



National Pg 2 Arusha traders hail Samia's speech



National Pg 3 Contractor asked to speed up work



National Pg 4 Barrier to women empowerment



National Pg 5 Minister warns water project engineer



NSSF to list best, worst managers' performance



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment and People with Disabilities), speaks at a working session in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with National Social Security Fund managers, district managing officers, substation managers and executive officers. Combo photos: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Prime Minister's Office will henceforth start compiling and

publishing quarterly performance reports of regional managers of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) so as to improve service

delivery. Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament,

Employment, Labor, Youth and the Disabled), made this declaration when she met with NSSF regional managers, district

managers, station managers and compliance officers. Quarterly reports indicating five best and poorest performance

by regional managers shall be published to ensure adherence to goals of addressing members'

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Kigoma water projects: Belgium extends 11bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has received an additional four million euros (over 11bn) from the Belgian government for implementation of water and sanitation projects in Kigoma Region.

The pact was signed at the weekend in Dodoma by Treasury Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Tutuba and the Belgian ambassador, Peter Van Acker (pictured).

In his remarks, Tutuba said the project meant to cover all districts in the region is expected to cost 8m euros upon completion.

The euro four million just received bring to 12m euros (33bn/-) meant for improvement of water availability to for residents in the region, he stated.

The Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WaSKIRP) seeks to ensure sustainable water supply services in rural areas, mainly in hardware rehabilitation and extension of existing major schemes in the six districts, along with developing local capacity for efficient operations and maintenance.

Belgium is also supporting an agricultural project costing 8m euros (22bn/-), making a total of 55bn/- for the projects it supports in the region, he stated, lauding the Belgian authorities for ideas on reducing project costs by building stone bridges linking villagers to their farms. The model has reduced the cost per bridge by 80 percent, he affirmed, vowing that the funds provided would be spent accordingly.

Ambassador Van Acker said his government will continue to work

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Speeding up integration EAC chief's top priority

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

NEWLY appointed East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki, a Kenyan national, has kicked the ground running with the theme of speeding up the bloc's integration.

At an evening reception organized here by the private sector at the weekend, Dr Mathuki said he will focus on achieving ease of doing business in line with the common market protocol.

The EAC is already a customs union and in principle geared to establishing a common market, and has also explored ways of forming a monetary union, the last format having died in 1966 paving the way for the creation of independent central banks in the region.

“A single currency will not only make it easy for traders in the region, but will serve to make the East African Community an investment friendly precinct for large corporations”

“Strengthening mechanisms to resolve persistent non-tariff barriers that hamper intra EAC trade, deepening implementation of the Common Market protocol and restructuring the EAC Secretariat to achieve the mandate envisaged in the treaty are some of my top priorities,” the new head of the EAC Secretariat underlined.

He said he will prioritise the full operationalisation of the amended EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Act of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and proposals formulated by the EAC Trade Remedies Committee to handle persistent trade disputes in the region.

He is also working on a coordinated approach so as to harmonise COVID-19

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Minister axes two DEDs over laxity

By Guardian Reporter

TWO executive directors have been suspended for 'abuse of office and laxity,' PO-RALG said yesterday.

Umyy Mwalimu (pictured), the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) was quoted in a media release yesterday affirming that those suspended are District Executive Director (DED) for Sumbawanga, Nyangi Msemakweli and the Temeke municipal



director, Lusubilo Mwakabibi.

The DED is beset with suspicions of misappropriation of funds, mismanagement of development projects and bad work relationship with councilors, the district commissioner and other officials in Rukwa Region, the statement indicated.

On the other hand, the municipal director has been put aside pending investigations after the minister received complaints claiming

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NSSF to list best, worst managers' performance

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challenges by each NSSF manager at work stations.

Morogoro Region NSSF office ranked first in this phase by attaining targets set by 101 percent, followed by NSSF Geita, Kagera, Mara and Iringa, which was ranked fifth.

"While seeking to ensure that the fund is sustainable, we will start productive competition based on the responsibility and vision of the fund," she said.

The three worst performing regions include NSSF Shinyanga ranked lowest after attaining 51.2 percent of targeted goals, followed by Lindi with 52.5 percent and Kahama, with a similar score, she said.

"Today, I start with these three regions that have attained lowest target while Kahama and Shinyanga have mines that are operating with people in both direct and indirect jobs," the minister remarked.

In implementing the directive, the minister has agreed with other PMO departments that they will be delivering regional performance appraisals on a quarterly basis, along with publishing the names of regional managers performing poorly and those registering excellent performance.

The move shall boost efforts in enrolling members, collecting contributions, investing and paying benefits on a timely basis as well as resolving grievances facing members, the minister stated.

She directed NSSF Director

General Masha Mshomba to deal accordingly with groups that are non-productive and doing justice to employees, maintaining solidarity as the key to success, cautioning over the tendency by some employees to form bickering groups.

She directed the CEO to remove any employee who joins unproductive groups, so as to ensure all staff focus on attaining performance and service delivery targets to members.

The PMO Deputy Permanent Secretary (Labour), Prof Jamal Katundu called on NSSF managers to implement all that they have promised, urging the staff to work as a team, increase innovation and provide better services to achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

CEO Mshomba said that despite facing various challenges like service delays, the fund continues to provide solutions to members' challenges, including meetings and strategizing on how to end those challenges.

In addition, the fund will continue to take strong action against unscrupulous employees who engage in corrupt practices, flouting NSSF values and expectations.

He said the fund was committed to strengthening its compliance department to address the challenge of some employers not registering their employees.

NSSF will continue to create a conducive environment for its employees, enhance capacity building so as to provide quality services as per members' expectations, he added.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) and the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar, in jovial mood shortly after talks at the former's office in Dodoma city on Friday. In Saturday's issue we mistakenly carried the wrong photo on the event. We regret the error. - Editor. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Minister axes two DEDs over laxity

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corruption, abuse of office and bad management of development projects.

"The minister has directed the permanent secretary (PO-RALG) to immediately institute investigations into the conduct of the two officials," the statement indicated.

"She has directed officials at regional, municipal, district and lower levels to refrain from abusing their positions and discharge their duties diligently," it stated.

The move is the latest in a series of suspensions and sacking of public officials for graft and laxity, in some cases involving large amounts of development funds, observers noted.

Last week, Water Minister Jumaa Aweso suspended the Morogoro Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA) executive director and five other officials for 'abuse of office and laxity.'

The director, Tamim Katakweba, stands accused of unilaterally signing a euro 70m (over 100bn/-) water production and supply contract without approval of the board of directors.

A fortnight ago, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi revoked the appointment of three heads of special units after it emerged that there were ghost workers in their departments who occasioned substantial losses of public funds.

Those affected include Ali Abdallah Ali who headed the correctional facilities department, Col Ali Mtumweni Hamad, who was head of the National Service Department (JKU) and Hassan Mussa Mzee, who headed the anti-smuggling unit (KMKM).

Kigoma projects: Belgium hands out 11bn/-

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on implementing various development projects in Tanzania, pointing out that President Samia Suluhu Hassan recently listed

water as one of the government's priority areas.

"Belgium will continue to support government efforts towards improving water services," he assured the

augience, while Water ministry permanent secretary Anthony Sanga commended the Belgian authorities for supporting water projects in the Kigoma Region. The projects are expected to

benefit more than 130,000 people, he stated.

The ministry will continue to ensure proper expenditure of the funds and timely completion of the projects, he added.



Same district commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (L) presents 180 desks and chairs to Same district executive director Anastazia Tutuba on behalf of Kwakoko Secondary School at the weekend. It was a donation by NMB Bank Plc in support of education projects. The bank also donated 192 corrugated iron roofing sheets worth 25m/-.

Speeding up integration EAC chief's top priority

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testing charges, an idea raised by the private sector through the East African Business Council.

"I will seek out economic recovery response mechanisms, digitalisation and a coordinated approach on COVID-19 response measures which include locating testing facilities at all EAC border posts. This is instrumental in mitigating trade disruptions and losses brought forth by this pandemic," he stated.

The private sector has also been pushing for the finalization of the comprehensive review of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) and the Rules of Origin protocol since 2016, he said, elaborating that these issues are part of his focus, to boost value addition and industrialization, also protecting regional value chains in each sector.

In his inaugural address, Dr Mathuki emphasized that he was keen on steering commitments on the free movement of goods, services and people as envisaged in the Common Market Protocol to boost intra-EAC trade. It currently stands at about 15 percent of total EAC trade, he affirmed.

In the rest of his agenda for the region, the new head of the Secretariat seeks harmonization of domestic taxes and standards and pushing for the adoption of the One Network Area (ONA) by EAC Partner States to reduce the high cost of telecommunications across the region, he declared.

The EAC has a market access to more than 177.2m people with a combined GDP of about \$200bn, with the EAC Secretariat over the years making efforts to promote the region as a single investment destination.

Dr Mathuki expressed intention of prioritizing a conducive regional business environment and the implementation of a single tourist visa that will entice more Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and spur investment.

Being one of the most integrated regional economic blocs in Sub-Saharan Africa, the EAC must partner with international business networks, he said, pointing out that during his tenure at EABC he shaped networking with the Federation of German Industries (BDI) to take up regional industrialisation.

He said the region needs to strengthen its resource framework and capabilities for elevating its manufacturing sector. EABC saw gains in the collaboration with Germany's GIZ programmes such as "business scouts for development" focused on small and medium enterprises, and 'Support to East African Market and People-Centred Integration.' The latter targets skills development activities for women-owned businesses in the zone.

Antonia Kilama, company secretary at the KCB Bank (T) Ltd asserted that it was a burden for residents of the member states to keep 'changing currencies,' whenever they crossed into any of the partner states, despite being a single trading bloc.

"A single currency will not only make it easy for traders in the region, but will serve to make the East African Community an investment friendly precinct for large corporations," she stated.

KCB, organizer of the evening event, is the oldest financial institution with operations in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and South-Sudan, officials said.

Together with CRDB Bank (T) Ltd they were the first financial institutions in the region to attempt knitting the entire bloc together with seamless cross-border banking.

Private sector operators in the East African region present at the function said they were in upbeat mood on the expansion of trade and investment in the region and a rejuvenated and progressive bloc, on the basis of expected changes in the business environment in Tanzania, and the elevation of Dr Mathuki, who like former EAC Secretary General Dr Juma Mwapachu is a veteran business executive.

Dr. Mike Falke, the country director for GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) (German international development agency), commended the role played by Dr. Mathuki in steering the successful long-term collaboration between GIZ and EABC.

GIZ, is ready to continue supporting regional economic cooperation, pandemic preparedness, health and digitisation working with the partner states and the EAC secretary general, he added.

Traders in Arusha hail Samia's maiden speech

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

SOME traders in Arusha Region have said they are touched by President Samia Suluhu Hassan's speech in Parliament because she promised that her government would institute changes to policy, regulations and laws that were a hindrance to investors and business people.

Speaking to this paper, Sammy Mollle, a minerals trader and chairman of Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA) said some of the policy and laws have been an obstacle to investors hence changes would remove red tape and woo investors into the country.

Mollle said since the country has entered the middle economy category such changes would open doors to investors and spur the creation of job opportunities to the people.

"In truth President Samia has given hope on businesses that had closed down for a long time and open doors to investors," he said.

He also said the move by the President to stop red tape when issuing permits for foreign workers if fully implemented assist the minerals sector as in the past these

“In truth, we small traders are very pleased by her speech as she has shown her intention to recognize them

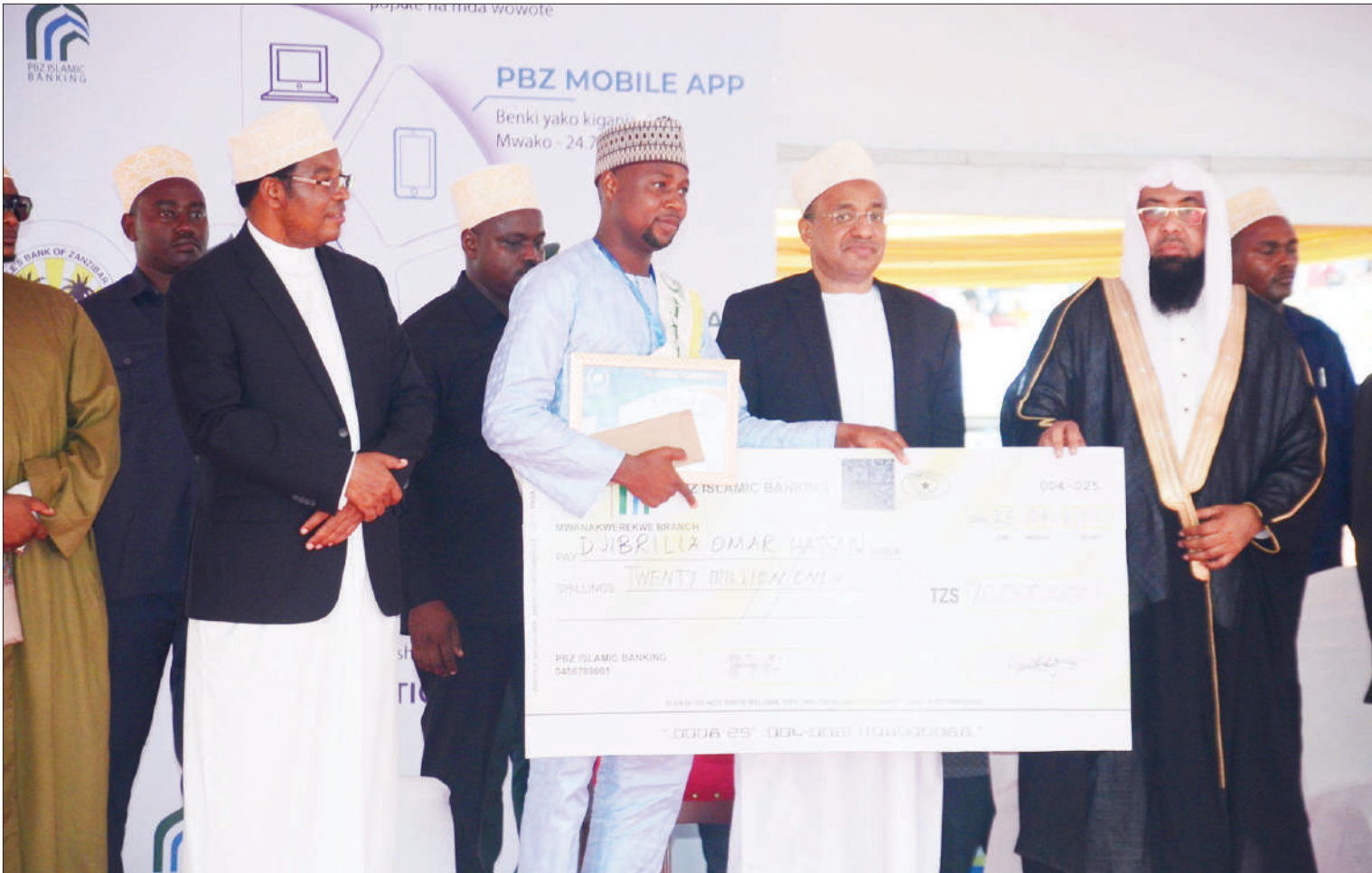
foreigners had difficulties in getting the permits.

"In regard to the fight against negligence on public servants, we traders support the President because some government officers have been dilly dallying in serving the people," he added.

However, he said the issue of unrealistic tax demands and threats to traders by TRA have been a great cry for traders, hence he asked President Samia to continue dealing with the issue to restore confidence to investors and business people.

Alex Mushi, an entrepreneur in Arusha City said small traders have been pleased by Samia's speech because she pledged to continue issuing IDs for them using a special procedure.

"In truth, we small traders are very pleased by her speech as she has shown her intention to recognize them," he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (2nd-R, foreground) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for 20m/- to Djibrilla Omar Hassan of Niger, who emerged winner of an international Quran recital contest organised by Al-Hikma Foundation. Those witnessing the event include Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L, foreground). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Minister directs Songwe airport contractor to complete installing lights by September

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS and Transport Minister Eng Leonard Chamuriho has instructed GECI Espanola S.A. from Spain installing landing lights at Songwe Airport to ensure he completes the work by September, this year to enable planes to land during the night.

He also said the construction of the Airport runways implemented by China Geo Engineering Corporation to complete the work by July this year.

Speaking soon after inspecting

te progress of the project, Chamuriho discovered the two contractors have the ability to finalise the remaining work in within the months given to enable the residents of the region and other regions to start benefiting flight services day and night.

“Penalties as per stipulations in the contract will be meted to the contractor who will fail to finalise the work in the given time,” he added.

Meanwhile Chamuriho inspected the 39 kms Chunya-

Makongolosi road project and said the project was 87 per cent complete and called on the contractor China Railway 15th Group to complete construction work by July this year as pledged.

He praised the contractor for building a dispensary with maternity wing as well as an operation theatre which the late President John Magufuli pledged in May 2019 while laying the foundation stone for the road project.

The supervisor of Songwe

Airport Project Abdallah Mziray said the project to cost 14.7bn/- was progressing well as already the contractor has completed construction the Runway Safe Areas (RESA) and they were now laying the tarmac.

Mbeya Region acting TANROADS manager Eng Peter Mkolwa said the Chunya-Makongolosi road project was going simultaneously with the dispensary building - with the road project being 87 per cent complete and the dispensary project 60 per cent complete.

Dr Mwinyi wants new heads of SMZ units to instill discipline

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has called upon the new heads of the special units he appointed to go to work and restore discipline in their units.

Dr Mwinyi was speaking at the weekend after he swore in the newly appointed commanders at Zanzibar State House, the event that was attended by First Vice President Othman Masoud, House speaker Zubeir Ali Maulid, Zanzibar Chief Justice Othman Makungu, heads of security and defence organs, religious leaders and other government officials.

He said the army means discipline, and if there was no discipline, then you have no army, hence when I saw the deterioration of discipline in the units I decided to replace the commanders.

Dr Mwinyi said he saw the reasons for that and that was why he went for TPDF officers to instill discipline in the units.

Dr Mwinyi also called on the new heads of the units to administer the existing resources in their units as there have been rampant embezzlement and other wrongdoings.

He said the government has discovered that accounting officers in the units have been paying salaries to ghost workers, including those who had retired.

He said he had personally confirmed these irregularities, but he has no intention not to be fair to anyone hence he called upon the new heads of SMZ Special units to ensure the accounting officers desist from committing these wrongdoings.

He said the shops in the units were badly being mismanaged as the accounting officers were taking away soldiers' salaries on pretext that they were offsetting the money for the goods they took from said shops

In regard to the issue of production, Dr Mwinyi said during peace time the work of the defence units was training and production hence he called upon them to mobilise themselves to reduce government subsidy.

He required them to reduce funds from the government, they should start depending on themselves as well as paying dividends to the government as they have great opportunity in production.

He said in the units there are factories, security firms, farms, areas fit for tourism and a floating dock which he said it could be used commercially to service various ships, both those from Zanzibar and foreign.

He also called upon them to enter into partnership with capable people, calling for the farms to produce crops, all for the intention of reducing the government burden in meeting the cost of the units' day to day operations.



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JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAWASILIANO NA TEKNOLOJIA YA HABARI
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA
ISO: 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED




HONGERA
WATANZANIA
KWA KUTIMIZA MIKA
57 YA MUUNGANO

Mhe. Samia Suluhu Hassan
Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania

Dkt. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
Rais wa Zanzibar na Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Mapinduzi

Bodi ya Wakurugenzi, Menejimenti na Watumishi wa Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) Wanaungana na Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, **Mhe. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, Rais wa Zanzibar na Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Mapinduzi **Dkt. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** na Watanzania wote katika kuadhimisha miaka 57 ya Muungano wa Tanzania Bara na Zanzibar.

‘TUTUMIE MAWASILIANO KUJILETEA MAENDELEO’
Kazi iendelee

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Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania

HAPPY UNION DAY

TANZANIA



His Excellency
Dr. Ally Hussein Mwinyi



Her Excellency
Samia Suluhu Hassan

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of **TPB Bank** joins all Tanzanians to Congratulate

H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN
President of the United Republic of Tanzania
and
H.E DR. ALLY HUSSEIN MWINYI
President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar
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Plea made to ministry to better infrastructure and communication in parks, residential areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has been tasked to start planning to improve infrastructure, communication in all parks and residential areas for the interest of local and foreign tourists.

The Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Aloyce Kwezi made the call over the weekend shortly after visiting Julius Nyerere National Park, Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) and Mikumi National Park.

Dr Kwezi said: "The JNHPP will be a major tourist attraction and its construction is well executed so the Ministry of Natural Resources should not wait until the completion of the project and then start making improvements in infrastructure and communication."

"The issue of communication in national parks must be improved to further promote tourism as there have been complaints from tourism stakeholders about the existence of a communication problem when they are in the park," said the chairman.

Dr Kwezi suggested the need for MPs to be at the forefront of being the first to visit existing parks while encouraging citizens who lead them to do local tourism instead of seeing tourism only for foreign visitors.

He however commended the management of Mikumi National Park for their efforts to improve road infrastructure and residential areas for tourists, said: "I commend you for making Mikumi among the national parks with infrastructure that makes it passable throughout the year."

deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja said the ministry would ensure that all directives and advice were implemented and acted on time to increase the number of tourists in the country.

"We have received instructions from the parliamentary committee and I acknowledge the existence of communication challenges in some parks so we will ensure that communication is improved in our parks in the country," she said.

Commenting on the poaching incidents in the parks, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Allan Kijazi, said they have been able to control much of the parks including Mikumi and that for tens of conservancies since 2017 so far there have been no incidents of elephant poaching and where it is small poaching incidents.

Dr Kijazi said the ministry and its agencies that manage protected areas are committed to using the Conservation and Forestry Force to ensure they eradicate poaching one hundred percent in all areas.

"We urge stakeholders and the general public to work together to fulfill the ministry's mandate to eradicate poaching in all our protected areas."

Special Seats MP, Asia Halamga urged young people and the media to use the opportunities they have to visit attractions and advertise locally and abroad instead of spending their time on issues that are not in the interest of the nation.

"We urge stakeholders and the general public to work together to fulfill the ministry's mandate to eradicate poaching in all our protected areas"



Dr Jonas Mcharo, a Kilimanjaro regional officer, cuts the ribbon at the weekend to launch 27m/- worth of modern handwashing infrastructure at Holili customs office in Rombo District built by Tawasa Net with Water Aid Tanzania sponsorship. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Lake zone residents have been urged to increase the fight against harmful traditional practices including child marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM) and related vices as they fuel spread of HIV/Aids.

Speaking during the training provided to HIV/Aids experts here, UN Women Tanzania Programme Officer, Jacob Kayombo said that harmful traditional practices should be fought with all efforts so as to fight the spread of the disease.

Provided by the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) with funds from Global Fund and UN Women, the training meant to strengthen the capacity of the experts on issues relating to harm practices and barriers, which affect women's ability to protect against new HIV infection, access

Residents of Lake zone urged to wage war on harmful traditional practices

to HIV testing, treatment and care.

The experts, according to Kayombo will be deployed in various areas in the Lake Zone regions, to train leaders and women at the community level so as to speed up the fight against the harmful practices.

Kayombo said that as per assessment conducted last year, harmful traditional practices remain as a huge setback in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Lake Zone.

He noted that the assessment found that women and girls in Lake Zone regions were still slaves of forced marriages, widow inheritance and FGM, a situation which affects their health and development.

"The challenges are much higher in the Regions of Mwanza,

Simiyu, Geita, Kagera and Mara. UN Women in collaboration with the government and other stakeholders, we will continue investing more efforts to support the fight against the harmful practices in the areas and thus achieve the goal aimed at ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

"Through the trained experts, we will go through various districts, wards and villages in Lake Zone, educate leaders and the public on the impacts of the traditional practices, and we hope that we will support the reduction of the actions which fuels the spread of HIV/Aids," Kayombo explained.

Judith Luande, TACAIDS gender issues coordinator said that one of the first councils to be reached

by the experts will be Misungwi as the situation is much worse there than the other areas.

"Harmful practices such as early marriages, FGM, widow inheritance and other are high in Misungwi District in Mwanza, this needs immediate efforts to fight the challenge, so we will deploy more experts here," she said.

Dr Malcelina Kiemi, one of the participants said child marriages in Misungwi District Council was high as a number of young girls are being forced to marry older husbands who later end up mistreating the girls.

"Inheritance of widows is also a big challenge, men have been taking the widow without even going to test for HIV/Aids, something which also fuels the spread of diseases," she said.



Students of Dar es Salaam's St Mary's International School perform last week at a memorial service to mark the first anniversary of the passing of Bishop Dr Getrude Rwakatare, founder and head of Mountain of Fire Assemblies of God Church. The founder and owner of the St Mary's Schools network died in the city on April 20 last year after a short illness. She was 69. Photo: Guardian Photographer

WHO commends Tanzania for scaling up immunisation drive

By Guardian Reporter

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) has commended Tanzania for its efforts in scaling up immunisation, a key tool in achieving sustainable development goal (SDG) number three about health.

WHO's immunisation officer Dr William Mwenge made the remarks in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking during the one-day orientation to journalists about vaccination ahead of the African Vaccination Week, which was endorsed in September 2010 by the resolution of the African Regional Council of the World Health Organization. Its objective is strengthening immunization programs in the African region and is being celebrated in the last week of April every year.

The orientation was aimed at enabling media personnel to understand and be able to express how important vaccines are for public health.

He described immunization as one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions. In Tanzania immunization is recognized as critical to children under the age of five for protection against communicable diseases.

"Tanzania has successfully overcome a number of communicable diseases through vaccination such as plague, smallpox and yellow fever. Over 20 vaccinations have been implemented since the early 1990s saving millions of Tanzanians life," said Mwenge.

This year's vaccination week is being celebrated with a theme 'Vaccines bring us closer'. He asserted that WHO has been coordinating outreach

programmes that aim at enabling rural communities to get vaccinations without going long distances.

He said vaccinations rescue about 2million and 3 million lives every year.

"The orientation aims to enable you to understand and be able to express how important vaccines are for public health," he told journalists.

Dr Ritha Njau, Malaria Officer said Tanzania has been doing well in fighting Malaria as Manyara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Njombe are leading with good performance.

She said that 29 percent reduction in global malaria case incidence between 2000 and 2019. At least 94 percent of global malaria cases in 2019 occurred in the WHO African region.

"There is 60 percent reduction in global malaria mortality incidence between 2000 and 2019. In Tanzania, Malaria prevalence has decreased from 7.5 percent to 3.5 percent with Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma and Rukwa regions having high prevalence," said Njau.

In his message ahead of the African immunization week, WHO regional director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti said several African countries could experience an outbreak of measles amid stalled vaccination against the viral disease linked to Covid-19 disruptions.

She said that countries that have delayed measles immunization in the continent could experience a resurgence of the disease that affects young children.

"Recent outbreaks of measles, but also yellow fever, cholera, and meningitis all point to worrying gaps in immunization coverage and surveillance in Africa," Moeti said

State allays MPs' worries over teachers' payments

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) Mohamed Mchengerwa has assured teachers that the government is going to pay all their arrears including promotions, salaries, allowances and benefits.

Mchengerwa allayed fears over the weekend in the House while winding up debate for his office's budget estimates for the 2021/2022 financial year.

According to him, his office will protect the rights of all civil servants by addressing all

challenges and claims which thwarts their development.

While debating, Members of Parliament (MPs) raised concerns pointing out that payment of teachers' arrears in the country was a huge problem for both primary and secondary schools.

Many of them said most of the teachers were not promoted, denied allowances and had their benefits also reduced.

The lawmakers, therefore, wanted the government to take immediate measures to solve the problem as it was affecting progress of the workers.

The minister further said his office will put in place strategies to fight corruption, bureaucracy and related acts which affect provision of services.

"Let me assure you (parliamentarians) and all public servants that we are well prepared to implement strategies which are going to improve the public service, this includes eradicating corruption through increased public education and strengthening protection of servants' rights," he said.

On promotions, Mchengerwa said that he has instructed

institutions and officers to ensure that they address the issue adding that the government has allocated 73.42bn/- billion to pay more than 90,000 employees who are expected to be promoted.

In another development, the minister said that his office was also working to see the possibility of reinstating the public servants who left their positions and went to vie for several leadership posts in the 2020 General Election.

However, this will fall under those who followed all public service procedures before heading to the political side.



Senior executives representing banks and other financial institutions in Tanzania follow President Samia Suluhu Hassan's maiden address in the National Assembly in Dodoma city last Thursday at the invitation of House Speaker Job Ndugai. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

'Viungo Project' ought to cater for all farmers - call

CHAIRMAN of the Agriculture and Tourism Committee from the House of Representatives Ali Suleiman Ameir has urged leaders, experts and supervisors of the 'Viungo Project' to ensure that the programme reaches all the intended farmers so as to bring out positive impacts in the community.

Ameir made the remarks over the weekend during the special meeting held at Mwanakwerekwe in Unguja which meant to discuss and push for policy changes in the agriculture sector for the country's development.

The Viungo project benefits thousands of farmers in both Pemba and Unguja and is implemented by the People's Development Forum (PDF), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and the Zanzibar Women Media Association (TAMWA Zanzibar) with funds from the European Union (EU).

He said that while implementing, the officials should be aware that they have a huge role to ensure that the project benefits and brings positive impacts to vulnerable farmers who have been struggling for years and fail to benefit from the farming.

"We all know that this project has come to liberate organic vegetable and fruit growers, as the island's farmers have long complained of lack of expertise

in the production, handling and transportation of produce, so we have to ensure that we handle it with great care to ensure that it reaches only the intended farmers and not others," he noted.

Salum Rehani, agriculture expert underlined the need for the government to invest heavily in research and production of quality seeds so as to enable farmers utilise them well and thus increase yields.

He said that the government has been spending a lot of money to buy seeds and fertilizer but most of them are sub-standards and do not produce intended harvests.

Khadija Juma, project manager-Unguja said that Zanzibar is blessed with plenty of opportunities in the agriculture sector and that the Viungo project has come at the right time.

Khadija called on the members from the House of Representatives to continue pushing for the government to invest heavily in the agriculture sector.

She said that the project wants to see vulnerable farmers in the Isles improving their livelihoods through modern vegetable, fruits and spices farming.



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There is no work you are doing, only much noise, the government in Mwanza provides a lot of money to finalise the projects that will benefit the people, and if you cannot work, stay aside, you cannot say you work while you don't

Water project consulting engineer a 'liar' - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

WATER minister Juma Aweso has called upon the consulting engineer for the 60bn/- water reservoir project at Buswelu in Mwanza City, Buswelu Andrew Mwakagenda to think again after he lied that the workers were working on Sundays as well.

Aweso gave the remarks during his visit at the project saying there was no work being done on Sundays, only bringing in workers to show they work while in actual fact they don't.

"There is no work you are doing, only much noise, the government in Mwanza provides a lot of money to finalise the projects that will benefit the people, and if you cannot work, stay aside, you cannot say you work while you don't", he added.

He also directed MWAUWASA and RUWASA in Mwanza to work together to finish the Igongwe and Kahama water projects for the people to get water service.

He said the intention of President Samia Suluhu Hassan is to see the people get safe and clean water, hence all contractors of water projects should understand there will be no time to be added

to the contract.

For his part MWAUWASA Acting Managing Director, Eng Leonard Msenyele said the Buswelu water project to cost 6bn/- will be completed in October this year with the work remaining include laying of plastic and iron pipes from the Kiseke pumping station to the Buswelu reservoir 9.5kms away which will serve 100,000 residents.

He said water supply in the City through the Kapiripoint Plant was 90 million litres per day while the actual needs is 150 million litres per day, hence there was a shortfall of 60 million litres per day.

"In order to solve the shortfall challenge the government is implementing a new water source at Butimba Prisons area," he explained.

For his part Water Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Eng. Nadhifa Kemikimba said the ministry was closely following up these projects to ensure they are completed in time.

For his part, Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella said Mwanza City was facing with water shortage challenge due to its fast development pace.

Ministry plans new sustainable strategy to control illegal fishing

By Guardian Reporter,

Kigoma

Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki has said the government plans to adopt a sustainable strategy to control illegal fishing and abandon the procedures for short term operations.

Ndaki issued the remarks when speaking to fishermen at Kibirizi fishing port in Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika on Saturday.

He said the aim of the ministry is to control illegal fishing practices which will be sustainable and would involve the fishermen themselves and government officials in the area from village to regional level.

"Illegal fishing threaten our fish resources, we must not rear it, we must involve all those concerned in order to impress to them that illegal fishing is not acceptable," he added.

He said what they discovered from short term operations was that the results were also short term, after which illegal fishing continues, because the operations lack experts from the ministry.

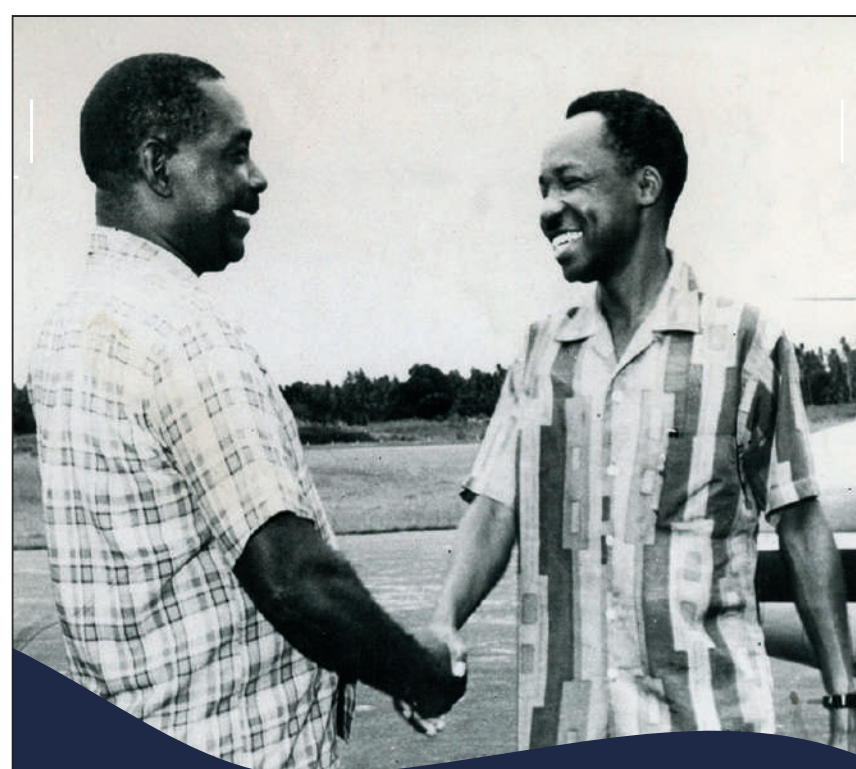
"Protection of fish resources is not the responsibility of people from the headquarters alone, but it is the responsibility of all of

us, we should see the importance of protecting our resources, illegal fishing is not acceptable and once we arrest you, legal steps will be taken," Ndaki added.

In regard to some official complaining over illegal fishing, he said an official or a fishing expert who will be found to have been

involved will also be dealt with in accordance with the law.

He said he will not tire out on the issue of illegal fishing and called upon the people and government officials at all levels to work together in fighting the vice by disclosing all those involved in the crime in their areas.



HAPPY UNION DAY! TANZANIA

The Board of Directors, management and all staff of the construction company for the Standard Gauge Railway in Tanzania - Yapi Merkezi, congratulates all Tanzanians and The United Republic of Tanzania in celebrating 57 years of Freedom and Unity.

Happy Union Day!



REQUEST FOR TENDER CAMP MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATIONS

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide Camps Maintenance and Renovations

Pre-qualification criteria

- (1) CRB Registered
- (2) Qualify as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per Local Content Regulation
- (3) Active relevant Maintenance certification
- (4) At least 3 years Maintenance experience
- (5) Experienced key personnel to be assigned to the project
- (6) Adequate policies & procedures
- (7) Past experience in mining projects will be an added advantage

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote reference "Camp Maintenance and Renovations HR02/2021" in the subject line of your email.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI

30th April 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Students get placements for winning competition

By Guardian Reporter

FIVE information technology students from various universities in the country have been awarded an internship opportunity with a major financial institution after emerging winners of an innovation challenge.

The group dubbed Team Divine beat five other teams in a challenge that required them to come up with innovative ways to increase online traffic in a corporate mobile application.

The challenge which took place last week was the second leg of a participatory and mentorship platform called Corporate Hackathons that helps students to cultivate their innovation through creating solutions for challenges posed by different companies.

A statement released yesterday by the organizers, Smart Codes, named the winners as Deogratius Gemini, Blessing Rweikiza, Charity Jonas, Erick Lwanda and Baruti Baruani.

"The winners of the challenge have been awarded an internship opportunity by Exim Bank and smartphones from Vodacom Tanzania Foundation," reads the statement.

Smart Lab's Corporate Hackathons is organized in

partnership with Exim Bank and Vodacom Foundation, sponsored by UKAid through the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF), 2021 Edition

"The students worked in groups comprised of a total of 6 teams. After a week's work, the students pitched their ideas to a panel of four judges which after deliberations, declared Team Divine as the winners," reads the statement.

"The students solved a challenge provided to increase Exim's mobile application usability."

Team Divine is one of groups formed by 50 IT students from the University of Dar es Salaam, St Joseph University in Tanzania, the Institute of Finance Management and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology who took part in the challenge.

Judges who picked the team included Stanley Kafu from Exim Bank, Christina Murimi from Vodacom and Simon Mutabazi from HDIF and Edwin Bruno from SmartCodes.

The initiative is a university outreach programme by a Tanzanian tech firm Smart Codes through its innovation platform Smart Lab and implemented in partnership with Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) and UK Aid.



Works and Transport minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho (R) is escorted by Contractors Registration Board chairperson Consolatha Ngimbwa (to his right) and other officials in Mbeya city at the weekend after closing a two-day consultative meeting between the board and 300 Tanzanian contractors. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Mbeya

Govt pledges to offer tenders to help out local contractors

THE government has pledged to continue giving construction tenders to local contractors as part of strategies to enhance their capacity to start implementing big projects.

Closing a two-day contractor's consultative meeting in Mbeya Region, Works and Transport minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho said local contractors should be capacitated to implement major projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (JNHPP). The meeting was

attended by 300 local contractors from the southern highland zone.

The minister said the government would be happy seeing all big construction projects are implemented by local contractors. He commended the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) for organizing the capacity building workshops for local contractors.

According to Chamuriho most local contractors lack capital to

implement big projects. He said building the capacity of local contractors would save money paid to foreign companies' implementing the country's major projects.

"I congratulate CRB for this commendable initiative of nurturing our local contractors, these regular consultative meetings enable them to exchange ideas and expertise as well as discuss their challenges,"

said the minister.

CRB is organizing similar meetings in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza regions.

He said the government will make sure that all the construction projects worth not more than 10 million are implemented by local contractors as per country laws. He urged them to ensure timely completion of the projects.

CRB Chairperson, Eng

Ngimbwa insisting the board will conduct capacity building seminars to contractors on all the zones.

She advised local contractors to go for joint ventures to get enough capital that would enable them to implement big projects.

Ngimbwa said that local contractors have resolved to establish their bank that would provide them with startup funds once they win construction tenders.

"There are many contractors associations, we must unite and come with one strong association which would speak on our behalf and negotiate with the government," she insisted.

Consolatha Ngimbwa said the government decision to implement construction projects through force account, puts local contractors in danger asking the government to reverse the plan to help local construction companies to acquire tenders.

"Local contractors are now competent enough to compete for tenders and implement projects as per required standards," said



Ruvuma regional commissioner Christina Mndeme pictured at the weekend assisting a resident of Litisha village (C, in black jacket) in Songea District in carrying a bucket of water shortly after inaugurating a water project meant to serve 3,000 people. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Lake Victoria basin launches Mara River-wide water allocation plan

THE Lake Victoria Basin Water Board has become the first of nine basins in the country to launch the Mara River water use plan.

Speaking at the official launch of the water use plan, deputy permanent secretary in the ministry of Water, Eng Nadhifa Kemikimba said the Mara River Basin has a unique role in providing a wide range of economic and social opportunities for the nation, especially in terms of livestock, fisheries, mining, agriculture, and tourism.

Kemikimba said the Mara River Basin is facing water resource management problems including water use conflicts which are caused by encroachment and pollution of water sources.

In response to these challenges, the Lake Victoria Basin in collaboration with the Sustainable Water Partnership (SWP) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has developed a water use

management plan.

"This initiative aims to regulate water use in the Mara River Basin and the implementation of the Water Resources Management Act No. 11 of 2009," she said, adding that the initiative would help to ensure the efficient and effective use of water resources to support the biodiversity of the river, agriculture, mining and to develop key economic sectors

including tourism.

Board chairman of the Lake Victoria Basin, Dr Bonaventure Baya said the plan would be used to harmonize and integrate the Mara River Basin master plan which will include Tanzania and Kenya.

He said the future goals were to have a single water plan to reduce poverty and increase incomes for residents around the river.

Council: We will not withdraw court case against liquor board

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Council of Imams (JUMAZA) says there are moves to persuade it to withdraw the court case they filed in the Zanzibar High Court against the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board but added that such moves will not be successful.

JUMAZA filed a case (No 3 of 2021) claiming the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board violated Sections 28(k) and 33(1) of the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Act (No 9 of 2020) for granting import licences for importing alcoholic drinks to more than seven firms instead of only three stipulated by the law.

Speaking in his office here at the weekend, JUMAZA Executive Secretary said Sheikh Ali Amour said one of their officials was summoned by the Board. Chairman pleading with JUMAZA to withdraw the case for settlement out of the court.

However, he said JUMAZA filed the case after its Secretariat was satisfied on the law's violation adding that they have not identified any basic arguments for the withdrawal.

He said the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board is required to administer the law and not to violate it, as it was passed by the legal organ - the House of Representatives and signed by the President of Zanzibar.

He further said JUMAZA is run as an institution and its decisions are derived from its leadership meetings including the Secretariat, hence it cannot withdraw the case out of the Board's wishes.

Sheikh Amour said before filing the case JUMAZA consulted its

lawyers and was satisfied that the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board had violated the Law.

He said among others the law stipulates that the liquor warehouses and bars must be 1,000 metres away from areas offering basic social services including hospital, schools, mosques and people's residences, but the Board has failed to oversee these requirements.

However, when called to comment, the Chairman of the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board Abdulrazaki Abdulkadir refuted reports that they had asked for the matter to be settled outside the court.

"I have not requested them to do that, as I like for the case to proceed until the truth is found, we say we have not violated any law as they insist. The court will be the one to decide," said Abdulrazak.

The Zanzibar High Court Judge Rabia Hussein Mohamed said the hearing of the case will begin May 3 and the judgement will be given on June 2 this year.



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Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro cuts the ribbon to launch the 7th edition of the annual Majimaji Selebuka Festival at Maji Maji grounds in Songea municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UNESCO celebrates Tanzanian women in the creative sector

By Guardian Reporter

UNESCO, British Council and Make it Matter organised an event to celebrate the contribution of women in the creative sector which was held on 15 April 2021 on World Art Day. The event was a valuable occasion for over 70 creatives and cultural professionals to come together in the spirit of furthering the Tanzania's cultural and creative industries. "The creative sector have high potential to foster inclusive and sustainable development," said Innocent Bashungwa, Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports.

The panel discussion on how women as a collective play a catalytic role in transforming the creative sector shed a light on some of the achievements and challenges faced by women leading creative economy initiatives. Some of the challenges women in the creative sector encounter include, lack of business management skills necessary to run their enterprises sustainably; not adequate role models; lack of parental support compared to male counterparts; income and tax conditions; and transition to digital technology. UNESCO's 2005 Convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions has recently published an Open roadmap with guidelines for supporting artists' transition to the digital environment.

There is an urgent need to address issues of social protection, market access and exposure for artists and their works locally and globally. Professionalizing the status of artists and defining their working

conditions is essential to reaffirm freedom of artistic expression. UNESCO highlighted the need for promoting gender equality in the culture and creative sector. On the International Women's Day this year, UNESCO published special edition report on the state of gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors, in order to highlight the consequences of gender inequalities for the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

World Art Day promotes the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art. It is also an occasion to shine a light on arts education in schools, as culture can pave the way for inclusive and equitable education. UNESCO is committed to support environments where artists and artistic freedom are promoted and protected.

The year 2021 was declared the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development at the 74th United Nations General Assembly and The African Union declared the Year 2021 as "The AU Year of the Arts, Culture And Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want". For a truly inclusive and prosperous creative economy to take shape, we must step up our efforts to promote gender equality in this sector.



For a truly inclusive and prosperous creative economy to take shape, we must step up our efforts to promote gender equality in this sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Tourism stakeholders brainstorm in Mwanza

MORE than 1,000 business and tourism stakeholders from within and outside the country are expected to address the Tanzania Business summit scheduled for three days in Mwanza city.

The summit will also include business, tourism and investment exhibitions to be held at the Rock City Mall from April 30th to May 2nd this year.

The conference's co-coordinator, Bernad Mwata, said participants will come from different countries including Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa.

He said the event is part of strategies to promote tourism and investment opportunities in

the region as well as connecting Mwanza traders with their counterparts from various places across the globe whereas they can exchange ideas and chart ways to end the various challenges facing traders in Africa.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Marketing Officer, Rhoda Kasame said they have set arrangements to allow Mwanza residents to visit the exhibition and tourist attractions available in the region such as the Saanane Island, Serengeti national park and the Bujora Sukuma Museum.

Assistant Commissioner for Conservation and Saanane

Island's Chief Conservator, Eva Mallya called upon the residents to visit the park because it has a number of entertainments for both adults and children. She said the park has wild animals such as lion, zebra, deer and various bird species.

"Tanzanians should build a culture of visiting all the 22 national parks across the country," she added.

Speaking on behalf of the summit organizers, Chairman of Africity Mining Company, Charles Masanga said the conference would be an opportunity for traders to share

ideas on how to improve their businesses for the country's economic growth.

Participants to the forum include, the Prime Minister's Office in Mwanza, TTB, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), National College of Tourism (NCT), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Chloride Exide Tanzania, Niita Microfinance, NMB bank, Tata, BMG, MCL, Tatol, Toyota, Nabaki Afrika, City Aim, Vodacom, Tigo, Movit, Bugando Regional Referral Hospital, Bugando College of Health, TTCL and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

The major threats to Kenya's energy sector

NAIROBI

Studies have been conducted in various countries around the world, notable of which was in Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the 1990s on the economic loss of unsupplied electricity. It was found that every Kilowatt (kW) that was not supplied had an economic cost of at least 1 USD/Kwh -Sh108- and resulted in major dips in the Gross Domestic Product of a country. Allow me to park this thought for now and revisit it towards the end of this article.

Last week, President Uhuru Kenyatta gazetted the appointment of a long overdue taskforce on the review of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Since then, a lot has been written about this taskforce and the sector, most of which I agree with, but some of which I disagree.

My friend Jaindi Kiseru with whom we agree most of the times penned one article on March 31 in which he raised several points that I wish to address.

First, he touched on the composition of the committee. I fully agree that the John Ngumi-chaired taskforce as constituted today is competent enough to rationally re-look at the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) regime from a much broader perspective, critiquing what went wrong, exploring what can be negotiated (and the repercussions of the same) and recommending what needs to be done as we move forward.

The previous committee appointed by Energy CS was not sufficiently independent as it comprised mainly senior officers of Kenya Power (KP), who partly got us where we are in the first place and whose primary interest would have been that of the company.

Going through the Terms of Reference, however, I felt that

there should have been an overarching task -- to review the financial stability of KP and propose ways of ensuring long-term sustainability.

KP is the central pillar of the energy sector and piecemeal solutions may not help it as envisaged. Power generators, especially IPPs, may be one of the problems, but perhaps the least of them. We need to look at the whole sector but focus more on the centre. Re-negotiations with the IPPs must come as part of finding a holistic and sustainable solution for Kenya Power.

Let me remind our readers that PPAs are bilateral agreements between KP and power generators. The Regulator Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra)'s job is to balance the interests of all stakeholders and to ensure the overall sustainability of the sector. It is not to negotiate prices. KP negotiates them jointly with the power generators and submits the PPA to the regulator to approve. So KP could have said No to any power generator. They had the power to do so but did not seem to have the will and the capacity to do so.

Let me now come to the point where I vehemently disagree with Jaindi when he says that "We must accept that the experimentation with private producers, which we have been trying for several decades, is one of the main reasons why we don't have cheap power".

IPPs were not an experiment but a condition of accessing funds under the Energy Sector Recovery Programme of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). IPPs had started developing power in various parts of the globe in the late 1970's and early 1980's to compliment the seemingly inefficient and limited public utilities.

AGENCIES



Road construction in progress at Misegese village in Malinyi, Morogoro Region, last week following damage due to the flooding of the nearby River Furua. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

Africa suffers worst impacts of climate change, says bank

DESPITE emitting the lowest amount of carbon per capita in the world, Africa suffers the worst of the impacts of climate change, including droughts and floods, locust and pest invasions, according to the head of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

Speaking at the Leaders Summit on Climate via videoconference on Thursday, Akinwumi Adesina said the AfDB has committed \$25 billion to climate finance over the next four years.

"Our share of financing devoted to climate rose from 9% in 2016 to 35% in 2019 and we will reach 40% in 2021," Adesina added.

Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba said the fight against climate change must be intensified and serve as a development opportunity for Africa.

"Developing countries often suffer the most from the devastating effects of climate

change in the form of drought, extreme storms and rising sea levels," according to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"Consequently, developed economies have a responsibility to support developing economies to enable them to mitigate and adapt to climate change," Ramaphosa added.

He said South Africa's emissions will begin to decline from 2025,

effectively bringing the country's emissions to decline a decade forward. Ramaphosa called on all developed economies, which he said bore the greatest historical responsibility on emissions, to fulfill their responsibilities to developing economies.

"This will be vital to restoring the bonds of trust between developed and developing economies."

"As we have done since the time of Nelson Mandela, South Africa stands ready to work with other nations to build bridges to find solutions that secure humanity's future," he added.

MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Yes, state needs private sector, but the formulas really matter

DIFFERENT reactions have been received from stakeholders to take up the call for changed approaches of state regulatory institutions to the private sector, with two aspects being visible. On the one hand there are individual propositions from different quarters reflecting specific interest groups, and on the other hand, there is a recycling of elements of a regulatory agenda or private sector participation that has not worked in the past. And if it arguably was working to an extent, it scarcely provides a solution to issues.

The contention of ideas has started following an appeal by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, this time when making her maiden address to Parliament, setting out a vision of strong economic growth on the basis of a dynamic private sector and appropriate regulatory methods. These goals will not attract debate or dispute, but a lot of care will have to be exercised about the methods, so that those tuned to the same methods whose solution led to a massive regulatory crisis are kept at bay. There is hence going to be a tussle between change and mild innovation, as various groups stand to lose from changing regulations.

One line of thinking which came up lately from non-state actors said that the country stands a better chance of delivering on the vision set out by President Samia if the private sector is involved in key projects. At first a person coming face to face with this suggestion thinks that the commentator is talking about bringing in large capital infusion in various projects instead of relying on state coffers, for instance shifting from loans to equity. That lessens our freedom but we obtain large amounts of capital that way.

Kudos to President Samia for the gestures of reconciliation

EXCITEMENT was in the air as President Samia Suluhu Haasan took to the podium of the National Assembly to address the legislature and the nation at large, her maiden speech in Parliament following the reconstitution of the government in the wake of the March 17 tragic announcement. One area where a lot was expected and the president actually delivered was on the likelihood of a firm commitment to restoring a functioning democratic system, whose precondition is permission of activities of political parties. It is now a matter of detail as to when and in what manner this situation is reconstituted after that affirmation.

That was one among the key pickings in a speech that had plenty of uplifting promises and intentions, and at least one rather painful innovation, as to farmers (peasants, perhaps) paying a fee for the use of crop storage facilities, now just handed for free. That will help to improve local government finances as well as generate a sense of ownership, if one picks from rather familiar participatory devices or formulas especially from the World Bank. Such lessons are derived from decades of experience in various countries including Tanzania, as well as trending research on crop management and participation, etc.

Opening up democratic freedoms had already been addressed in previous remarks directing the media or telecommunication regulatory authorities to free up internet-based television and blogspots

One area where floating ideas for the government to take on board and map out corrective action in relation to policy is the fact that those who offer ideas are tied up with specific interest groups. Take for instance the issue of unlocking the country's agriculture and livestock sectors by increasing productivity, and what some non state actors wish the government would do, if one takes up ideas by the Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF). Its director said in media remarks that if the government wants the country to reach 1.2m hectares of irrigated farmlands by 2025, this can only be achieved with private sector in the development of irrigation schemes, the remarks noted, taking up from Samia's propositions.

"The president said the government will start charging farmers using its schemes. We suggest that it allows us to also build schemes and charge farmers to recoup investment," the group's executive director underlined. ANSAF has a point in that area, but large scale irrigation risks flooding the market with crops. We can't have a vocation to produce massively in the hope that those surrounding us need the products, due to this or that set of circumstances.

The net idea that the private sector is just a long list of producers setting up projects is likely to lead to poor results, as numerous producers for a narrow market leads to failure. We also need rational approaches to immovable property like farmland and urban land, widening bonafide buyers to include Tanzanians living outside or people who can come with capital to live here. Migrant purchases of landed assets add net wealth, unlike bank loans which only recycle existing wealth.

while the wider media were taken aback when it was clarified that banned newspapers weren't included. It is this aspect that was being further awaited and there was enough in the speech to assure listeners that media freedom is being inched up further, with closed newspapers likely to be freed in the wake of those assurances. The billion shilling question was political party activities and public meetings, to which the president nodded too, especially as she repeated the now accepted designation of sixth phase government.

A stern reminder was not lacking on those who believe that there is a new era, of peace and laissez faire where government officials can do as they please - and also the police, and robbers, etc. President Samia sounded out that the government will not tolerate negligence, corruption and laxity, directly fingering the feeling that many harbor at present, that it is 'time to relax.' "Let me tell you that those who think that seriousness in management of public funds has gone with the departed president should think twice because this is just a copy and paste of the previous government in this area," the president affirmed. It can obviously be expected that many will test the water, try to feel the stones, if they can haul the cash.

While many of us will be celebrating the gesture of reconciliation between the state and civil society, as political parties outside the ruling party are part of civil society, depending on the mercies of organs of law and order to be able to do anything, unsavory turns must be expected.

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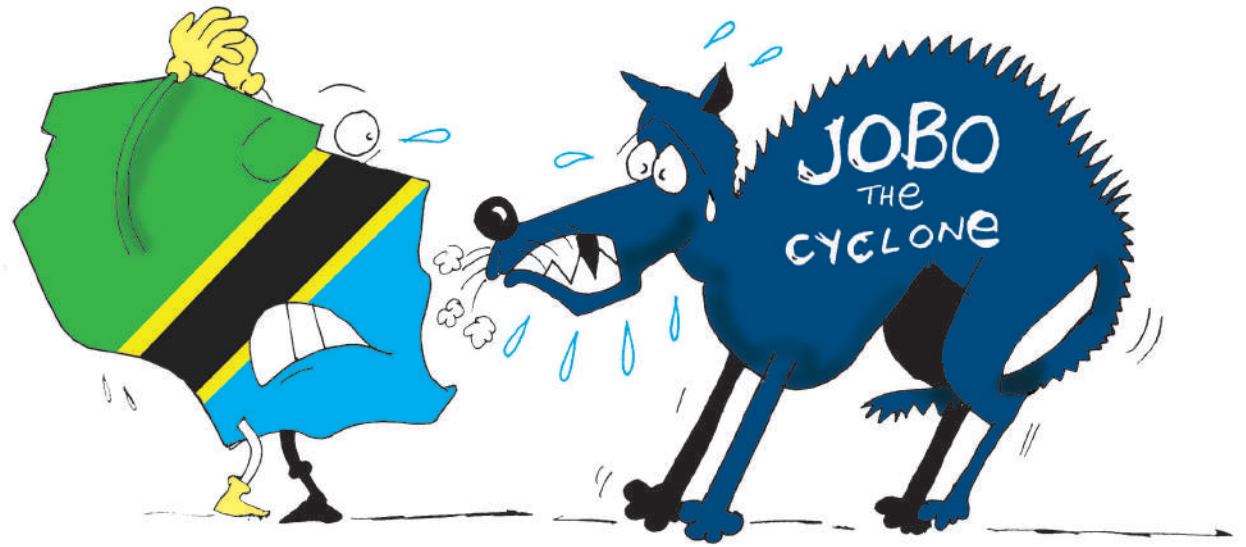
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By Ringisai Chikohomero

TANZANIA'S new president seems to be steering the country back towards democracy, but consolidating power won't be easy. President Samia Suluhu Hassan is set to define her political trajectory as Tanzania's new leader after the death of her predecessor John Magufuli. She inherits a legacy fraught with controversy, from the stifling of civil liberties to COVID-19 denial.

She also takes over a country that managed to transition from poverty to a lower-middle-income economy that resonated with many Tanzanians. This achievement resulted in the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) ruling party's electoral victory in 2020.

With a five-year term ahead of her, she has a golden opportunity to build on the economic growth trajectory without separating economic progress and civil liberties. Her success will lie in her ability to define a vision and strategy that the country and party will buy into and consolidate power in government, the security sector and the CCM party.

Samia Suluhu is a senior cadre of the CCM. However, until Magufuli's death, she didn't hold any of the top three leadership positions in the CCM, as is the practice in other Southern African Development Community countries. The norm in the region and most of Africa is that the president is the ruling party leader, and the vice-president deputises as party president. This facilitates the consolidation of power in both party and government.

By Phakamile Khumalo

THE suicide of 15-year-old Limpopo school pupil Lufuno Mavhunga, after a video of her being bullied had been circulated on social media, highlights the urgent need for schools to create a social media/internet policy that includes an intentional and aggressive strategy to deal effectively with incidents like this.

Three questions came to mind when I heard the devastating news that Lufuno Mavhunga from Nzhelele in Limpopo had taken her life because, seemingly, she had been severely and repeatedly bullied, assaulted and humiliated at school.

Do schools and teachers have adequate resources and skills to deal with bullying and the complex layer that social media has added to this form of violence?

What was going through the mind of the learner who was

Can Samia Suluhu Hassan make a clean break from Magufuli?

Samia Suluhu didn't hold any of the top three leadership positions in the CCM ruling party

As the new president, Samia Suluhu assumes the position of CCM chairperson, which brings the invidious task of navigating internal party politics. With high levels of conflation between the ruling party and the state, this power consolidation will be critical for Samia Suluhu to realise her new vision without internal rifts. Such rifts could curtail her progress and future political ambitions.

In her inauguration speech on 19 March, the new president firmly stated that she was in charge. Then she assured the nation that she would continue implementing Magufuli's vision. How will she do this while simultaneously charting her own course?

In the short to medium term, the defining areas for Samia Suluhu will be public health, human rights, civil liberties, foreign policy and economic policies. In the long term, it will boil down to bread-and-butter issues for Tanzanians - developmental progress. Though her vision and strategy aren't yet clear, she has made key pronouncements about COVID-19 and civil liberties, with opposite positions to Magufuli's.

Within weeks of taking office, Samia Suluhu has started distancing herself from some of Magufuli's decisions on private sector engagement, COVID-19 and human rights. In a significant policy shift she said Tanzania couldn't afford to ignore the

global pandemic. She has opted for a more scientifically informed approach by instituting a panel of public health and medical experts to advise the government on the issue.

Strict COVID-19 measures would lead to a slowdown in the economy, and therefore a political backlash

This is a marked and welcome departure from her predecessor. While the rest of the world was implementing stringent measures, including nationwide lockdowns, masking up and social distancing, Magufuli declared that Tanzania had defeated COVID-19 through prayer. Under the 2019 Statistics Act, no independent body outside government could announce any figures on the pandemic.

Can Samia Suluhu reset the clock on COVID-19 in Tanzania? Doing so would require balancing public health and financial considerations in a celebrated growing economy. It would affect millions of poor Tanzanians. Stringent measures such as a hard lockdown would directly affect the CCM support base, for example informal traders. This would lead to a slowdown in the economy, and therefore a political backlash.

In another move that departs from the Magufuli administration, Samia Suluhu ordered the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports to rescind its decision to ban and shut down independent media houses. She said, 'I am told that you revoked licences.' Her words inferred that she wasn't aware of such a drastic

decision, while at the same time, she didn't directly implicate the late president.

One would assume that Magufuli's positions were not his own, but represented those of the dominant faction in the CCM. Samia Suluhu's actions can be interpreted as an attempt to distance herself from Magufuli's 'arbitrary' decisions and present herself in a positive pro-democracy light. Magufuli had essentially declared war on press freedom, among other political liberties. Through her new directives, Samia Suluhu is setting Tanzania back on the path of democracy.

Will Samia Suluhu swing the pendulum too far, too soon and upset her CCM opponents?

However, she faces bumpy political terrain internally, within the CCM and in government, and externally, as opposition leaders and civil society organisations try to influence her policy direction. The opposition has praised her recent moves - but this is also strategic. After five years of antagonistic relations with the government, they want a smooth road to democracy. Civil society is joining the plea for her to undo years of restrictions and clampdowns.

Will Samia Suluhu swing the pendulum too far and too soon from Magufuli's policies and upset her CCM opponents? Or will she play the long game, building on the good aspects of Magufuli's legacy with the bigger picture in mind? The next few months will be telling.

Suicide of Limpopo teen highlights urgent need for a social media policy for schools

taking the video of Lufuno being assaulted?

Do we and the public understand the impact of resharing this video on social media, especially for Lufuno, her family and the child perpetrator?

As a parent, I want to start by addressing the issue of readiness of schools to deal with issues like bullying given the complex nature surrounding Lufuno's assault. It would be negligent of the school to deal with this incident as a normal bullying case. The taking and sharing of the assault video dramatically alters the situation and presents a wider issue around the use and monitoring of cellphones in schools and the policies that guard and regulate this usage.

This terrible incident, like many others, highlights the

urgent need for schools to create a social media/internet policy that includes an intentional and aggressive strategy to deal effectively with incidents like this. At the same time it is equally critical that learners provide input and feedback on the policy so they feel that whichever approach taken hears their voices and gives their issues the urgent attention they rightfully deserve.

Without diminishing the issue of bullying, the lack of active digital citizenship among our learners needs equally urgent attention in our schools.

In almost all the videos that have been brought to our attention involving violent assault or abuse by learners, it seems few learners try to stop the perpetrator, instead taking a video appears to be the priority. This video is

then shared on social media, thus not only retraumatizing those directly involved, but ensuring the invasion of privacy and humiliation is disseminated on a global platform. The impact of the sharing impacts all involved and serves to desensitise and dehumanise.

In my experience working with children, I find overwhelmingly that learners have not been taught about how to effectively and responsibly use social media in a way that promotes or highlights who they are, or what their dreams and aspirations are. Instead they have been taught to believe that these kinds of violent videos are the ones that "break the internet", and so they should be shared widely and without consideration for those involved, including themselves.

By Correspondent Deogratias Mushi

This is why President Samia's maiden address has left women impressed ...



AMONG the issues President Samia Suluhu Hassan touched on in her maiden address to the National Assembly in Dodoma last Thursday that women have found of most relevance are those in relation to women's networks, the Constitution, leadership and elections.

Women, in collaboration with other stakeholders working on gender equality and women's rights, say the president has demonstrated beyond doubt that she has great potential to take Tanzania to a higher level of social and economic development.

It is noteworthy that the president assumed power in earnest and thus began to lead the nation in an especially difficult period of grief - following the March 17 passing of President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

These women, who advocate promotion in positions of leadership based on gender equality and justice, say they closely followed the president's speech this April 22, describing it as having provided a clear vision for the nation.

They say the speech highlighted the priorities that have affected various aspects of development in the country, including those that promote life, justice and equality in the various, noting in a statement: "President Samia has clearly demonstrated the values of national leadership, among them justice, democracy and equality."

They further note that, if maintained, protected and defended, "the values will shed crucial light that will inform and guide the implementation of the government's priorities - including ensuring economic growth and poverty alleviation, anti-corruption and embezzlement or misuse of public property.

It is also their view and hope that this will facilitate tax-free payment, promote and increase productivity in the agricultural and livestock sectors, promote employment and

income generation by promoting and protecting vital sectors like mining, tourism and manufacturing.

"The president's watershed speech is sure to help the country see faster development of infrastructure, improvement and revolutionisation of information and telecommunication technology, and the promotion of investment in sectors such as energy, education, health (especially reproductive health)."

They note, also mentioning "promoting and maintaining the foundations of democracy, peace and freedom as well as the using the foundations of justice and the rule of law to protect the citizens' basic rights".

In their analysis of the

president's address, most professional women reached for comment indicated that all areas have been given priority in the government, "thus providing a golden opportunity for promoting development that benefits women, girls and other vulnerable groups across the country, as the implementation of these priorities will be built and implemented on the basis of justice and equality".

Using some illustrative

examples, these women's group have pinpointed areas identified by the president as ideal opportunities for development. They see the foundations and outcomes of such development easily leading to the strengthening of the founda-

tions, notably as relates to gender equality.

In their view, this clearly shows that President Samia has made a commitment to protecting the foundations of democracy and the freedom of the people as well as politicians and the media.

For example, she has shown great opportunity to build foundations and strategies that will not leave behind the participation and voices of women as part and parcel of the nation.

"When the president has an audience with political parties, we would like her to place emphasis on ensuring that the strategy towards the realisation of gender equality and democracy within their parties is implemented as their strategic

agenda," they say.

Another priority is to promotion of the mining, tourism and other sectors, part of the justification being that because these sectors have been for far too long prioritised and benefited men at the expense of women.

"It is our hope that the implementation of President Samia's commitment will focus on ensuring that women benefit more noticeably from the opportunities offered by these sectors," a recent statement by the women said.

The women have also been touched by efforts made to improve agriculture, including integrating agricultural and industrial development, with a view to enabling agricultural products to be used as industrial raw materials.

They say this will help farmers, including women in rural areas, to more readily and profitably sell their produce in factories and buy products that have already been processed locally.

What gives them hope is that the president has said she will give particular priority to investment, with the sensitive and volatile issue of land ownership and development calling for especially great care.

It is worth noting that President Samia has identified this priority and noted that the participation of women in this matter is very important ion that land has become the main basis for women's participation in social and economic development.

President Samia's leadership has shown every indication of readiness to support women who have been representing this nation for a long time and give them priority in opportunities derived from commercial agriculture.

Her leadership shows promise of promoting gender equality by ensuring that there are more women in leadership positions - but, of course, on the strength of appropriate criteria and

qualifications.

"These efforts will reduce the gap in gender equality in leadership positions and increase productivity in integrating gender issues into all development policies, budgets, plans and processes," a women's forum said in a recent statement.

It argued that this would help in accelerating inclusive and sustainable development in the country alongside boosting efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

That would go in tandem with strengthening health services by putting in place more and better infrastructure, qualified human resources, equipment and supplies, reagents, as well as working for universal health insurance - particularly for the elderly.

These efforts evidently stand to benefit women as they are the ones who commonly bear the brunt of health challenges in the family and society as a whole.

This will also step up the accountability of executives in water projects, ensure access to water in dry areas through the construction of rainwater harvesting dams, and strengthen local and village water committees so that they fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

Additionally, these efforts will reduce the burden on women having to spend precious time fetching water instead of concentrating on production activities.

It is makes inspiring reading noting that President Samia hopes to improve the country's education system by reviewing the education and vocational education and training policies so that the curricula run in line with current conditions and demands.

These reviews should be expertly integrated and give priority to girls generally and girls with disabilities in particular so that they can benefit optimally from their basic right to quality education and training.

The women have promised to continue working with the government in various ways, including providing co-operation to the president in monitoring and advising on the implementation of the priorities outlined in her speech. That, indeed, is as it should be since the fruits of all those endeavours would be for the good of the country and the nation.

Dual loyalties, violations of human rights, complicity by physicians under apartheid (1)

Introduction

From 1948 to 1994, South Africans were subjected to a period of sociopolitical segregation and discrimination based on race, a social experiment known as apartheid. South African history was tainted by a minority Afrikaner Nationalist Party that sought to plunder, exploit, divide, and rule. When that party took power in 1948, human rights abuses permeated all levels of society, including the medical profession, which was to a large extent complicit in various human rights violations.

These discriminatory practices had a negative impact on the medical education of black students, the care of black patients in private as well as public institutions, and the careers of black medical doctors. Medical student training programs at most universities ensured that white patients were not examined by black medical students either in life or after death. Postmortems on white patients were conducted in the presence of white students only; students of color were permitted to view the organs only after they were removed from the corpse [1]. Public and private hospitals reflected the mores of apartheid South Africa. Ambulance services were segregated, and even in emergencies a designated "white ambulance" could not treat and transport critically ill or injured patients of color [2]. Public hospitals had separate wings for white and black patients and medical staff. Many private practices had separate entrances and waiting rooms for patients with medical insurance and those paying cash, effectively segregating white and black [1, 2]. Doctors treating political prisoners faced dual loyalties on a regular basis. Some, like Dr. Wendy Orr, resisted the gross human rights violations, while many were complicit [2]. In particular, the abhorrent treatment of medical student and political activist Steve Biko received international



attention [2].

The Case of Steve Biko

Steve Biko was a political activist, founder of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, and a fierce opponent of the apartheid regime. As a medical student at the University of Natal, he established the South African Students Organisation (SASO) for "nonwhite" students in 1968. He was instrumental in encouraging self-respect and a desire for liberation among black youth in particular and black people more generally in South Africa. In 1973, he was "banned" by the South African government, that is, his freedom of movement and freedom of speech were curtailed, and there was a severe restriction on his political activities with the intent to silence his opposition to the apartheid regime. Steve Biko was hence restricted to a single magisterial district, his birthplace, King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape [3]. On August 19, 1977, he was detained by the security police in the Eastern Cape Province; Section 6 of the Terrorism Act of 1967 permitted his detention for an

unspecified time period. Nineteen days later, he was moved to security police headquarters in Port Elizabeth for interrogation, and the following day, Dr. Ivor Lang, the district surgeon, was asked to examine Biko because he was acting strangely and refused to respond to questions [2, 4]. Examining Biko in the presence of the security police, Dr. Lang found him to be ataxic, with slurred speech, a swollen upper lip, and various bruises. Nevertheless, he issued a medical certificate, stating, "I have found no evidence of any abnormality or pathology on the patient" [5].

The following day, Dr. Lang, accompanied by his superior, Dr. Benjamin Tucker, the chief district surgeon in Port Elizabeth, examined Biko again. Biko complained of "a vague pain in his head and back" [5], and this time Dr. Lang found signs suggesting a possible brain injury. A neurologist in private practice saw Biko at the prison hospital the next day and found signs of left-sided weakness and difficult speech; a lumbar puncture (LP) revealed blood-stained cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). His report did

not refer to any brain injury, but he told the security police that there were signs of nervous system damage and recommended referral to a neurosurgeon. Dr. Lang's recommendation that Biko be transferred to another hospital was refused by the security police. Dr. Lang informed Dr. Tucker of the neurologist's findings, but nothing further was done and no treatment was initiated [4].

On September 10, a neurosurgeon was consulted and agreed that the neurological findings and bloody CSF were indications of brain damage and recommended close observation. Dr. Lang visited Biko and found his physical condition unchanged. Consistent with the medical certificate he had issued, he made a note in the medical record that he and the neurologist had not found any pathology and that the LP was normal. Despite the neurosurgeon's recommendation that Biko required observation in hospital—and his own previous recommendation that he be transferred to another hospital—Dr. Lang permitted Biko to be transferred back to the police

cells, where he was left lying on a mat on the floor [4]. Although Dr. Lang consistently found pathology, he repeatedly acted in contradiction to his findings. It seems unlikely that such behavior could be explained by simple incompetence. Rather, what appears evident is a total violation of the most basic rules of medical professionalism and a complete disregard for the life of a black political prisoner.

The following afternoon, Biko was found "collapsed, glassy-eyed, hyperventilating, and frothing at the mouth" [5]. Dr. Tucker examined him and opined that his condition was unchanged. He recommended transfer to the local provincial hospital, but, when the security police refused to allow this, he agreed to Biko's being transferred to Pretoria, 1,100 kilometers away, by motor vehicle. Biko was transported to Central Pretoria Prison—a twelve-hour journey—without medical escort, handcuffed, and lying naked on the floor in the back of a police Land Rover [4].

Many hours later Biko was examined by the district surgeon in Pretoria, who had not been given any medical information regarding him, and the only treatment he received was intravenous fluids and vitamins. Six hours after arriving in Pretoria, Biko, who was left completely unattended, died on the floor of an empty cell on the evening of September 12, 1977 [4]. It was in this way that South Africa was robbed of one of its foremost political thinkers.

Medical Professionalism and Dual Loyalties

The conduct of Drs. Lang and Tucker was indefensible. They failed to examine Biko adequately, did not attempt to elicit even a basic history from him, and did not provide adequate care or treat-

ment. Instead they acquiesced to the instructions of the security police, neglecting to place the best interests of their patient above all other considerations. Dr. Lang wrote a false medical certificate on September 6 and inaccurate notes in the medical record on September 10. He also made no effort to ensure Biko's safety and allowed him to be transferred back to the prison cells. Dr. Tucker allowed Biko's transfer to Pretoria to occur in a police vehicle rather than an ambulance and without an accompanying medical report to the receiving doctor.

This unprofessional conduct may be explained by the conflict of the doctors caught in a classical "dual-loyalty" situation—one in which their duty to their patient, Steve Biko, conflicted with their (perceived) duty to the state. In fact, Dr. Tucker subsequently admitted, "I had become too closely identified with the interest of the organs of the State, especially the police force, with which I dealt practically on a daily basis... I have come to realise that a medical practitioner's primary consideration is the well-being of his patient" [6].

G. R. McLean and Trefor Jenkins make the point that the Biko case is an example of a difficult ethics case not because it is difficult to know what the morally correct course of action is, but "because it is hard to do what one ought to do" [7]. The duty of the doctors involved in Steve Biko's case was clear, but performing that duty was difficult. They had become so accustomed to working with the security police and regarding the detainees as dangerous terrorists rather than patients that they had disengaged from the duties and the responsibilities of their profession.

To be continued

African continental free trade area needs action plan to advance transformative industrialisation

By Vuyiswa Mkhabela

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to facilitate industrialisation and create a single market for goods and services in Africa. The movement towards broadening regional integration partially through value chains and a free trade area is in line with the path emerging economies have undertaken in the past 10 years.

On 1 January 2021, Africa officially started trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area, taking a giant step towards fostering regional integration in Africa. Strides have been taken by heads of state, policymakers, trade negotiators across the continent and the AfCFTA Secretariat to get the continent to this historic juncture. Of the 55 heads of state, 54 have signed the agreement's consolidated text establishing the AfCFTA, and 36 have deposited their instrument of ratification. This means 36 sovereign states have given their consent to be bound by the agreement. Therefore, as state parties to the agreement, they accept and will implement the obligations agreed upon.

Implementation of the AfCFTA is under way, yet more action is needed to transform policy into action. AfCFTA Secretary-General HE Wamkele Mene shared these sentiments during the fourth instalment of the AfCFTA and Transformative Industrialisation webinar series hosted by University of Cape Town's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance. Mene said that "what is required are a set of harmonised action



plans focused on industrial development, to be implemented on a continental basis, a Pan-African basis and in each region". This is critical if the continent is to move from policy to realising the benefits of regional economic and market integration.

Historically, intraregional trade flows in Africa have been limited. Currently, intraregional trade in Africa is about 17%, and the continent lags behind Europe (69%), Asia (59%) and North America (31%).

There are complex reasons for the low intraregional trade.

A primary factor underpinning this trend - despite a long history of efforts to foster regional integration - is the lack of productive capacity on the continent. Africa's share of manufacturing in its GDP has been low compared with other

developing countries in Asia and Latin America. Additionally, a number of regions and countries have faced premature deindustrialisation whereby their share of manufacturing in GDP has declined and earlier in their development path than was previously the case. Many studies, including those undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, have argued that building productive capacity is crucial for structural transformation and economic development in Africa. It's therefore only fitting that the AfCFTA is aimed at facilitating industrialisation.

The AfCFTA is, however, fundamentally a trade policy agenda with the objective of boosting intra-regional trade. The successful realisation of a free trade area will rest on the development and implementation

of coordinated industrial policies to ensure that African states first, have goods and services to trade, second, that constraints to industrialisation across the continent are acknowledged and addressed, and third, that implementation aligns with existing policies while identifying new, innovative ways for countries not just to industrialise for the sake of boosting trade but to pursue transformative industrialisation focused on economic diversification, structural transformation and technological development. This means the AfCFTA must become a tool of economic diversification, industrialisation and transformative development.

Many heterodox economists and economic historians, such as Dani Rodrik, Ha-Joon Chang and Joseph Stiglitz, have argued that industrialisation requires active industrial policy in which trade policy becomes a tool of industrial policy. Therefore, trade policies of African countries should be based on how they can support and facilitate industrialisation.

However, with regards to the AfCFTA, trade arrangements have been developed before industrial policy. Given the situation Africa finds itself in, former trade and industry minister Rob Davies, speaking at the same webinar, emphasised the importance of ensuring that regional integration arrangements support industrial policy.

In my view, this is particularly important since industrialisation has long been on the policy agenda in Africa, although success has mostly failed to materialise. Despite African countries and regional institutions making commendable efforts to boost manufacturing and industrialisation efforts in the past decade. For instance, the African Union holds an annual Africa Industrialisation Week to further discuss structural transformation and industrialisation on the continent. Countries such as Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, Botswana and Ghana, to name a few, have pursued active industrial policies in recent years.

Some regional economic communities have developed and are implementing regional industrial policies, such as the Southern African Development Community and its Industrial Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063. However, while these efforts are laudable, the reality is that successes from these efforts vary due to a lack of country-specific industrial policy, policy harmonisation and coordination within and across each of the regional economic communities.

It is concerning that the AfCFTA currently has no programme governing industrial policy or a mechanism to deal with the lack of industrial policy coordination that is likely to occur at a continental level. Many participants at the AfCFTA

and Transformative Industrialisation webinar series shared this concern. In addition, some observed that trade policy has preceded industrial policy for many of African countries, which also lack the institutional capability to develop and implement industrial policy.

To worsen these concerns, industrial capacity, capabilities and competence vary across countries and regions, which can potentially open countries to uneven trade dynamics. Addressing these concerns thus requires that smaller and poorer African countries be allowed by their larger neighbours to implement the AfCFTA in such a manner that safeguards and protects their nascent industries and sensitive manufacturing sectors. The policy space this will create will enable these countries to use this time to develop new and innovative ways to build their competitiveness and pursue their unique path to transformative industrialisation by improving their value-added sectors and technological capabilities and diversifying their productive structure from a reliance on few commodities.

It is imperative that the AfCFTA not only boosts intraregional trade but also actively facilitates transformative industrialisation on the continent. The webinar series brought together some of the best African thinkers, such as Caroline Ncube, Arkebe Oqobay, Carlos Lopes, Adeyemi Dipeolu, Taffere Tesfachew and Rob Davies to discuss and debate these issues. I implore readers to gain more insights on the issues discussed by taking a look at the Mandela School's website for the edited videos, summary reports and policy briefs that provide a wealth of information on these important ongoing issues

By Bright Segbefia

When will national media commission grow teeth?

My joy on the Easter Sunday was marred by an almost incredible story of a gruesome murder of a 10-year-old class four pupil, Ishmael Mensah, allegedly by two boys, Felix Nyarko, 15 and Nicholas Kini, 17, at Kasoa. The story first appeared on a WhatsApp platform. Initially, I mistook it for one of those fake stories on this new media platform. But I saw 'Kasoa police station' in the video. 'What has Ghana been reduced to,' was my initial comment. I asked myself why teenagers would want to own aeroplanes.

The story, in no time, appeared on the net with more details. The mainstream media also picked it up. In a very disturbing video accompanying the story were some people, majority being youthful, wanting to lynch the two suspected teenage murderers sitting in the bucket of a police pick-up in handcuffs with the lifeless body of the boy by them.

The policemen, sensing danger, quickly shepherd them into the vehicle. The story had it that, the victim, who was studying, was lured by the suspects into an uncompleted building. They hit him to death with cement blocks, cut off his ears and buried him there, hoping to go back and harvest more parts of his body for money rituals known in local parlance as 'sakawa.'

The practice of money rituals is not new in Ghana. It is a phenomenon that is gaining currency since its inception a few years ago. It seems to be more common among the youths. Agona Swedru, noted for cyber romance, was where the last murder of same magnitude occurred, when some boys reportedly lured a girl into the bush, murdered



her and took some body parts. One of the suspects was said to be her lover, but did he really love her? What is the state of that case with the police?

So, Ghanaians are not unfamiliar with such murders. What is, however, shocking now is the age of these boys. A few questions streamed into my head: what do they know about money rituals, how did they hatch such a heinous crime, do they live with their parents, could an attitude of their parents have influenced them, what kind of upbringing are they receiving, whom were they taking the body parts to, how did they discover that ritualist, what were they going to do with the expected money, could videos they watched have been a factor, could they be having a psychological problem, were they goaded by societal influences, are they students, how do they behave at school etc? Some of these will be what the security experts, researchers doing phenomenology and psychologists will be making frantic attempts to get answers to.

The story of a biochemist from Accra being killed by a ritualist is fresh on our minds. He reportedly

approached the ritualist for wealth but was killed and buried on a compound accessible to the priest only. Police excavated human remains, beads and some wigs of women, suggesting that some women also went to the shrine but perished. A male GHACEM worker in Takoradi also disappeared, as he visited a shrine. There is a fresh case of a man from Kasoa who lured a young man to a shrine where he was killed in the presence of the suspect who was given the arms of the victim and some money as a fee. All took place in the Eastern Region.

Even when murderers are found guilty and sentenced to taste what they served others; the execution is not carried out, as we have some prisoners awaiting execution that may never happen. America, the bastion of democracy, even executes murderers.

Some groups have been advocating for the scraping of the death sentence from our law books. They contend that only God can take human life. But those who take the lives of others for economic ambitions and, thus, render the children and other dependants hopelessly

useless, do they take permission from God? Those organisations will do mankind a lot of good if they rather embark on sustained campaigns against crimes of these kinds. Ghana must severely punish murderers. Why must we threaten others to what we cannot withstand?

The nation seems to be lumbered with a huge load of Freedom of Worship guaranteed by the 1992 constitution. The recent case of some children below 18 facing a dilemma as to whether to sacrifice their education for a religious practice is tempting me to comment, but aware of the implications since that is before the court, I will continue to bear the hefty padlock on my lips.

Democracy cannot be fully practiced without media plurality. Ghana is touted as a full-fledged democracy because of the liberalized media landscape. The free media guaranteed by article 162 of the 1992 constitution has allowed many to own media houses, but abuse that right.

There cannot be free and unregulated media. I am not suggesting censorship, no! That will surely lead to suppressing the media and stifling of free speech. Our airwaves have infuriatingly become too loose like a marketplace inundated with all kinds of unwholesome products. On some traditional markets, Hygiene Inspectors ensure that goods meet safety standards. Can same be said about Ghana's media space?

The only commodities that some TV stations sell are super natural powers for overnight riches. These spiritualists, who are mere scammers, direct potential clients to their shrines to be assisted to become fabulously rich, get a visa etc. They are seen 'doubling' money while others give out lotto numbers on the radio. What are they doing to the psyche of our

vulnerable youth?

I lauded the Police Chief when a few months ago his men started to clamp down on these lotto charlatans, but that was a nine-day wonder. If prosecutors met an obstacle in proving their cases in court, why won't the Attorney General lobby parliament to recast the law for easier prosecution?

Children learn from a plethora of sources: parents, friends, and society at large. Divorces contribute to the kind of situation that some children go through resulting in such a tragedy. Besides, telenovellas become substitutes for parental void in the life of some children. With all kinds of behaviours that these movies teach, our society should not be surprised at such a dastardly occurrence.

Some of our churches cannot be excluded from blame as contributing to the decay of social fibre of the country. Prosperity seems to dominate their sermons instead of salvation of the soul. Some of the pastors are in a cat race of affluence, boasting of being the wealthiest. They flaunt their wealth, tell the world the number of houses they own. Their most recent cars are paraded in the media as exclusive. With this, what kind of message are they sending to members of their congregation, some of whom struggle for a meal a day and hardly have the means to change their badly faded dresses to church service, or even replace their one-sided footwear. A pastor was recently quoted as saying that rich pastors were not under any obligation to extend alms to poor members of their congregation. Is he unaware of what poverty can do to people?

Chapter 12 of the 1992 constitution of Ghana has established the National Media Commission (NMC) with a mandate to promote and ensure the freedom and independence of the media for mass communication and information, and to provide for related matters. The Commission has Legal, Media, Training and Relations, and Finance and Administration committees.

The Media Committee is made up of media practitioners and is the Advisory Body on matters of ethics and professional standards. 'Ethics' is difficult to handle, as it cannot be enforced legally. If that is the nemesis of the NMC, why should it take it upon itself over journalism practice?

Will the chaos on our TVs and radios ever come to an end? The NMC is the only body that seems to bear the torch of hope. Though it cannot control media contents, the NMC must be heard, at least, condemning some of these unethical practices. Even in Libertarian atmosphere, the media is expected to be responsible by self-righting. As it is now, some media houses seem to be sacrificing responsibility for profit.

Some ritualists, malls and pastors are taking undue advantage of our economic situation to exploit gullible people through irresponsible journalism. It's about time the NMC, together with allied agencies, called these media houses to order. Owners of some of these media houses are not professional journalists and, therefore, do not have any idea about media ethics. Furthermore, some employees of these media houses got the job by merely exhibiting fluency in some local languages at funerals and have had no training in journalism.

This is where the training of media practitioners by NMC becomes paramount. It is unknown the number of times the NMC organises training courses yearly. Assuming the NMC is bogged down financially, will it be disappointed making a public appeal? No, I don't think so. They can be assured of my widow's mite. It is important for the NMC to assert its authority and bring sanity into the media landscape, especially on these ritualistic programmes on TVs and radios which are casting the nation in a bad light before the international community, as the world has become a global village.

The NMC may have a difficulty in biting for effect if owners of these unethical media houses are those who are blessed with impregnable artificial skin. But the teeth of the NMC must be strong and piercing enough to bite anyone. It is time sanity prevailed.

Manufacturer calls for partnership to step up innovation in malaria bednets amid Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

GLOBAL Health Company—Vestergaard has called for a strategic partnership to accelerate innovation in malaria bednets, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Michael Joos, Chief Executive Officer of Vestergaard, whose company manufactures mosquito nets said that long-lasting insecticidal nets are the backbone of malaria control programmes on which additional interventions are layered.

Joos said with the pandemic caus-

ing a steep decrease in malaria diagnosis and treatment, bednets are more critical than ever before to avert malaria deaths.

“Covid-19 has placed significant pressures on malaria programs. The humble bednet is quite literally, holding-up the fort. However, growing mosquito resistance to insecticides used on bednets is also making them less effective. New generation bednets with new insecticides must be brought to market quickly,” said Joos.

He said a renewed engagement between the private sector, donor

organisations and malaria programmes of endemic countries can help mitigate the risks and costs involved.

“To bring new generation nets to communities that need them will require a more strategic level of interaction between the private sector and institutions buying and deploying these innovations at scale,” said Joos, adding that by fast-tracking the regulatory pathway to markets, improving tools to evaluate bednet performance in real conditions of use, and ensuring faster adoption of new nets at scale, the malaria com-

munity can not only save time and money, but also improve impact.

Joos said while innovation efforts to increase bednet effectiveness are underway, it is not too soon to also consider how the sustainable manufacturing of bednets can protect both people and planet.

Bednets and their packaging are predominantly made of polymer plastics, which are major pollutants to the environment. Vestergaard announced that they had now developed the technology to make bednets out of 100 per cent recycled and up cycled material without

compromising on quality, making it possible to save lives, and the planet.

Joos pointed out that more should be done to ensure at risk populations use bednets more frequently, saying: “The community has a long way to go to bridge these challenges and therefore we call for a collaborative effort between technology players like Vestergaard, global funders and malaria programme coordinators to find new and innovative solutions to these challenges.”

The World celebrates Malaria Day every year on April 25, by recog-

nizing global efforts to control the disease. This year’s theme is “Zero Malaria - Draw the Line Against Malaria”, which explores and connects malaria elimination and malaria in high-burden settings.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) World Malaria Report 2020, the number of confirmed malaria cases in 2020 decreased to 86 per 1,000 population per year from 113 per 1,000 of the population in 2016 with decreased out-patient attendance from 30 per cent to 19 per cent and in-patient admissions from 20 per cent to 15 per cent.

A ‘malaria-free future’ is possible, UN chief says on international day

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple crises it has sparked, a growing number of countries are approaching and achieving malaria elimination, the UN chief said on Sunday, World Malaria Day.

“We commend all countries that have reached the ambitious target of zero malaria”, said Secretary-General António Guterres.

“Together, they are

showing the world that a malaria-free future is possible”.

The world has made great progress in reducing malaria cases & deaths, but the pace has stalled in many high #malaria burden African countries.

Countries with zero malaria have reached the people at risk with the necessary services, from prevention to detection and treatment, regardless of citizenship or financial status, said the top UN official.



“Sustained funding, surveillance systems and community engagement have been the key to success”, he added.

Yet, while these achievements deserve celebrating, it is important to remember the millions around the world who continue to suffer and die from this deadly illness.

Each year, malaria claims the lives of more than 400,000 people, mainly young children in Africa. And, every year, there are more than 200 million new cases of this fatal parasitic disease.

With robust political commitment, adequate investment and the right mix of strategies, “malaria can be

defeated”, upheld the UN Secretary-General.

Between 2000 and 2019, the number of countries with fewer than 100 indigenous malaria cases increased from six to 27, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), calling it “a strong indicator” that malaria elimination is within reach.

The UN health agency lauded those countries that have already done so saying: “They provide inspiration for all nations that are working to stamp out this deadly disease and improve the health and livelihoods of their populations”.

In 2019, Africa shouldered 94 per cent of all malaria cases and deaths worldwide, with more than half of all cases occurring in the five countries of Nigeria, 27 per cent; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 12 per cent; Uganda and Niger, five per cent each; and Mozambique, four per cent, according to WHO.

During that same period, about three per cent per cent of malaria cases were reported in South-East Asia and two per cent in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The Americas and West-

ern Pacific region each accounted for fewer than one per cent of all cases.

Certification of malaria elimination is WHO’s official recognition of a country’s malaria-free status, which it grants when a State has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past three consecutive years.

Following 50 years of solid commitment by the Government and people of El Salvador to end the disease, in February it became the first country in Central America to receive the distinction.

Meanwhile China, which registered zero indigenous cases in 2016 and has stayed malaria-free to date, applied last year for the WHO malaria-free certification.

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TZANIAN Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) has challenged Namtumbo villagers in Ruvuma region to form small groups and establish beekeeping project in their respective villages to generate income and preserve nature.

The community network said that the villagers can do so if they will participate fully in the forestry and value chains development programme (FORVAC).

Speaking at a meeting on forest governance with Kilangalanga village in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region recently, MJUMITA’s Coordinator for Sothern Zone, Benedict Minja said the beekeeping projects will supplement agriculture, sustain livelihood and provide food security.

The meeting was also attended by Namtumbo district officials aimed and educating and creating awareness on the forestry and value chains development programme (FORVAC).

Minja explained that beekeeping projects have established some symbiotic relationships with forests and the environment at large that have maintained the health of the forests for a couple of years now, while constantly generating constant income to support livelihood.

He urged the villagers to learn from Nanjirinji village in Kilwa District, Lindi Region where community based forest management (CBFM) has generated revenues that have improved more public services such as schools, health services, infrastructures, introduced income generating projects, and enhanced

Villagers in Namtumbo advised to venture into forestry value chains



MJUMITA Coordinator for Sothern Zone, Benedict Minja speaking to the villagers during capacity building meeting. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

socio-economic development.

“I call on the local government authorities to work together with the villagers to scale up FORVAC program because it is possible to protect and conserve their forest and our natural resources to improve education in

rural communities,” he said

Citing an example, he said in other parts of the country, the program has improved socio-economic services from the village level to the district level. Through capacity building, some villagers have been

trained and have become entrepreneurs.

“Like CBFM, when integrated with forest-based enterprises, provide incentives for communities to manage the forests on the village land sustainably and at the same time enhance rural

development,” he said.

The village Natural Resource committee explained that they faced several challenges such as lack of patrol equipments to help arrest illegal harvesters of forests products such as logs and timbers.

“Our patrol team is ill-equipped; they don’t have gumboot, tents, and protective gears. The forest is located very far and it is too big to go around without proper equipment. We are asking for the government and other stakeholders to support the villagers’ initiative to protect and conserve the forests on the village land,” said the villagers.

For his part, Namtumbo district forest officer Maulid Fussy said that the district has put in place plans and strategies to make sure that every village forest reserve is protected and conserved.

There is a need to protect community rights to manage their forests, including deciding on forest harvesting, as set out in the Forest Act and Village Land Act. This FORVAC program is a new model for conserving and protecting forests on village land and for generating revenues for community development projects through value chain,” he said.

A member of the village natural resource committee, Abdallah Mapunda said the village received the FORVAC program in 2018 and started implementation in 2010. The villagers are planning to make sure that health services and education services such as constructing classrooms are made available through the money accrued from the program.

Kilangalanga village is one of the four villages constituting Luchii ward in Namtumbo district in Ruvuma region which is implementing forestry and value chains development programme (FORVAC) through the 840-acres Lilindindo village land forest reserve.

Nigeria's oil refineries are a mess and symbolise the country's descent into corruption and waste

By Azubuike Ishiekwene

The decision by the government of President Muhammadu Buhari to shell out another \$1.5bn to repair the Port Harcourt oil refinery indicates that Abuja is clearly not in the mood to curtail corruption or rein in its appetite for waste.

Brazil has proved a disaster in the management of Covid-19, but there are other areas where we can use its examples.

Like what to do about failing refineries. This hot-button topic returned to the front burner after the Nigerian government recently announced plans to repair the Port Harcourt Refinery.

That refinery and the ones in Warri and Kaduna have a combined refining capacity of 410,000 barrels per day (bpd), an output far less than the local daily demand, but which all three refineries have only struggled to meet since they were installed.

According to a recent report in The Guardian, Nigeria has spent \$26.5-billion in fake maintenance in the past three decades or so. Yet, the decision by the government of President Muhammadu Buhari to shell out another \$1.5-billion to flog the dying refinery horse indicates that Abuja is clearly not in the mood to curtail corruption or rein in its appetite for waste.

It's not money the government has. The government is cash-strapped and had, in fact, listed the Port Harcourt refinery among other assets for sale. In a dramatic U-turn, however, the government seems happy to compound its current debt misery of nearly \$86-billion by borrowing more to keep an asset it no longer needs.

The government's main argument is that if the refineries are sold in their current state, they'll be flogged for less than their scrap value. Officials are also saying that with Dangote's refinery (650,000 bpd) coming on stream soon, exiting now would leave petrol supply completely in the hands of the private sector.

There's no need to wonder why this discovery is coming after the fact. Chaos is the gift of Buhari's government, except that sometimes, this gift is in oversupply. Or how else can anyone explain why these concerns did not come up during due diligence, supposed to precede the listing?

Let's leave that for a moment and examine how Brazil, famous for state-controlled refineries, is dealing with a similar problem. Petro-



bras, which manages the refineries for the state, recently decided to sell off Landulpho Alves refinery, among other state-owned assets. Brazil could have made the lazy baby-and-bath-water argument, the trope for the Nigerian authorities.

But the writing on the wall is clear. Faced with a tightening global oil market and an increasing number of nimble producers in many parts of the world, Petrobras, Brazil's equivalent of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), decided that the smart thing to do was to sell off the asset and cut its loss.

In a competitive global bid, Mubadala, Abu Dhabi's state-owned investment fund recently offered to buy the 333,000 bpd Landulpho Alves refinery for \$1.65-billion, a value higher than what the Nigerian government intends to invest in a repair guaranteed to produce a worse outcome.

Petrobras is planning to sell seven other refineries by the end of this year. According to some reports, the company could realise about \$25-billion to \$35-billion from the sale of its non-core assets in the next four years. This means, by re-evaluating its assets, Brazil could get in four years what Nigeria used in 30 to fix its own rickety assets.

We've been here before and didn't need a lesson from Brazil at the time. The same argument that the government is making for hugging the refineries could have been made to prevent the sale of the El-eme Petrochemical Company in 2006, for example.

Just like the refineries, the company was sinking in the mire of corruption and producing far less than its installed capacity of 1.2m metric tons of polymer-based products.

The government of President Olusegun Obasanjo sold 80% of the government's stake, held by NNPC, to Indorama at \$250-million – the sort of money that managers of today's NNPC would consider less than scrap value.

Within two years of the sale, Indorama was in profit and sending dividends to NNPC. It still does, not only to NNPC, but also to the Onne Community where it is located and the Rivers State government, who are also part owners.

The company has expanded its production capacity to two million metric tons of polymer, built a fertiliser plant for export and also expanded the Onne Port, which had almost collapsed into a narrow wedge on the government's watch.

About 500 staff members were on the payroll, most of them leeching off the system while Abuja fat cats were milking the company in the name of "preserving our collective patrimony". Today, there are 1,500 employees in Indorama Eleme, doing valuable work and earning wages they could only have dreamed of under government management.

It was a lesson which the Obasanjo government almost replicated with the refineries in 2007, before vested interests who use the refineries as private "oil blocks", regardless of their pretentious nationalism, decided to subvert the sale of the Port Harcourt and Kaduna refineries to Blue Star, with labour goading them on.

The lazy, worn-out arguments for the catastrophic reversal over a decade ago have not changed: why sell cheap when you can fix and manage cheaply to reduce petrol imports? Why divest from the refineries and leave such a vital national resource

in the hands of the private sector? Why, in short, throw away the baby with the bathwater?

If the government is prepared to spend three times what it would have earned from the sale to repair it, your guess is as good as mine what the current market value of the refinery would be today. But it would be worse by the time government finishes the \$1.5-billion window-dressing.

Well, this baby has been thrashed and abused by a derelict parent that seems determined to drown it in the bathwater.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) warned last week that "the plans to repair and relaunch the country's three existing refineries that have not been operating in recent years are unlikely to materialise."

The government is not listening. Or, to put it more correctly, it is listening to itself and instead of using best examples from elsewhere, and even from its own past, it is behaving like effigies from Chiluba's Zambia.

It's a story worth repeating – the story of Zambia's copper mines. At their peak, Zambia's copper mines produced 12% of the world's copper. They were the pride of Zambia and the glory of southern Africa.

And then it happened. A combination of steep crashes in commodity prices coupled with corruption, global politics, internal incompetence and mismanagement – all present in today's Nigerian refineries – put the future of the mines in grave danger.

In response to the economic crisis facing Zambia at the time, President Frederick Chiluba listed 287 state companies for sale and managed to

sell 251. The jewel in the crown, also listed, was Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), the country's largest.

Zambia was offered \$165-million but Chiluba, like his cousins in Nigeria's government today, said the offer was insultingly low. He haggled for nine years. When the price of copper finally collapsed in 2000, the best he could get for KCM was \$90-million, the true and deserving scrap value.

It's 14 years since President Umaru Yar'Adua's government reversed the sale of the Port Harcourt Refinery for \$500-million to Blue Star set up by Aliko Dangote and Femi Otedola.

If the government is prepared to spend three times what it would have earned from the sale to repair it, your guess is as good as mine what the current market value of the refinery would be today. But it would be worse by the time government finishes the \$1.5-billion window-dressing.

And all of this is proceeding with sickening and confusing haste. Tecnimont, the Italian consultant/

contractor that estimated the cost of repair at \$290-million nine years ago, revised the cost to \$1.78-billion in its fresh bid. The government has neither publicly disclosed details of the first technical report in 2012 nor details of the current one.

All we are hearing from a government that is supposed to be deregulating is that after the repair, Port Harcourt Refinery would refine enough petrol to flood the Suez Canal. Caution.

The deeper issues of NNPC's importation monopoly, poor seaport infrastructure to admit and process larger vessels, the waste pipe that is the Petroleum Equalisation Fund, the changing refinery landscape in the world, and sheer corruption that overwhelms the system, are not even being mentioned.

It would take more than another repair to cover the developing scandal that Nigeria's refineries have become. The writing, in grease, is all over the wall.

RADIO One
1440 AM 89.7 FM
STEREO

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	COMMERCIALS
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
07.15 AM	NEWSPAPERS REVIEW
07.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI
09.00 AM	WATOTO SHOW
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.15 AM	MIWANI YA MAISHA
11:00 AM	MTAA WA MAGOMA
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	CHAGUO LAKO
15:00 HRS	MUZIKI NA MICHEZO
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.15 HRS	MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO
18:00 HRS	BONGO TEN
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.15 HRS	CHEMSHA BONGO
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW I
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	WEEK END SHOW II
23.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW III
01:00-05:00HRS	MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE

CAPITAL RADIO

JUMATATU	
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
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA (marudio)
00:00-04:00 HRS	LETE RAHA (marudio)

I'm an entrepreneur who fled war-torn Somaliland: Here is what I have learned about development

By Ismail Ahmed

In Somaliland, investments in technology and start-ups are needed to help tackle the country's challenges.

The power of remittances, the funds migrants send 'back home' to family and friends, is at the centre of my story.

It's also the story of how Somaliland, my homeland - has overcome challenges to forge its own, entrepreneurial path; a path that challenges traditional models of aid, setting an example for other developing countries.

Long before I founded WorldRemit in 2010, which is now one of the world's largest cross-border payments companies, I saw how remittances have the power to change people's lives.

Members of my family - like many others across Somaliland - went to work in the Arab Gulf, and the money they sent home provided critical income for us.

Back then, there was no quick, inexpensive method to send money to Somaliland.

Instead, a trader would travel from Hargeisa to the Middle East and collect cash from migrants and then use those funds to buy goods

to ship to Somaliland, where the goods were resold in the local market, in effect, converting the goods back into cash and supporting the local economy.

A classically entrepreneurial solution to a very real challenge that defines the Somaliland mindset.

There is a word in Somali that sums up the character of the people that send remittances: "Sahamiye" - which translates in English as "pathfinder".

Pathfinders forge routes that make it possible for others to prosper.

Remittances enable this pathfinding. A remittance starts with an individual who has left their family to find work, saving to send money home, helping others.

These are the people that have inspired my own journey, from fleeing war to later founding WorldRemit, with an ambition to make it faster and cheaper for pathfinders to support their families.

"Sahamiye" also captures how Somaliland has overcome challenges to forge its own path. Somaliland has been resourceful with what little it has, making progress that was never thought possible.

This self-reliance is required due

to Somaliland's status in the world. Somaliland is not a formally recognised country and does not have formal access to institutional funding from the World Bank or IMF. As a result, too many Somalilanders don't have access to reliable healthcare or quality education.

Somaliland has responded by adopting an innovative approach to building its own institutions that are optimised for the specific challenges the country faces.

Somaliland has chosen to move away from reliance on aid that often does more harm than good.

Yet the economy has grown despite Somaliland's challenges. Remittances have been core to the nation's journey to self-reliance, as evidenced in the past year.

In 2020, against aid industry's alarmist predictions, remittances to Somaliland were up by 15% from \$1.1 billion to \$1.3 billion, according to the Central Bank of Somaliland.

Generations of diaspora communities have taken it upon themselves to support Somaliland in its time of need.

It remains the case that innovative development finance models are required to tackle Somaliland's challenges, generating solutions

to the country's challenges from within.

Establishing a foundation focused on Somaliland is the next stage of my journey. This gives an opportunity to give back to Somaliland and to share what I have learned.

Over the next ten years, my ambition is to be able to commit \$500 million of my own wealth to Somaliland-focused development programmes, through my Sahamiye Foundation.

As with WorldRemit, I want to take an entrepreneurial approach that will bring out the best in Somaliland, investing in technology and start-ups in the country to overcome barriers to development, supporting entrepreneurs to tackle Somaliland's challenges.

As we have seen in Somaliland, such innovative approaches have the potential to stimulate economic growth, good health and prosperity and are required if the country is to continue flourishing.

The journey of the pathfinder is never-ending, and Somaliland faces many challenges ahead. But with an entrepreneurial mindset that challenges the status quo, I believe that a bright future awaits.

BUSINESS



Absa Group's former CEO Daniel Mminele

CONCERN

Absa's CEO exit sees more than just one headache for lender

JOHANNESBURG

Absa Group's parting of ways with Chief Executive Officer Daniel Mminele following a boardroom bust up leaves the future of South Africa's third-largest bank up in the air.

Chairman Wendy Lucas-Bull has said the board must move quickly to bring about stability, but the to-do list for interim head Jason Quinn and whoever fills the role permanently is lengthy. The company is about three years into a new era as a freshly independent group following a split from former U.K. parent Barclays Plc, and signs of a new direction are just starting to form.

The lender's first Black CEO resigned on Tuesday following a dispute with some subordinate directors over strategy, less than two months after his deputy Peter Matlare died from complications from Covid-19. The dilemma now facing the Johannesburg-based company is whether to appoint an internal successor to Mminele or once again target an outsider.

Among employees, "morale and confidence is running low," said Joe Kokela, general secretary of South Africa's finance union. Absa said the bank understands the "concerns and disappointment." "Jason has been tasked with ensuring that the business remains resilient," the company said in emailed comments. "His focus will be to align leadership and colleagues behind a clear way forward."

The lender this month closed a \$6 billion money-market mutual fund, South Africa's largest, reviving speculation the bank may look to sell its wider asset-management unit. Absa is also the only one of the country's top three lenders to resist resuming dividend payments after a coronavirus-related pause, suggesting a different take on navigating the crisis than rivals.

Investment banking head Charles Russon and retail boss Arrie Rauten-

bach are both pushing for more focus on their respective divisions, while the rest of Africa portfolio -- previously part of Matlare's remit -- remains without an official leader. Quinn also has a number of other executive positions to fill, including a head of digital solutions, innovation and technology.

"Unmanageable Complexities" "Appointing an external CEO to implement a strategy that had already been developed and agreed by a management team and board created unmanageable complexities," said Stefan Swanepoel, an equity analyst at Prudential Investment Managers, which holds 2.4% of the bank's stock. "We would rather this was resolved than continued as a rift embedding unnecessary friction."

It took Absa almost a year to appoint Mminele, who became the bank's third CEO in two years when he replaced the previous permanent head, Maria Ramos, in early 2020. The former deputy governor of the country's central bank also became the third Black leader of a major South African lender, but his departure this week cut that number to one. Basani Maluleke, of African Bank Holdings Ltd., quit her post in January.

South Africa has directed efforts toward raising the number of Black leaders in companies to reflect its demographics and help reverse the effects of Apartheid policies. "Whenever a senior Black executive leader exits, it is a setback," Polo Leteka Radebe, president of the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals, said in response to written questions.

While Absa grapples with identifying a new CEO, Quinn, who has been its financial director since 2016, must keep on implementing the strategy announced in 2018 to reclaim market share lost to competitors during the Barclays era. "The implementation of the strategy has to date shown signs of success," Prudential's Swanepoel said.

EQUALITY

CoICT expert says number of girls pursuing science courses growing

By Francis Kajubi

THE number of girls pursuing science related courses at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has been increasing since 2015 when College of Information Communication Technology with support from International Telecommunications Union started a programme to mobilise them.

A lecturer at CoICT, Dr Fatuma Simba said in Dar es Salaam last week during a seminar to commemorate International Girls in ICT Day, more female students are doing science related courses following the mobilization.

Dr Simba said under the female students' capacity building programme organized by the college with the support of ITU, many are now pursuing science courses at university level.

The programme was initiated at the UDSM's college after a study that showed fewer girls were enrolled with courses related to science subjects ICT in particular. The programme is also meant to expose young girls to opportunities available in the ICT profession.



A lecturer with the UDSM College of Information Communication Technology, Dr Fatuma Simba, speaks in Dar es Salaam last week.

"Since 2015, enrolment of girls at the college has been going down annually and has never reached 50 percent but between 19 and 26 percent which convinced us to intervene by going

to secondary schools and finding out what was the main challenge," Dr Simba said.

She said the CoICT cum ITU programme started in 2019 in Dar es Salaam when 190 girls

from secondary schools were enrolled especially from six secondary schools namely Alpha, Salima Kikwete, Makumbusho, Kijitonyama, Ubungo Islamic and Kawe Ukwamanai.

"We have been challenging the girls to apply what they have learnt from our courses to bring up solutions to community challenges. The solutions are software based particularly mobile applications and website that the public can visit and learn suggested solutions of problems related to ICT," she asserted.

Speaking at the same event, ICT Manager Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's ICT Manager, Thruwahiba Hussein said the authority in collaboration with learning institutions and the private sector are mobilising girls pursue science related courses such as ICT.

"In achieving equality at all levels, we need to empower girls from different backgrounds to realize their abilities in bringing social and economic development," Hussein said adding that despite such initiatives, there are still few female ICT professionals in the country compared to male.



GSM managing director Fatma Abdallah cuts a tape to launch a shop in Dar es Salaam last week.

EXPANSION

GSM on growth path as new shop opens in Dar es Salaam city centre

By Guardian Reporter

GSM Group will continue opening new shops across the country to create jobs and serve the majority of Tanzanians with quality products including furniture.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week during the launching of a new shop, GSM's Chief Commercial Officer, Allan Chonjo said the new shop is in line with company's strategy to expand its network and take products

and services closer to customers nationwide.

"GSM Group is delighted to provide another reason for Dar es Salaam residents to continue acquiring a variety of home and office products and decorations. This shop is full of high quality and best products that will transform your home or office completely," Chonjo said.

He pointed out that the shopping malls group is committed offer high quality and affordable products to customers

all over the country hence opening new shops away from the main mall along Pugu Road in the commercial capital.

In remarks to officially open the shop, GSM Managing Director, Fatma Abdallah said the group is proud to extend its services closer to customers around Dar es Salaam and nearby regions. "Dar es Salaam is a unique city because it's the main commercial capital hence business is vibrant with millions of residents," she said.

"It is evident that Samora Street

has opened doors for other streets to prosper in Dar es Salaam which we at GSM Group decided to come and invest right here to serve customer around the city centre," she added.

GSM Group is currently has several big shops in the country which offer a variety of products including modern furniture, clothes, sports gear, electricity appliances, beds and mattress which are both locally made and imported.

COMPETITIVE

Tanzania overtakes SA as Kenya's top remittance source

NAIROBI

Dollar inflows from African countries into Kenya dropped 65.9 percent in the first three months this year, with Tanzania overtaking South Africa as the biggest source of remittances.

New data by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows that Kenyans living across the continent sent home \$39 million (Sh4.2 billion) between

January and March compared to \$114.7 million (Sh12.3 billion) in a similar period of 2020.

The sharp decline in flows was driven by lower remittances from South Africa, which was the biggest source last year but has since slipped behind Tanzania and Uganda. Dollar flows from the continent contrasted with the rest of the world led by the US, which saw a 17 per cent increase in total remittances from \$707.1

million (Sh76.3 billion) in the first quarter of last year to \$829.4 million (Sh89.5 billion) this year.

"The US remains the largest source of these inflows, accounting for 55.9 percent of remittances in March 2021. The other top source countries were: UK (11.2 percent), Saudi Arabia (4.0 percent), Canada (2.9 percent), and Australia (2.9 percent)," the CBK said in a press statement.

The negative impact of the coronavirus has been felt much more among developing countries compared to the developed nations where citizens and businesses have enjoyed bailouts and social support worth trillions of shillings after workers were either laid off or forced to stay indoors to contain Covid-19.

In Africa, most governments lacked adequate spending power amid falling tax

revenues and huge debt payments, which left residents hit by the pandemic without any support. As a result of job cuts, pay cuts and lockdown measures those living in other African countries were unable to send money home.

Many also opted to return home rather than get stranded abroad. Most countries, including Kenya, banned international flights, excluding cargo and repatriation of

foreign nationals. Dollar flows from the rest of the world have continued to grow despite initial fears that job losses would lead to a sharp decline in money sent from abroad. At the onset of the pandemic, CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said the US, one of the leading sources of the greenback, had seen 26 million people lose jobs in March last year when some lockdown measures were imposed and that the

impact of the job cuts would start filtering into the country in April.

"We are projecting a decline in remittances for the year, something in the order of 15 percent," he said. However, massive support by rich countries helped reduce the impact of the job cuts and helped Kenyans in the Diaspora send even more money to associates and loved ones back home.

REWARD

Bank awards 60m/- to depositors in a 'Bonge la mpango' promotion

By Guardian Reporter

CUSTOMERS of NMB Bank Plc have been awarded cash and material prizes worth 60m/- in the past month through a promotion dubbed, 'Bonge la mpango.'

NMB's Central Zone Manager, Nsolu Mlozi said in Mbulu District of Manyara Region when presenting a tricycle to Paulina Moshi who emerged as one of the winners after depositing cash with the bank the promotion is aimed at encouraging Tanzanians to save.

"So far we have already given our cash and material prizes to many of our customers country-wide valued at almost 60m/-," Mlozi said adding that the promotion continues for the next



An NMB Bank Plc customer samples a tricycle after winning it in the 'Bonge la mpango' promotion recently. File photo

two months or so. He urged the public to continue depositing cash with NMB so that they get reward-

ed but also have savings for future use. Speaking at the same event, the

bank's Customer Relations Manager, Monica Job backed Mlozi's observation saying winners have emerged in Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Manyara, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza, Tabora and Tanga Regions.

"We urged our customers and members of the public to continue depositing with NB Bank in order to win cash and material prizes," Job said while adding that more prizes are on offer till the climax of the promotion when one lucky winner will take home a Toyota Fortuner. Other prizes include 500,000/- cash in weekly draws, a Toyota mini pickup popularly known as 'Kiliku' through monthly draws and the grand prize of Toyota Fortuner.

The tricycle motorbike winner, Paulina Moshi thanked the bank for organizing the promotion which gave her the vehicle that she will use to transport goods and people. "I am a widow because my husband passed away 55 days ago, I see this as God's plan to assist me through NMB bank," she said while explaining that she got an NMB call as winner of the tricycle on April 17.

She revealed that for many years, she cultivated a habit of depositing cash in her NMB account and never considered herself as a possible winner of such a big prize. "I say thank you so much NMB employees and management for this gift which you delivered at my door steps here in Mbulu," Moshi added.

EMPOWERMENT

FG distributes farm inputs to 10,000 smallholder women farmers

ABUJA

The Nigerian government on Thursday rolled out the distribution of agricultural inputs to around 10,000 smallholder women farmers in North central states and FCT. This is to cushion the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance food production in the country.

The inputs distributed are value kits (growth enhancers, planting materials, and agrochemicals) in soybean, rice, potatoes, yam, maize, cassava, ginger, cowpea, sesame, sorghum/millet, and horticultural crops.

During the event held in Abuja, the Minister of agriculture and rural development, Mohammed Nano stated that the Ministry and its research institutions are working to ensure Nigeria is self-sufficient in good quality seed and its availability to farmers to set the foundation for achieving food and nutrition security and industrialization. The minister said there is a policy of 35% of women in all the Ministry's activities to ensure that in agricultural development is the dedication to women empowerment and gender equality in the agricultural sector.

He said "women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life. "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. "I have deliberately undertaken initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in line with the targets set in our Economic Sustainability Plan, Agric Gender Policy, National Gender Action Plan (N-GAP) for Agriculture, Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy Documents aimed at ensuring increased opportunities for women"

The minister stated the effort towards enhancement of rural infrastructures such as boreholes, solar lights, irrigation facilities, markets, rural roads, etc which assist in the enhancement of agricultural performances for farmers and processors to be active in the rural areas.

In his statement, Mustapha Baba, the minister state for agriculture said the federal government plans to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the availability of good seedlings. "The Ministry and its research institutions are working towards making Nigeria self-sufficient in good quality seed and its availability to farmers as a foundation for attaining food and nutrition security as well as industrialization.

He stated further that the ministry provides support for breeder and foundation seeds production and connecting with private seed companies to ensure certified seeds are available to farmers. This with the efforts to enhance rural infrastructure and other value chain supports will add to the achievement of Me President's desire to allow easy access to quality food and nutrition to Nigerians.



Nigerian Agriculture and Rural Development minister Mohammed Nano.

WINDFALL

Rob Shuter paid R74 million in final months as MTN CEO

JOHANNESBURG

Rob Shuter, who resigned as CEO of MTN Group last year and who has since taken a senior role at the UK's BT Group, was paid R73.8-million in his final eight months at the JSE-listed telecommunications firm.

Shuter, who was replaced in the top job on 1 August 2020, was paid R18.2-million as a base salary. On top of that, he received R30.1-million in bonuses and R17.8-million in other benefits. That, coupled with pre-tax gains on equity-settled share-based settlements of R5.7-million and post-employment benefits of R2-million brought his total remuneration to R73.8-million. MTN's financial year runs from January to December.

Shuter's replacement in the hot seat, Ralph Mupita – who had served as chief financial officer until end-August 2020 – was paid a total of R30.8-million, less than half he took home in the previous financial year, despite working five months of the period as CEO.

The reason for the sharp fall in Mupita's remuneration is that a big portion of the R66.3-million he was paid in 2019 was made up of "other benefits", mostly related to a special "cash-settled on-boarding incentive" awarded in lieu of the loss of equity in his previous employer, Old Mutual, where he was CEO of the Emerging Markets business. Mupita earned a base salary of R12-million and was paid a bonus of R17.7-million, the 2020 annual report shows.

Sharply criticised MTN, which has been sharply criticised by investors over its remuneration practices, said in its latest annual report that its remuneration committee has "taken heed of the comments, inputs and feedback from various shareholder institutions received in the 2020 AGM and from other investor engagements."

The group failed to receive 75% of votes in favour of its remuneration policy and implementation report and "responded by engaging openly



Former MTN Group CEO Rob Shuter.

with our shareholders on the concerns and feedback." As a result of these engagements, MTN has announced several "enhancements to some of our remuneration elements and policy."

Effective from 1 January 2021, the group introduced minimum shareholding requirement standards for members of the executive committee. Also, while "malus and clawback provisions" were introduced to MTN's long-term incentive (LTI) scheme in 2017, it has now introduced similar provisions for its short-term (STI)

scheme as well.

Furthermore, it has revised its LTI performance share plan condition by replacing the return on average capital employed with return on equity, which is aligned with its medium-term guidance framework.

It has also redefined its STI revenue performance condition to be measured on service revenue, which is aligned with targets provided in its medium-term guidance. And, effective from the December 2020 share allocation, MTN has excluded

the non-performance-based retention element as a condition under the performance share plan for group exco members.

Disclosure enhancements were also made on non-executive director fees and general executive remuneration benchmarking. The group said it has increased disclosure detail on both STI and LTI payments by providing a retroactive breakdown of the goals, the achievements against these goals and corresponding payments linked to these goals.

INNOVATION

Hormuud launches Somalia's first fintech app WAAFI

MOGADISHU

Somalia's largest telecommunications provider Hormuud has announced the launch of the country's first indigenous mobile money application. Titled, WAAFI, the fintech app provides Somalians with access to a range of digital financial services all within a single and easy-to-use platform.

Speaking on the announcement, Hormuud CEO and Chairman

Ahmed Mohammed Yuusuf comments on the roll-out of the country's first fintech mobile application. "Somalia is a unique example of a country where digital adoption is widespread among all age ranges and demographics. We are continuing to see a move towards a position where Somalia can claim to be the world's first truly cashless economy, and the rollout of WAAFI is an important step on that journey. Providing businesses

and customers with more efficient technology is going to be a driving force behind the development of the Somali economy and its integration with the wider international community."

The app leverages off and upgrades from the existing USSD technology that many individuals in Somali use. According to reports, USSD-enabled mobile money technology is widespread in Somalia, with penetration rates as

high as 80% in urban areas and 55% in rural areas. WAAFI aims to be an enabler for new value chains and new business models in the country by eliminating inefficiencies such as typing an incorrect number during a USSD transaction.

According to reports, 95% of the Somali shilling in circulation is counterfeit but WAAFI aims to target this as it encourages cashless transactions with its in-country bank transfer feature. The app

also aims to facilitate contactless transactions as businesses in Somali can generate QR Codes that enable WAAFI users to directly pay digitally. Abdulaziz Mohamed Nurani, the founder of Tik, a premier men's fashion retailer explains how the app has positively impacted his business.

"The WAAFI app has transformed how I do business. Having important digital services all housed under one app makes it easier to pay my

employees and trace transactions quickly. Even when I'm abroad or cannot be physically present, with this app I can check on my business and address any problems. Operating throughout the pandemic, this app has allowed me to keep my customers and my employees safe. With contactless payments, we can reduce physical contact and the spread of the virus in our communities."

WORLD

France backs Chad military rulers, AU urges swift transition

By Bloomberg

FRANCE backed a military council that intends to rule Chad for a transition period following the president's death, while the African Union said it was deeply concerned by the military takeover.

The situation threatens "peace, security and stability" not only in Chad, but also the region, as well as the continent, the African Union said in a statement on its website.

On Saturday, the Front for Change and Concord in Tchad, the rebel group that claimed responsibility for the squirmish that killed Deby, said they were ready to accept a cease-fire and find a political solution to the crisis.

"Chad needs new leaders," FACT leader Mahamat Mahdi Ali told Radio France Internationale. "But to overthrow the regime to take power was never our goal."

President Idriss Deby died on April 20 of wounds sustained on a battlefield in north-

ern Chad as rebels advanced on the capital, N'Djamena, according to the army. A transitional military council headed by his son, 37-year-old General Mahamat Idriss Deby, said it will run the country for 18 months before restoring civilian rule. The nation's constitution states that a successor should be elected within 90 days.

"France will never let anyone, neither today nor tomorrow, threaten the stability and integrity of Chad," French President Emmanuel Macron said while attending Deby's funeral in N'Djamena, on Friday. The military council has a role to play to promote "stability, inclusion, dialog and a democratic transition."

France is a key player in the battle against Islamist insurgencies in West Africa.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also defended the military takeover in an interview Thursday with Paris-based broadcaster France 2, saying it was necessary to maintain stability in Chad and the region,



Chad army officers carry the coffin of late Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno during the state funeral in N'Djamena on April 23, 2021. (AFP)

while calling for a quick transition.

The former colonial power has contributed about 5,100 troops to a counterterrorism force that's battling Islamic State and Al Qaeda-linked militants in West Africa's Sahel region. France's Barkhane mission, which backs up a regional force known as the G5 Sahel - made up of troops from Chad, Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso - are headquartered in N'Djamena.

Deby positioned himself and his battle-hardened army as key players in the maintenance of peace and security in the area. That role helped shield him from international criticism even as his regime became increasingly authoritarian. It even earned him protection from France.

Respect Constitution

The European ally, which, as of two years ago, spent at least an estimated €1 million (US\$1.1 million) a day on Barkhane, would eventually like to turn over more responsibility to the G5 Sahel

force. That seems impossible without military cooperation from Chad, which the junta has said it will maintain.

"Today, we're very upset with France," Delphine Djiraibe, a prominent human rights lawyer, said by phone from N'Djamena. "Whether the president died on the battlefield or not, you need to respect the constitution. France is a democracy, they should know," she said.

The Economic Community of Central African States, which counts Chad among its members, also expressed its "solidarity" with the new leadership, Cameroonian President Paul Biya, who currently heads the six-nation bloc, said in a statement. The G5 Sahel also gave its "full support to the transition in progress," its Nouakchott-based secretariat said in a statement issued within hours of the military takeover.

The junta should "expeditiously embark on a process of restoration of constitutional order and handing over of political power to the civilian authorities," the African Union said.

EU should 'stop sowing discord' in South China Sea - Chinese spokesperson

BRUSSELS

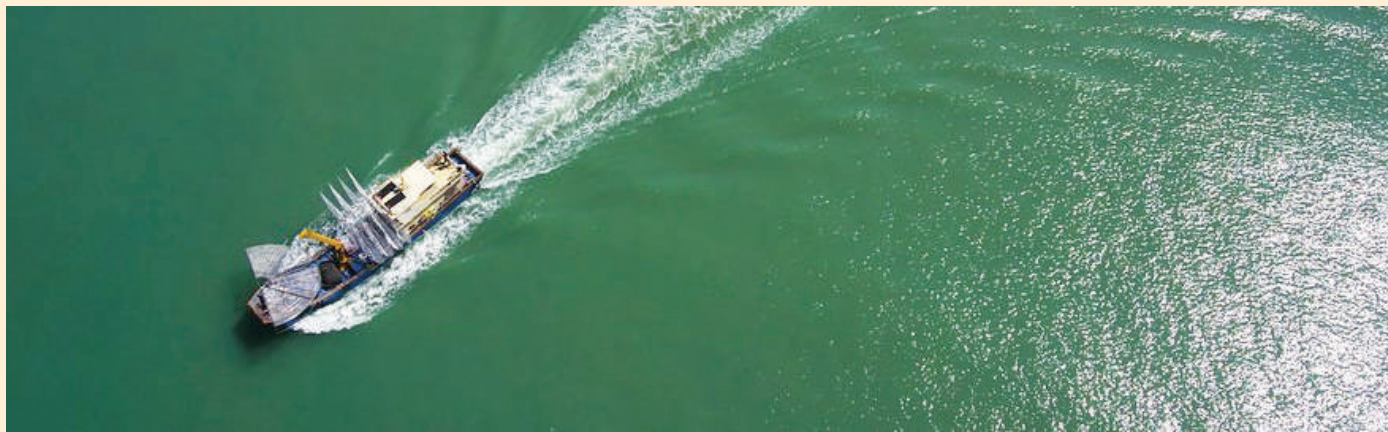
SECURITY risks in the South China Sea mainly come from outside the region, a spokesperson of the Chinese Mission to the European Union (EU) said Saturday, urging the EU to stop sowing discord.

"The South China Sea should not become a tool for certain countries to contain and suppress China, still less a wrestling ground for major-power rivalry," said the spokesperson.

The comments came in response to a statement issued by the European External Action Service (EEAS) earlier Saturday. The EU's diplomatic service claimed that tensions in the region, "including the recent presence of large Chinese vessels at Whitsun Reef," endanger peace and stability.

The EEAS statement also recalled the "South China Sea arbitration" in 2016.

The Chinese Mission spokesperson said that Niu'E



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 18, 2020 shows a ship loaded with reef-like artificial coral reef nurseries heading for designated areas in Yezhou Bay of Sanya, south China's Hainan Province. (Xinhua)

Jiao Reef (Whitsun Reef) is part of China's Nansha Islands, and the reef and its adjacent waters have always been important operating areas and shelters for Chinese fishing boats.

"Chinese fishing boats are recently operating in the area and sheltering from wind, which is reasonable and lawful," said the spokesperson. "How come does it endanger regional peace and stability?"

"We have reiterated on var-

ious occasions that China's sovereignty and rights and interests in the South China Sea are formed in the long course of history and are consistent with international law," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson noted that the so-called Arbitral Tribunal on the South China Sea was established on the basis of illegal acts and claims of the Philippines. "It has no legitimacy and the award it issued is null and void. China does not accept or recognize

the award, and firmly rejects any claims or actions based on the award."

Commenting on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, which was proposed by the EU on Monday, the spokesperson pointed out that the current situation in the South China Sea is on the whole stable.

China maintains close communication on relevant issues with countries in the region, including the Philippines, said the spokesperson,

adding that countries in the region and beyond have in recent years seen clearly that "the destabilizing factors and security risks in the South China Sea mainly come from outside the region."

The spokesperson urged the EU "to respect the efforts of countries in the region in properly addressing differences and maintaining stability in the South China Sea, and to stop sowing discord."

Xinhua

EU likely to vaccinate 70 pct adult population by end of July - von der Leyen

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Friday brought forward the expected date for the European Union (EU) to vaccinate its 70 percent of adult population by nearly two months.

Speaking after visiting Pfizer's vaccine plant in Puurs, Belgium, where the main vaccine used so far in the EU has been produced, von der Leyen said

the goal could be achieved by the end of July instead of late September as had been previously predicted.

"With the enormous efforts of BioNTech-Pfizer and the acceleration of their vaccine deliveries, I am now confident that we will have sufficient doses to vaccinate 70 percent of the adult population in the European Union already in July," she said, commending the two joint partners as "strong and re-

liable suppliers."

She expressed her satisfaction that "the EU's vaccination campaign is on track," passing the mark of 150 million doses delivered and 123 million vaccinations deployed.

This made the bloc "among the top three in terms of COVID-19 vaccinations worldwide, after the United States and China."

She said her commission was close to concluding a deal with

BioNTech and Pfizer to supply 1.8 billion additional vaccine doses for 2022 and 2023.

"We will conclude it in the next days. It will secure the doses necessary to give booster shots to increase our immunity against the virus."

It will provide vaccines adapted to escape variants that no longer respond to the vaccines," she told a press conference.

Von der Leyen said the Eu-

ropean Medicines Agency had approved the increase of the site's production capacity by a further 20 percent, making it one of the biggest vaccine fill and finish sites in Europe.

EU's health commissioner Stella Kyriakides said on Friday that almost a quarter of the adult population of the bloc has received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and over nine percent has been fully vaccinated.

UN advisory board urges solidarity to prevent COVID-19 from pushing countries apart

UNITED NATIONS

THE multilateral system has to fundamentally change in the spirit of international solidarity to confront the severe impacts of COVID-19, according to members of the United Nations High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which comprises 20 renowned thought leaders in economic and social fields.

In their two-day meeting, which concluded Friday afternoon, board members explored various approaches to confront the once-in-a-century crisis, with inequalities, climate change and lack of access to COVID-19 vaccines topping the priority list.

The experts, who include a Nobel laureate, former heads of state and government and other renowned scholars, called for concerted and immediate actions to respond to challenges for a green recovery, according to a press release published by the UN Department of Global Communications.

The board's recommendations will inform flagship UN reports on the global socioeconomic situation and future and will contribute to the secretary-general's efforts to advance the common agenda and reinvigorate multilateralism.

"For most of the world, this is not over. This catastrophe is continuing," stressed Jayati Ghosh, professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

"In the North, there are signs of economic recovery as vaccination rates increase, but in the developing world this crisis is just starting and the world needs to respond with more urgency."

Board members recognized that the global vaccination progress will decide the speed of recovery and opening of borders for travel and trade. But disparity in access to vaccines threatens to hinder the recovery and exacerbate inequalities between countries.

Board members agreed that a huge push to expand access to vaccines, especially for developing countries, should be the international community's top priority.

"Disparities around the world in terms of pandemic response and access to vaccines have shown that the international community needs to make fundamental changes to our rules and how we implement them," said Joseph Stiglitz, economics professor at Columbia University and a Nobel laureate.

In dealing with the economic fallout of the crisis, some countries have deployed massive resources - estimated at an unprecedented 16 trillion U.S. dollars - to prop up their economies, while others have been left without strong support to recover.

Fiscally constrained, the developing countries face much poorer prospects for recovery and economic growth over the coming years than those of developed countries and are running a risk of a lost decade.

The global community's response to this looming debt crisis is encouraging, but not sufficient, the board warned. To create fiscal space for investments in recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals, progress on corporate taxation is needed, and the board members found the recent steps toward a global minimum corporate tax promising.

Within countries, the pandemic has hit unequally too. Beyond the uneven burdens of hospitalization and death, women have been forced out of work disproportionately, while children from disadvantaged groups have faced greater barriers in accessing education.

So far, rescue packages have not been successful in reducing inequalities and more must be done to prioritize investments in people and to link social inclusion with growth strategies, the board members agreed, warning that any premature moves to austerity, as seen after the 2008 financial crisis, risk hurting the poorest, said the press release.

"Ensuring fiscal space for social protection measures is important, but we should not overlook the productive basis of employment and incomes," said Dani Rodrik, professor of international political economy at Harvard University.

"Instead, more consideration is needed to examine what is preventing our economies from generating good jobs - and informality is clearly part of that cause."

"The idea of building back better has to be nested within the design of social contracts," said Mariana Mazzucato, professor of economics at the University College London, noting that recovery plans and bailouts need to have conditions attached to create more sustainable and inclusive outcomes, such as investments in climate response.

"We should use tax policies to 'tilt' rather than 'level' the playing field, to reward the organizations that are moving in the direction required," she said.

In the recovery, it is crucial to create a bridge between the short-term and medium-term challenges, according to the board experts. Carbon neutrality, for instance, represents a crucial, immediate shift in development pathways toward a medium-term goal.

Xinhua

A series of strategic arrangements on adhering to innovation-driven development strategy and building new development advantages were made in China's Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, mapping out a new blueprint for the country's innovative development.

The outline emphasized the core position of innovation in the country's modernization drive, and takes the commitment to independent innovation in science and technology as strategic support to national development. It says the country's research and development spending is expected to grow by over 7 percent annually in the next five years.

According to the outline, China will

China to give full play to crucial role of sci-tech innovation

also work for major breakthroughs in core technologies and build itself into one of the top innovative countries.

International observers said the outline mirrors the high attention placed by China on sci-tech innovation, and releases a clear signal that the country will push for high-quality development in a new stage of development.

Science, technology and innovation is a key engine for human progress, a powerful weapon in tackling many global challenges. "The impact of science and technology on a country's future and the people's wellbeing has never been so profound as today," said Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Global challenges, including the

COVID-19 pandemic that comes with profound impacts, as well as the world economic downturn and climate change, must be taken seriously. To discover momentum for development in science and technology, and to find solutions to global challenges through sci-tech innovation shall be a common pursuit of all countries. By expediting the development of the country into a leading sci-tech power, China is showcasing its wisdom and responsibility.

China always takes innovation as the primary force of development, and is pursuing innovation to achieve high-quality growth driven by domestic demand with concrete efforts.

According to a recent survey of the World Intellectual Property Orga-

nization (WIPO), China filed 68,720 patent applications last year, up 16.1 percent from those in 2019, remaining the largest patent applicant of the world for another year.

As sci-tech innovation is generating new drivers for high-quality development, China has been turned from a world factory into a patent factory, foreign observers commented.

To benefit the whole mankind with technology and seek scientific breakthroughs for humanity from open cooperation has always been a pursuit of China. The outline further points out that China will implement more open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial strategies for international sci-tech cooperation, and stay more positive about integrating into global

innovation.

Practices tell us that openness leads to progress, and open cooperation in sci-tech innovation remains an important impetus driving common development of the world. China has conducted joint research programs with over 50 countries and regions and joined a series of international big science research projects including the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. Under the "Belt and Road" Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, over 8,300 foreign young scientists came to China for work and 33 joint research labs were established.

To build a community with a shared future for mankind, China is committed to coordinated innova-

tion of global technology, taking an increasingly bigger part in global science and technology governance, and offering broad platforms for open global cooperation on science and technology. These efforts are welcomed by the international society.

Embarking on a new journey, China still maintains sci-tech development as a priority, and will give play to the crucial role of sci-tech innovation. It will definitely make more breakthroughs.

It is believed that through sincere cooperation with the rest of the world and by taking full advantage of sci-tech innovation, China is bound to inject more positive energy into economic and social development of mankind.

People's Daily

Czech counterintelligence finds no proof of Russians' presence in Vrbetice - president

PRAGUE

THE evidence that some "Russian agents" were present at the ammo depot in the village of Vrbetice was not mentioned in the reports of the Czech Republic's Security Information Service. Czech President Milos Zeman said in his emergency televised address in connection with the 2014 incident yesterday.

"I can state that the report of the Security Information Service says and I underline this - that there is neither proof nor evidence [of eyewitnesses] that these two agents [the Russians who were accused of involvement in the incident - TASS] were at the [ammo depot] in Vrbetice.

When the premises of the second depot were examined right before the explosion there, no explosive device was found there," Zeman said in his address broadcast by Prima and CNN Prima News TV channels.

The president stressed that the suspicion about the alleged role of two foreign agents in the 2014 ammo depot explosions in Vrbetice came to the surface over the past weeks.

"The Security Information Service had never before mentioned the incident in Vrbetice over the past six years," he noted.

Nevertheless, Zeman noted that it

should not be said that the suspicion on the two foreign agents' involvement in the incident was not serious.

"First, we should answer the question what they were actually doing here. Second, the fact that the counterintelligence did not prove their complicity [in the incident] does not mean that they did not enter the premises of the Vrbetice depots.

Police are investigating the theory that they could have been brought there by one of the IMEX firm owners (this company rented the warehouses). This suspicion should be ruled out or confirm," he noted.

The president did not rule out that the scandal with the incident in Vrbetice could be a game of special services. In this case, the Czech Republic could face serious consequences.

On April 17, the Czech authorities announced the expulsion of 18 employees of the Russian Embassy in Prague, who, according to the Czech authorities, are "officers of Russia's SVR and GRU intelligence agencies."

On the same day, Russian nationals Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, whom the Czech authorities claim were supposedly involved in the 2014 ammunition depot blast in the Czech village of Vrbetice, were declared to be wanted individuals.

Agencies

UK, Australia seal most of trade deal in boost for Johnson

By Bloomberg

THE UK and Australia have agreed to most of a free-trade agreement, with a deal between the countries now expected in June.

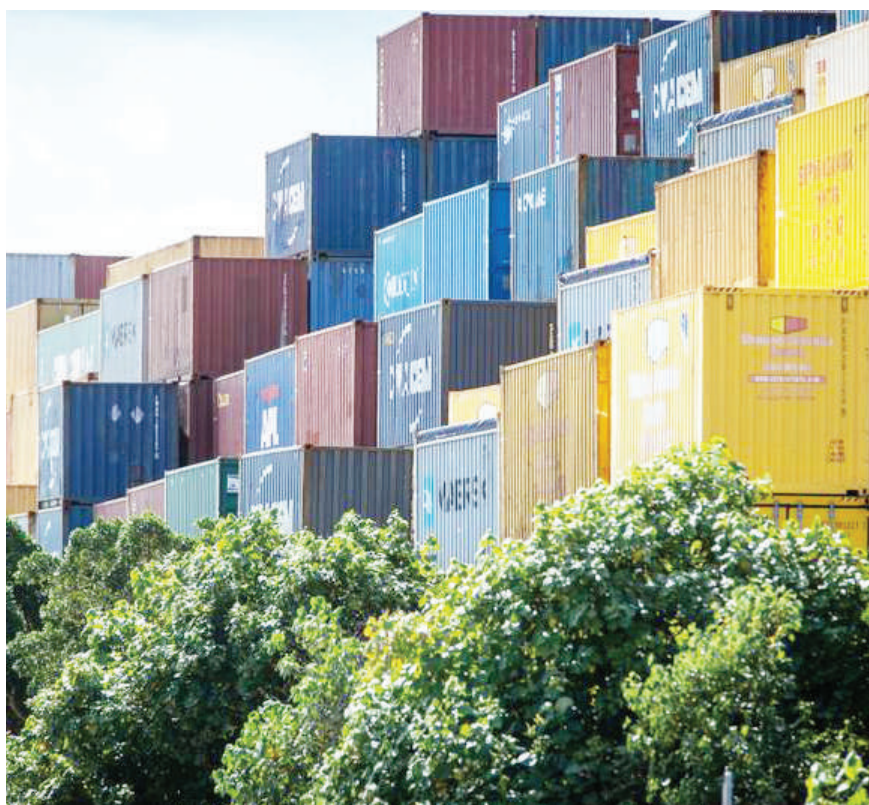
"We have made major breakthroughs over the past few days and an agreement is now in sight," International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said in a statement Friday. "We will spend the next few weeks ironing out details and resolving outstanding issues, with a view to reaching a deal by June."

The UK has been seeking new trade pacts since its exit from the European Union, and an accord with Australia has been one of its top priorities. Though the economic impact from a deal is expected to be modest -- a 0.02 percent boost to UK GDP over 15 years -- it's a political boost for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who wants to demonstrate any post-Brexit upsides.

Britain is also in talks with the US and New Zealand, plus it wishes to join an 11-country pact which includes Singapore, Malaysia and Japan. The UK is hoping renegotiated trading relationships will offset the negative consequences of quitting the EU's single market and customs union, which is expected to leave Britain's economy 4 percent smaller than it would've been compared to staying in the EU, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility.

Australia is the UK's 20th-largest trading partner globally and total trade between the two countries was worth 18.8 billion pounds (US\$26 billion) in 2019. Through a trade accord, Britain is hoping to benefit from reduced tariffs on products like Scotch whisky, clothing and cars. Australia, meanwhile, is hoping to boost exports of services and agricultural products to the UK.

"It is a fundamentally liberalizing agreement that will support jobs across the country and help us emerge stronger from the pandemic," Truss said.



Shipping containers sit stacked at the Port of Brisbane in Brisbane, Australia on April 29, 2020. (BLOOMBERG)

International community praises CPC's people-oriented philosophy as secret to success in decades of governance

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China (CPC)'s secret to success in governance over the past decades lies in its people-oriented development philosophy and its walking the talk in a relentless pursuit of happiness for the Chinese people, foreign party leaders and officials said ahead of the 100th anniversary of the CPC's establishment.

Such a philosophy has been specially reflected in remarks from Chinese President Xi Jinping that "for the good of my people, I will put aside my own well-being," they said.

During a visit to Italy in March 2019, asked about how he felt about being Chinese president, Xi told President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Roberto Fico that governing such a huge country requires a strong sense of responsibility and hard work.

"For the good of my people, I will put aside my own well-being. I am willing to be selfless and devote myself to China's development," Xi said.

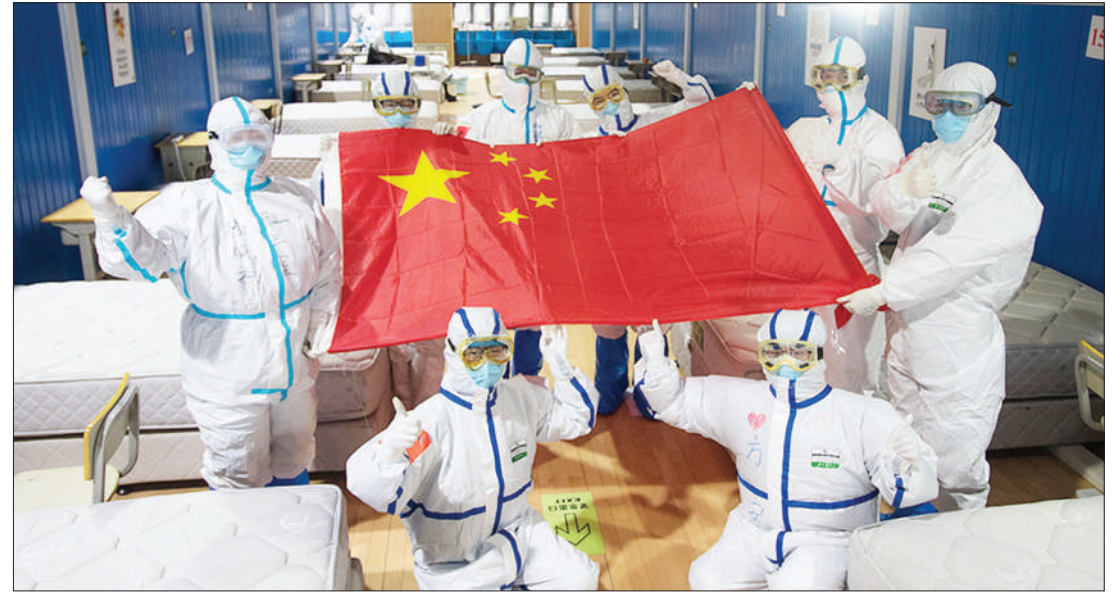
Saifullah Khan Nyazee, chief organizer of Pakistan's ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, has found such remarks particularly impressive. "I think what he means is that he will work for the well-being of his people selflessly, where he himself doesn't matter,"

Nyazee told Xinhua. "Dedicating his life to the people to bring up their well-being, that can only be done by a selfless man.

He's a selfless man who has worked for his nation. We need such leaders all across the world," Nyazee said.

Communist Party of Britain General Secretary Robert Griffiths also felt the CPC's strong sense of responsibility and commitment to the Chinese people. The CPC is "a party of the people that has been very flexible in its tactics and strategies, but also firm in its principles. It is a communist party that aims to build socialism," he said.

In the eyes of former Nigerian Foreign



Medical workers pose for photos after seeing cured patients off at the Wuchang temporary hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 10, 2020. Xinhua

Minister Aminu Bashir Wali, who became interested in China as early as in the 1960s, the CPC has built an effective governing system that allows the party to know what the majority of the Chinese people want. "The CPC represents the sum total of the aspirations of the Chinese people," Wali said.

To many foreign party leaders and officials, the CPC's people-oriented development philosophy bears great significance not only for China, but also for the rest of the world.

Good governance carried out by the CPC has played a critical role in the country's rapid development and contributed to building a multi-polarized world, said Maria Teresa Mola, vice-president of the Party of the European Left and a member of the Communist Party of Spain (PCE).

In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, China has provided assistance to countries in need, she told Xinhua, add-

ing Xi's remarks in 2019 were not only spoken to the Chinese people, but also to people around the world.

Politicians across the world also noted that the CPC has put the country's development at the center of its work, and has been playing a crucial role in the country's growth, citing China's success in ending absolute poverty as one of the many examples.

Hailing China's elimination of absolute poverty as a remarkable feat, Juha-Pekka Vaisanen, chairperson of the Communist Party of Finland, praised the CPC's fundamental purpose of "serving the people wholeheartedly."

"Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese government has successfully integrated public opinion with policy-making, and promoted people's livelihood through economic development," former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told Xinhua. "I think China could

become a model for many countries," added Lula, also founder of Brazil's Workers' Party.

To Olzhas Syzdykov, secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Kazakhstan, the CPC has offered a new governance approach to building a more just society, allowing the country to use the accumulated capital to satisfy more social needs, so as to not only bake a bigger cake but divide it in a much fairer way.

"The Chinese people are united under the leadership of the CPC. They have been able to accomplish what those developed countries cannot do," said Syzdykov.

India's tally nears 17m as country 'shaken' by virus 'storm'

SEOUL / NEW DELHI / DUBAI

INDIA'S Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday urged all citizens to take COVID-19 vaccines and exercise caution, saying a "storm" of infections had shaken the country.

India has reported more than 300,000 new cases each day for the past four days, more than anywhere else in the world since the pandemic began, piling pressure on the public health system.

"Our spirits were high after successfully dealing with the first wave," Modi said in a radio address. "But this storm has shaken the nation."

The ongoing lockdown in New Delhi has been extended by another week owing to the surge in the COVID-19 cases, announced Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday.

India's financial capital Mumbai will set up 16 plants at 12 hospitals to produce 43 metric tons of oxygen from atmospheric air daily, the city civic authority BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Saturday.

The move, expected to cost US\$12 million, was taken amid an oxygen shortage during the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak in the city, civic officials said.

Over the past two years, BMC had set up two such plants at its civic hospitals producing 500 cubic meters and 1,740 cubic meters of oxygen per day respectively with a lifespan of 15 years to 30 years.

Mumbai, capital of the western Maharashtra state, on Saturday saw daily cases dropping to a three-week low at 5,888.



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample from a woman to test for the Covid-19 coronavirus in Amritsar on April 18, 2021. (AFP)

The United States is deeply concerned by a massive surge in coronavirus cases in India and plans to quickly deploy additional support to the Indian government and health care workers, a White House spokeswoman said on Saturday.

"We are in active conversations at high levels and plan to quickly deploy additional support to the Government of India and Indian health care workers as they battle this latest severe outbreak. We will have more to share very soon," the spokeswoman told Reuters via email.

Pakistan has offered to provide anti-epidemic supplies to support India's fight against COVID-19, the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan said.

As a gesture of solidarity with the people of India amid the current wave of COVID-19, Pakistan has offered to provide relief support to India including ventila-

tors, digital X-ray machines, personal protective equipment and other items, the foreign ministry said in a statement late on Saturday.

India's COVID-19 tally reached 16,960,172 on Sunday with as many as 349,691 new cases recorded in the past 24 hours.

Australia

Western Australia has halved the number of international arrivals it will accept each week to ease the strain on its hotel quarantine program.

State Premier Mark McGowan said the federal government had agreed to reduce the weekly cap to 512 travelers from Thursday until May 30.

He again called on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to open federal isolation facilities, instead of relying on states to quarantine people in hotels.

"If we are to crush the virus,

just as we have done before, we need to slow the flow of returning travelers," McGowan said.

Fiji

Fiji announced on Sunday containment zones for 14 days including capital city of Suva after reports of four new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases.

According to Fiji's Health Ministry, two of those cases are in Nadi, one in Lautoka and one in Suva.

As the Health Ministry can not yet pin down the movements of these people and identify all their contacts, the ministry is forced to take strict precautionary measures against the possibility that the virus has spread within the Lami-Suva-Nausori areas and within the Nadi-Lautoka area.

Indonesia

The COVID-19 cases in Indonesia rose by 4,402 within one day to 1,641,194, with the death toll adding by 94 to 44,594, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

According to the ministry, 3,804 more people were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 1,496,126.

Iraq

The Iraqi Ministry of Health announced on Saturday that it licensed some private laboratories to conduct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, while the total COVID-19 infections in the country reached 1,025,288.

Agencies

NW China's Qinghai strives to boost development of clean energy industry

ROW upon row of wind turbines and solar photovoltaic (PV) power stations are operating round the clock on highlands in northwest China's Qinghai province, spreading over a vast area of the province from the Qaidam Basin to the Sanjiangyuan region, which is home to the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow, and Lancang rivers.

In February this year, Qinghai province's total power output reached about 6.55 billion kWh, among which 2.31 billion kWh, or 35.27 per-

cent, was generated by hydropower facilities.

The amount of electricity produced using new energy resources reached nearly 2.63 billion kWh, rising 43.99 percent year on year and accounting for 40.09 percent of the province's total in February.

The monthly power production using new energy resources surpassed that from hydropower facilities for the first time in February, and new energy resources have become the biggest power

source of Qinghai province, according to Fang Baomin, director of the dispatching and control center of State Grid Qinghai Electric Power Company.

Qinghai province has complex and diverse landforms, and plateaus cover more than four fifths of the areas in the province, which gives Qinghai a considerable amount of developable wind energy resources and abundant solar energy resources.

Based on these advantages and resources, Qinghai provin-

ce has implemented the country's innovation-driven development strategy and is blazing a path of eco-friendly high-quality development.

Located 50 kilometers away from the Longyangxia hydropower station in Gonghe county, Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Hainan in Qinghai province, stands a PV power station with an installed capacity of 850,000 kW. Together, the two power stations form the world's largest hydro-PV hybrid power project.

With the help of advanced technologies, Qinghai province converts the unstable electricity generated by the PV power station into stable, high-quality, and safe electrical energy at the Longyangxia Hydropower Station.

At present, the annual power output of the PV power station stands at around 1.49 billion kWh, already one fourth of that of the Longyangxia Hydropower Station. In addition, the peak load and frequency regulation performance of Longyangxia

Hydropower Station has improved by about 30 percent because of the PV power station. Green electricity from low carbon power generation sources has been more and more widely used in Qinghai.

Thanks to the active efforts of State Grid Qinghai Electric Power Company to facilitate participation of new energy companies and 95 industrial and mining enterprises in 13 industries in the direct trading of electricity, a supplier of materials for new energy products based in Dongch-

uan Industrial Park in Xining, capital of Qinghai province, can now choose to use the more economical green electricity via electricity trading platform of the province.

"Our company has considerably cut the electricity costs through multilateral trading of green electricity, and can save tens of millions of yuan a year on power consumption," said an executive of the company, which consumes as much as two billion kWh of electricity a year.

People's Daily

Premier League golden boot race: Meddie Kagere or Prince Dube?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE greatest measurement for a striker's success will always be based upon their ability to score goals. The art of goal scoring can never be understated.

The Vodacom Premier League (VPL) golden boot award is the apex of individual achievements for a striker.

This season's VPL golden boot award's winner is still far from decided.

Three players have 10 or more goals this season. Simba SC's Meddie Kagere and Azam FC's Prince Dube lead the race with 11 apiece, followed by the former's striking partner, John Bocco, who has netted 10.

The chasing pack of JKT Tanzania's Danny Lyanga, Ruvu Shooting's Fulgence Maganga and Gwambina FC's Meshack Mwamita have 14 goals each with seven rounds to go.

The general perception is that this has not been Kagere's best season in Simba colours and yet he stands on the brink of another golden boot - his third in a row.

Kagere has won the golden boot back to back since his arrival in Tanzania when he joined Simba from Kenyan giants, Gor Mahia, in the 2018/19 season.

He became the first player to score at least 20 goals in two consecutive seasons.



Azam FC's attacker Prince Dube.

His latest form prompts that he is unlikely to hit the 20-goal mark once again having been relegated to second choice striker behind Congolese Chris Mugalu.

Surprisingly, Kagere is yet to register a hat-trick in the Premier League this season.

He notched two hat tricks in the past two seasons.

The Rwandan striker had an opportunity to open up a lead and pile the pressure on Prince Dube and Co when Simba SC took on Gwambina FC on Saturday. However that depends on how much time he was expected to be afforded by head coach Didier Gomes da Rosa.

Simba also have two games in hand, which bodes well for

Kagere.

Zimbabwean international Dube has had an injury-ravaged season, but the former Highlanders' attacker remains Azam FC's most potent goal threat.

He has been directly involved in 17 goals which shows his influence on Azam.

His tally of six assists so far is a testament to his all-round contribution.

Dube's chances will be boosted by the fact he is Azam FC's first choice striker and penalty taker.

He is aiming to become the first Azam FC player to win the award since Ivorian Kipre Tchetché won it in 2012/13 season.

Bocco has similarly blown hot and cold this season due to injuries.

He ended 2020 as one of the favourites to finish top scorer but has not been anywhere near as prolific since the turn of the year.

He has just two league goals since December and his chances seem like petering out as he finds himself third in the striking pecking order at Msimbazi Street side.

Then again, Bocco has shown us this season that on his day he has it in him to score a hat trick as he did against Coastal Union last November.

The smart money says Kagere or Dube will scoop the golden boot, which will add further fuel to transfer speculation about where their future lies.

But, as for which of the duo will grab the prize, it is too close to predict. Bocco too cannot be ruled out of the race.

Ihefu SC seeks good results in remaining VPL matches



Ihefu SC's head coach, Zubeir Katwila.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MBEYA's Ihefu SC's leadership stated their squad will treat the rest of this season's Vodacom Premier clashes with care and seriousness with a view to avoiding relegation.

The squad's league survival campaign got a boost on Thursday when they beat Tanzania Prisons 1-0 at the former's backyard, Highland Estates Stadium in Mbeya.

Ihefu SC now sits 16th in the league's standing with 27 points from 27 games.

The team needed to beat Coastal Union at Highland Estates Stadium yesterday to keep on pushing for a better spot.

Any slip up in Ihefu SC's remaining seven games will either end the outfit's sojourn in the league or see the squad take part in play offs.

Zubeir Katwila, Ihefu SC's head coach, speaking after the Thursday game against Prisons, stated they need to work hard to come out victorious in the rest of the Premier League clashes.

Ihefu SC's goal was scored by midfielder Raphael Daudi on the 14th

minutes of the game.

He said they were working hard to earn a third consecutive win. Prior to the Thursday victory, Ihefu SC edged Mbeya City FC 1-0.

He noted: "Our match this Sunday is a must-win game. It is a very crucial game because if we win it will give us more confidence in working hard to avoid relegation."

"Honestly, we are desperate for survival and we are taking this Sunday's game as a cup final," he said.

The former Mtibwa Sugar head coach said he is confident of seeing his current squad notch good results as morale in the camp is extremely high.

"Every player knows the importance of winning all of our remaining games, we are working hard to see the team remain in the league," he said.

After the Sunday game, Ihefu SC will host Polisi Tanzania and Dodoma Jiji FC in Mbeya.

Ihefu SC is later on set to play away to JKT Tanzania, Kagera Sugar, Yanga and Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOUTH African actress, Connie Temweka Gabisile Chiume, has arrived in Tanzania on a working visit on the invitation of Tanzania Film Board, in collaboration with the Refocus Africa Institute.

The actress, who has Malawi extraction, is expected to meet Bongo Movies' actors and actresses.

The actress, who arrived in the country on Saturday, has starred in famous film, Black Panther, and several others including 'Black Is King' and 'Blessers'.

She has further featured in 'Zone 14' and 'Rhythm dramas City'.

Connie, who works in the United States, was welcomed by Acting Director of Tanzania Film Board's Development Department, Emmanuel



South African actress, Connie Temweka Gabisile Chiume.

Ndumukwa, and other film stakeholders in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking at the star's arrival at Julius Nyerere International Airport, Ndumukwa said it was

a happy occasion as Connie will sharpen Bongo Movies' actors and actresses.

"Among the benefits that will come from the arrival of this actress

is the strengthening of the local film market internationally, strengthening the cooperation of internationally, gaining international

acting education and increasing education to improve talent," he disclosed.

ReFocus Africa Institute Chairman, Iddi Kipingi, advised Bongo Movies' stakeholders to attend the training to be held by the actress, who is an experienced international teacher in the field of acting.

"This is an acting star, she has a great deal of respect in the United States through acting and has been awarded several international awards so it is good for stakeholders to come forward to receive the training which will be accompanied by certificates for graduates," he noted.

Veteran domestic actress Sabrina Mjata 'Gift', advised her fellow members of the entertainment industry to show up for training to be held by Connie.

Tanzania's marathoners set for Milano race

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's marathoners are set to compete at this year's edition of Generali Milano Marathon which will be used as qualifying event for Tokyo Olympics.

The event is slated for May 16 in Milan, Italy and Athletics Tanzania (AT) vice-president, John Bayo, mentioned the marathoners as Gabriel Geay and Natalia Sulle.

The two will depart for the event on May 13 and return home a day after the marathon.

He said the two are currently attending extensive training ahead of the event.

He was adamant the AT seeks

to see to it many local athletes are competing at Tokyo Olympics' qualifying events.

"We are happy that we have managed to secure a qualifying event for our two athletes, the Italy's Generali Milano Marathon will be used as qualifying event for Tokyo Olympics," he noted.

He stated: "We are optimistic that they will use the event to qualify for Tokyo Olympics."

He promised that AT is still looking for other qualifying events for local athletes.

Bayo said in an effort to avoid a last minute rush, the two are in Dar es Salaam to apply for their visas.

He further pointed out that they are banking on the government to bankroll the two athletes' trip to Italy.

"We have submitted a budget of more than 10m/- to the government through the National Sports Council (NSC), we are confident that they will take care of the duo's trip, accommodation, coronavirus tests' costs and other expenses in Italy," he said.

Meanwhile, Bayo announced that all domestic athletes earmarked for the Tokyo Olympics have joined camp at Arusha College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism at Olmotonyi.

He stated the athletes are

coached by Thomas John and Antony Mwingereza.

Coach John said his athletes are preparing well ahead of the Italy trip and expressed his confidence that the two will qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

"We are training very well and I'm sure the two will use the Italy event to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics," he said.

The Tokyo Olympics are slated for July 23 to August 8 and two athletes Alponce Simbu and Failuna Matanga have already qualified for the Games.

Recently Bayo disclosed that AT has secured events in Europe which will be used as qualifying

events for Tokyo Olympics.

He said the events will be held in Denmark, Italy and Australia and AT plans to send two athletes (male and female) to each event.

Bayo, however, stopped short of issuing dates of the four events, budget and other particulars, saying they are waiting for a government nod.

"We wrote the government for their financial and material support, so we are waiting for their response. Once the response is out we will let the public know all the particulars of the trips," he said.

The camp runs up to the mid of July when the athletes who

will qualify will enter Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC)-organized camp.

Initially, AT and coaches wanted to have more than 30 athletes in the camp, but Bayo said due to financial difficulties the association is facing they have settled for 14 athletes.

He insisted the selected athletes have potential to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

"We wanted to have more athletes in camp but due to financial difficulties we are facing, we thought it wise to have only athletes who have potential to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics," he said.



Klopp: We didn't deserve Champs League today

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp has said his side didn't fight hard enough and don't deserve a Champions League spot after Newcastle United sneaked a 1-1 draw at Anfield on Saturday.

Klopp's side had 22 shots on goal throughout the game but only converted one through Mohamed Salah in the opening three minutes.

Joe Willock scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time to secure a draw for Steve Bruce's side and put a dampener on Liverpool's Champions League hopes.

"I don't think you can create much more chances, better chances but we don't finish the game off. We didn't play enough," Klopp said after the game.

"In a specific way, we don't fight enough. We had 70% of the ball and should have had 80, we created a lot of chances. So we had to create more and use them. But we don't do that well at the moment. It feels like a defeat.

"I didn't see us that we deserved today to play Champions League next year. But we will see what we can do. In a few days we will play Manchester United which will be a tough one as well. But we learn... or we don't play Champions League. That's it."

Liverpool are in sixth position, a point behind Chelsea and West Ham United who play later on Saturday.

Klopp's team have a number of important fixtures on the horizon if they are to qualify in the top four, including facing United on May 2.

Newcastle controversially had an earlier goal from Callum Wilson disallowed and Klopp said his side were "lucky" the decision went in their favour but didn't capitalise on it.

"We have to keep going, keep playing. But we kept them alive and they deserved the goal because they scored before," he added.

"It is another one with the new rules, unlucky for Wilson but it is handball, and we don't even take this present. We were lucky with that decision, but gave another chance away and it makes no sense. It's really tough to take."

Meanwhile, frustrated West Ham United manager David Moyes described defender Fabian Balbuena's red card as a "rank, rotten decision" after his side's 1-0 defeat by Chelsea on Saturday.

Timo Werner's first-half goal sealed victory to move fourth-placed Chelsea three points above West Ham in the battle to secure a top-four finish in the Premier League.

While Moyes had no real complaints about the result, he could not hide his dismay at referee Chris Kavanagh's decision to send off Balbuena after a VAR check.

With around 10 minutes left, Balbuena caught Ben Chilwell with his follow-through after a clearance.

It looked to be a natural clash of legs but Kavanagh was instructed by the VAR to check a monitor and he returned to send off the Paraguayan, much to everyone's surprise.

"A rank, rotten decision," Moyes told reporters. "We lost to a team very much in form and maybe we could have got closer without the red card."

Chelsea defender Cesar Azpilicueta escaped a possible handball in his area in the first half and Moyes felt Chelsea's Toni Rudiger could have been sent off for a foul on Vladimir Coufal shortly after Balbuena's dismissal.

"I just thought it was a really poor decision. I don't know who stopped the game. I thought it was supposed to be clear and obvious [error]," Moyes said. "But it shows me the person making the decision has never played the game."

"I don't see anywhere else he can put his foot. Five minutes later the same thing happened with Coufal and Rudiger and if the first was a red why did they not review that incident? The consistency is dire."

While West Ham had a genuine grievance, Chelsea nullified the hosts for most of the derby, again proving what a tough nut to crack they have become since Thomas Tuchel took over from Frank Lampard in January.

Werner's first goal since February always looked like being enough as Chelsea kept a 16th clean sheet in 21 games under the German who had a rather different opinion of the red card.

"The follow-through was a bit dangerous. On TV it looked a bit worse than it actually was. It was a harsh follow-through and they decided it was a reckless and dangerous foul," he said.

"The red card was not a must but it was a decision the referee could take. It was in between, a very hard decision, but maybe not a wrong decision."

(Agencies)

How UEFA president Ceferin crushed a Super League rebellion

LONDON

A MOMENT that prepared Aleksander Ceferin for the stresses and tensions running European football came three decades ago, in a far graver moment for the continent.

The law graduate was relaxing at his family home in Slovenia on June 25, 1991, sitting on the terrace with his parents, brother and sister and their partners when a man approached.

"He said 'Aleksander Ceferin?' I said 'Yes.' He said, 'War has started. You go with us,'" Ceferin recalls. "It was crazy. I was shocked."

Ceferin was conscripted just as his tiny nation, nestled between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, declared independence from multi-ethnic Yugoslavia.

The response from Belgrade was to send in forces to prevent the start of the bloody breakup of the federation.

"It finished very soon, in 10 days, but there was a lot of tension – day and night – and threats and bombs," Ceferin says. "It's an experience that helps you to survive if some people then try to destabilize you."

The president of UEFA brought up the memory in an interview with The Associated Press in relation to the announcement last weekend of a renegade European Super League to rival the Champions League, and the belief he was betrayed by those previously thought to be trusted friends.

"Psychologically, it was such a shock for me," he says from Ljubljana. "Similar to the war. You cannot compare, but both were stressful – the tension was similar."

Ceferin's immediate task was to stop the 12 wealthiest clubs splitting to a closed competition that is the antithesis to European football norms.

"Spoiled children cannot destabilize me," he says.

Particularly galling for Ceferin was the deception of Juventus. So close was his relationship with Andrea Agnelli, the chairman of the Italian champions, that Ceferin was godfather to his daughter.

As chairman of the European Club Association, Agnelli and the rest of the elite signed on two Fridays ago to expand the Champions League from 2024 to fend off threats of a Super League split. By the following morning, however, Ceferin's concerns resurfaced that Agnelli would renege on his commitment to stick with UEFA's competitions.

When Agnelli stopped returning calls as he drove from Slovenia to Switzerland, Ceferin's worst fears began to crystallize.

"The worst day was Saturday, because then I realized that it was a pure betrayal, that some people lied to us for years," Ceferin says. "It was quite strange because I didn't know what exactly will happen the next day."



UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin speaks during the 45th UEFA Congress in Montreux, Switzerland, Tuesday April 20, 2021. Ceferin has directly appealed to the owners of English clubs in the Super League project to change their minds out of respect for soccer fans. Ceferin both cajoled and criticized the six-club English group made up of American billionaires, Arab royalty and a Russian oligarch. (AP Photo)

By Sunday, the Super League plan that first leaked in January was being activated by 12 clubs.

"I got a phone call from three or four clubs saying, 'We are terribly sorry, but we have to say otherwise we are out,'" Ceferin says.

Emergency meetings were held by the English, Spanish and Italian leagues, whose showpiece competitions would be wrecked by the severing of a link to placings to European qualification. The English Football Association leadership contacted the administration of Prime Minister Boris Johnson to seek help to keep the national game intact.

The response was a joint statement by UEFA and the leagues and federations in England, Spain and Italy warning the "cynical project" would be repelled with legal action. Any clubs joining a breakaway would be banned from playing in existing competitions. So the largest contingent – six English clubs – would be expelled from the Premier League and their players unable to represent their countries.

But the group dubbed the "dirty dozen" by Ceferin still launched their Super League late Sunday with a website scant on detail – particularly on women's football – and a logo roundly derided for its cheap look.

Ceferin was enraged. Pushing ahead with a planned briefing on the new-look Champions League, he lambasted the "snakes" at rebel clubs, particularly upbraiding Manchester United vice chairman Ed Woodward and "liar" Agnelli.

Such personalized, cutting rhetoric isn't unusual for Ceferin since being elected UEFA president in 2016. Notably in 2018, FIFA leader Gianni Infantino was targeted for Club World Cup expansion plans. Ceferin attacked the pursuit of "selfish endeavors" by trying "to sell the soul of football tournaments to nebulous private funds."

Ceferin wasted little time in trying to thwart the Super League before UEFA was dragged through lengthy legal challenges. He was helped by Johnson threatening to introduce laws in Britain to stop an anti-competitive Super League, and by support for the Champions League from Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp and the Premier League champion's players.

earned from getting the Super League over the line would they front a lobbying campaign to advocate the new competition.

Had the Super League been launched a week earlier, British politicians would have been hindered in mounting a counterattack as ministers conducted no media interviews during the period of national mourning leading up to Prince Philip's funeral.

But the British government was able to ride a wave of populism in advancing fan concerns and propelling the Super League resistance to the top of the political agenda. The sense of distance from their clubs by supporters has been intensified by the pandemic keeping them out of stadiums. Now they felt locked out of decision-making by their clubs that was transforming the football landscape.

As Chelsea supporters flooded the streets around Stamford Bridge ahead of Tuesday night's game against Brighton, the Super League started to fall apart. The AP reported the Roman Abramovich-owned club was preparing to abandon the Super League.

It took almost three hours, though, for an English club to make it official, and Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City was the first. A year after UEFA tried unsuccessfully to ban City from the Champions League for breaching financial regulations, now the team was being hailed by Ceferin as "a real asset for the game."

By the end of the night, the Super League had been deserted by all of the English clubs – some with groveling apologetic statements – and the breakaway threat melted away as Ceferin drove back to Slovenia.

The rebellion was crushed by the fans' resistance. "Football can start or stop wars," Ceferin told Slovenian TV late

Wednesday. "Football can trigger extraordinary social shifts and I was convinced that, especially in England, fans will not cave in."

By the end of the week, four clubs were still clinging on to the Super League that blew up on launch. Rambling interviews given by Real Madrid president Florentino Perez symbolized a bungled strategy.

"It's crystal clear that the clubs will have to decide if they are Super League or they are a European club," Ceferin told the AP. "If they say we are a Super League, then they don't play Champions League, of course."

It is a demand for Madrid, Barcelona, AC Milan and, particularly, Juventus to publicly accept defeat and give up on the Super League to stop the threat resurfacing.

"I think it's dead," Ceferin says. "You and me won't be in sport or football when this happens again – if this happens again."

Revenge isn't on Ceferin's mind but suspicion will linger about the motivations of the clubs he encounters.

"I still think that I will trust people because the ones that I was sure about didn't betray me, except Agnelli," Ceferin says. "The others, I doubted all of them, all the time."

How, though, to heal the rift with Agnelli, whose daughter Ceferin is godfather to?

"There is no more relationship," he says. "And there will never be any relation anymore."

Meanwhile, Real Madrid's president insists all 12 clubs that signed up for the ill-fated Super League are still bound by contract to launching the controversial breakaway of Europe's elite soccer teams.

In an interview with Spanish sports daily AS on Saturday, Madrid president Florentino Pérez said the clubs can't back out like some have

announced. "The fact is, the clubs can't leave," Pérez said. "Some, because of the pressure, have had to say they'll leave. But this project, or something very similar, will happen, and I hope it's in the near future."

All six English clubs – Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham – backed away from the proposal within 48 hours of its unveiling last weekend because of a backlash by fans and authorities. Atletico Madrid and Inter Milan followed suit a day later.

Barcelona has maintained its support for a project president Joan Laporta says is "absolutely necessary" for his troubled club's finances, while acknowledging that the scheme's critics must be listened to.

Italian heavyweights Juventus and AC Milan admitted the project was going nowhere immediately, while leaving open the possibility of joining a Super League at a later date.

The 74-year-old Pérez, who has presided over Madrid for most of the past two decades, was supposed to be the first chairman of the Super League of 20 teams that would replace the Champions League run by UEFA.

Pérez denied reports that U.S. financier JP Morgan Chase had also deserted the project.

"That's not true, they haven't left either. They've taken time to reflect, like the 12 clubs," he said. "If something needs to be changed, it'll be changed, but the Super League is the best project we've thought can be carried out."

The Madrid president maintained his position that the pandemic has aggravated the financial troubles big clubs face, including what he said was the dwindling interest of soccer among young people.

He predicted a grim future for his club and others.

"Either we fix this ... or all the clubs go bankrupt," he said. "There will be a mutiny of the teams as they go bankrupt, because the only ones who will survive will be state financed clubs or who have multi-millionaire owners, who are willing, for their own entertainment, to lose hundreds of millions (of euros) each season."

The plan's critics, which include UEFA, the national leagues, and the clubs not involved, say the Super League will do more harm than good by concentrating revenues in fewer hands.

AP



Football supporters place a protest banner outside Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, Monday, April 19, 2021, opposing the formation of the European Super League. Players at the 12 clubs setting up their own Super League could be banned from this year's European Championship and next year's World Cup, UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said Monday. (AP Photo)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How UEFA president Ceferin crushed a Super League rebellion

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

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Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

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EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bonga Hills
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bonga Hills

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Swimmers in need of govt support

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) has appealed for financial support from the government to enable the association to cover costs for two swimmers and one coach's trip to South Africa for Olympic Games' qualifying event.

Tanzania is one of the countries that are looking forward to sending athletes to the Olympic Games scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan from July 23 to August 8.

The Olympic Games' qualifying competition is scheduled for May 7-8 in Stellenbosch where Tanzania's swimmers Hilal Hemed and Collins Saliboko have been selected to represent Tanzania in it.

The swimmers will be under coach Alexander Mwaipasi and TSA needs 10m/- to enable the swimmers and the coach to travel to South Africa.

Inviolata Itatiro, TSA's secretary general, said African Swimming Federation (CANA) will cover the cost of accommodation and food for all swimmers and coaches who will compete in the event.

Inviolata said that the TSA has been asked to pay for tickets and other expenses for the swimmers and a coach and, due to the current financial situation, they have asked for help from the government.

She said that they have done so because they have had several meetings with the government through the National Sports Council (NSC) and the Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Yusuph Singo to discuss the country's preparations and put strategic plans that aim at increasing the number of sportsmen who will qualify for the next Olympic Games.

She noted: "Our meeting with the government involved other sports associations such as amateur boxing, judo and athletics governing bodies. TOC also participated in the sessions and the government has been promising to help them to compete in the qualifying competition."

"We have been told by the organisers to confirm and allow our swimmers to be in South Africa on May 1 whereby they will attend special training camp to be conducted by world swimming governing body (FINA)'s technical committee chairman, Graham Hill," Inviolata stated.

She pointed out she believes the government will help them see to it the swimmers compete for the qualifying marks.

She said swimmers are in intensive preparations and failure to compete in the South African event will kill the spirits of other up-and-coming swimmers ahead of the next Olympic Games.

"Swimmers need to gauge their skills by competing. If they would not, it will water down the spirits of other swimmers ahead of the coming international events and perhaps change the game," she said.

Matola impressed by Simba SC's winning run



Simba SC's assistant coach, Suleiman Matola.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League's defending champions, Simba SC, say they are happy with their performance in the Lake Zone where they played three league games and collected nine points.

Simba were in the Lake Zone where they played against Mwadui FC, Kagera Sugar and Gwambina FC, winning 1-0, 2-0 and 1-0 in that order. The team

did not concede any goal.

Suleiman Matola, Simba SC's assistant coach, described the three assignments in the Lake Zone as a stern test to his side.

He pointed out the wins were crucial to his team's mission of defending the

top flight's silverware this season.

He said prior to the games, his team prepared well and the results of the matches underlines Simba's dominance in local football.

He stated: "Our preparations were based on what we want, defending

the top honour is what we want to achieve this season."

"The three games in the Lake Zone were very crucial in our mission of defending the premiership's trophy, we are happy that we have won all the three games," he said.

After the three wins, Simba have 58 points from 26 games and Matola said they have advised his charges not to get complacent with the three consecutive victories.

He pointed out: "Our matches in the Lake Zone have always been difficult for us, but this time around we have done well."

"What is needed now is to remain positive so that we can perform well in our coming games," he said.

Matola said his charges will keep on preparations ahead of the coming domestic and continental games.

He said the focus now is on tomorrow's game against Dodoma Jiji FC which will be held in Dar es Salaam.

On Thursday, Dodoma Jiji FC played Azam FC in Dodoma in a game the visitors equalized in the last minute as the two squads were locked to 2-2 draw.

Matola said Simba are unperturbed by Dodoma Jiji FC's remarkable run in the league.

"We are looking forward to our Tuesday (Tomorrow's) game, it will be a difficult game, but our motivation is that recently we have been getting good results and also morale in the camp is high," he said.

Speaking after playing Azam FC, Dodoma Jiji FC's head coach Mbwana Makatta said he is aware of the threat Simba pose to his team, but he said they will be ready for the encounter.

"Simba are one of the best teams on the land, but we will be ready for them. We need to be cautious and keep up the momentum," he said.

Dodoma Jiji FC sits sixth in the top flight with 38 points from 27 matches.

Simba Heroes wallop Chui Riders in Tanzania T10 League opener

By Guardian Reporter

SIMBA Heroes' cricketers have started their quest for lifting this year's Tanzania T10 League's silverware impressively, notching 17-run victory over Chui Riders in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The showpiece's opening tie, which took place at Leaders Club ground, had Simba Heroes batting first and notching 109 runs, dropping two wickets in 10 overs.

Stellar displays put to show by openers, Jatin Darji and Ivan Ismail, were instrumental in Simba Heroes' victory.

Skipper Darji was more ruthless, ending his innings with 60 runs not out, which included five boundaries and three sixes.

Ismail notched 24 runs which included two fours and a six.

Ramesh Alluri stepped up to see to it his club piles more runs, recording 14 runs not out, which consisted of a six.

He happened to be quite effective, helping his side comfortably deal with an early dismissal of key player Abdullah Jabiri and end with a good total.

Jabiri, a promising batsman, could only end with five runs, as Chui Riders' experienced player, Jitin Singh, foiled the batsman's efforts to make his presence felt.

Chasing 110 runs to emerge victorious happened to be a tall order for Chui Riders, given they scored 92 runs for the loss of five wickets in 10 overs.

They experienced a draw-back in the first over, given skipper Zafar Khan succumbed to an early exit.

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TEAMS

TWIGA MASTERS, SIMBA HEROES, CHUI RIDERS, TEMBO RANGERS, Buffalo Gladiators, RHINO CHALLENGERS

Scorecard Link: www.cricclubs.com/Tanzania @crickettanzania Tanzania Cricket Association

wickets in the allotted 10 overs, once they got the opportunity to bat first.

Skipper Arshaan Jasani enjoyed an unbeaten spell, given he ended three runs short of half century.

Fellow batsman, Sanjay Bom, was equally impressive, notching 30 runs, which included two fours and as many sixes.

Pacer Zamoyoni Ramadhani was so far Twiga Masters' bowler with significant contribution, given he took two wickets, leaking 19 runs in two overs.

Twiga Masters lost steam in the chase, as they posted 99 runs for five wickets in 10 overs.

Captain Abhik Patwa notched 23 runs, other top order batsmen, Ejaz Aziz, Ramadhani and Ashish Kamania, posted 17 runs, 16 runs and 14 runs respectively.

The 10-over formatted showpiece, organized by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), is expected to climax on May 4.

The tournament is organized in memory of Tanzania's fifth term President, the late John Pombe Magufuli, with all matches taking place at Leaders Club's venue.

Six sides, namely Rhino Challengers, Buffalo Gladiators, Tembo Rangers, Chui Riders, Simba Heroes and Twiga Masters are participating in the showdown.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

