that the idea behind this innovation was to increase access to post-harvest equipment and solutions.

"This has been conducted through different channels such as grants, especially for smallholders' farmers," he said.

Both Umutoni and Kamaraba are convinced that for Rwanda to implement the public-private partnerships to reduce post-harvest losses, gaps in knowledge of smallholder farmers, especially in remote rural areas, need to be filled.

So far, Hinga Weze and Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) have worked together in developing some guidelines that allow the private sector to use the new technologies. Experts say, however, that the biggest challenge for farmers is that they lack information on how to access suppliers. In contrast, the suppliers lack information on the growers that need the equipment.

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

Outbreak of avian flu seen compounding the plight of Ghanaian poultry industry

By Special Correspondent, Accra

THE outbreak of avian influenza compounded the plight of Ghanaian poultry sector, said some farmers.

Michael Nyarko-Ampem, president of the Greater Accra Regional Poultry Farmers Association, said that the flu outbreak coupled with the existing challenge of shortage and high cost of feed constituted double jeopardy to the industry.

"It is indeed a kind of double jeopardy that has hit us on both sides. There is an Akan proverb that says a double slap makes you dizzy, and that is what we are going through," Nyarko-Ampem said.

"Before this outbreak, we have been dealing with the unavailability of maize, wheat bran, and soya bean cake. In addition to that, these things have increased in prices."

"We are worried and concerned, particularly about the way the flu could spread, so it is critical that with the help of government and other agencies, we stem the spread of the disease immediately," the farmers' group leader said.

Although the impact of the flu at the moment was significant only on the individual farms and their employees, he said a further spread of the outbreak could have dire economic consequences for the industry, for jobs, and the entire Ghanaian economy.

"The impact on the industry will increase when people are not well informed and educated, and they start avoiding chicken and eggs. Once they do that, there is going to be a loss to the industry as eggs and birds could pile up and go bad," he stressed.

And with that, he said, "People will lose investments, and for people who took bank loans to stock their farms, the interests may pile up, and they would find it difficult to fulfill their parts of the obligation to their creditors."

As happened in all previous outbreaks, Nyarko-Ampem was confident that the state would compensate all farmers who would lose their birds to the flu.

He encouraged Ghanaians to continue patronizing poultry products since all the affected birds had been destroyed, suggesting that people



A Ghanaian mother stands with her daughter at the farm where the chickens were buried in Accra, Ghana

should boil their chicken and eggs well before eating.

"But farmers are resilient, so we shall ride it out despite the challenges that are besetting us. We will ride it out, but we need the cooperation of everybody," he added.

According to Patrick Abekeh, director of the Veterinary Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), seven farms reported the avian flu outbreak from the Greater Accra, Volta, and Central Regions. And more than 10,000 poultry birds had been lost to the

outbreak in Ghana this time.

Mary Arthur, owner of the Countryside Farms at Klagon near Accra, the capital of Ghana, told Xinhua she had lost all her birds. She said officials from the veterinary department had destroyed all the birds and their feed due to the flu outbreak.

"Through this poultry business, I have been able to fend for my family since my husband is a retiree and now bed-ridden. But I have lost all that now, and I have to start all over again," she told Xinhua.

After contracting a bank loan recently to expand the farm, Arthur did not know how to pay back the loan with all the birds gone.

She urged the government to come to the rescue of the affected farmers to restore their livelihoods.

The veterinary department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has been fighting to contain the bird flu outbreak in the West African country.

Climate change threatens food security of many countries dependent on fish

By Special Correspondent

MILLIONS of people in countries around the world could face an increased risk of malnutrition as climate change threatens their local fisheries.

New projections examining more than 800 fish species in more than 157 countries have revealed how two major, and growing, pressures – climate change and over-fishing – could impact the availability of vital micronutrients from our oceans.

As well as omega-3 fatty acids, fish are an important source of iron, zinc, calcium, and vitamin A. A lack of these vital micronutrients is linked to conditions such as maternal mortality, stunted growth, and pre-eclampsia.

Analyses by an international team from the UK and Canada and led by scientists from Lancaster University reveal that climate change is the most pervasive threat to the supply of essential micronutrients from marine fish catches, and threatens the

supply of vital micronutrients from fisheries in 40 per cent of countries. Fisheries micronutrient supplies were found to be less vulnerable to overfishing.

Countries among those whose fisheries micronutrient sources are at risk from climate change tend to be tropical nations and include East Asian and Pacific countries such as Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Timor Leste, as well as Sub-Saharan African countries such as Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

This vulnerability to climate change for these nations' fisheries is particularly acute given dietary deficiencies in calcium, iron, zinc, and vitamin A are particularly prevalent in the tropics. And these tropical countries are also less resilient to disruptions of their fisheries by climate change because they strongly rely on fisheries to support their national economies and their population's diets and have limited societal capacity to adapt.

The study, which is outlined in the paper 'Micronutrient supply from

global marine fisheries under climate change and overfishing', is published today by Current Biology.

Previous studies, most notably research into the micronutrient content of fish, which was led by Professor Christina Hicks and published by Nature, showed that fish are unequal when it comes to their nutritional content. A range of factors, such as diet, sea water temperature and energetic expenditure influence the amount of micronutrients that fish contain. Tropical fish tend to be richer in micronutrients than cold water species.

When it comes to resilience to climate change and fishing, again not all fish are equal. Earlier studies by Professor William Cheung and colleagues have shown large fish species that have a small range tend to be more vulnerable to climate change. While species that take longer to reach maturity and grow slower, are more vulnerable to fishing – because it takes longer for their stocks to replenish.

Their findings show only a weak link between the micronutrient density of an individual fish species' and its vulnerability to climate change or overfishing.

However, when the scientists looked at countries' overall fisheries catches then their findings revealed a clear impact from climate change on the overall availability of micronutrients for around 40 per cent of nations – threatening the food security of millions of people living in these countries.

A key reason for why climate change is such a threat comes down to the species of fish that the countries are targeting as part of their catches.

Some tropical nations' fishers are targeting micronutrient-dense species that have an increased vulnerability to climate change, such as Indian and short mackerels (*Rastrelliger kanagurta* and *Rastrelliger brachysoma*), bonga and hilsa shads (*Ethmalosa fimbriata* and *Tenualosa ilisha*) and dolphinfish (*Coryphaena*

hippurus).

However, there is a silver-lining to the study's findings which offers some hope for the future. Some countries may be able to adapt their fisheries to switch from vulnerable species and instead target alternative micronutrient-rich species that are also resilient to both climate change and overfishing, but which are currently under-represented within catches.

Dr Eva Maire, of Lancaster University and Lead author of the study, said: "As climate change and over-fishing are significant and growing pressures on global fish stocks, it is essential for the dietary requirements of millions of people to know the extent that these pressures will have on the availability of micronutrients in our seas in the future."

"We have shown that climate change is the most pervasive threat to the supply of vital micronutrients for many countries around the world, and in particular in the tropics.

This study draws on the 'FishNutri-

ents' model, a recently released finfish nutrient composition database.

"These data open up a whole new area of research and are crucial to address global food security challenges" said co-author Aaron MacNeil, Associate Professor in the Ocean Frontier Institute at Dalhousie University. "Our research highlights that efforts to improve food security and to tackle malnutrition there is a need to integrate fisheries, climate and food policies to secure these micronutrients for existing and future generations."

Professor William Cheung, co-author from the University of British Columbia, said: "As well as highlighting the growing threat of climate change to the food security of millions of people, our study also offers hope for the future. Armed with nutritional information about different fish species, many countries have the capacity to adapt their fisheries policies to target different more resilient fish species. By doing this then these nations can ensure a more reliable supply of micronutrients for their people."

Africa's smallholder farmers the linchpin to economic success

By John Kufuor

FOOD is the most basic of needs. It decides not just the health of individuals but also the health of communities which affects the health of our economies. Underpinning the food we eat, is agriculture which accounts for at least 23% of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP with about 40% of the workforce engaged in the sector.

At the heart of Africa's agriculture are the smallholder farmers. These are millions of hardworking men and women typically farming on less than a hectare of land. They grow staple crops such as maize, wheat, rice, cassava and sorghum.

However, notwithstanding their significant contribution to economies across the continent, farmers in Africa continue to face significant challenges on many fronts. From climate change to shocks including droughts, floods, pests and diseases, these farmers are disproportionately affected and further, have a low capacity to adapt and mitigate. This is exacerbated by the fact that they work in a sector that gets a disproportionately low level of financing, with only 4 out of 49 African countries reaching the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) recommended target of 10% public expenditure on agriculture.

Consequently, Africa's full agricultural potential remains untapped. As a dynamic, forward looking Africa marches alongside the rest of the world in the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agriculture remains a key lever to propel African economies into a prosperous future. Growth generated by agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be 11 times more effective in reducing poverty than GDP growth in other sectors. The world over, major economies have used agriculture to push their economies forward. And history has shown us that no society makes the transition to a modern economy without first modernizing its agriculture.

The pathway to the bright socio-economic future that we all desire for Africa is through an inclusive agriculture transformation agenda. As such, my conviction is that driving Africa's economic transformation through the lens of agriculture, should be a top priority that must take precedence over all other policy considerations at the continental level.



When I took over the leadership of Ghana, my country needed solutions for hunger, malnutrition, poverty and a host of other problems. Understanding the potential of agriculture to address these challenges, my administration worked to deliver a more efficient and productive agricultural base that would become the engine of the economy by providing food security, ushering in industrialization, creating jobs, and increasing export revenues.

The results speak for themselves, between 2002 and 2005, cocoa production in Ghana, the world's second largest producer, doubled from 350,000 tons a year to 734,000 tons a year, a record in more than a century of cocoa farming in the country.

From thereon, my government successfully used many of the same techniques to

improve production for food crops such as maize, yams, and plantains, as well as livestock and fish. As

a core strategy, my administration also strengthened and tasked Ghana's Grains and Legumes Development Board with the mandate to supply quality seeds and planting materials to farmers in order to improve the quantity and quality of Ghana's agriculture produce. Altogether, my administration worked tirelessly to support irrigation, improve seeds and crop diversification, infrastructure, storage for harvest and created an enabling environment for farmers to access mechanization like tractors.

In 2007, during my second term in office, the late Mr. Kofi Annan, launched the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an African institution that sought to support governments to catalyse trans-

formation of smallholder agriculture by advancing uniquely African solutions to sustainably raise farmers' productivity and connect them to a growing marketplace. AGRA has evolved into a powerful force and tool for the transformation of our continent.

AGRA's approach to fostering an inclusive agricultural transformation approach has been to convene, catalyse and broker local partnerships to support African governments to prioritize agriculture, allocate adequate resources to support smallholder farmers to access information, appropriate technology, and sustainable market and at the same time; creating enabling business environment to leverage private sector investment.

Over the last decade, including Mali, Rwanda, Ghana and Tanzania, I have seen countries where AGRA has been supporting governments, come through on their AUC CAADP Malabo targets by committing 10% of national expenditure to agriculture. A select number of these countries have each successfully achieved an annual growth rate of 6% with their respective agricultural sectors. A couple more are striving to achieve SDG 2 (zero hunger) by end of 2021.

With various ongoing efforts thus far at national levels in strengthening Africa's agricultural sector, I have no doubt we could achieve a food secure Africa by 2030 if African institutions like AGRA and its partners continue to proactively double-down on their efforts to make that happen.

Given the urgency of ensuring the food security for Africa and its people, we cannot afford any delays in implementing the right policies to ensure success. Africa cannot wait. Now is the time for an African agriculture transformation. This requires an efficient eco-system that unlocks the right policies, public investments and private sector engagement; spurs rural-sector economic growth and; which can deliver broad and accelerated impacts for all.

At the level of the smallholder farmer, there is a need to develop a digitized extension system, across which the continent's smallholder based agro-industry, can in turn, enable a seamless transition from subsistence farming to profitable agriculture.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW - I

What fate for vaccine firms if criticisms by 'anti-vaxxers' were validated?

JAN Jekielek, executive producer, senior editor and host of New York's Epoch Times' American Thought Leaders Programme on NTD Television, interviews mRNA vaccine pioneer/inventor Dr Robert Malone on what would happen to the vaccine enterprise - meaning paediatric vaccines, the fundamental bedrocks of public health - if criticisms by those labelled anti-vaxxers were validated. [Now, anti-vaxxers are people who believe that vaccines are unsafe and infringe on their rights. They typically deny the existence or validity of the science supporting the use of vaccines in the general population.] This includes questions surrounding the Covid-19 vaccines and repurposed drugs, as well as the bioethics of experimental vaccines.

JEKIELEK: You're, of course, an outbreak specialist. You're the inventor of mRNA vaccine technology. You're also a biostatistician, which is an interesting collection.

DR MALONE: I would say that I've been trained in some biostatistics. To be a biostatistician, for me, that's a step above where I'm at. But I do epidemiology and biostatistics, among other things.

Q: I want to touch on this whole censorship question, but before we do that, let's talk about where you stand right now when it comes to treatment for Covid-19 or vaccination for Covid-19, given everything we know as we speak and given your rather unique background.

That's a good tee-up because you're talking about both treatment and vaccines, and I've actually been primarily focused with the team that I've been working with on repurposing drugs for Covid-19. We're trying to launch three clinical trials right now, one in India and two in the United States, under IND (Investigational New Drug) for a drug combination involving anti-inflammatories that we've developed. It's already been tested and was initially discovered in a small hospital in Beloit, Wisconsin.

I made an initial threat assessment in January, as we were discussing. I got a signal out of Wuhan and decided that the time needed was not available to develop new vaccines and get them safety-tested in a timely fashion to mitigate the risks of the Covid-19 pandemic. So even though I'm a vaccine specialist, I also have started a company focusing on drug repurposing for Zika (virus). I have this background, and so I've seen both sides of what's going on and how it's rolled out.

My take on the vaccines is that we have some new technologies in the mRNA vaccines. We have a fairly well-established genetic vaccine technology related to RNA, but using the gene therapy vector called recombinant adenovirus. We have two examples of those right now. People call them the AstraZeneca and the J&J (Johnson and Johnson) AstraZeneca, Sanofi, Oxford is that cluster that's not licensed in the United States. Right now in the US, we have patients, and everybody has access to three genetic vaccines.

There is a more traditional vaccine that's about to gain emergency use authorisation from Novavax. That has also showed greater than 90 per cent protection against disease and death. So that's in line with what the genetic vaccines are showing. That one offers options for those that are uncomfortable with the genetic vaccine strategy. A lot of people who have been contacting me are interested in having an option. They're uncomfortable with the genetic vaccines, and



they're interested in having an alternative that they can use. Novavax could be a suitable alternative for them.

Worldwide, there is a number of more traditional vaccines, inactivated virus vaccines, and many that are coming online that involve purified subunits, often at very low cost with more traditional adjuvants. We have the vaccines coming from the Soviet Union and also from China. Those are more traditional and have lower efficacy - efficacy being these endpoints of death or disease in a structured clinical trial.

So for the vaccines, there are more options worldwide. In the United States, the options are currently restricted to the genetic ones. Many people are uncomfortable with those for various reasons and might be more comfortable with the Novavax product. I have no financial ties to Novavax, just to mention any potential conflict of interest. I'm just expressing what I perceive to be the vaccine landscape.

In terms of therapeutics, I sit on the ACTIV (Accelerating Covid-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines) committee at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is the Foundation for NIH committee. I'm not a voting member, I'm an observer. This is the committee that is managing these inpatient and outpatient trials for new agents and now repurposed agents. They've just opened ACTIV-6, which is the first ivermectin trial that's federally sponsored, to the best of my knowledge, here in the US. It's an outpatient virtual trial structure.

With our group from the Department of Defence (DOD), we attempted to include an Ivermectin-included arm in the trial that we have pending with the agency as an IND right now, but the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) raised so many objections and asked us to do some fundamental studies about demonstrating the mechanism of action of Ivermectin, that the DOD decided that it just wasn't worth the delay in time to get the trial started. So they dropped the

Ivermectin arm.

The landscape right now for the therapeutics and prophylactic drugs looks like - I'm going to stick my neck out, but I'm in close contact with Andrew Hill, who's doing the meta-analysis, and the work of Tess Lawrie, who has now published another meta-analysis from worldwide Ivermectin data - and the data keep getting stronger and stronger in favour of ivermectin as having some protective activity within a safe dosing range. That seems to be impacting on various emerging economies that don't have access to vaccines and is impacting on the event rate for severe Covid-19 disease and death.

There are some great epidemiologic studies or data coming out of India where certain Indian states had been on Ivermectin. The incidence of attack rate of disease was low. Then they withdrew it for political reasons. There was a change in regime. It went up. Then they re-implemented it. It went back down again. So that's pretty strong evidence.

There is also reasonable evidence for the use of Ivermectin as a therapeutic, but there are many others. It's just the one that has gotten a lot of press, in part because of Pierre Kory's Senate testimony.

What many people often don't understand about Covid-19 is that we have the SARS-CoV-2 virus infection event. And, typically, that leads to a disease of varying severity at something in the range of four to seven or eight days afterwards. But that disease only happens in a subset of patients, maybe 80 per cent, maybe 50 per cent of patients taken across all age groups, maybe even fewer. The disease is the hyperinflammatory response to the virus.

The disease is really our reaction to the virus. The good news is that we have this rich library of anti-inflammatory drugs that appear to be quite useful against keeping people out of the hospital, if it's used early enough, or treating them once they're in the

hospital.

With Remdesivir, the antiviral that has been licensed in the United States, the WHO is not recommending it globally. Many physicians in the United States find Remdesivir to be of limited use in special situations.

So the idea of using antivirals for this is really not panning out. And there are multiple other antivirals that have been tested. This is often the case with respiratory viruses.

So we all know about Tamiflu and influenza. Tamiflu, in theory, should be good. It may be that it has an impact, but you have to take it within 24 to 48 hours of first getting influenza. During that period, often you don't know that you have influenza. So it's a little bit of a catch-22. Likewise with Remdesivir, it appears.

The other agent that has gotten a lot of attention is Dexamethasone that comes out of the recovery trial in Oxford. That trial actually shows that the utility of Dexamethasone is very limited. Now, here in the United States, a lot of doctors have kind of gone all in. You may even recall that the president (Donald Trump) when he was infected, it wasn't that severe, and yet they put him on Dexamethasone.

Now the actual indication of Dexamethasone, based on the recovery trial, you should already be on oxygen and a high flow oxygen or even intubated. So it appears that in the United States, Dexamethasone is being over-used. This is often the case when Dexamethasone is often a first-line go-to when you have a new inflammatory disease.

Then, over time, additional agents come in that are more specific - and Dexamethasone drops. The problem with Dexamethasone is that it's super non-specific, and it hammers the lymphocytes. It hammers a lot of the cell populations that you actually need to recover from Covid-19 long-term. So cynics might say that Dexamethasone is a great way to get patients out of the hospital over the short term, but whether or not it's actually help-

ing them over the long term, that has actually never been studied. So that is the landscape as I see it.

Obviously, the RNA vaccines have gotten a lot of attention. They're remarkable. The adenovirus-vectored vaccines probably produce more protein over a longer period of time. They came out fairly early and were identified as associated with coagulation problems. Those coagulation problems are now being seen more with the RNA vaccines.

And there's an odd spectrum of symptoms. Governments across the world have largely denied that there are any safety concerns with the RNA vaccines. Now, that's not so tenable.

We had the CDC (US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) come out last week, talking about the Pericarditis and other Cardiomypathies that are showing up in the pediatric population - up to the age of 18. That is a significant safety risk. That was only recently identified about two months ago. It has taken two months for the CDC to verify it.

There appear to be a number of other adverse events that are buried within the admittedly flawed databases we have. We are determining to identify adverse events that are associated with the RNA vaccines. These include Thrombocytopenia (low blood platelets) and that can be associated with bleeding or other problems.

Clearly, there is a signal relating to blood clotting abnormalities, again, as with the adenovirus-vectored vaccines. There is cerebral venous thrombosis. That's a big fancy word, but what it means is blood clots in the veins draining your brain. So you can imagine that's not a very good thing to have. It's kind of related to stroke.

There's a good chance that we're having some of these cardiac symptoms in older age cohorts, but they are subject to what is called masking. This is a problem of looking at databases of epidemiology, and you have a confounding variable. For instance, I am in an age cohort where cardiac events are not rare. The problem is that if you have a relatively rare event associated with a drug or a vaccine, and it's in an age population that has a high background for related things, it's really hard to pick out the stuff that's coming from the new drug, as opposed to the background levels it is masking.

It may turn out over time that we can pick out the cardiac signals that we're seeing in the adolescent population because they have such a low background level. There's very little noise, and it's easy to see the signals.

In older age groups where there's more noise, it's harder to find the signals. But a lot of cardiologists and others are reporting things that are making people uncomfortable. **To be continued.**

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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PSSSF LOOKS FOR TENANTS FOR ITS COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND APARTMENTS TO RAISE REVENUES

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) is looking for tenants for its commercial buildings and modern apartments to raise revenues that would help it to provide improved services and pay retirees.

The fund's senior estate officer, David Mnkande told Property Watch yesterday that they have commercial buildings and modern apartments with office and hotel space, shops, restaurant, malls and conference facilities.

PSSSF has nine commercial buildings in Dar es Salaam, two in Dodoma, one in Arusha, one in Mwanza and one in Mtwara. The modern apartments are located in Dar es Salaam and Arusha regions.

"Customers are willing to rent apartments of their choice being it at Haile Selassie street Dar es Salaam, Kaloleni and Olorieni estates in Arusha city," he said adding the Arusha apartments are located some 4 kilometres from the city centre.

Mnkande added that prices at each of the buildings is negotiable and affordable, noting both the commercial buildings and apartments are fully furnished.



Millenium Towers-II at Kijitonyama in Dar es Salaam

PSSSF public relations manager, James Mlowe added that PSSSF was established by the Public Service Social Security Act of 2018 with the aim of collecting contributions and payment of terminal benefits to employees in public service.

He said members include employees in the public service employed after the commencement of PSSSF Act, employees who are members of the former schemes at the time of commencement of the PSSSF Act and employees employed after the commencement of the act in any specified corporation (company or corporation where the government or its agent owns more than 30% of the share).

Mlowe said the fund offers various benefits to its members including the sickness benefit, death gratuity, unemployment benefit, survivor pension, old age pension, invalidity pension and access to mortgage.

Highlighting on mortgage, he said members can access home mortgages loans from banks using their benefit entitlements as collateral.

For a member to qualify for the loan, he/she must be Tanzanian and has contributed to the fund for at least 10 years.

He said the amount of money to be provided as loan should not exceed 50 per cent of the special lump sum amount where the member has less than 180 months of contribution.

Affordable housing opportunities in Kenya buoyed by government spend and developer incentives

By Special Correspondent

BUOYED by significant government investment in the 2021-22 national budget, combined with attractive incentives for private developers, the affordable housing sector in Kenya is well set to provide attractive opportunities to investors. This is according to Vivian Ombwayo, Director of Research and Valuation at Broll Kenya.

"The affordable housing sector in Kenya offers developers an opportunity to diversify their portfolios, especially those concentrating mainly on the commercial-user space. It means they are able to diversify into the residential sector, thanks to attractive government incentives," comments Jess Cleland, COO Outside of SA, Valuations & Intel at Broll. Ombwayo and Cleland presented a research report on the sector at the eighth annual East Africa Property Investment (EAPI) Summit from 5 to 9 July.

The research report was co-sponsored by API Events. Leading Pan-African professional real-estate services provider Broll Property Group (www.Broll.com) is a long-

time sponsor of Africa Property Investment (API) Events, the leading event and thought leadership platform in African real estate. With operations in 13 countries across Africa, Broll is at the forefront of shaping the East African property industry by using the EAPI platform to share insights from its experience across the continent.

Ombwayo highlights that the abundant housing opportunities in Kenya also allow complementary users to be included in affordable housing projects, such as retail, office, institutional and also medical. This means that, at the end of the day, despite having to manage their revenue and cost carefully, private developers are able to achieve a healthy return from comprehensive affordable housing projects.

Another factor to be considered is the social impact of affordable housing, stresses Ombwayo. "We have so many developers, such as those in the private equity space, heavily involved with the social benefits that such projects afford local communities. There are no better projects than affordable housing in this regard."

She elaborates: "It starts off by



elevating the living standards of end users, especially with the Covid-19 pandemic given that health is associated with housing. It also increases the country's employment rate, reduces the crime rate from the community receiving social revenue from such projects and facilitates overall community integration. The associated training and development programmes are also highly beneficial to local communities."

While there is no formal definition of what constitutes affordable housing in the Kenyan property market, according to the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company Plc (KMRC), the ceiling for a typical three-bedroom unit is four million Kenyan shillings (KES). "However, it is very much dependent on the developers themselves, who often base the definition of affordable housing on not cost alone, but also on the proximity to socioeconomic amenities," notes Ombwayo.

The demand base of low- to middle-income earners, which accounts for more than half of the economically active urban population, lends a real impetus to the demand for affordable housing. For example, an online affordable housing platform developed by the government, known as Boma Yangu, has clocked up over 320,000 subscribers to date.

"While private developers are finding it very tight to maintain the ceiling of KES 4 million, we are not really seeing any projects offering anything above the standard typology of three-bedroom apartments," adds Ombwayo. The cost of land within the major urban centres is increasingly pushing developers to the outskirts, where the main attraction is the ready availability of relatively cheaper land.

"The lion's share is being taken up by government projects at the moment. This is mainly driven by availability of land. Land cost is a very important aspect when it comes

to affordable housing, coupled with innovative ways of minimising overall projects costs, such as alternative building technologies. The private sector is yet to catch up, but there has been a lot of traction in recent years, especially as the private sector attempts the tricky balance of cost versus the final price of a unit," explains Ombwayo.

In conclusion, Ombwayo highlights that her outlook for the sector remains "very promising". This is largely due to the fact that, as part of the Affordable Housing Initiative contemplated under the Big 4 Agenda, the Kenyan government has set aside KES 13.9 billion for the Affordable Housing Programme.

"The trying times of the pandemic has opened our eyes to the importance of quality housing as it is linked to health and well-being. The affordable housing sector not only offers scope for developers to add to their revenue base, but also to play a significant role in managing the spread of Covid-19," concludes Ombwayo.

Majaliwa to grace ten-day mining technology expo in Shinyanga today

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is today expected to grace a ten-day mining technology and trade fair to be held at the Butulwa grounds in Old Shinyanga ward in the municipality.

The exhibition will take place from July 23rd to August 1st, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Dr Philemon Sengati said this yesterday when briefing the media on the fair which is aimed at promoting the mining industry, and trade in the region.

According to the RC, Shinyanga Region has many mines, thus through the exhibition stakeholders and investors would have an opportunity to know the available investment and business opportunities as well as connecting with a network of traders.

"This mining technology and trade fair in our region will help boost the region's economy, the output of individuals and the nation as a whole. It will be officially opened on July 23rd by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa," said Dr Sengati.

The Regional Commissioner called upon the public to turn out in large numbers for the crucial exhibition whereas they will also be able to see the various minerals available in their region.

He said traders attending the exhibition will have chances to establish new networks and partnerships and promote their businesses.

The chairman of the exhibition, Kulwa Meshack,

who is also the chairman of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Shinyanga Region, said

the exhibition is an opportunity for miners and traders to share experiences.



Mbarali rice farmers benefit from USADF 470m/- grant

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

RICE farmers in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have benefited from a 470m/- grant issued by the US African Development Foundation (USADF) so as to enable them to increase productivity and quality of the crop.

The grant among others will enable the farmers to adopt modern farming technology to produce quality crops and thus have access to reliable domestic and foreign markets.

The farmers have hailed the move saying that with the grant, they will be able to transform their farming and thus reap more from the business.

Andrew Mwambengeo from Mswisi village in the district said that as the funds have arrived on time will enable the farmers to have time to prepare well on how they are going to make good use of them to improve their farming.

He said the provision of the funds to support rice farming in Mbeya follows the good relationship which Tanzania has with other countries including the US.

Another farmer Batsanje Fumbo said the grant will benefit both members and non-members of the Azimio Mswisi Company which engages in rice production and value addition.

Lukman Shirima, secretary of Azimio Company commended USADF for valuing farmer in Mbarali because this is the second time the foundation is approving grants to support rice farming in the district.

"The grant will also facilitate procurement of modern farming equipment, processing machines as well modern storage facilities after harvest," he said.

TELECOM NETWORK IN SEYCHELLES TO UNDERGO MAINTENANCE AT WEEKEND

By Special Correspondent

SEYCHELLES expects interruptions in telecommunication services from this Saturday evening to midday Sunday when the Seychelles Cable Systems Company undertakes maintenance work.

The company said on Wednesday that according to measurements conducted in May it was determined that there is substantial signal degradation on the land sections of the Seychelles East Africa System (SEAS).

"The cause of the degradation is a land joint in the beach manhole at Beau Vallon in Seychelles and a land joint in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The supplier Alcatel Submarine Networks has confirmed that both joints have to be replaced as soon as possible as the signal is continuously degrading and it is highly probable that traffic will cease in a matter of a few months," added the company.

Seychelles Cable Systems Company said that it is also expected that there will be a negative impact on the quality of service on telecommunication services nationally during this period.

Meanwhile, the principal secretary of the Department of Information Communication and Technology, Benjamin Choppy, told SNA on Wednesday that Seychelles expects to see the landing of the second submarine communication cable system - the Pakistan East Africa Cable Express (PEACE) - by the end of the first quarter in 2022.

The second submarine cable system will provide Seychelles, an archipelago in the western Indian Ocean, with connectivity security.



PEACE will run from Pakistan, go up to Europe and come down to Africa. The branch connecting Seychelles will come from Kenya. The project which is being undertaken by the Seychelles Cable

Systems Company Limited is expected to cost \$20 million.

"The system has already been manufactured and right now there are certain planning taking place relating to its deployment," said

Choppy.

"We need to fit ourselves in the timetable of the larger system. Based on the most recent plan of work we have received from Huawei Marine Network, the contractor undertaking the project, our cable will land towards the end of the first quarter of next year, assuming that there will not be any adverse conditions internationally. Commercial operations are expected to start soon after," he added.

The signing for the installation of the cable took place in 2018 and work was expected to start in 2019 and be completed in 2020, however, this was pushed to July 2021 and now to March 2022.

The second submarine cable will land at Perseverance - a man-made island on the north-eastern coast of the main island of Mahe - and at the moment, the new Cable Landing Station is being built and expected to be ready by the end of this month so as to receive equipment that will come in by next August.

Currently, Seychelles has only one fibre-optic cable, built under the Seychelles East Africa System (SEAS) in 2012 connecting the main island - Mahe - to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

SEAS supports over 90 percent of internet traffic in the country with the amount on the satellite being minimal.

"The main rationale of the second cable is to provide connectivity security as we currently have only one cable. Should a problem arise on the current cable, we will lose connection and go in the dark. It will be difficult for operators to switch to satellites with the amount of traffic that we have on the current cable," said Choppy.

Govt has not imposed tax on fertiliser - Prof Mkenda

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda has said the government wants to see farmers realise benefits from farming, and that why it has not imposed any tax on fertiliser, contrary to claims.

He said producing crops is expensive even though some crops prices become incomprehensible, adding:

"Current price for maize has been causing panic in some regions, as it is low compared to costs incurred by farmers, and this is oppressive to them and become unable to meet the cost of inputs."

Regarding fertiliser, Prof Mkenda said it has created panic as some people have been claiming its price has risen due to government tax imposed thereon.

"There is absolutely no tax that has been imposed on the farm input as the government aims to make sure it is available at low cost to mobilise farmers to use it fertiliser for increase yields," he added.

He said the step will spur more importation of the fertiliser hence "dealers will be faced with competitive pricing that will be good for farmers, but we also ensure the input is of high quality."

He also pointed out that tendering system has not helped despite many firms emerged, with few



of them taken and set prices that are not farmers friendly.

For his part, Cereals and other Produce Board (CPB) Director Dr Anselmi Mushi told reporters that the Board buys maize at good price compared to the market price, and

added that they purchase maize at between 250/- and 480/- per kg but differs in regions.

"In Nkasi district the maize is sold at between 250/- and 270/- a kg, in the northern zone the price is between 450/- and 485/-, hence the

Board has dispatched 7.47bn/- for buying 14,948 tonnes at an average of 500/- per kg," he said.

For his part National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) Chief Executive Officer Milton Lupa said the Agency plans to buy 165,000 tonnes in the

2021/2022 season from regions with big production, out of which 150,000 tonnes of maize will be bought.

He said for a long time NFRA has been buying maize alone but now it has started buying other cereals, sorghum and rice.

BOT endorses Cellulant as country's one-stop digital payments platform

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BOT) has issued an approval in principle to Cellulant Corporation to operate as a Payment Solution Service Provider (PSSP) in Tanzania having satisfied all the necessary requirements.

PSSP make up the underlying e-Payment infrastructure in Tanzania. Banks, Online Merchants, payment processors, merchants, state governments, and con-

sumers connect to PSSPs to meet their digital payment needs.

This approval makes Cellulant one of the top PSSP in Tanzania endorsed by the BOT to provide digital payments solutions across the nation.

Cellulant is a leading Pan-African financial technology company providing a one-stop digital payments platform. Cellulant uses technology to connect people and their resources, making it easier to do business across Africa.

Edwin Kiiru, recently appointed

Country Manager for Cellulant Tanzania, stated that this approval will enable the company to extend its payment solutions across all spectrums of Tanzania's payments ecosystem.

Cellulant provides a single digital payments platform - named Tingg- addressing the complex payments needs of businesses. Tingg makes it easy to collect and make payments across multiple payment methods in different currencies, with the best customer experience for any business looking to digitise their

payments.

"Cellulant is a critical component of Africa's Payments ecosystem and a key factor in delivering seamless payments solutions. This approval sets Cellulant into a select group of few payment aggregators that operate as PSSPs in Tanzania and will help add millions of economically active but financially excluded Tanzanians into the digital payment ecosystem. We are bringing to Tanzania the same top-level performance and seamless payments solutions that have made

Tingg, Africa's most preferred payments platform," added Mr Kiiru.

Founded in 2002, Cellulant provides a single digital payments platform that runs an ecosystem of consumers, retailers, merchants, banks, mobile network operators, Governments, and International Development Partners. Today, Cellulant's payments platform hosts 154 payment options across 34 countries; and is connected to 220M consumers on a single inclusive network allowing for interoperability that has eluded numer-

TECHNOLOGY

CDC INVESTS \$36 MILLION IN DIVERCITY FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING IN SOUTH AFRICA



By Jean Marie Takouleu

CDC Group, the UK government's development finance institution, has invested \$36 million in Divercity Urban Property Fund (Divercity), a platform dedicated to building affordable housing and focusing on the regeneration of South African cities. The platform will use this funding to build green housing in Johannesburg. After renewable energy a few days ago, CDC Group is releasing new funds, this time to support the real estate sector in South Africa. The British government's financial institution has confirmed a 500 million South African rand (\$36 million) investment in Divercity Urban Property

Fund (Divercity), a platform dedicated to the construction of affordable housing and focused on the regeneration of South African cities.

CDC Group invested in Divercity in a funding round that also saw the participation of South African impact investor Futuregrowth and Divercity's existing shareholders. The funds invested will be used to build and manage over 2,500 new residential units over the next five years, primarily in Johannesburg.

This city of approximately 5.6 million people is experiencing a housing shortage. According to CDC Group, South Africa has a housing shortage of approximately 2.3 units. In this context, a large

majority of its low-cost housing is built on the outskirts of major cities. This limits the residential options of low- and middle-income households to mostly informal, congested and poor-quality housing on the outskirts of cities.

Divercity is focusing on eco-responsible housing to reverse this trend and contribute to sustainable and environmentally friendly urban development. "Cities in sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing rapid population growth and a growing housing shortage, with low-income populations particularly affected (...) This investment will help promote inclusive growth and strengthen social and economic integration in the coun-

try," says Samir Abhyankar, Managing Director of CDC Group's Direct Private Equity arm.

The funds invested in Divercity will also finance the acquisition of residential property and asset manager, Ithemba Property. This other transaction is intended to bring new expertise to the management of Divercity's future homes. And Ithemba Property has 20 years of experience in the field.

AfDB's US\$6 million grant cash kicks off desert-to-power West Africa regional energy programme

By Special Correspondent

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a \$6 million grant to launch the initial phase of the Desert to Power West Africa Regional Energy Program. Desert to Power, an initiative led by the Bank, is expected to transform the Sahel by harnessing the region's abundant solar potential.

The grant funding, sourced from the African Development Fund's 15 (ADF-15) Regional Operations Envelope, will go to the West African Power Pool (WAPP) to conduct pre-feasibility studies for the construction of the Sahel Transmission Backbone that will link regional solar parks in all five countries. The Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) will also receive financing to expand decentralized energy systems as part of an ECOWAS Regional Mini-Grid Program. The board approval was made on 1 July 2021.

The financing will also help de-risk energy investments by preparing transmission infrastructure to link countries in the Sahel region and harness a larger share of electricity from solar power. This is expected to pave the way for power trading on a regional electricity market. The G-5 Sahel countries are Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

"The Sahel Backbone is synonymous with the West African Power Pool's drive to reinforce interconnectivity among the ECOWAS national power systems, increase coverage area beyond the ECOWAS geographical space and augment the component of renewable energy within the energy mix," the Secretary General of the West African Power Pool, Siengui Apollinaire Ki said. "The approval of funding by the African Development Bank represents a concrete step towards leveraging the solar potential of the Sahel region."

Bah F. M. Saho, acting Executive Director of ECREEE, said: "The funding for the Desert to Power initiative will allow ECREEE to upscale efforts on clean energy mini-grids and improve the availability of locally qualified personnel through the certification of technicians."

The West Africa Regional Program will contribute to the overall target of 10,000 MW of new solar generation capacity, providing electricity access to 250 million people by 2030.

"As the regional roadmap for Desert to Power takes shape, this program comes as a timely enabler for concerted and large-scale solar energy deployments in the G5 Sahel region, and it will help accelerate the energy transition," said Dr. Daniel Schroth, acting Bank Director for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.



As the regional roadmap for Desert to Power takes shape, this program comes as a timely enabler for concerted and large-scale solar energy deployments in the G5 Sahel region, and it will help accelerate the energy transition

Egypt, Ethiopia compete to export power to Africa

By George Mikhail

A new battle between Ethiopia and Egypt has surfaced against the backdrop of the dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). The two African countries are now fighting over export of electricity to Africa.

Ethiopia is poised to fulfill its ambition to export electricity from the GERD. Ethiopian Ambassador to Uganda Alemtsehay Meseret held talks with Burundi's minister of water, energy and minerals, Ibrahim Uwizeye on July 7. During the meeting, Uwizeye affirmed that his country is waiting for the completion of the dam to buy electricity from Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is working to generate about 6,000 megawatts (MW) of electric power from the GERD. In 2014, it announced its plan to export 5,000 MW of electricity to neighboring countries and Africa within 10 years.

In June 2020, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed confirmed at a parliamentary session that "Ethiopia will start exporting electricity from the GERD in 2023."

In turn, Ethiopian Minister of Irrigation Seleshi Bagli announced in April 2021, "The production of electric power from the GERD will start in August, after the completion of the second filling of the dam's reservoir."

Ethiopia already exports electricity to its neighbors Kenya, Sudan and Djibouti. In a report in 2015, Reuters reported that Ethiopia "has signed deals to send power to Tanzania, Rwanda, South



Sudan and Yemen as well, particularly from hydropower."

However, Addis Ababa aims to scale up its production and export of hydroelectricity to African countries through the GERD.

Meanwhile, Egypt is making contacts with African countries, especially those Ethiopia aims to export electricity to. Egypt is trying to supply these countries with electricity by helping them establish power plants and exporting electricity to them.

Burundi is one of these African countries and Egypt had offered to invest in the field of electricity in the country. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi stressed, during talks with Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye in March 2021, Egypt's keenness to support Burundi's development

needs, especially in the electricity sector, by maximizing the investments of specialized Egyptian companies.

In a related context, the Egyptian private company, Orascom, is part of the joint venture constructing the Jiji and Mulembwe hydropower project on Burundi's Jiji River. The project aims to generate a production capacity of 50 MW.

In February, Egyptian Ambassador to Burundi Yasser al-Atwy expressed to Uwizeye his country's desire to provide assistance and support to raise the production capacity of electricity in Burundi, and to train Burundian engineers and technicians in the field of electricity.

Egypt also turned to Djibouti. Sisi visited Djibouti in May and

agreed with his counterpart to increase Egyptian investments and to allow Egyptian companies to contribute to infrastructure projects, inter alia electricity projects.

In February, a delegation comprising a number of Egyptian contracting companies and companies operating in the field of solar energy visited Djibouti. The visit aimed to discuss ways to establish solar energy plants and power plants and encourage the Egyptian private sector to invest in the construction of power plants in Djibouti.

In 2018, the Djiboutian minister of energy and Natural resources, Yonis Ali Guedi, visited Cairo. Guedi concluded a memorandum of understanding on an electricity deal with his Egyptian counterpart, Mohammed Shaker. The

deal aimed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of electricity and establish solar power plants.

Ethiopia exports electricity to Sudan. It shows Khartoum with promises that it will expand exports thanks to the GERD electricity. However, the Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation in the field of electricity, most notably through the electrical interconnection project, has somewhat alleviated the power crisis hitting Sudan. In March, the two countries signed an agreement to raise the capacity of their electrical interconnection from 80 to 300 MW.

Egypt is also helping Tanzania – which had signed contracts to purchase electricity from Ethiopia in 2016 – in the construction of the Julius Nyerere Dam. The dam includes a hydroelectric power plant, the largest in Tanzania, with an capacity of 6,307 MW-hours annually.

Several African countries suffer from an electricity crisis. To fill its power shortage, Kenya agreed to buy 400 MW of energy from Ethiopia. This did not keep it, however, from seeking cooperation with Egypt. Kenya asked Cairo to urge its specialized companies to invest in the field of electricity generation and energy.

In December 2019, Sisi announced his country's readiness to export electricity to African countries at a low price. This came as part of Egypt's plan to expand electricity exports to Africa.

Abbas Sharaki, a professor of water resources at Cairo University, told Al-Monitor that Egypt is

following a strategy to strengthen its influence once again in Africa through projects and investments, and to help the countries of the continent solve their crisis.

He said, "African countries – especially Nile Basin countries – have acute electricity shortages, which Ethiopia is exploiting. Egypt is aware of that. Ethiopia deludes its people that the GERD will solve the electricity crisis. But this will not be possible in the absence of infrastructure projects to distribute electricity to all regions of Ethiopia."

Sharaki added, "The Ethiopian government chose the easiest way, which is to export the electricity of the GERD to Africa rather than meeting the needs of its own people."

In statements during his June meeting with President of the Republic of South Sudan Salva Kiir, Egyptian Minister of Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Aty challenged Ethiopia's claims that the GERD will provide electricity to Ethiopia and its neighboring countries.

Abdel Aty pointed to contradictory statements by Ethiopian officials. He noted that they stress the importance of the GERD in providing electricity to the Ethiopian people who are deprived of electricity, while the Ethiopian government is seeking to export this electricity abroad.

In a report published in October 2020, the London-based newspaper The Independent had confirmed that half of Ethiopia's population does not have access to electricity.

WORLD

In first six months in office, Biden faces setbacks, gains

WASHINGTON

MARKING his first six months in office on Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden saw a mixed bag of setbacks and gains.

On controlling the pandemic, millions of Americans have gotten their vaccine jabs. But in other areas, from crime to spending, the president is encountering a headwind. Legislations on gun control, voting rights and police brutality have hit a wall, while a massive bipartisan infrastructure bill is still stuck in the evenly split Senate.

HANDLING THE PANDEMIC

While vaccine distribution got off to a rocky start under former U.S. President Donald Trump, it has accelerated in the first six months during Biden's presidency. As of the July 4th holiday weekend, 67 percent of the population have received at least one dose.

"Dealing with the pandemic has been Biden's biggest accomplishment in the first six months," Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua.

However, the more contagious Delta variant is spreading across the country, especially in areas with low vaccination rates.

Speaking at a meeting marking his first six months in office on Tuesday, Biden acknowledged that the United States has a long way to go in fighting the pandemic, noting that his administration's focus is on pushing to get the rest of the population vaccinated.

According to data from Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity, the United States has seen more than 609,000 deaths and 34 million cases.

CRIME SURGE

The pandemic has stirred a nationwide crime wave that shows no signs of abating. Many experts, police officers and ordinary Americans fear that multiple U.S. cities will once again plunge back into the wave of violent crime that characterized the early 1990s.

Biden has told states and cities they can use 350 billion U.S. dollars in federal stimulus money to shore up police departments. But even the president himself said he predicts a bloody summer.

More than 180 people were shot dead nationwide over the Fourth of July weekend, as major U.S. cities continue to see a surge in violence, according to data gathered by the Gun Violence Archive, a database that tracks the latest acts of gun violence.

Much of the violence is occurring in Democrat-led cities, and Republicans have lambasted Biden for the crime surge.

James, a retired police officer outside New York City who declined to give his full name, told Xinhua that many police officers are retiring early because of anti-police sentiment in the wake of the 2020 protests and riots over the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, by a white police officer in Minnesota. For his part, Biden said the problem is too many guns on the street.

"I've been at this a long time, and there are things we know that work to reduce gun violence and violent crime," the president said in



a recent speech.

ECONOMY

Experts applaud the president's passage of the 1.9-trillion-dollar American Rescue Plan, aimed at bringing relief to the beleaguered economy, which last year suffered the worst recession since the Great Depression nearly a century ago.

"Legislatively, his biggest win thus far has been passing the massive coronavirus relief plan. This fulfilled a major campaign promise and gave an early boost to the economy," Christopher Galdieri, assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua.

Desmond Lachman, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, applauded Biden for reinvigorating the U.S. antitrust policy and shining a light on the monopolistic practices of a number of large U.S. tech companies.

That offers the prospect of a more competitive U.S. economy that should be to the consumer's advantage, he told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, Lachman, together with some other economists, blasted the president for what they called over-spending.

Biden's main mistake on the economic front has been "excessive public spending," Lachman said, warning that could lead the economy to overheat and could bring an unwelcome burst of inflation in its wake.

IMMIGRATION

Biden and the Democrats are also facing fierce criticism from Republicans on the situation at the southern U.S. border.

U.S. authorities have arrested over one million migrants crossing illegally over the U.S.-Mexico border so far in fiscal year 2021, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). That's the most since the year 2000.

Agencies

Madagascar police, after months of investigation and arrest six over plot to kill president

ANTANANARIVO

MADAGASCAN police this week arrested six people, including a foreign national, on suspicion of plotting to kill the president, after months of investigation, officials said.

Andry Rajoelina (pictured) was sworn in as president of the Indian Ocean island country in 2019 after a hard-fought election and a constitutional court challenge from his rival.

"According to the evidence in our possession, these individuals had devised a plan for the elimination and neutralization of a number of people including the head of state," the attorney general said in a statement.

It added that investigations were under way and further details could not be disclosed. The arrests were made on Tuesday.

The extent of the plot, or how far advanced, was not immediately clear.

The statement did not specify the nationality of the foreign nationals.

A separate statement by the public security minister on Wednesday said that six people had been arrested: one foreign national, two binationals, and three Madagascan nationals.

"The police had information for several months, but only now was there an opportunity to arrest them," the statement read.

Agencies

Biden says he fully realised he was US President during meeting with Putin

NEW YORK

US President Joe Biden has fully realized that he was the leader of the American administration during the meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. He stated this during his town hall meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio on Wednesday aired by CNN.

Biden said that the moment it sank in that he was now president, "the leader of the free world," occurred when he was sitting across from Putin as equal. "He knows who I am. I know who he is," Biden said.

The talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Joe Biden took place on June 16 in Geneva.

This was their first face-to-face meeting as heads of state and also the first Russian-US summit since 2018. In a joint statement, the leaders emphasized that the parties intended to launch an integrated bilateral strategic stability dialogue "that will be substantive and robust."

Additionally, Moscow and Washington intend to begin consultations touching on cybersecurity, an exchange of prisoners, and arms control.

Agencies

'More than 4 million children' in US infected with COVID-19

WASHINGTON

MORE than 4 million children in the United States have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, according to a latest report of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Children's Hospital Association.

As of July 15, almost 4.09 million children have been infected with COVID-19. After decreases in weekly reported cases over the past couple of months, the country began to see increases in cases in July, according to the report.

Children represented 14.2 percent of all COVID-19 cases in the country, and 0 to 0.26 percent of all COVID-19 deaths, according to the report.

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths were all up double digits in recent weeks as the highly contagious Delta variant spreads across the US.

US President Joe Biden said the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is likely to advise that kids who haven't been vaccinated should wear masks when they return from summer holidays to school in the fall.

He also said that those under 12 years old will be able to get inoculated "soon".

Biden urged more Americans to get vaccinated against COVID-19, saying that the coronavirus is only raging among those who have not received their shots.

New York City will begin requiring vaccinations or weekly testing of all workers in its public hospitals and clinics in an attempt to slow an increase in cases.

Agencies

New COVID-19 cases, deaths and spread of variants all on the rise - WHO

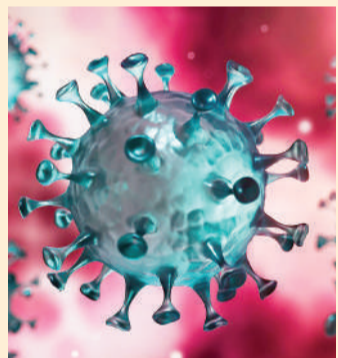
GENEVA

WHILE previous months saw decreasing cases of COVID-19 worldwide, the trend has changed this month and last week saw a 12 percent increase in the number of cases, while deaths and spread of variants are also on the rise, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported Wednesday.

A total of 3.4 million new cas-

es have been confirmed last week, during which approximately an average of 490,000 cases were identified each day, compared with 400,000 cases the week before. It confirmed that the novel coronavirus is spreading faster in the world, the WHO said in its weekly update.

Last week, Indonesia, the United Kingdom and Brazil were the most affected places with respectively 350,273,



296,447 and 287,610 cases, the WHO said.

The Geneva-based organization also reported that if the virus continues to spread at this rate, the global number of COVID-19 cases could reach 200 million in the next three weeks.

Furthermore, new deaths are also increasing, with 57,000 deaths reported last week as the death toll of the coronavirus has reached well over four million people.

Variants are continuing

their progression, as the Alpha variant was seen in 180 countries, territories or areas, and 13 new countries, territories or areas reported cases of the Delta variant.

While the Alpha variant is still detected more often than its counterpart, the Delta variant is believed by the WHO to be 50 percent more transmissible and might become the dominant form of the virus in the next few months. Xinhua

Agencies

Iran opens oil terminal in Gulf of Oman to bypass Strait of Hormuz

DUBAI

IRAN has opened its first oil terminal in the Gulf of Oman, President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday, to allow Iranian tankers to avoid using the strategically vulnerable Strait of Hormuz, which has been a focus of regional tension for decades.

"This is a strategic move and an important step for Iran. It will secure the continuation of our oil exports," Rouhani said in a televised speech. "This new crude export terminal shows the failure of Washington's sanctions on Iran."

Rouhani said Iran aimed to export 1 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil from Bandar-e Jask, a port on Iran's Gulf of Oman coast, just south of the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has often threatened

to block the Strait if its crude exports were shutdown by US sanctions, reimposed by Washington three years ago when then president Donald Trump abandoned Tehran's nuclear deal with six major powers.

Tehran and US President Joe Biden's administration have been in indirect talks in Vienna since early April to revive the deal, under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear program in return for the lifting of most international sanctions.

"The implementation of the Gohreh-Jask port crude oil transfer project took place with about US\$2 billion investment," Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said, according to the ministry's SHANA website.

The Strait is a narrow channel at the mouth of the Gulf through which about a fifth of



A handout picture provided by the Iranian Army official website on September 10, 2020, shows an Iranian boats during a military exercise in the Gulf, near the strategic strait of Hormuz in southern Iran. AFP

the world's oil passes from Middle East producers to markets in Asia, Europe, North America

and beyond.

There have been periodic confrontations between Iran's

elite Revolutionary Guards and the US military in the area

Agencies

'Pairing assistance' programme in China introduces fruits from Xinjiang to rest of the country

IN midsummer as northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region is filled with fragrances from various kinds of ripe fruits, a steady stream of trucks fully loaded with fresh fruits leave major logistics centers in the region for buyers across the country.

Limited by long transport distances and poor logistics, Xinjiang had difficulty introducing forest products and fruits to other regions of China. Fortunately, many Chinese provinces and cities have given full play to their respective advantages of markets and resources to help the region sell its characteristic agricultural products through

online and offline channels under China's "pairing assistance" program in which they have paired up with Xinjiang to assist it with development.

While helping sell forest products and fruits of Xinjiang, these provinces and municipalities have facilitated the agricultural structure adjustment and increased the income of farmers and herdsmen in the region.

Fruit grower Maimaijiang Abudurehman in Hongqipo Farm, Aksu city, Aksu prefecture of Xinjiang, who used to feel anxious about the sale of his fruits during harvest season, now see buyers come to his orchard when fruits are still on

the branches.

In July 2020, Abudurehman signed a contract with a local agriculture company to have all the fruits produced in his orchard purchased by the company and then sold in cities across the country via the "ten cities, one hundred stores" project jointly launched by Xinjiang and east China's Zhejiang province.

The project aims to, through multiple cooperation models, build public warehouses in 10 prefecture-level cities in Zhejiang for featured products from Aksu prefecture of Xinjiang and form more than 100 retail outlets for the marketing of these

products, according to Chen Haitao, deputy head of the command center of Zhejiang province for providing pairing assistance for Xinjiang.

From the beginning of 2020 to June 2021, Zhejiang province sold 350,000 tons of agricultural products from Aksu prefecture and the 1st division of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps via online and offline channels of the "ten cities, one hundred stores" project, with the sales volume reaching five billion yuan (\$771 million).

In June this year, officials dispatched from Shenzhen city in south China's Guang-

dong province to assist Xinjiang's development hosted a livestreaming show in Amanla village, Awati township, Kashi city, Xinjiang, to sell apricots for the village.

Within two hours, the apricots of the village were sold out and the total sales exceeded 60,000 yuan. It was the second consecutive year that these officials hosted livestreaming promotion for local products in Xinjiang.

Besides actively establishing online marketing platforms together with many companies, the command center of Shenzhen for providing pairing assistance for Xinjiang has

also set up dedicated counters for agricultural products from Kashi city in gas stations and service areas, and facilitated the entry of agricultural and sideline products from Kashi into the purchasing system of supermarket chains in Shenzhen.

Last year, Shenzhen helped sell 11,600 tons of agricultural products worth of 230 million yuan from Kashi.

Since 2018, the command center of east China's Shandong province for providing pairing assistance for Xinjiang has implemented an innovative project to reduce poverty in Xinjiang through promoting

consumer spending on products from poor areas in the region.

Under the project, more than 100 agricultural product processing and marketing enterprises in Shandong and Xinjiang have been motivated to establish a supply and marketing cooperative alliance, and set up front-end warehouse-based sales platforms for characteristic agricultural and sideline products from Kashi.

Products sold on these platforms are purchased directly from their planting bases and transported through a unified logistics system.

People's Daily

China rejects 'compromised' WHO plan for virus origin study

By Wang Xiaoyu and Zhang Zhihao

CHINA cannot accept the current version of the second phase investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 virus launched by the World Health Organization, for the plan has been compromised by political manipulation and disrespect of scientific facts, Zeng Yixin, deputy head of the National Health Commission, said at a news briefing yesterday.

Zeng said the plan has listed the hypothesis that China had violated lab regulations and leaked the virus as one of the major research objectives, which left him "very shocked" after reading the proposal.

Zeng said Chinese experts have voiced their concerns and suggestions for improving the investigation plan to the WHO.

What has been carried out in the first stage of origin tracing, especially those that have reached a clear conclusion, should not be repeated, Zeng said.

"We hope the WHO can carefully consider the advice by Chinese scientists, take investigating the origin of the COVID-19 virus as a scientific question free from political interference, and proactively and properly conduct sustained investigations into the origin of the virus in various countries across the world," he said.

Only by conducting science-based origin-tracing of COVID-19 virus, can we uncover the real truth, said Xu Nanping, vice-minister of Science and Technology, at the briefing.

Experts attending the news conference also called for the international scientific community to con-

duct multifaceted, dynamic, and wide-ranging investigations around the world on the origins of the COVID-19 virus, and not limit their options to a couple of hypotheses and destinations.

Liang Wannian, team leader of the Chinese side of the WHO-China joint expert team, said the place of origin and transmission of the COVID-19 virus is more complicated and puzzling than previously anticipated, as countries around the world have reported finding traces of the virus in clinical samples and environment months before their first reported COVID-19 cases, with some dating even earlier than the first reported case in China in late December of 2019.

Liang said it was key to investigate other countries and regions concurrently to better understand the early clinical cases, genetic sequence of the virus, as well as its methods of transmission including natural spillover, spread through intermediate host, and the role of cold-chain logistics.

Claims against Wuhan lab 'based on thin air'

Meanwhile, Chinese experts rejected claims that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had three infected workers, carried out gain-of-function research and engineered the virus.

Yuan Zhiming, a researcher at the institute in Wuhan, Hubei province, said the institute had not come in contact, stored or researched the virus before Dec 30, 2019. Yuan is also the director of the National Biosafety Laboratory in Wuhan.

"The infrastructure, management, team composition and work-



Zeng Yixin, deputy head of the National Health Commission, speaks at a news conference yesterday. CHINA DAILY

ing protocols at the institute's P4 biosafety laboratory are the same as other P4 labs in operation," he said at the news briefing "Since the laboratory began operating in 2018, no laboratory leaks or human infections have ever occurred."

Yuan said the laboratory has stable and reliable biosafety precautions in place, and has established a set of complete biosafety management systems and a professional team to bolster, manage and maintain its operation.

Refuting the allegation that three workers at the institute were infected with the disease in November 2019, Yuan said people propagating the claim were never able to provide names of the alleged researchers. "The claim has been created out of thin air," he said.

He said unfounded accusations that implicate the institute as the source of the outbreak has disturbed the institute's scientific research work and disrupted international communication and cooperation.

China 'shared all data' with WHO

Earlier this year, Chinese and international experts visited Wuhan to study the origin of the virus, which was organized by the WHO.

China allowed the experts to visit all places they wanted to go and meet all people they wanted to see during the visit, Zeng noted.

The results of the WHO-China joint study are able to stand the test of time, said Zeng.

China had presented sufficient data in accordance with the requests by experts from the WHO mission, said Liang from the Chinese side of the joint expert team.

He said China had shared clinical data of early COVID-19 patients, information from epidemiological surveys, and lab test results with the expert team for joint study and analysis, and the findings were later published in the WHO report.

However, Liang said the data contained personal information and it is against relevant laws and regula-

tions in China to allow the data to be taken to other countries.

The Chinese side had explained the situation to foreign experts, and after reaching a consensus, the data was made available to the joint expert team during their mission, but experts could not take photos or make copy of the raw data, he said.

China has not purposefully withhold data from the research team, and the credibility of the conclusions from the joint report is not undermined simply because China wants to protect its citizen's privacy by not allowing experts to take their personal data with them to other countries, said Liang.

During their visit, the joint expert team conducted field visits at the Wuhan institute, and in particular, learned about the institute's implementation of management and safety regulations, as well as its past and current research projects, Liang said.

The mission had reached the conclusion that it is extremely unlikely that the virus originated from a laboratory, he said.

Chinese researchers suggested that more probe should be directed to countries where P4 laboratories had not been visited by international experts, reviewing possible safety risks and laboratory incidents there, Liang said.

The region that reported the earliest cases is not necessarily where the virus jumped from animals to humans, Liang noted.

Evidence showed the possibility of the virus transmission through cold chain, said Wang Chen, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Xinhua

ROK: US hoping for DPRK's response to offers of talks

SEOUL

THE United States is hoping that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) responds to its offer to re-open talks on denuclearization, the Republic of Korea's (ROK) presidential office said yesterday, citing US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

Sherman, a veteran diplomat with extensive experience in dealing with the DPRK, met President Moon Jae-in after arriving in Seoul late on Wednesday from Tokyo on her second stop on a tour of Asia.

The DPRK has rebuffed proposals from the new US administration of President Joe Biden for talks, raising new doubts about prospects for pressing it to give up its nuclear weapon and missile programs.

"We are hoping that North Korea will respond to our offers of talks at an early stage," Moon's office quoted Sherman as telling the the ROK's president, who has also been trying to encourage negotiations. The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea.

Moon asked Sherman to try to re-engage with the DPRK, stressing the allies' shared goals of complete denuclearisation and peace on the Korean peninsula, which were reaffirmed in talks with Biden in May.

Sherman called for more cooperation on other issues including climate change, Moon's office said.

Sherman is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with the ROK's Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun yesterday before leaving for Mongolia. **Agencies**

China calls on APEC members to work for bright future of prosperity for all in Asia-Pacific

CHINESE President Xi Jinping called on members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to work for a bright future of prosperity for all in the Asia-Pacific while delivering a speech titled "Fighting COVID-19 and Leading Economic Recovery Through Solidarity and Cooperation" at the APEC Informal Economic Leaders' Retreat via video link on July 16.

Xi's speech conforms to the development trend of the Asia-Pacific region, shows the noble ideals of the Chinese leader who cares about people all over the world, demonstrates China's sincere desire to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic together with countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world, manifests China's sense of responsibility as a constructor of and contributor to cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and is of great significance for promoting the building of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future.

The current situation under the COVID-19 pandemic is undergoing many twists and turns, including the constant mutations of the virus. Controlling the pandemic still poses a difficult challenge, while global economic recovery is still on shaky ground. Against this backdrop, the international community is in urgent need of more confidence, hope, and cooperation.

At the crucial moment, Xi proposed strengthening international cooperation on COVID-19 response, deepening



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends and addresses the Informal Economic Leaders' Retreat of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) via video link, July 16, 2021. File photo

regional economic integration, pursuing inclusive and sustainable development, and seizing opportunities from scientific and technological innovation at the APEC Informal Economic Leaders' Retreat.

He encouraged countries to reach a consensus about pushing ahead cooperation, offered a new formula for global response to the pandemic and a new approach to world economic recovery, and injected new impetus to deepening cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.

For member economies of the Asia-Pacific, defeating COVID-19 and restoring growth at an early date are the top priority for the time being, Xi said in his speech.

"We must stick to solidarity and cooperation as we go through this difficult time and jointly work for a healthier and brighter future for humanity," said Xi, noting that vaccines are a powerful weapon to prevail

over the pandemic and revive the economy.

China was the first country in the world that promised to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and has been calling for closer international cooperation on vaccines to ensure that they are accessible and affordable in developing countries.

Keeping its promise, China has provided more than 500 million doses of vaccines for other developing countries, and will provide another \$3 billion in international aid over the next three years to support COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery in other developing countries.

Besides, the country has financed the founding of a Sub-Fund on APEC Cooperation on Combating COVID-19 and Economic Recovery, one again proving itself to be a reliable and major contributor to global fight against the virus.

How to promote economic transformation and upgrading and achieve lasting economic recovery remains a major issue for the Asia-Pacific, a major engine for global economic growth.

Grasping the crux of economic problems in the Asia-Pacific and even the world, Xi put forward a solution to stimulating economic recovery.

"We must remove barriers, not erect walls. We must open up, not close off. We must seek integration, not decoupling," said Xi, who believes win-win cooperation is the only right way forward, while a closed-door policy, exclusion, confrontation and division would only lead to a dead end.

"We must follow a people-centered approach, foster a sound environment to buttress sustainable economic and social development worldwide, and achieve green growth," he continued.

China's proposals for promoting open, sustainable and innovative development have fully shown the country's sincere hope to work with countries in the Asia-Pacific and beyond to achieve higher-standard mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

The country will host a workshop on digital capacity building and take forward such initiatives as bolstering the recovery of the tourism sector with digital tools, which is expected to give a fresh impetus to the economic recovery in the Asia-Pacific.

People's Daily

Russia hopes ECHR will have unbiased stance on complaint against Ukraine

MOSCOW

MOSCOW expects an unbiased and non-politicized stance of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on Russia's interstate complaint against Ukraine, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"We expect the ECHR's unbiased and non-politicized stance on the Russian complaint as well as a thorough investigation by the court into the files and evidence provided by the plaintiff state," the ministry said.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the decision on lodging the complaint is long overdue. "The current situation in Ukraine left Russia no choice but to involve international courts.

It concerns discrimination against the Russian-speaking population, including the deprivation of educational rights; persecution of journalists and the media, systematic atrocities perpetrated against residents of Donbass during the so-called anti-terrorist operation deployed by Kiev against its own population, as well as the disastrous consequences of the actions of the Kiev authorities for the population of both Russian border territories, including the water blockade of Crimea, and other states - in connection with the non-closure of the airspace of Ukraine, which led to the disaster of flight MH-17.

All the claims against Ukraine contained in the Russian lawsuit are supported by a solid body of evidence that has been accumulated over the years," the ministry said.

"The Russian Federation has all legal grounds to initiate proceedings in the ECHR, since it advocates the European legal order.

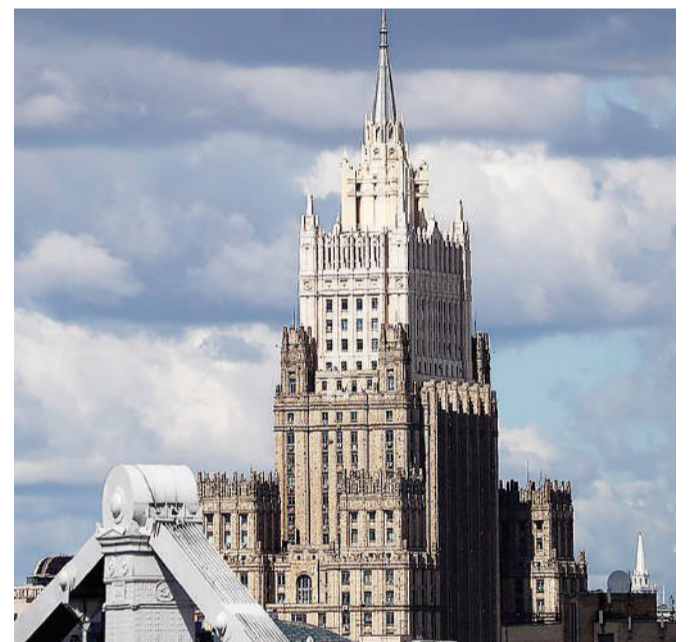
It forms the basis of the Council of Europe's value system, and all member states of that organization have a legal interest in maintaining it," the statement says.

"We are calling on the international community to finally pay attention to what is going on in Ukraine. Russia's complaint to the ECHR is aimed among other things to provide the court with all information on the atrocities committed by the Ukrainian authorities or with their complicity, leading to numerous violations of human rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights," according to the statement.

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office filed a complaint against Ukraine to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) over the 2014 events.

It is based on Article 33 of the European Convention on Human Rights and concerns the events after the coup d'etat in Ukraine in February 2014.

The complaint is aimed at drawing attention of the European court and the entire world community to blatant and systematic human rights violations by Ukraine's authorities, force Kiev to stop them, carry out an investigation, hold accountable those guilty and restore peace in Ukraine. **Agencies**



Russian Foreign Ministry

By Jonathan Powell

Blood samples point to early COVID-19 infections in Italy

SUGGESTIONS that the novel coronavirus was circulating in Europe months before China officially confirmed the first case in Wuhan have been revived by a new study of blood samples collected in Italy as early as October 2019.

Cancer researchers at Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan reported in a paper published on Monday that renewed tests of pre-pandemic blood samples at two laboratories were found to have antibodies normally associated with the COVID-19 infection.

"The results of this retesting suggest that what we previously

reported in asymptomatic patients is a plausible signal of early circulation of the virus in Italy," Giovanni Apolone, one of the researchers, told the Financial Times.

"If this is confirmed, this would explain the explosion of symptomatic cases observed in Italy. SARS-CoV-2, or an earlier version, circulated silently, under the surface."

Before the pandemic started, Italian researchers

had screened 959 individuals for lung cancer, and last year they retested those samples looking for coronavirus-linked antibodies. They claimed they had found traces of COVID-19 infection in some samples.

The World Health Organization asked for further testing to be carried out, and the samples were sent to the VisMederi laboratory in Siena, Italy, and to a facility at Erasmus University in the Netherlands, affiliated

with the WHO.

Positive readings

Three samples from the new tests were found by both Erasmus and VisMederi to have positive readings for the COVID-19-linked antibody IgM, according to the Financial Times.

Lab researchers retested 29 of the Italian samples, including some positive and some negative. They also retested 29 control cases

from 2018. The paper has been published as a pre-print on the science website medRxiv and has not yet been peer-reviewed. Marion Koopmans, head of virology at Erasmus University, said the new research may not be conclusive.

She said results from the new study were "interesting", but according to the university's strict criteria, none of the samples provided conclusive proof of prior COVID-19 infection.

"We use a rather stringent threshold and cannot rule out that some of the observed reactivity is real," she was quoted as saying by the FT. "However, for confirmation of earlier circulation, we would recommend studies of patients with unexplained illness for virological confirmation. That does not mean it is impossible ... Just that you would like to see other pieces of evidence."

The study stated that

none of the samples contained "high enough levels of each of the three types of antibodies" that Erasmus requires to be considered proof of infection.

Gabriella Sozzi, one of the Italian researchers, said that in nine samples that VisMederi said were positive for infection, "levels of IgM antibodies were below the cutoff point set by Erasmus".

The virus may have been "less aggressive or contagious" in the pre-pandemic period, Sozzi told the FT, adding that this made it "necessary to use highly sensitive tests despite the risk of finding 'false positive' cases".

Agencies

SPORT



SportPesa Tanzania's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas.

SportPesa rewards Simba SC for clinching 2020/21 VPL title

By Guardian Reporter

SPORTS betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, which sponsors Simba SC, last Sunday handed over cash prize amounting to 100m/- to the outfit following its triumph in the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League.

The outfit has, in the process, defended the domestic top-flight top honour for the fourth season in a row.

Simba SC was presented with the Vodacom Premier League silverware shortly after confronting Namungo FC in a top-flight tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

SportPesa Tanzania's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, noted his firm presented the 100m/- cheque as bonus after Simba SC had clinched the top flight's top honour.

Abbas revealed the bonus is part of

the agreement they had sealed in a contract between his firm and Simba SC.

The SportPesa Tanzania official added Simba SC was to receive the cheque after locking horns with Namungo FC and receiving their top honour.

"This is the fourth consecutive season that SportPesa Tanzania is presenting the 100m/- bonus to Simba after the side lifted the league's title for the fourth time.

Abbas stated: "We are set to give Simba 100m/- cheque as the outfit lifted this season's Premier League's silverware, we have to congratulate them for that."

The SportPesa Tanzania official said: "SportPesa feels proud that Simba is properly promoting our brand via its participation in continental club tournaments."

Abbas added: "They are promoting SportPesa well and I request them to keep on doing well, given it is our pleasure, we hope we are fulfilling our duty in this sponsorship."

Coaches urged to make use of CAF Diploma course

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's football coaches have been advised to use the knowledge they gain to develop and promote the sport in the country.

The call was made recently by Morogoro Urban Constituency's Member of Parliament (MP), Abdul Aziz Abood, at the opening of a three-month Confederation of African Football (CAF) Diploma B coaching course in the region.

The course is organized by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and has attracted 25 coaches from Premier League and First Division League teams.

Abood said the country has many talented young players and coaches must identify them.

"You must use the knowledge you get to develop and promote football in the country, the country is blessed with abundant talents, you should go out identify and train them," he said.

He thanked TFF for the course saying it will help to boost the level of football

in the region.

Oscar Mirambo, TFF Technical Director, said the course was designed to suit the modern needs of football and he urged the coaches to apply the knowledge they get.

"The three-month course will cover a lot of things which include local football philosophy, it will be both practical and theory," Mirambo noted.

"I'm asking the coaches to make use of the knowledge gained to develop the game in the country," he said.

Early last year, CAF advised national football governing bodies which include TFF to develop their CAF B coaching course manual and program.

The course is customized manuals for CAF-certified coaching courses.

The continental football body insisted so because it has stopped issuing one size fit all syllabuses.

The CAF B License is a minimum coaching qualification required for one to coach in the country's elite league.

SPORTS

Change of coach at Fenerbahce uplifts Samatta, successor hits at KRC Genk

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

VISITING the country just over one month ago, Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' captain, Mbwana Samatta, was still unsure of his playing destination either at the start of the new season or at the expiry of his loan transfer to Turkish giants, Fenerbahce, from England club, Aston Villa.

Things are more than clear at this moment but in a direction that could only be roughly gauged at that time, and with additional inputs that help to uplift the situation for the ace forward now closing in on the half-decade in the European premier league circuit.

The new situation has to do with Fenerbahce assigning a new coach, who is warmer to Samatta's game.

Not that Samatta's game has been poor at any level, as he was first instrumental in bringing up well-rated Belgian club, KRC Genk, even to the UEFA Champions League, and in his first year there, the EUROPA League.

This brought him to being noticed by scouts of England Premier League clubs, so Aston Villa brought him on as a stand-in player, for whom they paid around 8m dollars at midseason recruitment period, and then beefed up the squad with a 25m euro signing like Oliver Watkins, clearly an inspiration for the club's performance in the past season. The relegation threat was relegated deep and far.

In that case, Samatta proved to be inspirational at KRC Genk and that is why he was tapped for Aston Villa, but they did not rate him too highly and were not mistaken, he scored a goal in his half-season there despite coming close to score against Liverpool in a league game at the point of his arrival.

It is not hence surprising that he has largely been middle of the road at Fenerbahce, as the Turkish league is slotted a shoulder above the Belgian league where Samatta was truly inspirational.

And definitely, it stands below the England Premier League where one could easily say that Samatta was part of 'also rans' at Villa Park.



Mbwana Samatta

Still, it was not a straightforward issue whether he remains at the top of the cards Turkish premier league side or is placed on another loan, in the unlikely event of a full return to Aston Villa with the beefing up recruitments performed last season.

What is heartening is that Fenerbahce has a new coach who appears to take more seriously the performance of the Taifa Stars captain, and he has reportedly convinced the club administrators to give him a three-year contract extension.

Those observant of options in a game and squad building shall realize that such an extension is an expression of full confidence, nothing short of that, as a one-year contract is itself an expression of confidence; three years is even to overdo it.

At the same time, Samatta has heartwarming news that a Tanzanian player, Kelvin John, is doing well as a newcomer at his old club, KRC Genk, with local newspapers reporting that he had started scoring at his debut.

That would have been big news were it not that it was a scoring spree, thus creating opportunities for several players to make it to the list of scorers, whereas remarkable goals are those which attest to individual skills that make a difference in the game, not a spree.

Kelvin John has a potentially good future at the club as he is still youthful, unlike Samatta who went there at midcareer, in which case it is a matter of how the coach shall be able to obtain the best in him, if the techniques match with his abilities, it can't be foretold.

This playing level is indicative of the fact that Tanzania is beginning to be dotted with players who can

make a difference, and even in the local premier league, their ability to compete with foreign recruits or 'professionals' is beginning to be felt.

While Meddie Kagere was in past years undisputed top scorer at Simba SC, just like Emmanuel Okwi had done earlier, this year it is John Bocco who topped the scoring charts.

It is an illustration of the fact that with good academies and training there is no reason for local players not to put up good competition to foreign recruits, and this uplifts the level of play as a whole.

There is another player who only partially carries the Tanzanian image while not having the flag as he has a different passport, but he makes the point by having his shirt in the Danish national side identifying him as Yusuf rather than Poulsen, his proper clan name in Denmark.

As he attempted to find out if he could feature for Taifa Stars despite having the Danish nationality - as it is a matter of opting for which country one plays for, not a choice of citizenship based on FIFA rules - it is right to keep remembering that he has a part of his heart with Tanzania.

So he forms part of our image outside like others if they appear for nearby or far off clubs, like TP Mazembe next door, Maccabi Haifa 'across the street,' and others besides.

Fally Ipupa set to steal show in Dar

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

IT is not more often a fat scribe like me writes an article on entertainment.

Not that I do not like to have a good time now, but I do paint places red once in a while whenever my pockets grant me the pleasure of doing so.

This time around, however, I have decided to come from the bush as I am so excited that I cannot help but to highlight a bit over the coming of one among the most entertaining songster in Africa if not the world.

The world may be endowed with plenty of artists, but not so many can entertain as good as DR Congo vocalist, Fally, does especially when he is staging a show live on the floor.

Not only does Fally composes and sings, but he can also play several musical instruments including a guitar.

Having watched his several performances, I cannot argue but concur with fans who have called him the 'Michael Jackson' of Africa.

Just to elucidate, Faustin Ipupa Nsimba, known by his stage name 'Fally Ipupa', is a Congolese singer-songwriter, great dancer, philanthropist, guitarist, and producer.

He was born in Kinshasa, DR Congo in 1977, where he began to sing at a very young age before he joined Quartin Latin Band under Koffi Olomide, a band he worked for from 1999 until 2006.

Fally decided to go solo, where his first solo album was 'Droit Chemin', a French terminology whose meaning is a Straight Path, comprising 12 songs such as Droit Chemin, a very sensation song with Fally and his crew displaying great dancing skills for sure, as well as 'Liputa', 'Orgasy' and 'Sopeka', just to mention a few.

The album sent a strong message to music lovers and it did not take him long to gain fame as immediately after Fally came with 'Bicarbonate', a song whose choreography is so colorful that it has made Fally and his crew steal the show whenever they perform it.

Things seemed to move well with him and with 'Bakandja', 'Eloko', 'Sexy Dance', 'Cane Sucre', 'Service', 'Une Juste', 'Humanism', 'Ecole', 'Power OOF', 'AlloTelephone', 'The Crown', and now the message and not to mention of the recent animation.



Fally Ipupa

Fally has been unstoppable pulling crowds to his shows, as was the case in Paris in February 2020 where a mammoth of fans turned out singing along as if they were part of his band.

The songster, popularly known for his terminology 'Aigle' and 'Tokoos', has been able to perform a collaboration with famous musicians, such as R Kelly on 'Nidja', and hands across Africa, a song performed by a lot of worldwide musicians, including our very own Ali Kiba, 'Inama' with our very own Naseeb Abdul 'Diamond Platinumz'.

Married to his soul mate Nana Ketchup, Fally has five children.

He admits to having been writing most of his songs while aboard a flight to overcome his flying phobia.

The musician has earned a lot of respect for his humility and he may be 43 years old, but he is quite a force to reckon with both on and off stage.

Until recently, Fally was reported to have had his diary fully booked for him to perform in various countries.

When asked in his interviews about his fans, Fally tends to call them his first family,

saying they are the reasons he is around.

Apart from music, Fally has a foundation known as the Fally Ipupa Foundation.

Fally has won numerous trophies, such as three Ndule Awards 2010 (Best Album, Best Video, and Best Song), Micro Gold, Best Artist Central Africa in the Sound City Music Video Awards (SMVA 2010), Double Mama in the MTV Africa Music Awards 2010, Best Francophone Artist, Best Music Video: 'Sexy Dance', four trophies, to mention but a few.

Fally, aka 'Aigle', the Eagle, is set to perform in Dar es Salaam on July 23, 2021, at a VIP event at Serena Hotel.

The numerous fans in Tanzania would have wanted to see him perform more but again times are hard due to the looming COVID-19 outbreak.

Whatever the case, it is our sincere hope that we will see him once the dust settles.

Just a reminder, Fally never disappoints his fans, as once with him on the stage, you are always guaranteed meticulous entertainment and a day to remember where you will certainly drown all your sorrows away and forget your miseries.

Q&A with USMNT's McKenzie: Racial abuse 'happens a lot more than people think'

By Jeff Carlisle, U.S. soccer correspondent

IN June, the United States men's national team defeated Mexico 3-2 in the CONCACAF Nations League final. It was a moment to savor for U.S. Soccer, lifting a trophy at the expense of its biggest rival.

But there were countless more headlines written about what followed: Defender Mark McKenzie was subjected to racial abuse on social media in the wake of that win. There have been several more stories of a similar nature in the past month, notably the racial abuse Black England players received after their Euro 2020 final defeat to Italy.

Last month, ESPN's Jeff Carlisle spoke at length with McKenzie to discuss that Mexico game, the prevalence of racial abuse, the ways he's working to increase awareness and combat racism, and much more.

(Editor's note: This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.)



Mark McKenzie was subjected to racial abuse on social media after the U.S. team's Nations League win over Mexico. (Agencies)

ESPN: How are you holding up?

McKenzie: It's what comes with the territory, right? As a professional athlete, there's always going to be eyes and ears on you when you play in high-stakes moments. Things happen. And as a young player, I try not to [dwell] too much ... Everyone's going to make mistakes, and as a defender, those things are more costly than others. So playing against Mexico, I give a bad pass and it turns right into a goal.

We got punished for it, and ultimately, all eyes turned on me and how I would react. So yeah, it was a moment that in retrospect you can always look back on and wish things had happened differently, but I think I try to take the best out of it, because it's a learning experience for me on understanding the occasion, how to deal with certain things and then ultimately figuring out if I had the fortitude, the resilience, the character to really fight, to really put myself back into the game.

I held my own, but again that mistake. These are mistakes that people are going to put a spotlight on, and emphasize. Now it becomes, "Mark McKenzie can't play at this level. He's not meant to be on the national team, and he's not ready to compete in these big important matches." And I spoke to my dad, and he was like, "Look, the speed, the rate at which people will love you is the same rate at which people will hate you, and criticize you." So you got to take that with a grain of salt because some could never play in the same shoes that you're in. They could never deal with the same situations that you're in.

At the end of the day, I know myself. I know what kind of player I am. I know that one mistake doesn't define me, that 63 seconds doesn't define me. I know I have an extremely high ceiling that I'm still just tapping into. There's areas of my game I still need to improve on. So by no means am I saying I'm this well-rounded, perfectly slanted player, as I showed in the match. And that's something I look forward to, to challenging myself to step into that room of, "Where do I need to improve?" and bringing up my game even more. So again, it's a learning experience for me, and one I'm extremely thankful and blessed that I played in that situation, played in a CONCACAF final for my national team.

ESPN: You experience the euphoria of the Nations League win, then you go on Instagram and you see some of the racist comments directed at you. How often does that happen?

McKenzie: It happens a lot more than people think. And people will say -- and I keep using the general term "people" because I don't want to say it's one person or another person -- but people in general have the perception that I was posting about these racial comments and racial slurs like, "Ah, it's not a big deal. It's just a comment." But

that's the reason why I feel like we've gotten to this point is because we automatically, as soon as something happens, we want to get it over with as soon as possible [and] not be faced with the fact that this is a long-term issue. This is a problem that will not get dealt with unless it's on the front of our minds. When we put it to the back of our heads, we now become complacent, lackadaisical, it's not a priority anymore.

But why is it now that when these comments and slurs come up, that when we post them, it seems to be a problem? Why is it that when we have these issues that pop up in our society around these race, racial sensitivity or homophobic insensitivity or whatever issues we were facing in society, why is it that now when you post about it, it becomes, "Ah, you know, you guys keep doing the same thing. It's just a comment." Yeah, if it's just a comment, then why do we keep coming back to it? Why is it that this is still plaguing [society]? Why is it still this common theme that we find out that we see on a regular basis? If it doesn't become a priority then it's just going to become a normality in our lives, right? So, me posting about it -- in my eyes, at least -- is not giving these people attention, but to remind us that this is still going on.

I have comments going on, "Hang yourself. You suck and you don't belong on the national team," this, that and the other. All over 60 seconds, and in a sport that I've loved and I've sacrificed my entire life for.

In a way I'm entertaining thousands of other people with my teammates, and then the other team. We're doing this because we love the game. And as a byproduct we are entertaining many others. But the moment something happens out of your control, something happens that you're not pleased with, now it becomes a "Pick this guy out and really get at him. Eat him [alive]."

We're humans too, man. That was my biggest thing, not to highlight the mistake, but to highlight the fact this is a commonality. It's one thing to critique my game -- I understand I made a mistake, I'll learn from it, that's no problem -- but to dig at somebody for something so degrading, to use comments and slurs that are demoralizing, that are making people feel belittled is too far. It's way too far. Critique my game all you want, but don't attack my family, and don't attack me for my race. It's unnecessary. It's completely unnecessary. Let's keep this where it belongs and keep us in the game, and not take it over the line.

ESPN: Do you think people think you're only dealing with it for the first, the fifth or the 10th time, as opposed to the 500th or the 1,000th or the 10,000th time? Do you think there's a lack of recognition of that?

McKenzie: Yeah, I think because for me, I try not to overly saturate my media outlets with these issues sometimes, because I feel like at some point, it can become overwhelming for people. People can only handle so much, right? They can digest only so much at one time. So when the moment is right, I choose that moment. I go hard at it, allow it to sit, saturate, so that people can really, really feel where I'm coming from. I really feel this on a level that's going to be beneficial. And if I keep going over and over again, sometimes people will now turn a blind eye like, "You're going overboard with this." But that's sad, because this has happened to me over 50 times.

ESPN: After a game?

McKenzie: After games, I'll get messages. This is not uncommon. It's sad to say, but it's the sad reality. This is a common theme that we've seen, and I'm not the only player at the camp who received racial slurs and racially insensitive comments following the match. So again, I don't want to overwhelm people, but I also want people to understand this is like, this is the daily thing, this is a more common theme than you would ever know. Also me posting this is just one instance. For the same tournament, I could have gotten 100 other comments as well that I didn't post about. So it's about understanding that this is a reminder: Let's not get comfortable, because the more you get comfortable is the moment you leave the door open for more. And that's why you know it's so important for us to continue to fight.

ESPN: To what degree are efforts with the national team or Black Players for Change continuing, and how hard is it when you're overseas to stay connected to those efforts?

McKenzie: Yeah, it's difficult because the time difference, man, is plus-six hours. It gets difficult because the meetings will be at 7 o'clock in the evening [ET], but it's almost 2 a.m. where I'm at. I still speak with guys in MLS about the issues, about ideas and ways we can continue to push things in the right direction and to keep applying pressure to these issues.

It's still going on, not only in our game but in society. Also getting active in Europe, finding ways where I can now play a role in advancing these dilemmas, that [we] still have faced in Europe. Let's not take away from the fact that the same way that racism goes on in America, there's still racism in Europe as well. There's still the comments, after games and whatnot. Reggie Cannon was going through it in Portugal a few months ago so let's not get away from that.

Connecting with my teammates, connecting with different organizations here in Europe, I think has been also very important. So that way, now we can kind of create a bridge between the two worlds. Now you can merge ideas or create different ways of attacking the issues, because sometimes going through one way may not do it. But I see it from another perspec-

ive, you may actually hit it on the head, or you may get an idea from this perspective that now triggers the addressing of an issue in this area here. So there's so many ways that we can really connect. So I think me establishing my life in Europe as well, but also having had a life in America, in working with different nations has given me the ability to work from both sides. It's extremely important that we continue to have these conversations from across the pond.

ESPN: To what extent have your white teammates in Belgium, and even your former teammates who are white back in MLS, reached out to try to shoulder some of this responsibility?

McKenzie: Yeah, they've been extremely, one, supportive, but two, active, and trying to find ways to be active when these issues arise. I think, one, my team back in MLS, having real conversations with them, the uncomfortable conversations as this has really been the place that it started, in the locker room, talking and hearing the stories from people you care about, people you work with on a daily basis. And these raw stories, not stories that are filtered and sometimes can get portrayed in a different way, but were all instances that are unfiltered, and will make you feel emotionally. I think that's where it all started.

And they've been active, donating towards resources that will provide opportunities for those to hear and learn. [My teammates], they came to me and really wanted to hear about individuals to speak to, whether it be those at the Boys and Girls Club, or local resources to provide opportunities for those in more difficult situations, those in inner-city communities. How can I help create this bridge? How can I make these individuals feel like I care about them? How do I make these kids feel like it's real, you can have a real talk, not feel like I'm talking at a wall? How can I really get involved? I don't want it to just be me going out and speaking with parents and then never come back. I want to be that guy that kids can lean on and shoot them a message, "Hey, I'm going through some stuff. Can you talk?" That was real for me. I think that's a real way of getting involved in the community.

So I was talking to my dad, a karate teacher, and who is a former police officer, and he explained both situations. One, how these inner-city community kids have a difficult time seeing the police, and two how the police just want to go home [every day]. To deal with those situations, and then how I'm working with some local individuals here on creating that here in Delaware, and wanting to have the opportunity to bridge that connection between the community and law enforcement, because I have family in law enforcement, but I also have individuals who I know have gone through some instances with law enforcement that have scarred them. So that's something that I'm trying to work on.

Here in the States, it's in your face, and it's very prevalent. So I think a lot of my white counterparts, teammates, acquaintances, friends, they've been very open to dealing with the uncomfortable situations, and the uncomfortable conversations. And then my teammates in Belgium, it's a very diverse locker room we have. So me bringing my American experience, and also providing some of the perspective that I've heard from my European teammates, of how they've been affected, and how the kneeling in England has caused boos from fans and supporters and that's the exact reason why they're kneeling.

ESPN: With kneeling in mind, what did you make of England and Ireland players getting booed for doing so earlier this summer?

McKenzie: So I think that's one instance why we're kneeling. For me, I didn't want it to become just a part of the pregame ritual, but I wanted it to have purpose, and the boos have kind of reinvigorated that purpose of the kneeling, why it's so important, and why the activism can't stop. Why we have to constantly keep the foot on the gas with these issues because when it becomes a commonality, and when you feel like it becomes a formality, and you see it all the time ... that's what I meant when I said overwhelming. You know when people get tired of seeing it, they'll let you know. But that's the exact moment where you then have to retreat and say, "Hey, don't forget."

So, yeah, I think the whole England situation, I think they've been handling it top-class. Again, it's a wake-up call for a lot of people to reassess their values. You love the national team, but do you love the Blackness of the national team? Is that uncomfortable? Is it uncomfortable having a national team speak up on instances, on issues that you're not comfortable with? If that's the case, then that's the exact reason why you should really start to wake up.

ESPN: Is social media worth it?

McKenzie: To be honest, I go through periods during the year where I'll just disconnect from it altogether because it's a lot. It's a great way to connect with people you haven't connected with [before], or individuals or network or established business relationships. On the other hand, we see the difficult side, the negative side of social media, and how it can be this depressing, overwhelming reminder that there are still many who haven't come to grips with the fact that social media is supposed to be a uniting force. I had teammates who altogether deleted profiles and delete their accounts just because it's too much.

You could have those in your agency, or whoever, take over your social media, but it's supposed to be coming from you. It's supposed to be a representation of you as a player, as a person, and you want to have some role in that. But on the other end, it can be too much, because if you spend too much time on it, you'll find what you don't want to find sometimes. It's difficult. It's a difficult one.

So for me, I try to disconnect from it. And I think everybody should do that. I think we spend so much time on our phones now. We need to look around. Work has bogged us down so much that it feels like we have to stay connected at all times. But at the same time it's extremely important for us to remind ourselves of all the things going on around us, remind ourselves that there's a lot more to life than this little 7-by-3-inch device, or laptops or iPads or whatever it is. I have so many devices. I've got my iPad next to me, man. Like, for what?

I can't express it enough, that's extremely important for us, to remind ourselves of the things that are really important in our lives. And that at the end of the day, we're not going to be able to make everyone like us. It's difficult. It's difficult for me to say; it's difficult for just about anyone. Everyone is not going to like you, and that's just the reality of it. So why spend so much time trying to impress people who may not ever like me when I got what I need right here in front of me? I'm trying to make somebody living in the other part of the world like the fact that I play for this club, or that I have a Nike contract or that I travel to Hawaii. Enjoy Hawaii, man. Enjoy the trip. Enjoy the fact that you are able to do what you love to do on a daily basis. Don't forget that each day is a blessing, and I think this period here has really taught me that, how to just enjoy this. It's going to come with ups and downs. It's going to come with difficult situations, adversity. But I got what I need. I'm blessed to say that, and there's a lot more going on as well than just on social media, so kind of wake up a little bit.

ESPN: Was it jarring for you to go from the U.S. -- with the George Floyd trial and the protests of the past year -- to Belgium?

McKenzie: Yeah, I think it was a lot to take in. Just because, for me personally, I see it, you know, "What if that was me?" That's the biggest theme I get across to people who ask about the situation. And then to have everything happen and to then leave, having a lot of time and thinking to myself ways that I could be even more active, ways that I can help even more. But it was a lot. It was a lot in that period of time, and with COVID, it was a lot to take in. So that gave me perspective, because I needed to get even more active, I need to take a more active role. It was a wake-up call for myself that I wasn't doing enough, that I could do more. So I tried to take that, and run with it.

I'm very, very sad, and that it had to be with the death of George Floyd and people saying, "He died for this." No, he didn't die for this. He wasn't sacrificed for this. This is something that we as a society, as a human race, could have done so much more. We've had instances where people have lost their lives, but what were we doing before then to really get this issue fixed, to find some kind of resolve? No, he wasn't sacrificed for this. He didn't have to lose his life, and we could have taken steps prior to that incident to keep that incident from happening. And there's a number of situations where that individual didn't have to lose their lives for us to take action.

And unfortunately after those instances, we took action for a period and then we stopped taking action. And that's why we continue to have these issues, to have these situations that pop up. So yeah, I think that that was for me the biggest thing, not wanting this to be the trend again, to go through the hashtag. Nobody should be a hashtag. It's sad that social media has turned this hashtag into ... that's not the way it should be and it's never the way it was meant to be.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Q&A with USMNT's McKenzie: Racial abuse 'happens a lot more than people think'

think'
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Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa.

Simba SC, Yanga coaches target lifting 2021 ASFC title

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC and Yanga coaches have vowed to help their respective outfits come out victorious in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final, which will take place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma on Sunday.

The outfits will meet for the first time in the tournament's final, with champions getting a chance to represent the nation in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes said he and his players have given the game plenty of attention because they want to defend the showpiece's title and avenge the 1-0 loss to Yanga in the Premier League.

He said his team is in good shape, noting he is currently giving his charges the necessary techniques that will see to it they easily win the game.

Gomes added: "I know it will be a tough and competitive game for both sides, but Simba is determined to win this game by playing clean football and post many goals due to tactics that I give my players."

He said: "The most important thing is, I ask the match's referee and his assistants to be careful."

The French gaffer noted he plans to use different tactics in the clash, which are different from the ones they have been using in league matches.

According to him, they are seeking to confuse their opponents and win easily.

The coach was adamant winning is, for them, the most important thing and he is happy to see his striker Bernard Morrison return in time from Ghana.

Yanga's goalkeeping coach, Razak Siwa, said his club's preparations for the final are progressing well.

Siwa disclosed their players have shown great interest in continuing to come out victorious in fixtures against Simba.

The Kenyan gaffer pointed out he and the team's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, are optimistic their side will post a win, as their players have been responding well to instructions.

He said much as Simba is touted as the best team in Tanzania, Yanga is hardly scared of their opponents.

He was adamant Yanga is not a modest opponent and the squad has proved it, despite failing to win this season's Vodacom Premier League's title.

The coach added he believes the ASFC top honour will go to the Jangwani Street outfit.

Siwa pointed out: "We don't want to say much because this is a pre-match period, let us wait for 90 minutes on the pitch to prove who is better than the other."

The tactician revealed: "The most important thing for us is for our players to understand the importance of the game and the goals we set for ourselves."

The coach said they are ready for the game and are determined to provide entertainment to their fans in Kigoma. He disclosed they are determined to make the fans happy

Dar institute to hand over jerseys to Simba SC, Yanga fans engaging in blood donation

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM'S Hussein Blood Drive Institute is expected to hand over Simba SC and Yanga jerseys to 200 soccer fans, who will donate blood ahead of Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final pitting Simba SC against Yanga, which will take place in Kigoma.

The institute's officials stated the football enthusiasts will don the jerseys once they attend the match at Lake Tanganyika Stadium this weekend.

The football fans in Kigoma will be awarded the jerseys of this season's Vodacom Premier League champions, Simba SC, and second-placed Yanga.

According to the institute's coordinator, Azim Dewji, it will hand over jerseys to 100 Simba SC supporters and as many Yanga fans.

Dewji noted: "Apart from giving away the 200 jerseys, there will also be an opportunity for 50 supporters, 25 fans from either outfit, to take pictures with their respective clubs' players."

"In this photoshoot, a fan who wants to take the picture and his favourite player will contribute 200,000/- The money raised will be used to buy more jerseys that will fund the same exercise in other regions," Dewji revealed.

Dewji, who was Simba SC's sponsor when the outfit booked a place in the CAF Confederation Cup final in 1993, said blood donation would be done at Kigoma Regional Hospital, located at Maweni, on Saturday.

In addition, he said a place for fans to go to take pictures with the players will be announced before Saturday.

The Hussein Blood Drive Institute, Dewji revealed, has set up a fundraising campaign to save and provide for the needy in various parts.

Last year they managed to get 500 bottles during Premier League matches bringing together the traditional rivals.

According to the National Safe Blood Program, voluntary blood donation is very important for a nation of healthy people.

The World Health Organization (WHO) directs each member state to collect one percent of its country's population or 10 bottles per 1,000 citizens to meet the demand for safe blood at all times.

Upanga SC thumps Pak Stars in DC Kazim Nasser 50-over tournament

By Guardian Reporter

UPANGA Sports Club has ended Pak Stars' hopes of making it to this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 overs' knockout stage, cruising to a seven-wicket drubbing of the latter last weekend.

Pak Stars could hardly match Upanga SC's competence amid a one-man show with the ball by the latter's performer, Suraj Pala, given the bowler commanded an impressive seven-wicket haul in the tie.

Pala almost single-handedly blew the whole star-studded Pak Stars' batting unit in the last game of round-robin stage in the show-down's Group B.

After the last week's KNML Division A 50 overs' results of the Aces Cricket Club against Pak Stars clash that had the latter comprehensively defeating the former, it looked like Pak Stars were expected to have a walk in the park against Upanga SC.

Upanga SC's current form, which is not quite convincing, had given members of the domestic cricket fraternity, such a feeling.

A convincing victory was truly on the cards with the kind of batting lineup that Pak Stars have, the kind of players making the side, and the kind of games they had played in the past.

Pak Stars, in one of their previous matches, almost chased down a daunting score of 300 runs set by Aga Khan SC in the KNML Division A 50 overs' opening tie.

The displays were followed by the Pak Stars' win over Aces Cricket Club.

Every member of the domestic cricket fraternity had, therefore, expected Pak Stars were set to convincingly beat Upanga SC.

It was however not the case, as they say sometimes a team can be good but it all depends on how good is the team's temperament and management.

On the day with the toss won by Pak Stars in the match, which took place at the University of Dar es Salaam ground, it is always a bowler-friendly track.

The venue's wicket favours swinging conditions in the open ground, the same way all the previous games had happened.

A team batting second on the wicket has mostly been coming out victoriously.



Upanga SC's Suraj Pala (L) is represented with the man of the match award by the match official, Salum Jumbe, after the former's outfit locked horns with Pak Stars in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 overs' clash, which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

Pak Stars boasted having a better and formidable batting unit and they wanted to unleash it and substantiate their virtuosity, which had them posting a win over Aces Cricket Club.

Cricket enthusiasts just expected that Pak Stars will win so they can qualify for the knockout stage.

Pak Stars however always find a way to put themselves in trouble on the most important stage of the game by electing to bat.

It was obvious Upanga SC did not have a bowler, who has a very lethal pace, but Pak Stars forgot the former had Suraj Pala, who is to a great extent, a rookie bowler who comes and bowls stump to stump.

The bowler scattered all of Pak Stars' dependable batsmen, with the team, in the end, posting 74 runs which were easily chased down by Upanga.

The game of 50 overs did not

even last for three hours, as it was sad to see Pak Stars lose out on booking a place in the knockout stage and drop to Tier 2.

They are now going down to play Tier 2, where they will be competing for the plate.

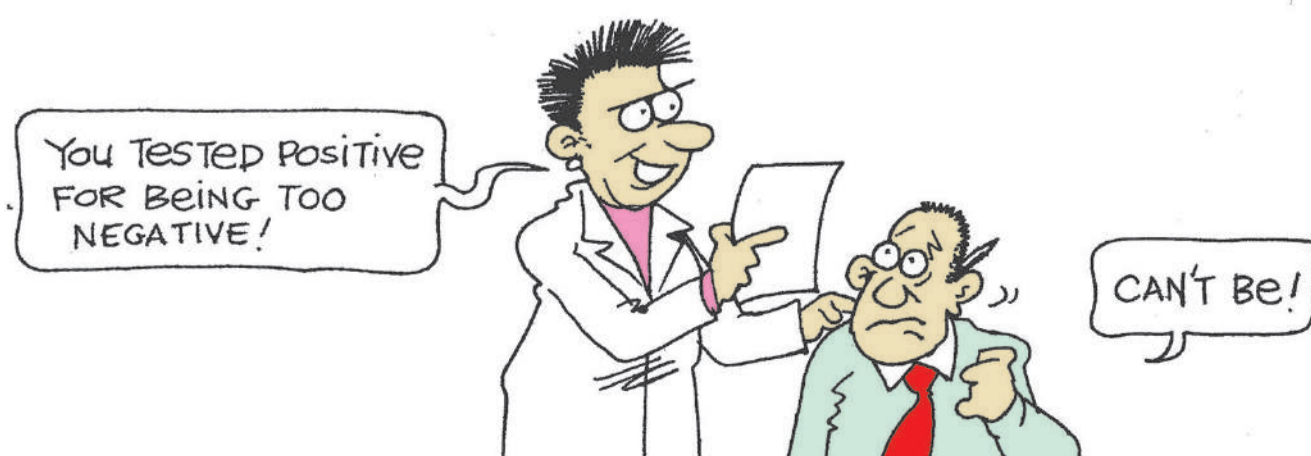
Under new management, Pak Stars is expected to do some mistakes, it is still early days but eventually, they are expected to turn out to be a strong outfit.

They have a lineup made up of skilful players, namely Ivan Ismail, Mohammed Omary, Zafar Khan, Abdallah Jabir, Zamoyoni Ramadhani, and Abdulrahman Akida.

This means the squad is made up of almost half of the senior national cricket side and the others are tipped to feature for the side in the future.

It is expected Pak Stars will play well and come out best in the upcoming tournaments.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV FRIDAY

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16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA!
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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10:00 MAMAMIA
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13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
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