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AWARDS



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Young innovators for Paris in Africa-France cities gala

By Guardian Reporter

ELEVEN young Tanzanian entrepreneurs have been selected to take part in the 28th edition of the Africa-France Summit on Sustainable Cities scheduled for mid-November in the French capital, Paris.

French Ambassador to Tanzania Frédéric Clavier said late on Wednesday that from 30 Tanzanian finalists of the "1000 entrepreneurs challenge" launched last year, 11 top scorers were selected.

The innovators' costs of transport, visa arrangements and accommodation will be taken up by the embassy, with six innovators attending a Business Performance Innovation-France (Bpifrance) meeting on October 1, and five attending the Business France event on November 17.

The winners were listed as Edmond Ng'walogo



As African countries and France are facing exponential urbanization, they will have the opportunity to exchange experiences about the challenges of climate change, the specific needs and, of course, the specific solutions that are required,

(Ng'wala Inventions), Reginald Victor Runyoro (Tanzania GET Safaris), Edwin Joseph Mwachula (Cirlex System Ltd), Ricky Renson (Sourcensets Ltd), and Julius Mbungu (Toolboksi Technologies Ltd).

Others are Janet Maro (Wostry Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)), Jacqueline Mwakumbiki (Mbeya Highlands Fm Radio), Japhet Sekenya (Biofood Tech Co Ltd), Diana Orembe (NovFeed (T) Ltd), Mwanaidi Mwilima (Jollie Reusable Pads & Accessories) and Diana Stephen Mbogo (Millennium Engineers Enterprises Ltd)

The challenge was part of the Africa-France 2020, whereby France sought to offer 1000 young Africans with innovative solutions an opportunity to take part in the major event, where a reflection on the future of sustainable cities in Africa will be developed.

"Now I welcome these successful CEOs and managing directors running dynamic and promising young Tanzanian start-ups and companies.

TURN TO PAGE 2

Candidates row: TCRA shuts TV, radio station

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has shut down

Clouds Television and Clouds FM Radio for seven days beginning today for broadcasting a list of candidates as unopposed before formal confirmation.

TCRA Director General James

Kilaba told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the two stations were also ordered to use the remaining hours of yesterday to broadcast apologies to the public for violating sections 16(1),(2) and

5 (j) of broadcasting regulations and election broadcasting sub-regulations of 2015.

This comes a day after the National Electoral Commission (NEC) said that a section of the

media had erred by reporting that some candidates had become members of Parliament unopposed, even before the

TURN TO PAGE 2



LEFT: Alliance for Democratic Change Zanzibar presidential candidate Hamad Rashid Mohamed (R) receives endorsement forms from the ZEC chairman at the commission's offices yesterday. **RIGHT:** Ada-Tadea's Zanzibar presidential candidate, Juma Ali Khatib (R), receives endorsement forms from Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) chairman Chief Justice (rtd) Hamid Mahmoud Hamid at the commission's offices yesterday.. Photos: Rahma Suleiman

Lissu objections bid on JPM, Lipumba collapses

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has thrown out objections raised by Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu that sought disqualification of two other contenders.

On Wednesday evening, Lissu and his running mate Salum Mwalimu appeared at NEC headquarters in Dodoma and submitted a dossier detailing why CCM candidate Dr John Magufuli and his CUF counterpart Prof Ibrahim Lipumba should be disqualified.

It took electoral management body officials about six hours to go through the documents page by page and word



After going through objections raised and responses submitted by the two candidates, we came to the conclusion that the candidates did not violate any elections law or regulation,

for word. Minutes before midnight, NEC delivered a verdict that reasons raised by the politician did not meet the legal threshold.

The Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Mahera said that in his objection to Dr Magufuli's nomination as candidate, Lissu argued that the incumbent Head of State did not attach photos to his forms as required and that the documents were not submitted to the NEC's offices as per prescribed regulations.

As for Prof Lipumba, Lissu submitted that the CUF

TURN TO PAGE 2

'One million tourists likely despite Covid-19 outbreak'

By Correspondent Marc

Nkwame, Arusha

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism projects that Tanzania will receive one million tourists by the end of this year despite disruptions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Permanent Secretary Dr Aloyce Nzuki said the number

will be achieved thanks to Tanzania's decision to open its skies and tourist attractions earlier than other countries.

In the past two years, Tanzania received 1.5 million tourists annually, generating over two billion dollars each year but officials had targeted to hit two million

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



03/10/2020

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

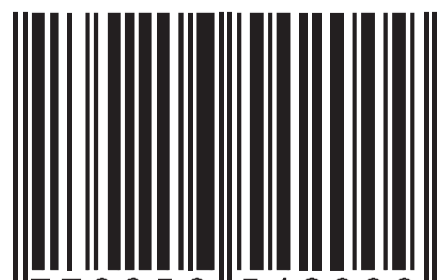
Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)



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Young innovators for Paris in Africa-France cities gala

FROM PAGE 1

It represents the most dynamic and talented in Tanzania. They took the risk of starting their business. They deserve to be supported and encouraged. France, tonight, recognizes their talents, and being invited to Paris will be able to create links with French start-ups. I wish them a bright future and good partnerships with French companies," he said.

"As African countries and France are facing exponential urbanization, they will have the opportunity to exchange experiences about the challenges of climate change, the specific needs and, of course, the specific solutions that are required," he told the gathering.

The idea of the summit was announced three years ago by French President Emmanuel Macron when visiting Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso in order to bring together African and French companies, big groups and young start-ups, public authorities and civil society.

The envoy, however, pointed out the recent achievement Tanzania is benefited from, by reclassification as a lower middle-income country.

"Such a success before the end of this year and way before 2025 is a great deal but, of course, the status is no guarantee as there can be a fallback. Despite an overall relatively steady growth over the past decade, one cannot underestimate the impact of the ongoing world health crisis due to COVID 19 on our economies."

"So, this achievement is just the beginning of a challenging period, that is to say that the economy of the country must be resilient to external shocks and structural reforms must be implemented urgently," Ambassa-

dor Clavier intoned, underlining that France will play its part to encourage Tanzania and make it succeed.

"As the public sector is drawing mid-term growth thanks to the major projects of infrastructure, for instance, the private sector must get some air and space to participate as it can to boost national economic growth and to propose innovating and sustainable solutions."

For the benefit of the country, the key sectors in public and private entities, must cooperate and co-manage the main targets listed in the strategic plan "Tanzania 2025," he pointed out.

On development goals, Clavier said that efforts were being deployed by the French Development Agency-AFD to support major projects in Tanzania.

Via loans and grants, the agency has committed 760m euros over the past 10 years in Tanzania and has recently increased the financing of projects to more than 150m euros per year to support the government in three priority sectors—water and sanitation plus energy, transport.

The year 2019 was a record regarding AFD involvement, with 172m euros of approved projects by the board in Paris, he said.

He stated that from now on, AFD will diversify its sectors of activity and will also target agriculture and environment, targeting the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity.

Thus, for water, France is supporting the achievement of the 17th Sustainable Development Goal to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

For electricity, France is supporting the 17th Sustainable Development Goal to ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier (C), poses for a group photo with 11 young Tanzanian entrepreneurs set to take part in the 28th edition of the Africa-France Summit on Sustainable Cities to be held in Paris this November. This was shortly after a reception held for the youths in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Candidates row: TCRA shuts TV, radio station

FROM PAGE 1

prescribed objections submission period had elapsed.

"If Clouds FM does not comply with this directive, we will be forced to take serious legal actions against it," the communications regulator intoned.

TCRA said Clouds entertainment FM radio and Clouds Television in their morning programmes namely 'power breakfast' and 'Clouds 360' declared and named members of Parliament who sailed through unopposed in the recent nomination processes, without confirming with NEC.

He said the information flouted broadcasting rules and the code of ethics in election broadcasting of 2015 as it was not balanced.

He said the presenter was heard

announcing numbers and names of MPs who went unopposed, without the knowledge of the electoral body.

TCRA warned broadcasters who have been licensed by TCRA to ensure they abide by the rules and guidelines as required, as the regulator will not hesitate to take serious legal action against anyone who flouts the regulations.

"Broadcasters should bear in mind that airing such information can cause violence and disturb the peace in the country especially during this period," he said.

TCRA has noticed that most broadcasters deliberately ignore or do not read the regulations.

"It is sad that already the regulations are being violated, which is a sign that our broadcasters do not care about the rules or they

deliberately choose not to bother about them," Kilaba asserted.

This is the second time that Clouds Media Group has crossed TCRA redlines, as on July 1 the TCRA media content committee fined Clouds FM 5m/- for airing a programme that was likely to sensitize the youth to engage in sexual activities through its Jahazi programme.

And mid this month, TCRA banned the programme and directed the media group not to introduce a show with similar content in the drive-home hour.

It also banned an online television channel for one month and ordered eight others to pay a total 43m/- in fines for violating the Electronic and Postal Communication Regulations.

Lissu objections bid on JPM, Lipumba collapses

FROM PAGE 1

candidate flouted stipulated regulations with regard to returning the presidential nomination forms.

Dr Mahera said he notified the two candidates about the objections raised by Lissu and asked them to submit their response.

"After going through objections raised and responses submitted by the two candidates, we came to the conclusion that the candidates did not violate any elections law or regulation," he said.

"President Magufuli returned the forms with his photos attached as required," he asserted.

Now that the only two objections raised have been rejected, it is now official that President Magufuli is squaring it out with among others, Lissu of the main opposition Chadema and former cabinet minister Bernard Membe of ACT-Wazalendo.

Given their experience as seasoned politicians and considerable following their parties enjoy, the two candidates are likely to give the incumbent a run for his money in the general election slated for October 28.

While the incumbent will likely take voters through his achievements during the past five years and ask for more time to finish his projects, the opposition candidates are expected to design their campaign messages to punch holes in Dr Magufuli's performance.

Other seasoned politicians on the ballot paper for the presidency are CUF's Prof Ibrahim Lipumba, John Shibusda (Ada-Tadea) and Chaumma's Hashim Rungwe Spunda who made headlines recently after promising to provide food on the table for Tanzanians, "starting with supply of huge plates of rice and chicken in his campaign rallies."

Campaigns kicked off on Wednesday and will run up to October 27, one day before polling day when Tanzanians will elect the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament and members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives as well as ward councilors.

'Education emergency' as third of world's children lacking remote learning

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

ONE in three schoolchildren across the world have been unable to access remote learning during coronavirus school closures, the UN children's agency said on Thursday, warning of a "global education emergency".

Nearly 1.5 billion children were affected by school closures as countries locked down to prevent the disease from spreading, UNICEF said in a report. Yet at least one in three students have had no way of continuing their education at home.

"For at least 463 million children whose schools closed due to COVID-19, there was no such thing as remote learning," said UNICEF's Executive Director Henrietta Fore in a statement.

"The sheer number of children whose education was completely disrupted for months on end is a global education emergency. The repercussions could be felt in economies and societies for decades to come."

The report examined 100 countries, looking at children's ability to access remote learning through television and radio broadcasts or online classes and the availability of the correct educational materials on these platforms.

It found students in Africa were the most impacted, with almost half unable to access remote education, compared to 38% in South Asia and 34% in eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Latin America and the Caribbean had the lowest number of children affected, with 9% of students unable to access learning at home, said the report.



National League for Democracy's Zanzibar Presidential candidate, Mfaume Khamis Hassan (L), receives endorsement forms from Zanzibar Electoral Commission chairman Chief Justice (rtd) Hamid Mahmoud at the commission's offices yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

One million tourists likely despite Covid-19 outbreak

FROM PAGE 1

arrivals before Covid-19 brought everything to a standstill.

He said the Covid-19 infections started to bite worldwide in February, but until the global lockdown was initiated in March, Tanzania had already received more than 900,000 foreign visitors before the tourism season took a dive at the beginning of April.

"There wasn't a sharp decline in the country's tourist flows, as Tanzania has

been receiving an average of 1.6 million visitors annually and so far we have gone past the one million mark, at the time that tourism is picking up again," he declared, at a meeting to hatch strategies for the industry's recovery plan.

With four months to go before the end of the year and with international airlines resuming their Tanzanian routes, tourism is picking up and by December, the total tourists flow will be almost the same as with other years, he further

noted.

Philip Chitaunga, the acting Director of Tourism, said the only issue here is the fact that Tanzania was targeting to record over two million tourists this year, a figure which may not be reached due to the pandemic, but otherwise the situation will be stable.

Tanzania is meanwhile focusing on alternative emerging tourist markets such as the Middle East, precisely Israel as well as the African regional market, while also turning to boost

domestic visitors through special packages.

The country is targeting African countries with a higher gross domestic product (GDP) such as Kenya, Egypt, Morocco and South-Africa.

"Our diplomatic engagements are meant to assure visitors that the country and its people are safe, and that is why the Ministry of Health, with which we work closely, has increased four other Covid-19 testing laboratories dedicated to tourism and

transport sectors," the minister noted.

As the new tourism season kicks in, Tanzania is already making arrangements to revive its travel industry. The tourism directorate is focusing on Christmas and New Year holidays season as they create a temporary boom in tourism, especially for visitors from within the EAC member states.

Last year (2019), Tanzania received slightly over 1.5m tourists and generated around 2.6bn dollars, accounting for over 25 percent

of total export earnings. The sector regularly employs nearly 1.6m people.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of the virus especially from visitors and citizens reentering the country from abroad by plane or by ship.

EJAT gala night slated for Tanga on Sept 28

By Guardian Reporter

THE annual Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania gala night will for the first time be held outside Dar es Salaam, Media Council of Tanzania executive secretary and organising committee chairman Kajubi

Mukajanga revealed yesterday.

He said the event, which will as usual include the presentation of awards to journalists for outstanding performance, will be held in Tanga city on September 28.

This is the eleventh edition, the competition having been in-

troduced in 2009.

Mukajanga said in a statement issued yesterday that a total of 450 entries have been received for this latest competition. It is in 21 categories, three being new additions: Innovations for Human Development; Menstrual Health and Hygiene

Management; and Adverse Effect of Chemicals to Health and Environment.

Other categories are Business and Finance Reporting, Culture and Sports, Agriculture and Agri-business, Education, Tourism and Conservation, Investigative Reporting, Data Journalism

Reporting, Human Rights and Good Governance, Best Photo Journalist, Best Cameraman, Best Editorial Cartoonist, Gender Reporting, Oil, Gas and Mining Governance, Road Safety Reporting, Open Category, Child Reporting, Sexual and Reproduction Health and Elderly

Reporting. The deadline for submitting entries for the awards in the various categories was January 31, 2020.

The EJAT organising partners are the Media Council of Tanzania, Tanzania Media Foundation, Media Institute of South-

ern Africa - Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan), Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa), Tanzania Editors Forum, HakiElimu, AMREF, Sikika, Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Media Owners Association of Tanzania (MOAT), and Union of Tanzania Press Clubs.

Three more Zanzibar presidential aspirants collect forms from ZEC

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THREE Zanzibar presidential nominees yesterday picked up nomination forms from the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) through their political parties making five aspirants so far to have collected the forms with more expected to do so today.

Those who picked up nomination forms yesterday included Juma Ali Khatib from ADA TADEA who arrived at ZEC offices at around 10.00am, Mfaume Khamis of NLD at 11.00am and ADC's Hamad Rashid Mohamed who picked his nomination forms at 12.00 noon.

Speaking to reporters after collecting nomination forms ADA TADEA's Khatib said in case he gets elected he will supervise all big projects initiated by the outgoing President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, including the construction of the port, Pemba's airport and residents' quarters.

He also said he would form a government of national unity according to the existing constitution by incorporating all political parties which participated in the elections.

He said his party slogan is "Equality to the Community" whereby all

citizens will receive basic services including education and health.

On his part, Mfaume Khamis Hassan, the NLD aspirant said in case he will be elected among his priorities will be to mobilise the youth in development activities and providing them with employment.

He said he will ensure peace and tranquility prevail because there was no alternative to peace.

ADC's candidate, Hamad Rashid Mohamed said he will make sure he stands by justice to enable the citizens enjoy various opportunities including economic opportunities.

He said as for now the country was on the middle economy status hence ADC will change the vision to enable them get the opportunities they prefer.

He said he will ensure free education from elementary to university, and that he will ensure he pays salaries to madras teachers just as it is for the ordinary teachers.

After handing over the forms, ZEC Chairman Retired Zanzibar Hugh Court Judge Hamid Mahamoud, called upon the aspirants to respect regulations on 2020 election ethics by spurning corruptive practices.



Jackson Lwerengera (C), acting Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) manager for Kagera Region, briefs Works, Transport and Communications ministry permanent secretary Elius Mwakalinga (R) yesterday. The latter was on an inspection tour of the Rusumo-Lusahunga road construction project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK(T) LTD

Publication of Financial Statements for Second Quarter Ended 30th June 2020

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

"The Farmers' Bank"

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2020			
(Amounts in Million of Shillings)			
DETAILS	Current Quarter 30-06-2020	Previous Quarter 31-03-2020	
1 Cash			
2 Balance with Bank of Tanzania	597	94	
3 Investment in government securities	-	-	
4 Balance with other banks and financial institutions	122,642	94,527	
5 Cheques and items for clearing			
6 Interbranch float items			
7 Bills Negotiated			
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances			
9 Interbank loans receivables	158,488	139,757	
10 Investments in other securities			
11 Loans, advances and overdrafts			
(Net of Allowance for Probable Losses)	429,730	732,365	
12 Other Assets	1,880	1,955	
13 Equity investments	-	-	
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-	
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	2,984	3,282	
16 TOTAL ASSETS	716,321	971,979	
LIABILITIES			
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institution			
18 Customer deposits			
19 Cash letters of credit			
20 Special deposits	431,905	690,168	
21 Payment orders / transfers payable			
22 Bankers' cheques and draft issued			
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	915	434	
24 Acceptances outstanding			
25 Interbranch float items			
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges			
27 Other Liabilities	1,663	1,779	
28 Borrowings	208,519	208,900	
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	643,001	901,281	
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)	73,319	70,698	
C CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
31 Paid up share capital	60,000	60,000	
32 Share Premium	-	-	
33 Retained earnings	8,034	8,034	
34 Profit / (Loss) account	4,694	1,869	
35 Other capital accounts	591	796	
36 Minority interest	-	-	
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	73,319	70,698	
38 Contingent liabilities	-	-	
39 Non performing Loans & Advances	4,933	3,365	
40 Allowances for Probable Losses	5,101	4,687	
41 Other Non Performing Assets	-	-	
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS			
(i) Shareholders funds to total assets	18.98%	20.67%	
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	4.79%	3.30%	
(iii) Gross loans and advances to total deposits	0.00%	0.00%	
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets	25.82%	29.93%	
(v) Earning assets to total assets	98.59%	98.44%	
(vi) Deposit growth	0.00%	0.00%	
(vii) Assets growth	-26.30%	3.80%	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020				
(Amounts in Million of Shillings)				
	Current Quarter 30-06-2020	Comparative Quarter (Previous Year) 30-06-2019	Current Year Cumulative 30-06-2020	Comparative Year Cumulative (Previous Year) 30-06-2019
1. Interest Income	6,778	4,084	12,979	7,368
2. Interest Expense	(533)	(492)	(999)	(823)
3. Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	6,245	3,592	11,980	6,544
4. Bad Debts Written Off	-	-	-	-
5. Impairment losses on loans and advances	548	202	1,111	552
6. Non-Interest Income	858	693	1,203	2,159
6.1 Foreign currency dealings and translation gains/loss	327	653	370	77
6.2 Fees and commissions	326	552	424	1,073
6.3 Other operating income	204	204	409	409
7. Non-Interest Expenses	(2,518)	(3,093)	(5,366)	(6,184)
7.1 Salaries and benefits	(1,571)	(1,626)	(3,387)	(3,328)
7.2 Fees and commissions	-	-	-	-
7.3 Other operating expenses	(947)	(1,467)	(1,980)	(2,855)
8. Operating Income/(Loss)	4,307	991	6,706	1,968
9. Income tax provision	(1,211)	(297)	(2,012)	(590)
10. Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax	2,826	694	4,694	1,377
11. Number of employees	66	69	66	69
12. Basic Earnings per share	-	-	-	-
13. Diluted earnings per share	-	-	-	-
14. Number of branches/zonal offices	4	4	4	4
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on average total assets	2.92%	0.35%	1.39%	0.37%
(ii) Return on average shareholders' fund	15.61%	4.08%	13.17%	4.06%
(iii) Non interest expense to gross income	35.45%	72.17%	40.71%	71.05%
(iv) Net interest income to average earning assets	6.55%	1.45%	6.74%	1.42%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020				
(Amount in Million of Shillings)				
	Current Quarter 30-06-2020	Previous Quarter 31-03-2020	Current Quarter 30-06-2020	Previous Quarter 30-06-2019
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Operating Income (loss) before tax:	4,037	2,670	6,706	1,968
Adjustment for:				
- Depreciation	326	373	699	659
- Impairment Loans and Advances	548	562	1,111	552
- Amortization of capital grants	(204)	(204)	(409)	(409)
- Net change in loans and advances	302,635	(945)	301,690	(420,727)
- Net change in statutory minimum reserve	-	-	-	-
- Net Change in Deposits	371,757	20	371,757	-
- Net Change in Other Financial Instruments	-	-	-	-
- Net change in Loans, Advances and Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
- Net change of placements with maturities over three months	-	-	-	-
- Net Change in Other Liabilities	365	509	874	989
- Net Change in Other Assets	75	12	87	(614)
- Tax Paid	(730)	(541)	(1,271)	(302)
- Others (Amortization from Grant)	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operating Activities	678,789	2,455	681,244	417,883
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Dividend Received	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(29)	(69)	(98)	(1,023)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale Non-Dealing Securities	-	-	-	-
Others (Special deposits)	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities	(29)	(69)	(98)	(1,023)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Repayment of long-term Debt	(779)	-	(779)	-
Proceeds from IPO Project	-	-	-	-
Current portion amortisation on Grants	-	-	-	-
Proceed from PSCP on Purchase of ET Systems	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Other Borrowings	-	10,000	10,000	400,263
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities:	(779)	10,000	9,221	400,263
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:				
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	677,991	12,386	690,368	18,645
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter	234,378	221,992	221,992	124,942
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Quarter	912,359	234,378	912,359	143,587

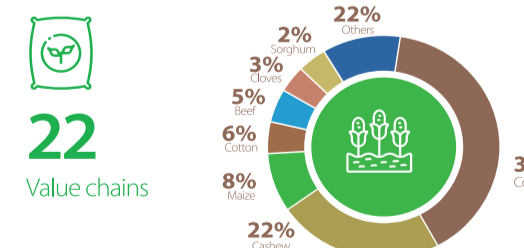
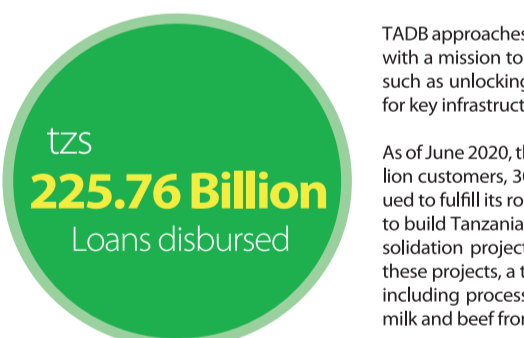
SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used and those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements if there were changes during the quarter, the changes are explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8

Signature: Date: _____

Managing Director: Japhet Justine
 Director of Finance: Derick Lugemala
 Head of Internal Audit: Joyce Madihu

TADB performance highlights up to end of Q-2020



TADB approaches the agricultural lending through cluster-based value chain financing, with a mission to catalyze the entire value chain ranging from a spectrum of activities such as unlocking the market potential and seed multiplication to providing funding for key infrastructure such as irrigation schemes and warehouses.

As of June 2020, the bank has disbursed total of TZS 200.38 billion and reached 1.72 million customers, 30 percent of whom are women across the country. TADB has continued to fulfill its role of supporting the vision of the President, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli to build Tanzania's industrial sector by financing and investing in 182 agricultural consolidation projects and manufacturing in 22 value chains. In the implementation of these projects, a total of 112.6 billion shillings has been allocated to 24 agro-industries including processing and value addition of maize, grapes, palms, sunflowers, paddy, milk and beef from 22 regions.

Industrialisation

112.6 Billion Total disbursement

24 Agro-processing Industries and factories financed

567,860 farmers benefiting from these industries

22 Regions benefited
 Lake and western 56%, Southern 16%, Southern highlands 5% Eastern 17%, Zanzibar 3%, Central and Northern 2%

Financing under Smallholder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS)

SCGS is to catalyze financial sector lending to the Agriculture sector especially to smallholder farmers in the rural areas. The scheme aims at transforming smallholder farmers from subsistence farming to commercial farming by encouraging the adaptation of modern technology/techniques, which ultimately create employments and promote food security

TZS 50.72 Billion Loans disbursed

6,748 Direct Beneficiaries (1,175 are women)

43 AMCOS

23 Smallscale Industries

5 Commercial Banks

3 Other Financial Institutions

29 Regions benefited

Kenya members boycott EALA's Budget session

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) session has been called off following a boycott by members from Kenya.

Kenya EALA members are claimed to have boycotted the session for reasons which the Assembly Speaker did not fully disclose.

Speaking soon after the abortive session that was to take place online, Assembly Speaker Martin Ngoga said he was forced to postpone the meeting in accordance with EALA regulations until further notice.

Ngoga said as for now he was still following up on the essence of the Kenya's boycott, and added the session was important especially at this time when the East African Community was being faced with many challenges including lack of operation funds due to delay of contributions from member states.

The EAC Secretary General who deals with infrastructures, Steven Mlote said what he knows was that the boycott by Kenya Members was the outcome of the simmering go-slow between EALA Members and the EAC Secretariat.

He also said the go-slow was spurred

by the demand from EALA Members to be paid millions of money that was out of the EAC normal legal procedures.

Mlote said among other things, the members were pushing for payment of USD 560 as sitting, and travel allowances, the demand he said, could not be met because many sittings were being conducted online.

"The legitimate allowance which they have already been paid, is USD 160, but they push for extra USD 400 for travelling that had not taken place.

"Basically acquiescing to members' demands is problematic because so far they want to be paid more than USD two million, the money that is not only unavailable, but also not in accordance with EAC financial regulations," he said.

When called to speak on the issue, Makame Abdullah, an EALA Member from Tanzania denied claims that members' boycott was due to their pressure to be paid arrears of allowances.

He said instead the problem was a long time one and has affected many EAC employees.

In regard to contributions from Member States, EAC Deputy SG Mlote said Burundi and South Sudan are the only ones yet to pay up.



Saliu Mlay (R), NMB Bank Plc's acting Chief - Retail Banking, reads a milestone message to Malinyi district commissioner Mathayo Masele shortly after launching a branch of the bank there on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UNHCR donates 10 vehicles to support Police Force

By Getrude Mbagi

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has donated ten vehicles worth 474m/- to support the Police Force in the execution of its duties in the Kigoma Region.

Speaking during the hand over event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, UNHCR Country Representative Anthony Canhandula said the occasion marks the fulfillment of the promise of the High Commissioner of the UN Refugee Agency Filippo Grandi, which he made to President John Magufuli during his mission to Tanzania in February 2019.

He said that the organisation recognises the importance of the

work of the police in and around the refugee camps in keeping the civilian and humanitarian character of those camps something which enables refugees and host communities to stay safe and peaceful.

"The organisation acknowledges that it is the responsibility of governments to maintain law and order and to provide security to every person within its territory; thus, UNHCR is supporting the government in maintaining security and stability in refugee-hosting areas. UNHCR appreciates the support received from the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Inspector General of Police, who provides over 200 Police Officers to maintain security in the

refugee-hosting areas in Kigoma," he said.

According to him, for over 22 years, UNHCR has been supporting the police with vehicles and maintenance, accommodation, office supplies, subsistence allowances, as well as training on humanitarian principles and ethics.

He said that the organisation believes that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and the deployed police officers have contributed hugely in strengthening social stability and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in Kigoma. Peace, security and stability in any society enables every individual to enjoy their rights and prevent displacements.

"UNHCR wishes to seize this opportunity to send the gratitude of refugees and of the High Commissioner that I represent, to President Magufuli, and through him, to his entire government and to the people of Tanzania for their continuous support to refugees and asylum-seekers in Tanzania. UNHCR commits to continue working with the government in ensuring the protection of people fleeing conflict into Tanzania, and to seek durable solutions to their situations," he added.

Canhandula further said that the number of refugees has been rising every year around the world as people are forced to flee their homes for safety. UNHCR estimates that by June 2020 the

number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 79.5 million persons in 2019. The number includes people who have crossed international borders and those internally displaced within their own countries," he noted.

He noted that nearly three in every four people forced to flee their homes have been refugees for 20 years or more. This is the situation of some 57,000 refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo who have been refugees in Tanzania for over two decades. Currently, the country hosts more than 280,000 refugees from Burundi and DR Congo.

"On behalf of the refugees, UNHCR appreciates Tanzania for

its generosity in granting asylum and protection to hundreds of thousands of refugees over many years. We are grateful to the communities of Kigoma, Kagera, Katiavi and Tabora Regions who have at one time or another opened their doors to people fleeing conflict and persecution," Canhandula said.

In his remarks, IGP Simon Sirro commended UNHCR for its support saying that the vehicles will be used to strengthen safety and security initiatives in Kigoma and other regions that are hosting refugees.

"We have received ten vehicles which include three Toyota Land Cruisers Station Wagon and seven Toyota Land cruiser Pick Ups.

This is a very huge support to us and we appreciate UNHCR for this," he said.

IGP Sirro further urged refugees living in the country to ensure that they stay and adhered to the country's laws so as to avoid unnecessary challenges.

He also said that the government of Tanzania will continue to keep its door open to genuine and credible asylum seekers and refugees in need of international protection and asylum where he commended UNHCR and the international community for its continued support.

"We love refugees and we will continue living with them peacefully, but they have also to ensure that they follow our rules.

PS irritated by firm producing, selling fertilisers not approved

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusasya has registered his displeasure by the step taken by Isacha Feeders Inter-trade, the Moshi based liquid fertiliser factory for producing fertilisers whose quality has not been verified by farmers.

During his inspection visits at fertiliser factories in the country, the PS witnessed the "Booster II" fertiliser in the factory's warehouse and discovered that it has not been registered by the country's quality standards authorities including Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

"I am not at all pleased by the activities of this factory after seeing the unregistered fertiliser it produces and without barcodes, the situation that threatens farmers' crops.

Reports show that the factory started production in 2016 making fertilisers that are sold in various outlets without obtaining registration from TBS.

In the circumstances, Kusasya summoned to his office in Dodoma the proprietors of the factory on September 3 this year to explain why the government should not take steps against the factory including its closure.

"You are producing fertiliser and sell it to my farmers, what if the crops get destroyed from this unverified fertiliser, who will compensate the farmers?" he asked, and ordered them, among others, to submit production reports stating the quantity of the fertiliser it produced since its established and where they sold it.

He further said they should also submit their BRELA and TBS certificates.

He also told them to explain why the factory does not have an identification sign board and why its existence and whereabouts was not known by Kilimanjaro regional authorities.

Fourthly he ordered them to submit their tax returns since the factory's establishment in 2016.

The factory's supervisor Rajab Issa Jama said the factory was producing 17,000 litres of liquid Booster II foliar fertiliser for use in all crops per year and that one litre sells at 2,000/.



Higher Education Students' Loans Board executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru (R) has an audience at the board's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday with National Health Insurance Fund marketing and customer services manager Hipolite Lello (L) and customer services director Christopher Mapunda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Go for horticultural farming to transform your lives, TPSF counsels youths

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilolo

TANZANIA Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairperson Angelina Ngalula yesterday appealed to Tanzanian youth to rise to opportunities presented by the horticultural sub-sector of the economy in order to transform their lives and create jobs for idle hands.

Ngalula made the appeal when he visited the horticultural farms of smallholder farmers in Mazombe village, Kilolo District, Iringa Region, and praised the young small farmers for employing themselves by growing fruits, roots and vegetables.

"The horticultural industry has many opportunities that will create direct jobs

for young people, especially women. The foreign market for our fruits and vegetables is huge, especially in Europe. All that is needed is to produce a lot of crops and send big regular shipments to those markets and earn foreign currency," she explained, urging young people to value horticultural production and transform their lives.

The biggest challenge, she said, was to transform the mindset of our farmers so that they shifted from traditional to market-oriented farming. "Young people must go farming. They will employ themselves and get disposable income," she argued.

Thrilled by what she saw at Mazombe, the chairman promised to send experts

from the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) so that the enterprising young farmers could observe husbandry and harvest quality crops for export markets. TAHA has presence in Iringa Region and also in Mwanza, Arusha, Manyara, Dodoma, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Njombe, Coast, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Lindi Regions and in Zanzibar Regions.

TPSF, she said, would continue with positive dialogue with the government to ensure policy and regulatory frameworks supported by the horticultural industry.

She appealed to young women to form productive groups to be eligible for loans and other services.

The chairman of Mazombe Horticultural

Farmers Group, Hassan Ally, said the group needed TPSF help to get loans to increase production.

"We know the market is there and we have land. But we lack capital to produce in a big way. We shall be grateful if the TPSF shall link us to financial institutions and get the loans we need," he told the chairman.

One of the young farmers, Alex Msumile, supported Ngalula's argument saying farming created paying jobs for determined youths but also said they were lacking markets for their products. "We do not have good prices and markets for all our crops. But farming is a paying occupation," he said.

Mpina crusades for local industries, smallholders to be given bank loans

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister, Luhaga Mpina has made a passionate appeal to local banks to lend local industries and smallholders in strategic economic sectors, saying if the two were supported fully Tanzania would take-off well as an industrial country.

He made the appeal during a recent visit to Meat King Distributors Company and praised the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) for giving the company a 450m/- soft loan. The loan, he said, enabled the company to buy livestock and fishery products from smallholders in Arusha and neighbouring regions.

The minister was accompanied by TADB Acting Loans Director, Jeremiah Mhanda on his tour of the factory.

"The presence of this factory has

great economic significance to our nation because it adds value to agricultural, livestock and fisheries products making many Tanzanians earn a living with ease. I am appealing to our banks to follow the example of the TADB and give smallholders and local industries soft loans that will enable them to grow," he appealed.

He said local industries depended hugely on smallholders for raw materials and because of that inter-dependence, he argued, it was only logical for the banks to support the two parties to enable Tanzania to build a strong industrial base.

Mpina said his ministry would use its own experts and stakeholders to transform the livestock sector so that herders would sell to local industries quality products and earn more from their labour.

Mhanda said the loan the TADB gave to the company had benefited 854 smallholder farmers because

the factory guaranteed them a permanent ready market for their produce.

"TADB is determined to participate in effecting production reforms in the livestock, fisheries and agricultural sectors that seek to raise production especially now when the government is pushing for establishment of a very strong industrial base," he said adding that TADB was supporting the company because it guaranteed smallholders in Arusha and neighbouring regions a ready and permanent market for their produce.

There was evidence, he said, the bank's loan to the factory would further create direct jobs for more Tanzanian youths and guarantee smallholders a good market for their produce.

Meat King Distributors sells to urban centres, especially cities, 100 different agricultural, meat and fisheries products.



Benson Kigaila, Deputy Secretary General of the opposition Chadema, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday mainly on what he said was unfair treatment of the party's 'candidates' for the October General Election by some returning officers. Photo: Correspondent Jumane Juma

PWDs in Manyara Region plead for voter education

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

PEOPLE with disabilities (PWDs) in Manyara Region have appealed to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to provide them with voter education for the coming General Elections including allocating special polling areas friendly for them.

The appeal was given here mid this week by the PWDs Secretary for Manyara region Mushi Dandi when speaking to this paper.

Dandi said they would like to be educated early due to their disabilities so as to have time to coach each other before they exercise their voting right. "There are several categories of people with disabilities, some of us need to be coached on the use of braille," he said.

He also appealed to the government through NEC to put up a friendly environment to enable them cast their votes without difficulties.

Dandi said they need special areas as some of them can only crawl, and some blind and many voting centres have steps to mount, hence NEC should put that into consideration.

This paper also wanted to know how the PWDs are grabbing opportunities for elective seats to which Dandi said two of their kind contested for parliamentary seats and three for councilorship.

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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AT GEITA GOLD MINE, TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited -GGM ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti Ltd ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of Geita region, about 120km from Mwanza and 4km west of the town of Geita.

The Company is in the process of assessing future security requirements for its operations and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of security services.

Scope of work:
GGME0959-Provision of Security Services: -

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRELIMINARY CRITERIA		
1	PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY)	20%
	a) Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	2.2%
	b) Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	2.2%
	c) Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	2.2%
	d) Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	2.2%
	e) Company Profile	2.2%
	f) List of Directors	2.2%
	g) Company Shareholding Structure	2.2%
	h) Compliance in Mining Act- Local Content	2.2%
	i) OSHA Compliance and Environment Registration Certificate	2.2%
2	PRE-QUALIFICATION DATA	10%
	a) Name of the Company/firm/supplier	2.5%
	b) E-mail address	2.5%
	c) Postal address	2.5%
	d) Mobile No./telephone	2.5%
3	CVs OF THE KEY PERSONNEL (must be filled accordingly)	10%
4	FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	20%
	a) Audited & certified financial statements(2018-2019)	6.7%
	b) At least 2 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding suppliers credit position	6.7%
	c) Credit period (not less than 30 days)	6.7%
5	PAST EXPERIENCE	20%
	a) At least 3 Names of the applicants clients in the past two years and value of the contracts entered into and completed satisfactorily and the duration of the contract (must be listed)	5%
	b) Signed contracts/LPOs (prove of above)	5%
	c) Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (prove of a. above)	5%
	d) Attach at least 3 recommendation letters each from different clients	5%
6	TECHNICAL CRITERIA	20%
	a) license by the relevant authorities	5%
	b) written recruitment policy	5%
	c) Professional corporate image e.g. uniforms for personnel,	5%
	d) Policy on reasonable working hours and shifts	5%
	TOTAL MARKKS	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide supply and delivery of various Goods and Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 04 September 2020 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) No. RFI-621-20-HO-C3HP HIV/TB

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Tanzania is seeking information/comments/input from capable and interested organizations in its design of a Health activity titled "Comprehensive Client-Centered Health Program - HIV and Tuberculosis (C3HP HIV/TB)".

The purpose of this activity is to increase the demand for and use of quality integrated HIV/TB services, particularly by youth and women, leading to improved health outcomes. Two five-year awards are anticipated under a Contract mechanism. While one award will be unrestricted to any interested organization, the other will be restricted to Tanzania local organizations.

The full Request for Information (RFI), draft Performance Work Statement (PWS) and response requirements are available at the U.S. Government official website at <https://beta.sam.gov/>. Organizations that are unable to retrieve the RFI from the website can request an electronic copy (as attachment via e-mail) by contacting USAID at usaidtco@usaid.gov.

Please send your responses to usaidtco@usaid.gov no later than September 18, 2020, at 17:00 EAT; and insert "RFI-621-20-HO-C3HP HIV/TB" in the Subject Line of your email. Responders will not receive individualized feedback. Specific questions about the RFI should be directed only to the email address indicated above.

Issuance of this RFI does not constitute a solicitation.

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Take stern measures against unregistered valuers, Ardhi University VC advises VRB

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ARDHI University Vice Chancellor Prof Evaristo Liwa has tasked the Valuers Registration Board (VRB) to take stern measures against unregistered valuers to promote best practices in the country.

Prof Liwa was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the 1st VRB Annual General Meeting that was held in Dar es Salaam that the valuers must work according to laws, regulation and professionalism.

Themed "Valuation Methods and Ethical disputes in Valuation Practices", the meeting brought on public and private companies' valuers from across the country.

He said the move will help to reduce corruption, frauds and all that distort bad image to the profession and adding that it also causes loss of revenues.

"It is a time for all valuers to be registered by the board and the board to take its role of regulating them to promote professionalism as it is for other boards," he suggested.

The don also urged the board to come up with valuation standards that can enable the majority to enjoy the services offered by the valuers in the country noting that currently, there were variances in the cost.

According to him, there have been a number of adverts in public gathering persuading people to hire them as valuers that sometimes might even be

unregistered private firms.

For his part the VRB chairman Cletus Njovu said that since it was established two year ago, the board had recorded a number of successes including registering 761 valuers adding that it was still registering more.

He said the board was also finalising the guidelines to come up with a best practice document to control discipline and all those working unprofessionally.

Furthermore the board was also finalising regulation that can govern the examination of the valuers and standard fees that can be used by all valuers across the country to avoid cost variances.

"It is our hope that when it is over, we can have one board that supervises the papers of valuers on one hand while on the other hand we can have similar valuation charges across the country," he said.

Njovu warned all those working unregistered to ensure that they are registered adding that the board will take stern measures including to take the accused before the court.

The chief government valuer Evelyn Mgasha called on the valuers in the country to perform their duties professionally and observe ethics to avoid quarrels and unnecessary nuisances to the customers.

She said valuers all the time were supposed to work according to professionalism and observe ethics all the time to offer standards jobs.



Completion of work on Dar es Salaam's Ubungu interchange well in sight, with contractors putting what they call finishing touches to the ultramodern facility - as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Go for medical checkup to curb cervical cancer, specialist urges women and girls

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE rise in the number of cervical cancer cases in the country has been fuelled with delays in diagnosing the disease, a senior oncologist has said.

Dr Mary Ngowi, an oncologist from the Dodoma-based Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) revealed this yesterday when

speaking with the reporter here.

She said that many women and girls go to hospital when things are out of hands, noting: "Most people seem to be unaware of the disease despite the fact that cervical cancer is treatable."

The medical specialist called on the public to come out and do regular medical checkup to address the disease, which affect women aged between 15 and 44

years.

She also cited early sexual initiation and excessive uses of tobacco as among major factors fueling the increase of cervical cancer cases among women and girls in Tanzania.

Commenting on what BMH is doing to address the challenge, Dr Ngowi said: "Through our Oncology Department, we provide free cervical cancer screening services

among women and girls, but unfortunately responses among the targeted groups is very discouraging and this is caused by low level of awareness."

She suggested the need for more awareness campaign to educate and sensitize women and girls on the disease.

Cervical Cancer happens when cells change in a woman's cervix, which connects her uterus with

her vagina. This cancer can affect the deeper tissues of her cervix and may spread to other parts of her body (metastasize), often the lungs, liver, bladder, vagina as well as rectum. Most cases of cervical cancer are caused by infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), which is preventable with a vaccine.

Reports show that Tanzania has a population of 14.88 million

women aged 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 9772 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 6695 die from the disease.

The disease is the fourth most common cancer in women globally, with over 500,000 new cases and an estimated 250,000 deaths each year. The burden of cervical

cancer is disproportionately high in developing countries, which account for 85 percent of cases worldwide and nearly 90 percent of cervical cancer deaths.

About 3.3 percent of women in the general population are estimated to harbor cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 68.0 percent of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Revenue authority seeks ways to offer improved services

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) has vowed to develop and come up with a more transparent and a realistic tax system that is not a burden to customers.

TRA Commissioner General Dr Edwin Mhede said this on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam at the familiarisation meeting with large taxpayers to discuss recent tax reforms started February this year.

"As TRA we need to change our attitude. It is the intention of TRA to develop tax systems that doesn't burden our customers," he said.

He said having an effective and developed tax system was one of the TRA priorities to reduce frustration among investors in the country.

The commissioner general (pictured) added that a transparent and realistic tax system will increase fairness among the customers where at last there will be no tax evaders and no wastage of time to customers.

"Voluntary tax compliance among the stakeholders must be of highest decree," he said.

On August 08 this year, TRA launched a special electronic tax return system aimed at reducing or totally eliminating clients' trips to TRA offices when it comes to matters of settling their tax returns and other forms of communication regarding revenue service.

The new digital e-filing system introduced by (TRA) in Arusha, returns can now be filed 24-hours a day, seven-days a week and anywhere on the globe.

"The advantage of an e-filing system is that people will no longer have to wait until the ordinary working days, or working hours, but can file their returns even over the weekends and during the night," he said.

Speaking at the launching of the system, the TRA Commissioner General Dr Edwin Mhede said the 'e-filing' structure will cater for 'Pay as You Earn' taxes, income tax for individuals, corporation taxes, withholding taxes, VAT, as well as skills and development levies.

According to Dr Mhede, people and corporate firms involved in extractive industries, including minerals, gas and petroleum, are not yet covered under the e-filing system and will continue to settle their returns manually and physically at the TRA offices in their respective regions.

"Those in extractive industries will have to wait for some time until their own special structure for the e-filing system has been finalised for them; the TRA is working on the arrangements," he said.



GRADER IN TROUBLE: A grader deployed to help in rehabilitating Dar es Salaam's Shekilango Road unable to do the work it was supposed to do, having tumbled into sewage trench. Correspondent Miraji Msala captured the scene yesterday.

Improved roads have eased tobacco production costs - farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

TOBACCO farmers in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have linked reduced crop's production costs to improvement of road infrastructures in the district due to reduction of transport costs for agricultural inputs.

Speaking to The Guardian at different times, tobacco farmers from Mtande and

Matwiga areas said earlier when the roads were in bad condition there were delays in getting the inputs and when they arrived they had to buy at higher prices.

Josephat Hamza, a tobacco farmer and member of Mtande Tobacco Farmers Cooperative Society said the Mbeya-Makongosi road has now been improved.

He said in the past they used to get the fer-

tiliser in Mbeya but now the same is sent to them through their cooperative societies and at lower cost.

"We used to buy a bag of fertiliser at 80,000/- but now the price is only 48,000/- as we buy it in wholesale prices," Hamza said, and thanked Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTC) for sponsoring them with loans for purchasing fertiliser and other farm-

ing inputs. Hamis Juma, a resident farmer in Lualaje Ward said this year they did not benefit much from the crop due to too much rains, making the fertiliser ineffective, adding that even on sunny days, the sunshine was not sufficient to dry the crop.

He appealed to the government for assistance in finding new buyers for their tobacco crop.



Shinyanga Regional Traffic Officer Africanus Sulle addresses Kahama District motorbike owners and riders yesterday on the need to abide by road safety regulations. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

Plant breeder calls for more investment in production of improved sorghum seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

SENIOR plant breeder at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Hombolo) Dr Lameck Nyaligwa has suggested the need for the government and other players to increase investment in researches and production of improved sorghum seeds, which assures farmers high yields.

The move, he said cut importation of improved seeds hence boost sorghum production, maintaining that most parts of Tanzania are endowed with good climatic condition that support sorghum cultivation, but the challenge is the availability of certified and well researched seeds.

"Sorghum stands among key crops that play a vital role in stimulating economic growth within the country as well as enabling most farmers to escape from the shackles of poverty," Dr Nyaligwa said in an interview here recently.

In an effort to address shortage of improved seed varieties, the breeder said TARI-Hombolo has embarked on a special project, one that has so produced at least more than 10 tonnes of improved sorghum seeds variety namely Masia variety.

The pilot project, according to him, incorporated cultivation of at least 20 acres of the mentioned improved seeds.

"The initiatives go in tandem with a special strategy to motivate for wider uses of sorghum in the country, as well as training the farmers over best agronomic practices."

Dr Nyaligwa said that the country was experiencing an uptick in demand for sorghum seeds, especially in Lindi, Mtwara, Songwe, Tabora and central zone regions, with potential outside markets based in Burundi, South Sudan and Zambia.

"As long as our mandate is to invent, produce and distribute seeds to relevant stakeholders, we have opted to start majoring in mass production of the improved sorghum seeds to ensure for enough accessibility with a major focus to enable mass cultivation of the key socioeconomic crop," he said.



Sorghum stands among key crops that play a vital role in stimulating economic growth within the country as well as enabling most farmers to escape from the shackles of

Provide accurate data for agricultural, livestock census, RAS tells local leaders

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Richard Kwitega has instructed ward and village executives to ensure correct statistics are obtained

from agricultural, livestock and fisheries censuses in the region to enable better development planning.

Kwitega issued the appeal mid this week when launching the exercise for the mobilisation of the censuses at Ngaramtoni town

in Arusha District.

He called on Arusha residents to provide correct information to census enumerators during the exercise.

Speaking to Ngaramtoni resident, he said correct statistics will enable the

government to come up with better and sustainable development planning for the people's benefit.

He said the censuses will enable the government obtain statistics for economic production in farming, livestock and fisheries sectors, which were important for industrial development.

He also said it was imperative for government officials at various levels to mobilise the people to work together with experts from the National Bureau of statistics (NBS) who were conducting the censuses.

He also cautioned the officials to differentiate the exercise with the

election campaigns that have begun in various areas in the country.

Speaking at the event in Arusha Region's NBS manager Leokadia Mtei said census exercise began on August 5 and will on October 20 this year.

She said in Arusha Region the exercise will be conducted in 1,506

households including 83 big farms in the region's all seven districts - Meru, Arusha, Longido, Karatu, Monduli and Ngorongoro.

She said the last agricultural, livestock and fisheries census was done in 2007/08, and added that this year the census will involve the use of modern technology.

GBV cases go up in Zanzibar in July

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

GENDER-based violence incidents in Zanzibar rose to 114 in July compared to June's 102 incidents something which calls for more collected efforts to fight the vice.

Ramla Hassan Pandu, a statistician at the office of the Chief Government Statistician said this here when presenting a report at the forum held in Mazizini, Unguja.

He named West B- district as an area where most cases of child abuse were reported having 24 cases, followed by West 'A' district with 20 incidents and the Mjini District (19 incidents).

"Children are the victims of violence acts with the report saying that 95 children (83.3 percent) and 29 women (16.7 percent) faced the challenge. Children between the age of 15 and 17 are the one who are mostly at risk of these incidents, so more efforts should be made to address the matter," he said.

He said that in the incidents, 56 women were raped, 14 children were defiled as well as other four cases of sodomy.

He noted that violence acts were not only confined to women but children as well thus needing intensive efforts to fight it as it had adverse impacts to the community and the country as a whole.

"Most of the violence cases occurred at home, so this translates that the children are being abused by people who know them or their family relatives. 94 percent of the incidents happened at home," he added.

Pandu further said that all the incidents are under police investigation with others having taken required legal measures.

For his part, head of crime statistics department of the Police Force in Zanzibar Mwinyi Bakari said that they have been taking several measures to fight the challenge.

"This is a joint work, we should work together to ensure that we fight the vice so as to enable our children and women to live happily in a peaceful nation. We will continue working collaboratively with other organisations to fight violence in the country," he said.



Zanzibar clerics pictured yesterday following proceedings at a sensitisation seminar on the importance of preaching and promoting peace during the countdown to the upcoming (late October) General Election and thereafter. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Most of the violence cases occurred at home, so this translates that the children are being abused by people who know them or their family relatives. 94 percent of the incidents happened at home

East African SMEs accelerate growth with cloud deployments

By Special Correspondent

SMALL and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the East African region are using digital transformation initiatives to increase their competitiveness and ensure they are set for growth despite challenging trading conditions.

According to Pedro Guerreiro, Managing Director, central Afri-

ca at SAP, investments into new technologies will greatly assist SMEs in the region as they adapt to a very different operating environment.

"As one of the most important drivers for job creation and economic growth, the SME sector is vital to the region's economic recovery. Technology will continue to play a determining role in how well the sector recovers

from this year's events, while also digitally-tooling organisations to out-perform their competitors in this new economy and enabling them to execute the business, operate, and thrive in the market."

In 2017, SMEs accounted for 98% of all businesses in Kenya and created 30% of all jobs annually. According to the International Trade Centre, SMEs

contributed 34% of Kenya's GDP in 2016. However, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic should not be underestimated: a recent Deloitte study found a 50% reduction in household and business spending, with direct consequences for the country's SME sector.

"SMEs will need to reduce inefficiencies and improve decision-making to ensure they

continue to survive - and thrive - despite our current challenges," says Guerreiro. "In an encouraging sign, a growing number of East African SMEs are leveraging technology to improve business decision-making and drive greater efficiency across their operations." Guerreiro says gaining granular insight into the financial and overall performance of the business is essen-

tial to the growth and survival of SMEs. "Business leaders can no longer make educated guesses about the performance of the business. You need certainty over the total performance of the business at all times, not weeks or months after the fact." Guerreiro believes there is great potential for further investment into new technologies that could help SMEs unlock

new market opportunities.

"Ultimately SMEs should strive to become Intelligent Enterprises that apply advanced technologies within integrated, agile business processes to turn insight into action. As the sector expands its capabilities, SMEs will be better placed to sense opportunities, risks and trends, and take advantage of market opportunities."

The Guardian

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FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Africa becoming free of wild poliovirus great achievement

CELEBRATION was expected at the start of the week in many parts of the world, even in these grim days of the coronavirus pandemic raging in many countries across all continents.

Reports from Geneva, the European headquarters of various United Nations agencies, said the Africa Regional Certification Commission has confirmed the Africa Region of the World Health Organisation (WHO) as free of wild poliovirus after four years without a case.

Being free of the paralysing viral infection is, by all accounts, great news. Still, the world isn't totally free of polio as there is at least one region still facing the problem, after five of the six WHO regions with a combined population of more than 90 per cent of humanity are now free of the wild poliovirus.

While this takes the world closer to achieving global polio eradication, there is still fear of upsets, especially as pockets of resistance to immunisation still exist.

Reports say that only two countries worldwide continue to see wild poliovirus transmission: namely, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The reason obviously is that both are war-torn entities without a civic infrastructure to administer a credible anti-polio campaign as such programmes were in the past used as spying instruments.

There was a vital partner in Africa's ability to reach this goal, as well as in the WHO's efforts to assist countries in organisational and technical capacity to attain this objective.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was at the forefront and will continue to maintain vigilance, as viruses never go away totally. Rather, they can incubate for a while if the transmission environment is negative - with vaccination, but can't be totally counted out. This is especially the case where hotspots of retransmission are still present.

WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, himself from the African continent, was understandably elated

at the news. He must have undoubtedly been following up the issue assiduously in his UN and national capacity as a health sector international civil servant.

The DG issued outstretched congratulations to the governments of the 47 countries in the WHO African Region on the certification against occurrences of wild poliovirus, saying that the landmark achievement served to bring nearer the WHO's goal of eradicating the disease globally.

Happy as African peoples and governments are entitled to be upon learning about this milestone, we should not forget that there were intense trials hindering the continent's capacity to arrive there much earlier.

At the time of independence in what was then known as Tanganyika, Father of the Nation Mwalimu JK Nyerere cited three enemies threatening our country and nation - poverty, ignorance and diseases.

Easily the most important feature about diseases included the pandemic type of maladies, among them polio and measles as well as less cataclysmic ones like yellow fever, malaria, tuberculosis and in the course of time, HIV & AIDS.

That is, before thinking of environmentally preventable epidemics like cholera - and well before the unmanageable curses like Ebola and novel coronavirus that were to emerge much later.

What happened is that the capacity to arrive at the relative taming of disease and the ability to treat most serious ailments within the country's hospital system came rather slowly, much slower than the national independence movement would have imagined.

We started with an emphasis on work, tying it with the simple fact of being independent - that it was now our obligation to work with enhanced zeal so as to defeat those enemies faster, and we have taken close to 60 years to get certification against polio. It has been a tough climb, a hard road to travel - and some self-congratulation would be understandable.

Shareholding by Dutch in NMB Bank far from speculative - it's partnership

UPPER levels of financial sector administration in our country are sighing with relief after a spirited debunking of reports that Dutch financial behemoth Rabobank plans to sell its shares in the National Microfinance Bank (NMB) Plc and quit the field, as it were.

It appears that the reports weren't exaggerated as such but simply faulty, as there is a targeted transfer of strategic placing of the shares from the conglomerate itself to a venture company it holds, which is easy to comprehend.

Tanzania is still an emerging market, even at the lower end of emerging markets, so the shares are close to venture capital. Looking at the matter from a strategic point of view, chances that the Dutch financial group would not be interested in a stake at NMB after a 16.8bn/- annual dividend aren't quite high, as such payment shows that the group is ploughing back its capital in the bank.

There would thus be little reason for the Dutch bank to quit the field for lack of profitability, as if no dividend has been paid in the first place. It only shows that the payment of dividends, whether it arose out of substantial profit margins or it also has to go with the governance mood as a whole, assures stakeholders of significant returns on capital for the medium term.

In that context, it is evident that Rabobank will remain a strategic investor at NMB as it is not plausible for it to sell its 34 per cent stake at the local bank, as a key official at the Dutch Embassy explained.

Transferring its shares to Arise Incorporated is understandable in that, in a statutory context, the new shareholder or controller of that stock has the same objectives as the original in-

vestor.

Arise is a brand name with all sorts of firms and conglomerates attached to it being used in global financial circles to relate to venture capital intended for uplifting countries or targeted population segments out of poverty.

The new holder of the NMB stock is a creation of Norfund, a private equity company established in 1997 and owned by the Norwegian Foreign Affairs ministry.

An online write-up says the fund receives its investment capital from the state budget, with its head offices located in Oslo and local offices in places as diverse as Thailand, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mozambique and Ghana.

That means that a similar office shall now be opened in Tanzania, in view of such holding, which is easier for a venture capital fund than a big bank.

It is now four years since Arise was formed - on August 6, 2016 - by Norfund, the Netherlands Finance Development Finance Company (FMO) and Rabobank. Arise's own statutory objectives affirm that it will be taking and managing minority stakes in African financial organisations, where NMB is an especially credible partner given its strong state backing and the yielding of dividends.

Market speculation about share sales would have greater significance in a fully private sector kind of location. But any withdrawal from NMB by Rabobank would require a nod from the Dutch Foreign Affairs ministry, where what counts most is not financial speculation but sustainable development links.

In that case, it can be surmised that the payment of a significant dividend is at once salutary and definitely not the only condition for this relationship to be sustained, as what population segments NMB serves also counts.

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Youth rural-urban migration hurts Malawi's agriculture

By Charles Mpaka

AS households in Chiradzulu District in Southern Malawi start preparing their farms for the next maize growing season, Frederick Yohane (24) is a busy young man.

Every morning, he works with his two brothers in their family field where they grow maize and pigeon peas. In the afternoon, he tills other people's farms to raise money for his needs and to support his family.

Twice a week he cycles to nearby markets to sell the chickens he buys from surrounding villages. This has been his life since he was 16 when his father suffered a stroke, which paralysed his left leg and arm.

Yohane finished secondary school in 2014, two years after his father fell ill. But he did not pass the final examinations.

Without a school-leaving certificate, he followed the route of many youths in this rural district who trek to Blantyre, Malawi's commercial capital, to look for menial jobs, mainly as assistants in Asian shops or as street vendors.

"Through a friend, I found work in a hardware shop owned by an Indian. But the money was not good compared with what I was getting in the village. So, I just worked for two months and I returned to the village," he said.

Yohane is not planning to return to town again to look for a job. He believes he can make more money in the village if he works harder.

"Besides, I am the eldest child. My father can no longer work. My mother spends much of her time looking after our father. It's the three of us working in the field," he says.

Yohane's family is one of the millions in Malawi which rely on family labour for their farms. The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) says in its Small Family Farms Country Factsheet for Malawi that farmers account for 80 per cent of the total population of 17.5 million in Malawi.

Out of that population of farmers, around 75 per cent are small family farms that depend on family labour. However, like the rest of Africa, Malawi suffers a high rate of rural-urban migration, mostly by youths seeking a better life in towns.

When youths, who make up the majority of Malawi's population, migrate to urban centres,



the productivity of family labour farms declines, according to findings of a study commissioned by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Malawi in 2018 under its Enhancing Capacity to Apply Research Evidence (CARE) in Policy for Youth Engagement in Agribusiness and Rural Economic Activities in Africa.

Under the CARE programme, IITA is working with young researchers across Africa to promote understanding of the impact of poverty reduction and employment and factors that influence youth engagement in agribusiness and rural farm and non-farm economy.

This is according to Timilehin Osunde, communications officer for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-CARE Project at the IITA in Nigeria.

In the Malawi CARE study, researcher Emmanuel Tolani interviewed households in two districts of Zomba and Lilongwe. Both districts are known for their high production of maize, Malawi's staple crop.

The CARE study focused on households where youth had migrated to urban centres in comparison with those where youths had not moved.

In a resulting Policy Brief entitled "Youth on the Move: Welfare effects on originating households", the researchers found that households, which have youths migrating to urban centres, were each producing 13 fifty-kilogramme bags fewer than they could harvest if the youths did not move out.

"This can be attributed to the fact that migration of youth household members was leading to loss of labour for agricultural production which was not com-

pensated by hired labour using the remittances received," reads the brief.

In the brief, Tolani recommends the introduction of income-generating activities among rural households to reduce the need for households to look for other means of diversifying their incomes, such as encouraging the migration of youths.

IITA's Osunde adds that the lack of an environment suitable for agribusiness, the search for educational opportunities and access to services and resources are among the factors for the trend of rural youths leaving their homes for urban centres in Africa.

Over the years, Malawi has designed and implemented programmes aimed at improving social and economic conditions of rural areas, which could reduce rural-urban migration in the country.

However, rural-urban migration has not abated. Malawi's National Planning Commission attributes this to what it says are "policy implementation inconsistencies across political regimes".

This argument has featured highly in development discourse in Malawi such that it motivated the establishment of the National Planning Commission. Established through an Act of Parliament in 2017, the commission's mandate is to ensure continuity of development policies across political administrations.

On the other hand, Osunde observes that a lot of rural development programmes in Africa have failed because they are designed by policy makers without the input of the rural youth.

"These are often implemented with an up-bottom approach instead of using a bottom-up ap-

proach," Osunde says.

To support African governments in stemming the tide of youth rural-urban migration, IITA is implementing a number of agriculture-specific programmes, besides CARE.

For instance, the Start Them Early Programme (STEP) aims at changing the mindset of young people in primary and secondary schools by providing them with basic understanding in agriculture to direct them toward agriculture-related careers, says Osunde.

IITA is also implementing Enable Youth project. This provides opportunities for underemployed young people, motivating them to establish agricultural enterprises and improve their agribusiness skills.

"The programme helps to create a conducive business environment by advancing youth-led policies and provides a communication network that delivers much-needed agricultural information to other youths involved in agribusiness," Osunde explains.

In addition, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs is meant to change perceptions of youths in Africa about agriculture and see that agriculture can be exciting and economically rewarding.

"With agriculture in Africa largely suffering from negative perceptions amongst youths due to the drudgery involved, insufficient financial gains and a dearth in basic infrastructure, the youth programme being implemented by IITA is aimed at changing the perception among youths in Africa while creating resources that can enable them start out as agripreneurs on the continent. These are agriculture-specific programmes that Malawi can adopt to attract youths into agribusiness," Osunde says.

The Director General for the National Planning Commission, Dr Thomas Munthali, says they are currently mapping the country into potential investment zones with bankable investment projects which, among others, could lead to the reduction of youth migration.

"The idea is to create secondary cities in such zones based on their arable land, mining and tourism potential. These will be created into industrial hubs offering sustainable decent jobs and socio-economic amenities just like in cities," says Munthali.

As rural youths in Malawi wait for such programmes, Yohane has already decided to stay in the village. And he is dreaming big.

"We harvest enough maize for our food. But we need to make money. So we are planning to rent another piece of land this year where we can grow more maize for sale," he says, adding: "We won't need hired labour. In future, we want to see if we can buy more land on which we can do serious commercial farming."

People with disabilities still nursing psychological wounds of Covid-19

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

As Tanzanians recover from the shock and fear brought about by Covid-19 pandemic, people with disabilities (PwDs) suffered the most due to the nature of transmission of the disease and challenges in adhering to recommended preventive measures.

By the time the novel coronavirus reached Tanzania in mid-March this year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had recommended observance of social distancing, regular washing of hands with soap and wearing of face masks as ways to avoid contracting the coronavirus.

The three measures proved to be an uphill task to PLWDs because most of them such as the visually impaired and those using wheelchairs for mobility, need constant presence of other able-bodied people around them. It goes without saying that face masks, hand sanitizers, water and soaps cost money whereas the majority of PwDs are economically deprived.

Again, the dreaded superstitious beliefs about people with albinism emerged during the pandemic, forcing their advocacy organisation to send scores to safety shelters.

"I will not forget the pain I went through during the Coronavirus pandemic as I wasn't able to practice hand hygiene due to my physical disability. I ended up using sanitizers which is less effective than hand washing," said Fredrick Msigallah, programme manager for advocacy and disability inclusion at CCBRT, in an interview this week in Dar es Salaam.

"I experienced tough times trying to maintain social distancing with the person who helps me by pushing my wheelchair. It was practically impossible. As an alternative, I ended up spending a lot of money on buying hand sanitizers, recommended face masks and regular trips to health facilities to have my body temperature checked, just in case."

Added the manager: "The pandemic has not only cost me economically, it made me suffer a long psychological and emotional trauma as I battled the thought that I could easily catch the virus due to my condition and probably die."

Msigallah added that because of the pandemic, he had to change his work schedule from office to home, which also added more cost to access internet, home workstation and stationeries.

Access to information to certain groups of PwDs was also limited. There was no friendly environment and channels to help the disabled get information in an accessible format like braille for the blind, he said.

According to him, PLWDs like deaf and blind people did not adequately access messages on precautions. For instance, the blind didn't access information on how to practise hand hygiene and social distancing while the deaf, on the other hand, could not communicate with members of their community as most of them had to wear face masks.

"Deaf people are more comfortable to communicate through facial expression and especially movement of lips. Wearing of masks made communication among them practically impossible," he said.

The hospitals which were believed to be safe places for PLWDs became less secure following reports in April concerning the incidences of stigma and mistreatment of patients by health workers, which created fear of contracting coronavirus within health facilities.

He charged that the government through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children mandated to provide awareness to the public with regard to precautions on infectious diseases such as Covid-19, didn't cover PwDs with essential messages on prevention.

How was the situation to People with Albinism during Covid-19?

A survey conducted by Under the Same Sun (UTSS), a charity that oversees the safety of people with Albinism in Tanzania, shows that during the pandemic, majority of people with Albinism (PwA) went through psychological and mental torture.



The survey found that some members of the community developed a belief that PwA could be the vector for spreading the virus to other people. The false belief was based on another false belief that because Covid-19 originated in the lands of people with white skin and mostly affected white people, PwA who look white, could be carriers spreading the disease.

"Such belief exacerbated fears to people with albinism, they felt less protected and segregated in their community," said Emmanuel Munisi, a public relations and advocacy manager for UTSS in an interview.

"Covid-19 affected our activities and plans we had in our institution. We planned to reach remote populations with awareness on how they can play part to ensure protection to people with albinism."

He said they had no option but to incur emergency costs to protect several students and other PwA in safe shelters across the country because they had little security in their communities.

PwA have for years been a target of superstitious people who kill them or simply chop their body parts for witchcraft use.

Munisi added that during the pandemic, a section of the public developed a negative belief that body parts of PwA could be used as a traditional cure for Covid-19. This made them live in an uncomfortable and insecure environment.

"It was a time of trauma for PwA given what the group went through in recent years namely killing and maiming," he said.

Munisi said that limited awareness of the corona virus to the public and PwA themselves contributed to the rise and spread of such false beliefs in the society.

"The initial 'stay at home' advice by the government caused people to generate the belief that PwA can be the solution to the pandemic," the manager said.

"PwA faced a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE); there were not enough supplies of the equipment, we just received support for the equipment from Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS)."

He said like other PLWDs, PwA were not comfortable to visit health facilities because of the reported cases of humiliation and mistreatment by health workers who were also apparently scared and afraid of catching the virus.

The manager said the society should understand that people with albinism are the same like other people and they don't have any relations with the spread of diseases.

What does the WHO guideline says about PwDs?

The guideline for disability consideration during the covid-19 developed by World Health Organisation (WHO) states that, people with disability may be at risk of con-

The government needs to ensure public health information and communication is accessible to all groups including people with disabilities, by including captioning and sign language for all live and recorded events and communications.

tracting Covid-19 because of barriers to implement basic hygiene measures, such as hand-washing (hand basins, sink or water pumps may be physically inaccessible, or a person may have physical difficulty rubbing their hands together thoroughly);

Difficulty in enacting social distancing because of additional support needs or because they are institutionalized.

They need to touch things to obtain information from the environment or for physical support.

Hence, the guideline calls for the governments to ensure public health information and communication is accessible, by including captioning and sign language for all live and recorded events and communications.

It further appeals to governments to convert public materials into 'Easy Read' format so that they are accessible for people with intellectual disability or cognitive impairment.

It also calls for development of accessible written information products by using appropriate documents formats such as 'Word' with structured headings, large print, braille versions and formats for people who are deaf and blind.

"The government should work with people with disability and their representative organisations to rapidly identify fiscal and administrative measures such as financial compensation for families and caregivers who need to take time off work to care for loved ones," reads the guideline.

What was the government reaction to PwDs during Covid-19?

Dr Meshack Chinyuli coordinator for public education from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said the ministry was busy working to provide awareness to PLWDs on the importance of practicing hand hygiene by using water.

"However, the main challenge we faced was how to help PwDs practice hand hygiene. For instance, people without legs had difficulty reaching hand washing stations that were mounted on public and private facilities," he said.

"Because of that, we advised them to use hand sanitizers as alternative means, though washing hands with running water and soap is more effective."

Dr Chinyuli said another challenge was how to deliver Covid-19 precautionary messages in easily accessible format to PwDs. According to him, although the government didn't cover all of them in their various groups.

"We decided to embark on alternative means such as using interpreters of sign language in the mainstream media to help people with hearing challenges to grasp Covid-19 messages," he said.

For print messages, he said the government converted the same into accessible format for visually impaired persons.

"We went further and provided special support, such as psychological counselling to elderly people in their camps in an effort to control psycho-social impact that could weaken their body immunity," Dr explained.

"In the course of our duty, we learnt that the society had developed some belief that elders are more susceptible to Covid-19 while youth relaxed, thinking that they are safe from the virus," he said.

"It was a terrifying moment as youth who were expected to use their strength, knowledge and experience to provide strong support to elders in the time of the pandemic, didn't do so. Instead, they turn to be the leading group to transmit the virus to others as they consider it less important to adhere to the precautions of Covid-19," he said.

He said the government invested a lot of time and resources in an effort to control and reduce social risks among members of the public which had surged and caused panic more than the pandemic itself.

However, he admitted that there were no special guidelines prepared to support special groups like disabled, which could allow prioritisation of awareness and strengthened precautions for Covid-19 to them.

He added that after the pandemic, the government is now working to provide assistance to people or groups of people who were traumatized during the pandemic.

The UN recommendations to governments towards PwDs.

According to the United Nations Flagship Report on Disability and Sustainability Development Goals, recommended that in order for the government to achieve the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, the following actions should be considered:

Strengthen national legislation and policies on health care.

Identify and eliminate obstacles and barriers to accessibility in health-care facilities.

Improve health-care coverage and affordability for persons with disabilities as part of universal approaches to health care.

Train health-care personnel on disability inclusion and improve service delivery for persons with disabilities.

Empower persons with disabilities to take control over their own health-care decisions, on the basis of informed consent.

Prohibit discriminatory practices in health insurance and promote health insurance coverage for assistive products and rehabilitation services.

Improve research and data to monitor, evaluate and strengthen health systems to include and deliver for persons with disabilities.

A paltry \$400 works to see new owner bring a small-town newspaper back from the dead

By John Reinan

PAM Bluhm started working at the Chatfield News 40 years ago, barely out of high school, thinking that it would be all right until something better came along.

Something better never did come along. And now Bluhm (60) owns and publishes the paper in this town of 2,800 residents some 20 miles southeast of Rochester.

That's a bigger deal than it sounds. Because Bluhm singlehandedly resurrected a newspaper that's older than the state of Minnesota - an organisation whose previous owner left it for dead, closing the News in March after 164 years and leaving Chatfield without a hometown paper.

Bluhm, the paper's office manager, was stunned when she found out that the News, which traces its history to 1856, would be closing. But it didn't take her long to figure out her next step.

"I didn't know what I was going to do after 40 years," she said, noting further: "And I thought, 'This ownership is what I gotta do.' And Chatfield needs a newspaper."

She added: "It was either this or go to work at the deli (meaning a store where ready-to-eat food products such as cooked meats and prepared salads are sold)."

Lonny Berge, who once sold advertising for the Chatfield News, picked up a box of pickles and caught up with Pam Bluhm, who went from being office manager to publisher.

The News is a throwback to a simpler time, when practically every small community across the nation had a locally owned newspaper. That's not always the case anymore.

In the last 15 years, more than one-fourth of the country's newspapers have disappeared, according to a report by the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina.

That has left millions of Americans - mostly in rural areas - living in "news deserts", lacking a news organisation to cover local happenings. That's an ominous development, according to Reed Anfinson, who owns three weekly papers in west central Minnesota and serves as president of the National Newspaper Association Foundation.

"If citizens don't have knowledge of things going on in their community, they don't have that unity that helps them accomplish tough goals together," Anfinson said. "They lose that sense of community. We bond a community together with shared information," he added.

Bluhm, a lifelong Chatfield resident, knows how to forge those bonds. She lives on the second floor of the News' building and is almost always around the office, showing up at 9 a.m. and sometimes not leaving until 3 a.m.

People drop by with news and gossip to share, encouraged by Bluhm's refrigerator, which is always stocked with cold pop. "The other night the chief of police came in at 1 a.m.," she said, adding: "He saw the lights on and he came in and had a Mountain Dew. That's my social life."

You'd think a newspaper owner might be wealthy, but that's not the case with Bluhm: "I'm a poor person," she said. Bluhm had \$400 in the bank when the paper closed, and her startup money was the \$1,200 Covid-19 stimulus cheque she got in the spring. That was enough to register a new corporation with the secretary

of state and buy the paper's computers and file cabinets. She scrounged the lobby chairs from a hair salon that had closed down. And she still has a part-time job, working ten hours a week cleaning a local medical building.

Area residents have pitched in to help. She has a small freelance budget but gets most of her content from community members who write for free.

"It's fun for them, and they want to see the newspaper make a go of it," she said. Bluhm does write one weekly feature: a recipe column called "What's Cookin' With Pam." Recent "What's Cookin'" columns have featured recipes for boiled spice cake and raspberry salad, liberally sprinkled with Bluhm's reminiscences of growing up on a dairy farm.

Volunteers make the weekly 60-mile run to pick up the papers in Calmar, Iowa, where they're printed.

Since Bluhm took over, the News' circulation is up by about 15 per cent - to 865 subscribers. A yearly subscription costs \$35 - or \$40 for out-of-towners.

As word of the paper's resurrection has spread, so has a desire to help Bluhm succeed. She reaches into her file cabinet and brings out a stack of cards and letters, dozens of them, from current and former residents of the Chatfield area. They're thanking her for keeping the paper going - and many are saying it with cash.

As she opened the letters, Bluhm recounted, she'd find a \$100 cheque in one. A \$400 cheque in the next. She opened one envelope and two \$50 bills fell out.

"I keep getting a lot of encouraging little notes," she said. The last issue of the old Chatfield News published in late March. The first edition under Bluhm's ownership came out on June 1. A typical issue might feature a story on a local farm family along with the latest news from the city and county governments. There's a regular weekly roundup of news from the Chosen Valley Care Centre, a bird column and "Cold Cases," a look at unsolved mysteries.

There are also obituaries and, unlike many publications, the News doesn't charge for them. "Nope. That's a community service," Bluhm said emphatically.

It's just one of many services this small-town publisher provides. On a recent visit, Chatfield resident Lonny Berge stopped by to pick up a case of homemade pickles that Bluhm had been holding for him. Berge used to sell advertising for the News, and he's one of many hoping to see the reborn paper succeed. "We need it in a small town," he said, adding with a laugh: "And you can get pickles." Dawn Cole owns the Hangman - a custom drape and blind store on Main Street. The News, she said, "is kind of a staple here in town, especially for us business owners. There are still a lot of people in Chatfield who like to have the paper in hand."

Bluhm will keep putting the paper in their hands for as long as she can.

"Service to humanity is the best work of life. That's my motto," she said.

A dispatch filed from Chatfield, Minnesota, published courtesy of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). John Reinan is a journalist with the Star Tribune.

Chronic fatigue syndrome may hold key to understanding post-Covid syndrome

By Markham Heid

ALMOST everyone is familiar with the short-term symptoms of an acute SARS-CoV-2 infection. These include a fever, cough, breathing problems, fatigue, diarrhoea and other flu-like symptoms.

While some doctors have raised alarms about the infection's potential to inflict lasting organ damage, the popular perception of Covid-19 is that a small percentage of patients die and the rest recover.

But as the pandemic has stretched on, experts have begun to recognise that many Covid-19 patients - maybe even a majority - continue to grapple with a range of "post-viral" symptoms.

Some of these patients eventually get all the way back to normal, even if it takes a few weeks or months for that to happen.

But some don't. And for those who have yet to fully recover, there's a growing suspicion that the virus may act as a catalyst for a condition that is commonly, if a bit misleadingly, known as chronic fatigue syndrome.

"Prolonged fatigue as well as brain fog and other persistent symptoms have been reported in a lot of Covid-19 patients," says John Swartzberg, MD, an infectious disease expert and emeritus professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

He says that these post-viral symptoms are typical of chronic fatigue syndrome, an illness that also goes by the name myalgic encephalomyelitis and is often abbreviated ME/CFS.

"We know that in patients who develop ME/CFS, it's often triggered by a bad viral infection," he says, adding: "And so there's the thought that SARS-CoV-2 could be a cause."

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) last month published a report from Italy that found that the bulk of former Covid-19 patients - those who had been hospitalised, discharged, and who no longer tested positive for the infection - continued to grapple with health issues months after their ostensible recovery.

Among the 143 people interviewed for the report, only 18 were symptom-free 60 days after their hospital discharge. More than half of the people interviewed said that they still experi-



enced three or more symptoms, among which fatigue was the most common issue cited. During a recent press conference, Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, talked about the potential long-term effects of Covid-19 - and specifically whether people who develop the illness are at risk for chronic ailments.

Fauci said that many Covid-19 patients report health issues that are "highly suggestive" of ME/CFS, elaborating: "If you look anecdotally, there is no question that there is a considerable number of individuals who have post-viral syndrome that... can incapacitate them for weeks and weeks following so-called recovery and clearing of the virus."

He mentioned brain fog, fatigue and problems with concentration as some of the symptoms most often mentioned among recovering Covid-19 patients. Poor sleep, muscle pain, and depressive symptoms are some others.

"This is something we really need to seriously look at. There very well might be... a post-viral syndrome associated with Covid-19," he said.

Doctors have long recognised that viral infections can act as catalysts for fatigue, gut issues and other health problems that persist long after the infection itself has gone.

A 1987 report in the Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners sketched the outlines of post-viral syndrome. "The syndrome typically follows an upper respiratory tract infection from which the sufferer fails to make a full recovery," the author of that report wrote.

The "cardinal symptom" is profound muscle fatigue, but poor memory, lack of concentration, and sleep disturbances are also common characteristics, the report states.

While doctors first identified and documented cases of ME/CFS more than 70 years ago, the disease was until recently considered "psychosomatic", which some experts use as a polite euphemism for "imagined".

Fortunately, that has changed. "I think it's now widely accepted that there is a condition that causes profound and chronic fatigue in patients, and it's not a psychosomatic disease," UC-Berkeley's Swartzberg says, adding: "It seems to be common, but we don't really know why it happens."

To this day, few medical schools include ME/CFS in their curriculum, and most doctors and medical professionals are not trained to identify and treat the disease.

"I would say that this is one of the most stigmatised illnesses," says Leonard Jason, PhD, a professor of clinical psychology and an ME/CFS researcher at DePaul University in Chicago, adding: "There are few experts in this field, and everything about it is controversial."

Part of the problem, Jason says, is that there is currently no simple blood or lab test for ME/CFS. People who have it are usually diagnosed based on self-reported symptoms, although some recent work at Stanford University has identified potential biomarkers of ME/CFS.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that up to 2.5 million Americans have ME/CFS, but that 90 per cent of those people have not been formally diagnosed.

One thing that experts do know is that ME/CFS often follows

a bout of infectious disease. "We know that 80 per cent of ME/CFS cases diagnosed in the past are attributed to some kind of infection, and typically it's a viral infection," says Oved Amitay, CEO of the nonprofit Solve ME/CFS Initiative.

He says that the Epstein-Barr virus, which causes mononucleosis (mono), is an established ME/CFS trigger. So are some of the older coronaviruses, including SARS and MERS.

Amitay says that, from the very start of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, he and other members of his organisation expected to hear reports of debilitating fatigue and other ME/CFS symptoms. "Unfortunately, none of this was surprising to us," he notes.

How many people with Covid-19 could go on to develop ME/CFS? Jason says that some older research suggests that a significant percentage of people who develop viral infections - "We think maybe 10 per cent, but it may be a larger percentage" - still feel ill six months later. This six-month threshold is usually used to differentiate ME/CFS from the shorter-lived post-viral syndrome. But at this point, and especially when it comes to Covid-19, there are many more questions than answers.

As to what causes post-viral syndrome and ME/CFS, Jason says that there are theories, but no hard-and-fast answers. "Some think that remnants of a virus might still be in a person's system causing problems," he says.

While normal tests don't reveal the continued presence of a virus, a component of it may still be secreted away in the brain or body, doing harm. "There are others that think the immune system gets revved up and does damage," notes Jason.

The authors of a paper on post-viral syndrome among Covid-19 patients issued earlier this year point out that the related SARS virus was known to cross the blood-brain barrier and trigger an improper inflammatory reaction that resembled the "disturbances" observed in ME-CFS patients.

They write that inflammation in the brain and hypothalamus could cause short-term symptoms like a fever and also longer-term symptoms like a disturbed sleep-wake cycle, cognitive dysfunction and exhaustion.

Whatever is going wrong, Jason says

he believes it's ultimately something to do with the brain: "It's the master organ, and we're doing some work with brain neurons where we're seeing some signs of dysfunction."

"We think the immune system has the hit from the infection, and then it does the structural damage to the brain," he explains, adding that some of his recent work on college students who have had mono and then gone on to develop ME/CFS suggests that certain immune system factors could predict who is at greater risk for the illness. But he is emphatic that a lot more work needs to be done.

As far as treatments go, Jason says most are targeted at specific symptoms - not at relieving or curing the disease: "Sometimes it's just helping people with pain management."

For those who experience exhaustion following physical activity, there are calibrated "pacing" guidelines that can help them avoid over-exerting themselves and exacerbating their condition. There are also some experimental drugs, though none is yet approved for the treatment of ME/CFS.

The bottom line, Jason says, is that the medical community's interest in post-viral syndrome and ME/CFS has, up until recently, been minuscule - though the novel coronavirus may change that.

"The field of ME/CFS has already changed dramatically in the last few months," he says, adding: "Previously, there were quite a few people who would raise eyebrows, or patients who were treated pretty poorly."

He says that now that so many people are developing ME/CFS-like symptoms in the wake of Covid-19 illness, most of the doubters have been silenced.

Solve ME/CFS Initiative's Amitay says that it has never been more vital for the medical science community and its public and private patrons to invest in ME/CFS research than now.

"We have to study this now, because we believe this is a situation that will become a crisis if we don't pay attention to it," he notes, adding: "We know what we know, but there's a lot that we don't."

A piece originally published in *Elemental*, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.

A lesson unlearned: Zambia on the path to Zimbabwe-like ruin

By Greg Mills

DESPITE the example of neighbouring Zimbabwe's economic collapse over the past 25 years, Lungu was apparently intent on his country relearning this maths lesson. And it will inevitably do so, at great economic and social cost, the responsibility for which Lungu's government will habitually try to wriggle out of.

Lungu needs a central bank governor who will not hesitate to print money.

Kalyalya, who holds a PhD from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) in the US, had warned of the "serious stress" that Zambia's economy was under even before Covid-19 struck.

"Last year we had a growth of 1.9%... that's quite low," he warned. Zambia was now experiencing "a recession... accompanied by inflation... a bad mix because the prices are rising which means that whatever little income you have is not going to go around."

This month Kalyalya projected a 4.2% contraction in GDP, down on the earlier forecast of -2.6%. He warned there was as a result a need to adjust macroeconomic fundamentals and debt sustainability to ensure economic stability. Credit to the private sector had nearly halved to 10.4% of GDP due to fears of high default rates.

This would be the first Zambian recession in more than 20 years. But it has been some time in the making.

By the late 1980s, declining copper growth and the redistributive policies of Kenneth Kaunda's one-party rule had resulted in declining national income and cyclical crises. With Kaunda's bundling out of office on the return to multiparty politics in 1991, Zambia began a long path to recovery. Under this new regime, the privatisation of state companies saw copper outputs increase threefold to pre-nationalisation levels as fresh investment flowed in.

Then arrived the Patriotic Front (PF) government of Michael Sata in 2011, succeeded on his death in 2014 by Lungu. The PF went on a foreign-debt-fuelled spending spree, the tally of which increased from under \$500-million in 2005 to \$11.7-billion today.

Add in domestic debt and the figure is over \$20-billion.

Even before Covid, the PF was running out of other people's money to spend. Yet the PF needs to continue to do so, not least given the upcoming 2021 national election. To feed this habit, it needs to get rid of any obstacle to spending and printing more money.

As the dismissed governor intimates, now it is stuck in a bind between low growth, demand compression and declining copper production, the latter a reflection of governance and policy concerns. The upset caused by the abrogation of long-standing development agreements with the mines has been compounded by the subsequent failure to pay back VAT claims, the government's squeezing of investors including Vedanta's Konkola Copper Mine and Glencore's Mopani, serial changes in tax and royalty regimes, and the understandable reluctance of the big companies to reinvest.

Throw in a power deficit of 940MW against a peak demand of 2,300MW with 8-10 hours of load shedding along with the threat of sovereign debt default, and Zambia is in a situation of radical uncer-



Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu

tainty.

To get out of it, Zambia has to restructure its debt, especially from China, which has seldom proven so generous. It needs an IMF deal, but the fund has so far been unwilling to bail out a country which will not reign in spending and where governance is routinely trumped by politics.

In reaction to Kalyalya's firing, the IMF said, "It is imperative that central banks' operational independence and credibility is maintained, particularly at this critical time when economic stability is threatened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Without credible in-

stitutions and sound policies, sustained economic growth and much-needed improvements in living standards will not be possible."

Now, with Lungu's confidant Christopher Mvunga appointed to the governorship, will things change? Mvunga, a chartered accountant by profession, was the deputy secretary to the Cabinet before this promotion.

Opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema says of Mvunga, "He does not have the depth of training, qualifications and experience in economics required to run the Zambia Central Bank. His integrity, credibility and personal character, is also questionable."

He added: "With the IMF leaving us to sort out our own mess, the next likely group will be the creditors who will start demanding their pound of flesh. Then the kwacha will be in free fall."

He argues that the reasons for Kalyalya's dismissal centre on his refusal to print money for a PF spending spree prior to the 2021 national election, in which HH (as Hichilema is known) will again compete.

Others are still more forthright.

"He projects himself up as this big-

time banker," said one corporate figure of the new governor, "but he's got no more financial acumen than the teller at my local branch."

Mvunga worked as a product specialist at a bank in Zambia around the same time that Kalyalya acted as an executive director at the World Bank.

Former finance minister (and Deputy Central Bank Governor) Situ Musokotwane says that South Africa has every right to comment on the governor's removal.

"Sovereignty is never absolute. One way or the other we are all linked together. SA is suffering from economic migrants caused by regional governments messing up, and it is within its rights thus to comment when another risks doing the same."

"There is a high possibility of a runaway currency now," he said. "This will translate into inflation and lengthening queues for scarce goods and services. Mvunga," he warns, "will likely quickly deplete forex reserves to please Lungu in defending a falling exchange rate whose cause remains unaddressed by the same government. Yet solving this kind of problem requires fresh minds and a fresh approach."

The former minister questions why you would get rid of a man with years of experience in dealing with these issues, including debt relief, and replace him with one so obviously ill-equipped.

The causes of the economic situation not only remain unaddressed, but rather exacerbated by these developments: a lack of confidence engendered by poor choices of the sort that led to a change of governorship.

The dangers of declining governance are moot. Runaway inflation, declining investor confidence, a reduction in export earnings, recession, shortages, social unrest... all of which can only ultimately be remedied by political change.

The absence of such change explains why Zimbabwe remains in crisis, and its prospect why there is still hope for Zambia.

Agencies

Having technological alongside innovation advancement vital in transforming digital payment in Tanzania

By Adam Jones

TECHNOLOGICAL advancement and innovation are rapidly transforming the digital payment ecosystem in Tanzania. Today, an interplay of fintech, mobile network operators, and traditional financial institutions are placing customized payment solutions in the hands of everyone through tools they already own, their mobile devices.

In 2013 there were about 23 million mobile telecom subscribers in Tanzania, according to data from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA). Today, the number has almost doubled to 44 million out of a population of 56 million with 83 percent of people accessing the internet doing so through these same devices.

It's not just the technology that matters - it's about simplifying the everyday life of consumers and SMEs across different touchpoints. These innovations are most relevant today as the world prepares for a post COVID-19 era making it imperative to ensure that people and businesses have access to the networks, tools, and solutions that can help them reach their potential as we all strive for a world where there is financial security for all.

Thankfully, the growing reach of mobile technology creates a tremendous opportunity for the payments and technology indus-

tries in Africa to place these tools in more hands and help bring more people and businesses into the formal economy.

Leveraging our global payments capability, local innovation from our Lab for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi and partnerships with mobile network operators, fintech, banks, and governments, Mastercard has over the past two years introduced numerous solutions which are transforming the digital payment ecosystem in Tanzania.

Three major ones have been the Mastercard QR (quick response), which boosts touchless payments to merchants; Mastercard virtual card which enables consumers to participate in e-commerce locally and internationally, and our Mastercard Payment Gateway which enables online shopping at small and large domestic merchants.

Embedded in these three solutions are capabilities that simplify almost all payment touchpoints in the everyday life of consumers and merchants. These touchpoints range from making payments in malls or neighbourhood stores; to buying fuel; to supporting transit; to even eCommerce payments with local and global merchants. Each of these examples demonstrates how bringing together key players to provide locally relevant solutions, is having a far-reaching impact in driving financial inclusion of consumers and including them in the digital



economy.

Launched in East Africa in 2017, Mastercard QR has a consumer base of over 15 million in Tanzania alone. Today, the QR technology is accessed by consumers across key major telecom providers in the country, with TigoPesa and Airtel Money users able to pay for transportation through this technology.

In addition, Mastercard's partnership with Selcom, Tanzania's leading fintech, has enabled their consumers across banks and all the leading mobile network operators to accept Mastercard QR payments thereby adding over

50,000 new merchants in two years.

Most importantly, this payment technology solution has extended acceptance infrastructure enabling MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) that could not afford PoS (point of sale) terminals, to now accept digital payments. These MSMEs can now benefit from being included in the financial ecosystem, creating for themselves distinct financial records needed for securing credit facilities for the growth and expansion of their businesses. The widespread availability and convenience of this touch-free technology has driven uptake

of the solution resulting in millions of transactions monthly.

Launched in 2018, mobile devices boosted by the virtual card solution are today a popular tool for e-commerce in Africa. This solution has enabled people without bank accounts to purchase items quicker, safer, and more conveniently both domestically and across international borders. Airtel Money and M-Pesa customers in Tanzania are enabled to use this solution, transforming the way they shop across multiple platforms.

In a broader partnership with Airtel Africa, over 100 million mobile phone users across 14 African countries will also soon be able to access Mastercard's global network through virtual cards and QR payments.

Lastly, our Mastercard Payment Gateway Services provides partners a way to easily and securely accept a wide range of digital payment methods from all over the world. In 2018, we collaborated with the Direct Pay Online Group (DPO) to enable more than 40,000 African merchants to accept Mastercard payments, connecting more people and businesses to the global economy. Earlier this year, this same technology was used by DPO Group to help merchants across Africa to swiftly move their businesses online and continue to trade with their customers during the pandemic.

For us at Mastercard, these strategic partnerships in Tanzania and East Africa contribute to helping us fulfill our commitment to bring a total of 1 billion people and 50 million micro and small businesses into the digital economy by 2025. As part of this effort, there will be a direct focus on providing 25 million women entrepreneurs with solutions that can help them grow their businesses. We continue to co-create locally relevant solutions with mobile network operators, fintech, banks, governments, and other strategic partners that cater to the needs of people in Africa.

By scaling simple and locally relevant digital solutions, building stronger payment platforms, and improving financial literacy, we drive efficiencies for our partners and extend acceptance infrastructure to even the smallest businesses, bringing us closer to a world beyond cash.

Adam Jones (pictured) is the Area Business Head East Africa at Mastercard

African cardinal urges courage as COVID-19 adds to disasters

By Fredrick Nzwili

CARDINAL Philippe Ouedraogo, president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, has urged courage in Africa, as cases of COVID-19 increase amid adoption of containment

measures and prayers to defeat the pandemic. The cardinal from Burkina Faso said across the continent, there were increasing food shortages due to lockdown, loss of jobs and the destruction of small businesses. Before COVID-19, there already were floods, droughts,

locust invasion and poor harvests - disasters that remain serious challenges, the leader said, in reference to a recent report by Caritas Internationalis, the worldwide umbrella organization for Catholic charities.

"This situation has given rise to

several questions and agitations. For those in the grip of anguish and misery, it is easy to conclude that God has abandoned us, and the pandemic is punishment for our sins, individual and communal," Ouedraogo said in a statement.

"Amidst the current situation,

we say 'Courage brothers and sisters; do not give in to despair.'"

Each year on July 29, African bishops lead Catholics in celebrating the day the continental bishops' organization, SECAM, was founded 51 years ago. Three days after its founding, St. Paul VI launched the organization at the

cathedral in Kampala, Uganda.

The churches use the celebrations to pray for the continent, the Christian faith, and for unity, communion and solidarity of the bishops, clergy, religious and laity. Ouedraogo said it was shameful and regrettable that not even COVID-19 had deterred

violence and terrorism in some countries in Africa. "We continue to kill ourselves on a daily basis. We join our voice with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and other world leaders to call for an immediate end to violence everywhere in Africa and the world," he said.

Kidney transplant between people with HIV is safe, investigators say

By Special Correspondent

THE kidneys of deceased HIV-positive donors can be safely transplanted into people living with HIV who have end-stage kidney disease, investigators report in the American Journal of Transplantation. Outcomes were every bit as good as those observed in people with HIV whose kidney donor was HIV-negative.

"We report the first results of HIV-positive donor to HIV-positive recipient kidney transplantation in the United States, and directly compare outcomes in HIV-positive recipients of HIV-negative donor kidneys to evaluable attributable risk of HIV-positive donors," write the authors.

"Overall patients and graft [transplanted organ] survival were excellent and comparable, without evidence of increased serious adverse events of HIV-related complications such as breakthrough viremia, infectious hospitalizations, or opportunistic infections."

However, there was some evidence that kidneys from HIV-positive donors were more likely to be rejected, a finding that is worth following up in further research, say the authors.

An increasing number of people living with HIV have end-stage kidney disease and are in need of a kidney transplant. Pioneering research in South Africa showed that it was possible for the kidneys of HIV-positive donors to be successfully transplanted into HIV-positive recipients. In 2013 the United States Congress passed the HIV Organ Policy Equality (HOPE) Act, making similar transplants possible in the US within the context of research.

Dr Christine Durand and her co-investigators from the Hope in Action project wanted to get a clearer understanding of outcomes among individuals with HIV who received a kidney of an HIV-positive donor. They also wished to expand the existing research base by comparing these outcomes with those of HIV-positive kidney transplant patients who had an HIV-negative donor.

The study involved 75 people with HIV who received a kidney from a deceased donor between 2016 and 2019. In 25 cases, the donor was another person with HIV. The research involved

people who received care at 14 treatment centres across the US. Outcomes analysed in the research were overall survival, transplant failure, risk of infections and rebound in HIV viral load.

Find out more in our About HIV pages

The median age of the transplant recipients was 51 years, 71% were male, 85% were African American and 23% were co-infected with hepatitis C virus. All were taking antiretrovirals and had an undetectable viral load. Average CD4 cell count was over 500 suggesting excellent immune competence. None had a current opportunistic infection, but 16% had had one in the past. All were cancer free.

The most common cause of kidney failure was high blood pressure (36%) followed by HIV-associated kidney disease (29%). As regards post-transplant induction therapy, 64% received basiliximab and 33% antithymocyte globulin.

There were 57 donors, all deceased. Fifteen were HIV positive, nine of whom were on antiretrovirals at the time of death and five had a viral load below 400. The other six HIV-positive donors (five of whom were previously undiagnosed) had a median viral load of over 183,000. Their median age was 30 years.

More news from United States

The median period of post-transplant follow-up was 1.4 years for individuals with an HIV-positive donor and 1.8 years for individuals with an HIV-negative donor. Both groups had 100% survival during the follow-up period.

Delayed graft function - acute kidney injury requiring dialysis in the first week after transplant - was more likely among the recipients of kidneys of HIV-negative donors than those receiving a kidney from an HIV-positive donor (42% vs 12%, p = 0.01). The one-year graft survival rate was excellent in both groups (91% vs 92%). There were only seven transplant failures, two of which involved kidneys from an HIV-positive donor. Causes of graft failure included thrombosis (two cases) and rejection (four cases). The risk of transplant failure was comparable between the two donor groups.

"Outcomes were every bit as good as those observed in people with HIV whose kidney donor was HIV-negative."



Rejection occurred in 44% of the HIV-positive donor group and 32% of the HIV-negative donor group. Most (81%) had a single episode of rejection. The one-year rejection rate was higher among those with an HIV-positive donor than those with an HIV-negative donor (50% vs 29%). While this difference was not statistically significant, the investigators believe the finding is worthy of further research. Type of antiretroviral therapy was not associated with the risk of rejection.

Kidney function one year after transplant

was comparable between the two groups (HIV-positive vs HIV-negative donor = eGFR 63ml/min vs 57 ml/min). Also comparable were rates of serious adverse events (1.1 per person year in both groups), infections requiring hospitalisation (28% vs 26%) and opportunistic infections (16% vs 12%).

Viral load rebounded in four cases, but not because of HIV superinfection (acquisition of a second strain of HIV). Each case was due to antiretrovirals being interrupted because of insurance difficulties. In each case, viral load fell

back below the limit of detection once antiretrovirals were restarted.

"In this multicentre, real-world observational pilot study, we found that HIV donor-positive/recipient-positive kidney transplantation was safe and feasible and associated with excellent short-term patient survival and graft survival," conclude Dr Durand and her colleagues. "This unique donor source has the potential to mitigate disparities for a vulnerable population that faces lower access to transplant and higher waitlist mortality."

'Study and implement Xi Jinping thought on diplomacy'

By Wang Yi

GREAT eras produce great ideas. This has been true throughout human history. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), socialism with Chinese characteristics has proudly entered a new era. The Chinese nation, which had endured so much in the past, has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown prosperous and is now becoming strong. China has never been so close to fulfilling the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation and never been so close to the center of the world stage.

At the same time, the world is going through complex and profound changes unseen in a century. With the foresight of a great strategic thinker and a keen appreciation of the laws of human society, General Secretary Xi Jinping has made a comprehensive assessment of the trajectory of the international situation and the historical juncture in which China finds itself, and put forward a series of new ideas, new propositions and new initiatives with distinctive Chinese features, which reflect the call of our times and lead the trend of human progress. He has given clear answers to a series of key questions in theory and practice, namely, what kind of world and what type of international relations China should promote; what kind of foreign policy best serves China, and how China is to conduct diplomacy in the new era. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, or Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy for short, has thus been formed and established, pointing the direction and providing fundamental guidance for China's foreign policy in the new era.

Great ideas, once produced, will in turn drive the progress of the times. In recent years, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the personal attention of General Secretary Xi Jinping, we in the Chinese diplomatic service have followed the

guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, and taken pioneering steps to meet challenges head on. As a result, we have made historic achievements, and opened up a new situation.

- We are actively building a global network of partnerships to advance China's diplomatic agenda in a comprehensive, multilevel, multifaceted way, making friends across the world;
- We are proactively advancing Belt and Road cooperation, making it the world's biggest platform for international cooperation, pursuing shared benefits through consultation and cooperation, and promoting mutual benefit and common development with our Belt and Road partners;
- We are spearheading the reform of the global governance system, making globalization more inclusive and beneficial for all and the international order fairer and more equitable; and
- We are making every effort to support international cooperation against COVID-19, promoting the vision of building a global community of health for all, and fulfilling our share of responsibility in fighting this scourge.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is a momentous achievement of epoch-making significance in the development of China's diplomatic theories since 1949. It is an important system of thought that is scientific, up to date, advanced and action-oriented. We must study it conscientiously and understand it fully.

First, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is an integral component of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. As diplomacy is the comprehensive manifestation of the will of the state, China's diplomatic work is an integral part of our cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core attaches great importance to China's foreign relations, and takes them as part of the overarching strategy to rejuvenate the Chinese nation. Keeping in mind both

major global changes and the reality of China entering a new era, the CPC Central Committee has made top-level planning and strategic blueprint for advancing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

Two key Chinese initiatives, China's call for building a community with a shared future for mankind and forging a new type of international relations, both being core tenets of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, have been incorporated into the "eight clarifications" and "fourteen commitments" under the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Leadership of the CPC is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the greatest political strength of China's foreign policy. Hence, strengthening the centralized, unified leadership and coordination of the CPC over external affairs provides the fundamental political underpinning for continued success of China's diplomatic work. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy represents a more in-depth understanding of the conduct of China's major-country diplomacy, and reflects the CPC Central Committee's governance philosophy on the diplomatic front.

Second, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy encapsulates the latest achievement of Marxism on the diplomatic front in the 21st century. As Friedrich Engels noted, "His [Marx's] way of viewing things is not a doctrine but a method." Following historical and dialectical materialism, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy applies the Marxist stand, viewpoint and method in a scientific manner, and seeks to combine theory with practice, theory of knowledge with methodology.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy bases itself on a keen understanding of global developments and a thorough review of China's interactions with the rest of the world. It grasped the workings of globalization and global governance by following the Marxist tradition of analyzing the dynamics between the productive forces

and the relations of production, and between the economic base and the superstructure. Adhering to the people-centered value of Marxism and the principle of seeking truth from facts, the living soul of Marxism, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy has applied the basic tenets of Marxism to the practice of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and developed a series of creative thoughts and views that have enriched and taken forward Marxist theories on international relations, thus realizing a historic breakthrough in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context in the diplomatic arena.

Third, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy carries forward and elevates the fine tradition of the Chinese culture. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy embodies a creative transformation and development of traditional Chinese values by drawing extensively from the Chinese culture and enriching it with a new spirit of the times and a commitment to human progress. China's proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind epitomizes long-cherished Chinese vision of promoting "common good" and "universal peace".

In developing China's neighborhood diplomacy, traditional values of good neighborliness, benevolence, empathy and non-aggression have been incorporated. In the call for global governance reform, time-honored wisdoms of unity in adversity and harmony among all nations have been drawn. In the course of building global partnerships, the philosophy of advocating harmony without conformity and helping others to succeed while seeking one's own success has been followed. In advocating the concept of greater good, the moral commitment of advancing shared interests with just positions and helping those in difficulty and in need is upheld.

As an innovative effort to renew the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the momentous initiative of developing the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The initiative aims to turn the Silk Road, a fruit of human civilization, into a new type of public good for international cooperation and common development, and has gained growing support and endorsement from countries around the world.

Fourth, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy carries forward and further develops the diplomatic theories of New China. Building on the diplomatic thoughts of successive generations of leaderships after the founding of New China, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy has further elevated and enriched the system of diplomatic theories of New China.

Imbuing China's foreign policy with the spirit of the times, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy raised China's long-established philosophies on foreign relations including the independent foreign policy of peace, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and a new international political and economic order to a new historical level, aiming at a community with a shared future for mankind, a new type of international relations, and reform of the global governance system.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy

carries forward China's policies and propositions toward the neighboring region and Africa, and put forward important principles of "amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness" and "sincerity, real results, amity and good faith", lending fresh impetus to China's relations with countries and regions concerned.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy upholds China's just position pursued since 1949 of opposing colonialism, hegemonism and power politics, lays out red lines on major issues involving sovereignty and territorial integrity, and informs a series of decisive actions to safeguard China's legitimate rights, core interests and national dignity.

Fifth, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy improves on and transcends traditional theories of international relations. In recent years, the traditional theories are increasingly unable to explain the contemporary world, and notions such as "might makes right" and "zero-sum game" are no longer compatible with the trend of the times.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy puts the development of China in the global context, and aligns the interests of the Chinese people with the common, fundamental interests of people across the world. It envisions a community with a shared future for mankind, and an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world with lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity, and calls for a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation. It rises above national and regional parochialism, transcends the traditional realist theory of international relations, and takes the moral high ground by focusing on the progress of humanity.

The new visions proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping on global governance, security, development, civilization, and the relationship between the greater good and one's own interests respond to the universal aspiration of all countries for development and progress. Embodying the shared values of mankind as well as distinct Chinese features, they capture the greatest common denominator among people of all nations in aspiring to a better world.

The world has continued to change in profound ways. As COVID-19 rages on, the health of people around the world is under grave threat, economic globalization faces unprecedented headwinds, and the world economy is plunged into deep recession. Unilateralism, protectionism and bullyism are resurging. Deficits in governance, trust, peace and development are widening further.

To navigate this highly uncertain world, we must take fundamental guidance from Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy for all our work, stay focused amid the turbulence and seize opportunities from the changes in order to usher in a new stage of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. To this end, we must undertake the following.

We need to step up research and gain a deep and solid understanding of the tenets and essence of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is a well-conceived system of profound theories. It requires time and effort

to understand it fully and apply it effectively. In conducting China's diplomacy, all of us must study Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, which is an important political task requiring sustained and unremitting effort. The establishment of the Studies Centre provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the core tenets, essence, rich substance and implementation requirements of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and fully appreciate its great relevance, and theoretical, practical and international significance. Efforts to gain a deeper understanding must be combined with studying Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; with studying Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development; and with studying the history of the Party, of New China, of China's reform and opening-up and of socialism.

We need to conduct active international exchanges to better inform other countries and people of the world of the scientific and advanced nature of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is of international significance. It is particularly relevant for addressing the global challenges facing our world. It is gaining growing attention and influence worldwide. We need to reach out to foreign governments, political parties, think tanks and media, and organize more international dialogue and exchanges both in China and abroad to help other countries gain a full, accurate and in-depth understanding of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. Such dialogue and exchanges create opportunities to communicate China's important visions and ideas such as building a community with a shared future for mankind and building a new type of international relations, so that greater international consensus can be forged. We must also learn to apply Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy to our efforts in presenting China's stories, visions and proposals internationally to enhance such efforts and increase China's influence and ability to inspire.

We need to fully apply and follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy in conducting major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. Actions and practice must be guided by ideas and theories. We need to combine study, reflection and application, and align our knowledge, conviction and action with Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, which comes from practice and in turn guides our diplomatic practice. We need to keep strictly in line with the CPC Central Committee in terms of our thinking, political orientation and action, and firmly implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's diplomatic decisions and guidelines. We must equip ourselves with the latest theories of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy to enhance the development of theories and institutions, and the building of capacities and law-based governance for supporting major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. We must work hard to further modernize the system of governance and capacity for the conduct of Chinese foreign policy, offer intellectual support for addressing key diplomatic issues and challenges, and provide inexhaustible strength to break new ground in China's major-country diplomacy.

Great vision leads the way forward; hard work makes dreams come true. In this momentous new era, let us rally more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, strengthen our consciousness of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership. Let us foster stronger confidence in the path, theories, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Let us firmly uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping's core position in both the Party Central Committee and the Party as a whole and the Central Committee's authority and centralized, unified leadership. By gaining a deep understanding and fully applying Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, we will be able to break new ground in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and make greater contributions to national rejuvenation and human progress!

The writer is State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China



Chinese President Xi Jinping

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 129 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

5 LETTERS: MEN, MRS, NIT
4 LETTERS: JUNE, USER, LOUD, DOME, NEED, WAGE, RAIN
5 LETTERS: AURAL, ROUND, ACORN, COLOR EVENS,
6 LETTERS: ANGOLA, SPACES, MANENO ANNUAL, T-SHIRT
8 LETTERS: MINERALS
7 LETTERS: SAMARIA
10 LETTERS: JOURNALIST

CLUES: Across
1 an administration
5 one less than ten
7 insect infests human hair
8 keep away from somebody
10 no longer young
11 express sorrow
13 the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse
15 things unacceptable
17 a person appointed to select a team in a sport
19 First man
20 the possibility of suffering injury or harm

Down:
1 a list of dishes in a restaurant
2 magical power in Maori
3 a state of feeling
4 lie in a sheltered position
6 at any time
7 to heed
9 enticed into sexual activity
12 to tell someone firmly
14 oedema
16 a faintly blue gas obtained by the silent discharge of electricity in air
17 not happy
18 a boy

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

MONETARY SPENDING
OILS
SKILLFULNESS
COUNSELLOR
WATER
ARE
HARD

DIODOMA
RITUALS
EASTERN
ANTHROPOMORPHIC
MWA
SUN
SCAMP
CLEVER
OIL
POLYMER
LIVELY

STRINGENT MINING CONTROL MEASURES ENHANCE REVENUE BY OVER 37 PER CENT

By Francis Kajubi

STRICT measures being taken by the government and appreciation of gold prices at world market has boosted revenue earned by the country from minerals by 37.7 percent.

Bank of Tanzania has said in its latest Consolidated Zonal Economic report released last week that revenue increased to 1.28trn/- during the second quarter of the year compared to earnings during a corresponding quarter in 2019 when only 932.54bn/- was raised.

The report stated that in general all zones with mining activities recorded increases in value, except Northern Zone that performed poorly. "The improvement was registered particularly in gemstones, salt and gold; with the growth in the value of gold being influenced by a rise in global prices following an increase in demand for gold as a safe haven asset for investors in the wake of outbreak of COVID-19" the report said.

The Lake Zone accounted for the largest share with 83.3 percent of the total value of minerals extracted worth 1.07trn/-, followed by the Southern Highlands Zone with 10 percent worth 128bn/-. The Northern Zone registered meagre value of 18.4bn/- or an equivalent of 1.4 percent of the total value.

The BoT CZE report further added that mining has been flourishing ever since the government endorsed a new controlling system of trading the precious metals by opening mineral cent-



A wall fencing at Mererani tanzanite mines built by the government over two year ago to curb smuggling of the gem.

ers in every region of the country. However, the government has already enforced regulations that defend small scale miners from being swindled by thieving mineral dealers.

Meanwhile the report stated that the value of selected manu-

factured commodities grew by 6.7 percent to 2.34trn/- compared with 2.20trn/- during the period. "The increase was registered in the South Eastern and Central Zones, partly associated with availability of adequate raw materials and expansion of market

outreach," the report stated.

"The Dar es Salaam Zone accounted for the largest share of the total value of manufactured goods at 52.2 percent, while the Central Zone had the least share of 3.6 percent," the BoT report added.

The South Eastern Zone registered 463.2bn/- while the Central Zone registered only 84bn/- in value of manufactured goods during the period. Dar es Salaam led the pack with a 1.22trn/- worth of merchandise while Northern Zone came second with 293bn/-.

Thermal power plant in Mozambique sees 15 million euro profit

MAPUTO

Ressano Garcia Thermal Power Plant (CTRG), the largest Mozambican plant, recorded a net profit of 1.3 billion meticaís (€15.4 million) in 2019, the first since the company's creation five years ago, the company said.

Speaking on Wednesday at a press conference, CTRG's commercial and contracts director, Estevão Mussuei, said the revenues the firm achieved last year represent a 362% growth compared to 2018. Estevão Mussuei said that revenues reached 7 billion meticaís (€83.1 million) and operating profit reached 2.9 billion meticaís (€34.4 million) in 2019.

The exponential increase in the company's earnings was because the first five years of existence were marked by large capital investments, said Mussuei. "In total, CTRG has invested \$285 million [€241.2 million] in infrastructure and equipment to date," he added.

Mussuei said the company pays an average of 900 million meticaís (€10.6 million) in direct taxes to the Mozambican state annually. "The company's financial solidity has also generated a margin for investments in the modernization of its activity, maintenance and repair of its technology park and equipment," Mussuei stressed.

Located in Ressano Garcia, Maputo province, CTRG has an installed capacity to produce 175 megawatts of energy generated from natural gas produced at the Pande and Temane gas fields in Inhambane province.

The company is 51% owned by the public company Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) and 49% by the South African petrochemical company Sasol. In Mozambique, natural gas thermal power plants are the second-largest source of electricity generated in the country, holding a 17% share, while the hydroelectric system accounts for 80% of production.

Australian miner gets funds pledge for Tajiri, Fungoni sand mines

By Property Watch Reporter

AUSTRALIAN based Strandline Resources has received commitments for US\$18.5m in share placement proceeds that will be primarily used to accelerate the development of Coburn Mine in Australia and Fungoni Mine in Dar es Salaam.

In a recent statement, the Australian Stock Exchange listed company said the cash will be used to advance early works development activities, while finalising project financing of Strandline's Coburn

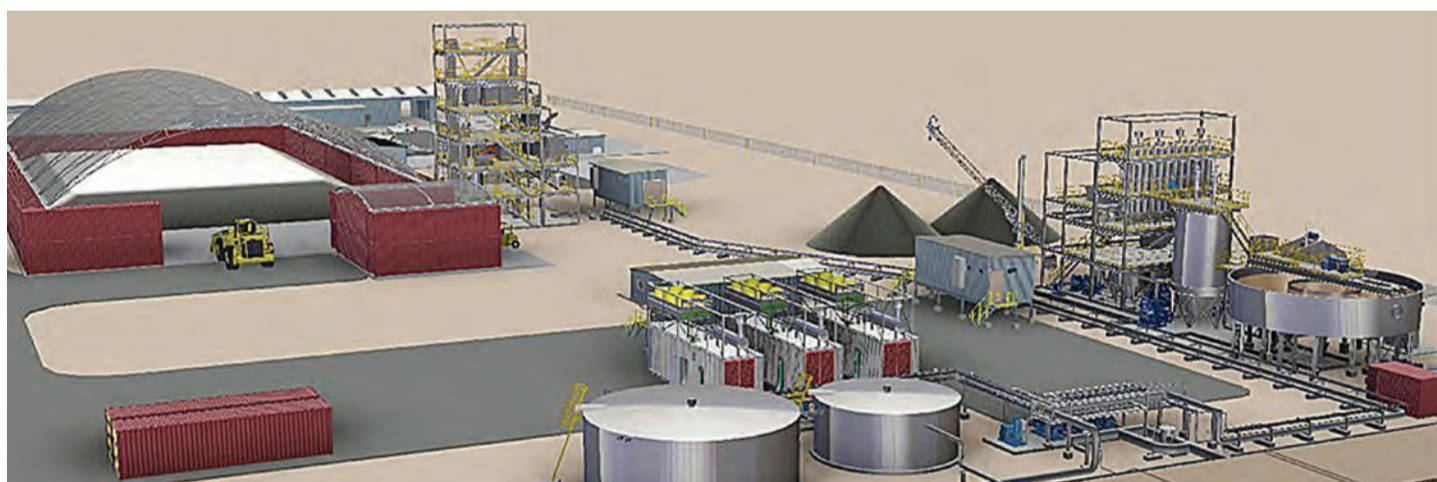
mineral sands project in Western Australia as well as general working capital across its portfolio of projects including the advanced Fungoni and Tajiri mineral sands projects.

In particular, the proceeds will fund front-end detailed design and procurement of long-lead items, site establishment and early construction works at Coburn. The placement was well supported by both existing and new institutional and sophisticated investors, the statement noted.

Commenting on the progress

made, Strandline Managing Director, Luke Graham said the strong demand, led by institutional investors, reflects the quality of the company's mineral sands projects and enables it to continue to unlock the value of Coburn.

"Coburn is a world-scale project with outstanding forecast financial returns in a Tier-1 location," Graham said adding that the raising means that now the company has US\$23m cash, which will enable it to undertake detailed design work and procure long-lead items, ensuring that the project remains on



An artist's impression of Fungoni Mine.

track to capitalise on the emerging demand for mineral sands.

"Strandline is making rapid progress in its strategy to develop Coburn, with the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) recently deciding to provide a A\$150m loan facility for the project," he noted.

The company further stated that zircon-rich Fungoni Project which is in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam's southern coast, is the most

advanced Tanzanian based development with product offtakes secured and final project approvals progressing.

"In April 2020, Strandline and Nedbank signed a US\$26m Project Finance Facility Agreement to part fund the project development of Fungoni," the company added noting that the Australian company holds 2,000 square kilometres of highly-prospective tenure along the coast of the country.

The Tajiri mines which are located in south eastern Tanga region are likely to grow further over time with resources remaining open and analysis of assays from drilling at nearby Sakura produced strong results, with evaluation continuing, Strandline noted. The company also owns Bagamoyo Project in Coast Region and Sudi Project in Mtwara in a joint venture with mining giant, Rio Tinto.

Radisson adds six new hotels to Africa portfolio

DURBAN

Further commenting on this achievement, Ramsay Rankoussi, vice president, development, Africa & Turkey, Radisson Hotel Group, stated: "Our growth has been well balanced between green field projects and strategic take-overs of existing hotels.

We aim to further accelerate our presence across the continent through conversions, especially as liquidity remains a critical challenge. We have revisited our brand architecture to enable us to quickly integrate existing hotels to our network.

"This strategy will be reinforced as our brands continue to demonstrate a better value proposition to our owners. Following our revised strategy, we believe we are now geared in providing solutions to the investment community for every type of asset, every segment and at every

stage - from funding, to construction and repositioning."

The six new hotels include: Radisson Collection Hotel Bamako, Mali Scheduled to open within the next six months following a re-branding, the hotel introduces Radisson Hotel Group's lifestyle brand to Africa, as the first Radisson Collection hotel to open in the continent.

The 200-room affordable luxury hotel will dining experiences across its five food and beverage outlets, from an all-day dining restaurant and a specialty restaurant to a café, a bar and an executive lounge.

The hotel also offers an expansive 1,200sqm meeting and events area consisting of a ballroom and seven conference rooms. Guests can stay fit in the hotel's fully equipped gym or unwind within the spa or alongside the pool. With the introduction of Radisson Collection in the city, the



Park Inn by Radisson Durban International Airport DUBE, South Africa.

existing Radisson Blu Hotel, Bamako is expected to commence a full renovation programme towards year end.

Radisson Blu Hotel Abuja City Centre, Nigeria

The Radisson Blu Hotel Abuja City Centre, scheduled to open in 2024, is the Group's first hotel in the city, complementing the existing nine hotels in operation and under development in

Nigeria.

Located in the heart of the central business district of Nigeria's Federal Capital, the 258-room hotel will boast five different food and beverage outlets from a spe-

cialty restaurant and all-day-dining restaurant to a Lobby Bar & Café, a pool terrace and a business class lounge. The leisure facilities will include a 555sqm wellness spa, a gym and a swimming pool to maintain guest's wellness.

Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre Johannesburg, O.R. Tambo

Scheduled to open before year end, the hotel will introduce the Group's upscale Radisson brand to Johannesburg. Located on a private estate in Bredell, Kempton Park, the hotel has easy access to major highways joining Johannesburg and Pretoria and is approximately 10 minutes' drive away from O.R. Tambo International Airport, Africa's biggest and

busiest airport, facilitating over 21 million passengers in 2018. The newly built hotel will offer an array of dining options, including four restaurants, three bars an entertainment deck and an executive lounge.

The hotels 289 modern and timeless designed rooms comprise of 248 which are newly built and 41 which have been converted from an existing hotel. In addition, it has a large MICE facility, which includes a significant conference centre with a 1,260-seater auditorium and five conference rooms. The leisure facilities will include a gym, spa & wellness centre as well as three outdoor pools.

BEER BREWER'S CLEAN WATER PROJECT BENEFITS THOUSANDS IN RURAL AREAS

By Property Watch Reporter

AS Africa and the whole world are navigating the novel coronavirus outbreak, a major spotlight has been on the availability of water to all, considering that the liquid is not only vital for all known forms of life but it now serves as a critical and essential element in combating the virus.

During these life-threatening times, health experts have touted hygiene as being the single most important requirement that will save humanity against an imminent apocalypse wrought by the viral disease.

Besides other equally important requirements such as strict adherence to laid-down health guidelines and protocols such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPEs), frequent hand-washing with soap, water remains the most crucial, yet simple-to-apply preventive measure.

In the recent past, the government, organizations and other players at all levels, have been working hard to end what has been labelled in some quarters as 'water crisis' in order to ensure that clean and safe water is available to everybody especially in rural areas.

To supplement government's efforts to provide clean safe water to the public, Serengeti Breweries Limited has been providing the missing link by investing in water projects that are now supplying clean and safe water to millions of Tanzanians.

Since 2010 to date, SBL in partnership with WaterAid and



People fetch water from solar powered borehole in Katesh, Hanang District of Manyara Region built under SBL sponsorship. File photo.

Amref, has commissioned a total of 18 boreholes across the country with the main focus being the neediest remote areas that had hitherto been deprived of the life saving liquid for decades.

The brewer's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said SBL

considers water to be key in the country's future prosperity hence has always been ready to collaborate with the government and other partners in facilitating access to clean safe water.

"SBL has a policy commitment towards the wellbeing of communities in

the country with Water of Life (WOL) being one of our four priority areas that the company has defined in its objective to provide social support to improve the social welfare of Tanzanians," Wanyancha said while describing other priority areas as, provision of Skills for Life, Environmental Sustainability and Promotion of Responsible Drinking.

He explained that SBL's water projects collectively provide water to an estimated two million people free of charge which has enabled most Tanzanians to engage in basic hygiene practices like regular hand-washing, which is fundamental to maintaining health, especially during the Covid-19 outbreak.

"Our projects, besides directly helping communities, have had spill over effects on the neighbouring institutions such as the Karatu Project that has since been expanded to serve four schools and a dispensary. Pasua Project in Moshi also serves three secondary schools and a nearby public market," Wanyancha added.

The SBL Corporate Director further added that the boreholes, which are strategically drilled near the brewer's agri-business locations, also provide irrigation water to over 400 farmers which the brewer supports to boost their cereals production used in beer manufacture.

Popularly known as Water of Life (WOL), SBL's water projects

have been a major boost to government's efforts to provide clean safe water to the majority of Tanzanians with a target of clean water for all 57 million people by 2025.

According to Water Org (water.org), a global non-profit organization 'working to bring water and sanitation to the world', over 57 percent (25 million) of the country's estimated 57 million people has access to safe clean water with only 30 percent having access to improved sanitation.

To this end, Water Org stated, "Most people, especially women and children, spend a significant amount of time travelling long distances to fetch water."

The low-level of access to sanitation among the population means that 70 percent of the population is exposed to serious health hazards with the most vulnerable being women and children—a situation that is buttressed by available statistics that show that over 3,000 children under-5 years in Tanzania die each year from preventable diarrheal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation.

In addition, SBL's WOL projects ultimately seek to support the government in improving water and sanitation in the country to attain one of the fundamental targets of UN's 2025 Sustainable Development Goals, Goal-6 that seeks 'To provide water and sanitation' to all within the stipulated period.'

Orascom Construction reports drop in second-quarter profit amid coronavirus pandemic

CAIRO

Egypt-based Orascom Construction reported a 69 per cent drop in net profit during the second-quarter of 2020 during what chief executive Osama Bishai described as "a challenging environment impacted by Covid-19."

Net profit attributable to shareholders for the three months ending June 30 declined to \$9.8 million the company said in a statement on Wednesday. Revenue was largely flat at \$791.2m, which indicated "a healthy rate of execution" despite the pandemic, Mr Bishai said.

"While we saw some pressure on gross margins in the second-quarter of 2020, particularly more pronounced in May during a nationwide slowdown in Egypt, we maintain our focus on important elements of our business such as project controls, cost optimisation and cash flow," he added.

Profits in the second quarter were also affected by losses at Besix, the contractor in which it has a 50 per cent stake, which was "impacted by additional charges on certain projects in the UAE and The Netherlands," the company said. Besix management are "exerting major effort and focus to tackle this and return to profitability in the second half of 2020," Mr Bishai said.

Cairo-based Orascom Construction is an engineering and construction contractor primarily focused on infrastructure, industrial and high-end commercial projects in the Middle East, Africa and the United States. During the first half of the year, net profit slid 43 per cent to \$34.8m, while revenue rose 8.2 per cent to \$1.62 billion.

"Our operating cash flow turned positive during the quarter, amounting to \$53.2m in the first half of 2020, while our net cash position increased significantly to \$309.4m as of June 30. We also reiterated our commitment to shareholders and distributed a dividend of \$0.21 per share earlier this month," Mr Bishai said.

The company signed \$950m of new contracts – primarily in Egypt – during the first-half, of which \$620m were added in the second quarter. Its US subsidiaries also signed \$371m worth of agreements.

Notable new awards during the quarter included projects in the infrastructure, transportation and commercial sectors. These included a contract to build the first phase of Ora Developers' ZED Sheikh Zayed mixed-use project in containing residential towers, a mall and a garage built around a park in Cairo. It also secured finance for a \$4.5bn monorail project in Cairo being carried out as part of a consortium with Arab Contractors and Bombardier.

State now seeks handing over of Galana Kulalu to private investors

NAIROBI

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya has said the Galana Kulalu Irrigation scheme is now ready for opening up to private investors for large scale production, becoming the latest high ranking government official to endorse the project. Mr Munya said that he was so far impressed with the progress of the work done at the scheme in the first phase of the model farm, which was to cover 10,000 acres.

"The project is now ready for the next phase of opening it up to private investors after having successfully realised the objectives of the pilot phase as the government strives to achieve the Big4 agenda targets," said Mr Munya. Mr Munya said the government will not engage in the business of farming and that the project will be left in the hands of private entities.

Mr Munya's remarks comes at a time when the National Development Implementation Technical Committee (NDITC) chaired by Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho is to present a report to the Cabinet committee on the viability of the project.

"We are happy with what we have seen here and we shall be making a report to the Cabinet committee so that Galana Project can get the \$600 million that they have requested in to complete the model farm," said Dr Kibicho last month.

Galana project has faced a number of challenges that has seen it lag the initial timelines. The National Irrigation Authority that is in charge of the project, fell out with the Israel contractor Green Arava over payments leading to the termination of its contract. The latest endorsement of a project that has widely been labelled as a failure, comes three months after the parliamentary committee on water said it would approve more funds for the project.

Galana project was supposed to have been opened up for large scale production by now as the model farm, which is a demonstration block that covers 10,000 acres was to be completed by 2018. About 7,000 acres have been cultivated to date with 3,000 acres put under crop last year.

NMB extends physical branches to Malinyi in Morogoro

By Property Watch Reporter, Malinyi

THE country's largest bank by branch network, NMB Bank Plc has extended its reach by opening a new branch at Malinyi District headquarters in Morogoro Region.

Speaking during the launch, Malinyi District Commissioner, Mathayo Masele said the new branch will speed up development in the district which is well known as a bread basket of Morogoro Region but also rich in minerals.

Masele who opened the new branch, said people in the district had waited for many years to realise their greatest wish of having formal banking services which they had been travelling over 160 kilometres to Ifakara township in Kilombero District to access.

"This new branch is a big relief to us as leaders but also to the people of Malinyi and the neighbouring regions," Masele noted adding that NMB's decision to invest in the new branch will also lower costs of doing business because travel expenses have been abolished.

"But it's also good for us as government because of security issues relating to bulky cash transfers from different institutions to the bank," he added saying agriculture and mining are the two biggest sectors to utilise



An NMB branch opened recently upcountry.

fully the banking services.

Speaking at the same event, Malinyi District Executive Director, Hawa Mposi said they were spending 500,000/- on average as transport to Ifakara to seek banking services and also serve the public.

"We thank NMB for coming to our rescue in Malinyi, this branch will assist our district council collect revenue easily but also save from transport costs incurred to follow banking services to Kilombero," Mposi said noting that the district has no formal banking facility.

Briefing the DC on NMB's branch expansion, acting Chief of Retail Banking, Salie Mlay said one of the motivations to open the branch was to serve farmers and pastoralists through NMB Foundation which organises them in cooperatives and trains them on basics of financial management before giving them loans.

"We want to help smallholder farmers and pastoralists move from traditional way of doing things to commercialization," Mlay said noting that the bank has already invested

heavily in agriculture countrywide. He further noted that Malinyi branch investment is also aimed at implementing government's directives to extend banking services to rural areas to enhance financial inclusion.

In a vote of thanks, NMB's Eastern Zone Manager, Dismas Prosper said in addition to opening the new branch, the bank also donated 135 iron sheets, nails and 200 timber pieces to Navigo Primary School in the district as part of its corporate social responsibility plan.

Work starts on major industrial park in Togo

LOME

Work has begun on a 400ha industrial and logistics park in the West African country of Togo that aims to process the impoverished country's agricultural products. Called The Industrial Platform of Adetikopé (PIA), it will be built to the north of the capital, Lomé by a joint venture between the government of Togo and the industrial park developer, Arise IIP.

Arise IIP itself is a joint ven-

ture between Singaporean agri-business company Olam International, which holds 49.5% of its shares, and the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), which owns the remainder.

Expected to cost €200m, equal to 4% of Togo's GDP, the park is intended to process cotton, coffee, cocoa, cashews and other commodities, allowing the country to capture more value from them. It will also produce generic pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

Sani Yaya, Togo's economy

minister, commented in a press statement: "The launch of a project such as the PIA is testament to Togo's attractive investment climate. PIA's modern infrastructure and multimodal, integrated logistics services will serve local and foreign investors alike." He said the state-of-the-art facility would "play a crucial role in the continued industrialisation of Togo."

The first phase is expected to be complete next year. When fully constructed, the park is expected to provide some

35,000 permanent jobs. Togo is presently ranked as the 10th poorest country in the world, with a nominal per capita GDP of \$618.

Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms was set up as a specialist developer of industrial parks. Its main activity up to now has been in Gabon. The AFC is a development bank set up to finance African infrastructure projects. It is 47% owned by the Central Bank of Nigeria with the remaining shares held by private investors.

CONSTRUCTION

HONG KONG'S CASSETTE KING SELLS STAKE IN THE CENTRE AT 35PC OFF

HONG KONG

One of the most prominent members of an investment consortium which paid a record \$5.15 billion to purchase an office building in Hong Kong's Central district in November 2017 has just sold a chunk of his holdings in the 73-storey tower for nearly 18 percent less the average price per square foot paid for the building three years ago, according to local news reports.

David Chan Ping-chi, known locally as the King of Cassettes for having made his fortune as chairman of local tape and film manufacturer Acme Group, has seen the value of the nine floors he purchased in the Queen's Road landmark fade nearly as quickly as sales of 8-track players, with the local tycoon having sold his 70 percent stake in the building's 42nd floor for HK\$405 million (\$52.6 million), according to a report in Hong Kong's Sing Tao Daily.

That price for the 21,379 square foot (1,986 square metre) floor works out to HK\$27,100 per square foot - or 35 percent less than Chan was able to charge when he sold the 38th floor of the building to an unnamed mainland investor for the equivalent of HK\$42,000 per square foot in May 2019.

The sale, which marks the lowest price paid for a piece of the Center since it changed hands three years ago, comes after the volume of real estate assets traded in Hong Kong fell by 80 percent



The Centre in Hong Kong.

during the first half of 2020, according to a recent report by Real Capital Analytics, with growing political tension and the coronavirus pandemic combining to boost office vacancy in Central district to 5.7 percent in July.

Chan sold his 70 percent stake to Kingston Financial Group boss

Pollyanna Chu, who already held the other 30 percent equity in the asset, according to a report in local news site HK01. Both Chan and Chu were part of a team of local investors who banded together to purchase the Center from Li Ka-shing's CK Asset Holdings in 2017, in what many now see as the

high water mark for Hong Kong's commercial property market.

Joining Chan and Chu were Shimao Properties chairman Hui Wing Mao, Hugo Lam Chi-fung and "Minibus King" Ma Ah-muk as well as other investors who together made the Center Hong Kong's most expensive building,

and added another chapter to Li Ka-shing's legend, when they paid an average of HK\$33,000 per square foot for the landmark office tower.

Since that time, a combination of tightening financial controls on the mainland, social unrest and Covid-19 have brought average

office rents in Hong Kong down for four consecutive quarters, cutting more than 23 percent off leasing rates since April of 2019, according to JLL.

In comments cited in the Sing Tao account, Chan, who has been selling multiple properties in recent months, indicated that he sold his stake in the office floor at this time due to the mixed ownership of the asset, while also pointing to the pandemic's impact on the market.

Chan also explained that the 42nd floor includes two common areas that occupy 6,000 square feet, making the floor plan less than ideal. Earlier market reports had indicated that the entire floor was available for purchase at a rate of HK\$35,000 per square foot before this latest trade became public late last week.

With sales of strata title office assets hitting record highs in late 2017, The King of Cassettes and his cohort had financed their purchase of the Center with bonds paying interest rates of over 15 percent. That bold bit of financing may have been encouraged by the opportunity to turn a quick profit selling off the tower level by level after the Center's highest floor was sold for a record HK\$55,854 per square foot in September of 2017.

With the Hong Kong real estate market having slowed down in the face of tighter capital controls in mainland China starting in 2018, the Center's new owners ran in tougher times last year when months of protests undermined economic confidence.

By November, Ma Ah-muk, who bought 13 floors in the Center, was motivated to conduct a quick sale of 37 Cameron Road in Kowloon for a reported HK\$448 million, with the Minibus King cutting 30 percent from the price he had been asking for the property six months earlier.

UK housing market strongest in five years

LONDON

The UK housing market is stronger than it's been in five years, as people rush to rearrange their living arrangements in the wake of the pandemic, according to a new report.

The number of agreed-to sales across Zoopla, one of the country's major listing sites, is 76% higher than the five-year average, with strong activity at the higher end driving deals in and around London, the website said in a report released Thursday in the UK.

So far, the deepest recession on record has yet to slow home shoppers. Since the British housing market began to reopen in mid-May, robust demand has shaved two weeks off the average selling time compared to the same three-month period ending in mid-August.

"Housing market conditions remain unseasonably strong," said Richard Donnell, research and insight director at Zoopla. Home shoppers are overwhelmed by available inventory, a dynamic Mr. Donnell said he expects will drive moderate price growth this year—even in the face of a prolonged economic recovery.

A mass shift in people's housing requirements and tastes is acting as a "counterweight" to the recession, he added. As a



A luxury home in London.

result, Zoopla predicted prices will end the year 2%-3% higher than 2019. Strong activity in the luxury segment is helping boost average sales prices, as affluent families feel less financial impact from the lockdowns earlier this year. A wave of higher-end listing has driven up the average asking price on Zoopla 8% compared to last year.

In London, prices rose 2.1% in July compared to this time last year. That growth marks a significant turnaround for the city, which has endured a yearslong slump in the wake of stamp duty hikes in 2014 and 2016.

Demand is particularly strong for three-bedroom properties, which are selling in only 24 days,

according to Zoopla's analysis. Meanwhile, even larger homes, with four or five bedrooms, are trading hands 33% faster than in 2019.

Meanwhile, a measure of demand is up 34% so far this year compared to 2019, even despite several months of market paralysis from March to May. "The next important

milestone for the housing market comes in September, when schools reopen and the U.K. starts to get back towards a full reopening of the economy," Mr. Donnell said. "The unwinding of the furlough scheme and other government support is the next challenge that will test the strength of economic recovery."

Saudi Arabia's Jabal Omar Development swings to second-quarter fall in revenue

RIYADH

Jabal Omar Development, the real estate company that owns a number of mixed-use towers close to Makkah's Grand Mosque, swung to a second-quarter loss as revenue declined and allowances for expected credit losses increased.

The developer reported a net loss of 465.2 million Saudi riyals for the three months ending June 30, compared to a profit of 29.75m riyals a year ago, it said in a statement to the Tadawul stock exchange, where its shares trade. The statement did not include a credit loss figure.

Revenue dropped 99.5 per cent to 1.39m riyals during the period "because operations of hotels and commercial mall were shut down (March to June 2020) due to the precautionary measures taken to limit the spread of the coronavirus pandemic," it said. Other income also dropped due to a decline in fair value of investments, while financing costs rose during the period, according to the statement.

Jabal Omar, which is one of the biggest publicly-listed real estate companies in Saudi Arabia, owns six hotels and a commercial mall in towers overlooking the Grand Mosque in Makkah. It is continuing development at the site - a mega-project of more than 2 million square metres.

During the first half of 2020, the company recorded a loss of 682.43m riyals compared to a profit of 31.37m riyals during the same period last year. The group's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by 2.17 billion riyals as of June 30, according to the filing. Accumulated losses at the end of June amounted to 864m riyals, equivalent to 9.3 per cent of the company's capital of almost 9.3bn riyals.

In May, Saudi Arabia tripled VAT from 5 per cent to 15 per cent to shore up the country's finances that have been hit by low oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic. The move affected a range of sectors in the kingdom, including real estate. To soften the blow, the country's minister of housing agreed to absorb the tax increase for first-time buyers on units worth 850,000 riyals or less, in an effort to stimulate demand for affordable homes.

Is this the future of plane toilets? Japanese airline tests new 'hygienic' hands-free lavatories amid coronavirus pandemic

TOKYO

Even before the pandemic, if there was one part of a plane most people were usually uncomfortable with, it would probably be the lavatory.

Throw in the fact that one has to twist a doorknob to get in, and it's clear why people might be hesitant about entering the washroom on a plane in the era of Covid-19. In light

of this, Japanese airline All Nippon Airways is currently testing out a bathroom door concept, whereby the doorknob can be opened and closed using an elbow.

The prototype comprises a handle that can be pushed using an elbow to open or close the door. There is also a latch that slides to lock and unlock the door. The novel lavatory door has been jointly developed with Jamco, an aircraft

engine parts and interior supplier company. It is currently being trialled in the ANA lounge at Hadedo Airport in Japan.

A spokesperson for ANA told the BBC that some of its planes were already fitted with sensor taps in the lavatories. At first, the airline explored the option of opening the toilet door by foot, but developed the idea further, due to safety reasons amid "turbulence [when] pas-

sengers might lose their balance."

However, according to its website, Jamco is also looking into mechanisms such as foot pedals to enable toilet lids and seats to be raised and lowered, hands-free waste flaps and contactless faucets (which use infrared sensors).

As of now, it is not clear if the doorknob will pass regulations and get rolled out in the ANA network. But they certainly might

make heading to the toilet while onboard a much more pleasant experience.

The leading Japanese airline is known for its hygiene and cleanliness. It was named the world's cleanest airline in the world in 2018 by the Skytrax World Airline Awards, which is based on passenger ratings, and came in third place, in the same category, in 2019.

WORLD

Pence echoes Trump's 'law and order' message amid rekindled anger over police brutality, racism

WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence echoed President Donald Trump's "law and order" message in his speech accepting the Republican Party's renomination Wednesday night amid rekindled anger over police brutality and racism in the country.

"My fellow Americans, we are passing through a time of testing. But in the midst of this global pandemic, just as our nation had begun to recover, we've seen violence and chaos in the streets of our major cities," Pence said from Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.

"Let me be clear: the violence must stop - whether in Minneapolis, Portland, or Kenosha," the vice president continued. "We will have law and order on the streets of America." The remarks came as protests and riots raged on in Kenosha, Wisconsin in the wake of the Aug. 23

police shooting of 29-year-old African American Jacob Blake, who was shot several times in the back at close range in response to a reported domestic incident. Blake's father has said his son is now paralyzed from the waist down.

Pence didn't specifically mention the shooting of Blake but went on doubling down the administration's support of law enforcement agencies.

The Kenosha shooting also came some three months after George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes during an arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

His death sparked weeks-long protests and social unrest across the United States and has led to a nationwide reckoning over police brutality and racism.

But efforts to move reforms on policing forward have stalled on Capitol Hill, as Democrats and Republicans stand di-



US Vice President Mike Pence salutes after speaking during the third night of the Republican National Convention at Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore, Maryland, on Wednesday. (AFP)

vided over political priorities. With the message, Pence also swiped at former U.S. Vice President and 2020 Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, who has made race relations a key part of his White House bid.

Biden, whom voters appear to trust more than Trump in handling race relations, denounced both the police shooting of Blake and violent protests and looting on Wednesday. "Once again, a Black man - Jacob Blake - was shot by the police. In front of his children. It makes me sick," he tweeted. "Is this the country we want to be?"

Needless violence won't heal us. We need to end the violence - and peacefully come together to demand justice." Trump has made the enforcement of "law and order" a major theme of his reelection campaign to appeal to his voters and has repeatedly lashed out at cities run by Democrats.

Earlier on Wednesday, the president tweeted he was sending federal officers to Kenosha to address the unrest, adding he would not stand for "looting, arson, violence, and lawlessness on American streets." In his speech concluding the third night of the Republican National Convention (RNC), Pence sought to make the case for Trump's reelection, defended the handling of the coronavirus pandemic, and touted what he believes to be the administration's achievements.

He also spoke about Hurricane Laura, which has made a landfall in southwestern Louisiana as a category 4 hurricane, urging residents to "stay safe."

Trump and U.S. First lady Melania Trump joined the second family on stage to chants of "four more years" after Pence's speech from Fort McHenry, where Americans defended Baltimore Harbor from the British navy in the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write lyrics of the American anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Pence, 61, is a former governor of Indiana and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was Trump's running mate in the 2016 campaign and has been serving as U.S. vice president since Jan. 20, 2017. A vocal defender of Trump on and off the campaign trail, Pence also chairs the White House coronavirus task force, established in response to the pandemic that has infected more than 5.8 million people and killed nearly 180,000 in the United States.

Second lady Karen Pence, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, Senator Joni Ernst from Iowa, the president's daughter-in-law and campaign adviser Lara Trump, and former acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell were among those who also addressed the night whose theme was "Land of Heroes."

Xinhua

UN Security Council rejects US bid on Iran sanctions

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday blocked a bid by the United States to reimpose international sanctions on Iran, saying it could not proceed with the disputed move.

Indonesia, which assumed the presidency of the council in August, said it is "not in a position to take further action" on Washington's request.

During a video conference on the Middle East, Indonesia's Ambassador to the UN Dian Triandyaning Djani cited the lack of consensus in the UN's highest body on the US strategy as the main reason.

The administration of US President Donald Trump accuses Iran

of failing to comply with the terms of the historic 2015 Iran nuclear deal, demanding that the Security Council reimpose sanctions on the country.

Washington had insisted on its legal right to trigger the disputed procedure, called "snapback" - despite pulling out of the deal two years ago.

In a related development, Iran's nuclear body said it held "constructive" talks on Tuesday with the visiting head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The US' move in the Security Council had threatened to torpedo the Iran accord and plunge the body into crisis, while widening the gulf between the US and almost every other member on Iran policy.



Thirteen of the 15 council members had written to the Indonesian presidency to reject its validity.

The US "is alone" in its approach, and "their ultimate goal is to destroy the nuclear agreement when they have already imposed (national) sanctions on Iran," one diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity told Agence France-Presse.

Another said that, with the sound rejection of the US bid by

almost the entire council, "normally the matter is closed", according to AFP.

Zhang Jun (pictured), China's permanent representative to the UN, said: "China attaches great importance to the Iranian nuclear issue. We are committed to upholding multilateralism, safeguarding the international nuclear nonproliferation regime and maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East."

'No legal ground'

"The US is no longer a JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) participant. JCPOA participants and the overwhelming majority of council members believe that US demand for restoring UN sanctions on Iran has

no legal ground and goes against common views, and the snapback mechanism shall not be deemed as invoked."

"We stand ready to work with other parties to push forward the political settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue."

During the conference, Zhang also called on the international community to act on the Middle East peace process with a sense of urgency. Growing tensions between Palestine and Israel "have put the peace process in jeopardy and heightened the risk of regional conflicts," he said.

Zhang added that the international community should firmly promote a peaceful settlement based on a two-state solution.

Xinhua

New Zealand mosque shooter given life in prison for 'wicked' crimes

WELLINGTON

A New Zealand judge sentenced white supremacist Brenton Tarrant to life in prison without parole on Thursday for killing 51 Muslim worshippers in the country's deadliest shooting, saying the sentence was not enough punishment for the "wicked" crimes.

It was the first time a court in New Zealand had sentenced a person to prison for the rest of their life.

Christchurch High Court Judge Cameron Mander said Tarrant had shown no remorse and that no matter how long he spent in prison it would not be long enough to atone for his crimes.

"Your crimes...are so wicked that even if you are detained until you die it will not exhaust the requirements of punishment and denunciation," said the judge in handing down the sentence.

"As far as I am able to gauge, you are empty of any empathy for your victims," he said.

Tarrant, a 29-year-old Australian,

admitted to 51 charges of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and one charge of committing a terrorist act during the 2019 shooting rampage at two Christchurch mosques which he livestreamed on Facebook.

On March 15, 2019 Tarrant stormed the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch armed with military-style semi-automatics, indiscriminately shooting at Muslims gathered for Friday prayers, while filming his massacre from a head-mounted camera and playing a Serbian anti-Muslim anthem.

He killed 44 people at Al Noor, the youngest a three-year-old boy shot at point blank range, then attacked a second mosque in the nearby suburb of Linwood, killing another seven people.

Judge Mander asked Tarrant before handing down the sentence if he had any comment. Dressed in grey prison clothes and surrounded by guards, Tarrant nodded when asked if he was aware he had the right to make submissions, but he



did not speak.

NZ MUSLIMS WELCOME JUSTICE

"Today the legal procedures for this heinous crime have been done. No punishment will bring our loved ones back," said Gamal Fouda, the imam of Al Noor mosque which was targeted.

"Extremists are all the same. Whether they use religion, nationalism or any other ideology. All extremists, they represent hate. But we are here today. We respect love, compassion, Muslim and non-Muslim people of faith and of no faith."

Prosecutors said Tarrant had accumulated more than 7,000 rounds of ammunition for the attack and

wanted to instill fear in those he described as invaders and that he carefully planned the attacks to cause maximum carnage.

"The hatred that lies at the heart of your hostility to particular members of the community that you came to this country to murder has no place here - it has no place anywhere," Mander said.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she was relieved that "that person will never see the light of day".

"The trauma of March 15 is not easily healed but today I hope is the last where we have any cause to hear or utter the name of the terrorist behind it. His deserves to be a lifetime of complete and utter silence," she said.

The attack led to a ban on firearms in New Zealand and a campaign against hate content online led by Ardern, a response that was hailed as a model for other countries.

More than 90 survivors and families of the victims gave emotionally charged statements in court this

week calling for Tarrant to be sentenced to life without parole. Many gathered in and outside the court on Thursday to hear the sentence.

"It's a relief...We are not in a country where we can expect the death penalty. But they have served justice...giving the maximum prison time without parole," said Hina Amir, 34, who was outside Al Noor mosque when Tarrant attacked and survived a hail of bullets in her car with her husband, Amir Daud.

DESIRE TO CREATE TERROR

Tarrant, who represented himself during the hearings but did not make submissions, said through a lawyer in court on Thursday that he did not oppose the prosecution's application for a life without parole sentence.

He asserted in a pre-sentence report that he was not racist or xenophobic, the judge said. Rather, Tarrant said he felt ostracised and had wanted to damage society, and had acted on delusional beliefs.

Agencies

TikTok CEO resigns amid US pressure on business

LOS ANGELES



TIKTOK CEO Kevin Mayer has quit the company one day after the Los Angeles-based tech firm filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration over an executive order banning any transactions with its parent company ByteDance.

ByteDance confirmed the news to Xinhua on Wednesday night.

In a news release, ByteDance said the company respected Mayer's decision and thanked him for his efforts for TikTok's development, adding TikTok's U.S. General Manager Vanessa Pappas will take up Mayer's position and continue working as leader of the team in the country.

The 58-year-old Mayer (pictured) joined TikTok on June 1. Prior to his appointment as the company's CEO, he was chairman of the Direct-to-Consumer and International division of The Walt Disney Company.

Mayer on Wednesday sent a letter to employees, noting that ByteDance's founder Zhang Yiming understood his decision and supported it, saying this decision "had nothing to do with the company, what I see for our future, or the belief I have in what we are building."

"In recent weeks, as the political environment has sharply changed, I have done significant reflection on what the corporate structural changes will require, and what it means for the global role I signed up for.

Against this backdrop, and as we expect to reach a resolution very soon, it is with a heavy heart that I wanted to let you all know that I have decided to leave the company," the letter reads.

At the same time, I understand that the role that I signed up for - including running TikTok globally - will look very different as a result of the U.S. administration's action to push for a sell-off of the U.S. business."

Mayer also emphasized that even though he quit, he had tremendous confidence that TikTok is a safe, unique, creative and inclusive platform to its almost 100 million American users.

TikTok is a video-sharing, music and social networking service owned by Chinese technology company ByteDance, and specializes in user-made short videos.

Trump and a number of other U.S. politicians have repeatedly speculated that TikTok poses a national security threat because it is owned by a Chinese company, though no evidence has been provided to support these allegations.

Earlier this month, Trump cited the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and issued executive orders banning any U.S. transactions with TikTok and WeChat, starting in 45 days.

TikTok filed a lawsuit over the executive order Monday, arguing that the order is unconstitutional and a misuse of the IEEPA.

"We cannot at this point predict the outcome of the litigation with certainty, but a U.S. court will be reluctant to rule against the president on an issue of national security," Dan Roules, managing partner of the Shanghai office of law firm Squire Patton Boggs, told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Roules, who has been working in China over the past 25 years for the renowned international law firm, agreed that the lawsuit could buy time for ByteDance to close the deal on the sale of TikTok to any of several possible U.S. companies interested in purchasing, including Microsoft, Twitter and Oracle.

Xinhua

Brexit taken off agenda for EU envoys' meeting due to stalled talks

BRUSSELS

A discussion about the negotiations over Britain and the European Union's post-Brexit relationship has been dropped from the agenda of a meeting of EU envoys next week because the talks have stalled, an EU diplomat said on Wednesday.

Earlier, the Guardian reported here that the issue would not be discussed at a meeting of ambassadors from the EU's 27 member states, though diplomats said this referred to a regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives due on Sept 2.

EU officials now believe the British government is prepared to risk a no-deal exit when the transition period comes to an end on Dec 31, and will try to pin the blame on Brussels if talks fail, the Guardian report said.

The German government, which holds the rotating presidency of the EU council, had intended to discuss Brexit during the meeting, but dropped it because there had not been "any tangible progress" in the talks, the report said, citing an EU diplomat.

An EU diplomat with knowledge of the agenda confirmed that Brexit had been removed after last week's round of talks between London and Brussels made little headway.

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, on Wednesday repeated his call for a deal with Britain on future ties by the end of October.

Agencies

Shenzhen becomes 1st Chinese city to realize full-scale 5G deployment

SHENZHEN, a city in South China's Guangdong Province known as the "new Silicon Valley" for its role as a base for Chinese high-tech companies, announced Monday that it has finished its 5G network deployment. This makes it the first city in China to offer the next generation of wireless networking at full scale, despite an intensifying China-US technology war.

The city had deployed more than 46,000 5G base stations as of Friday, Mayor Chen Rugui said

during an industry event Monday. Industry observers said that the number of 5G base stations in the city puts its 5G deployment on par with the entire European continent.

China and South Korea are the global frontrunners when it comes to 5G deployment, while the US has fallen behind, Wang Zhiqin, deputy director of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), said at the event.

As of the end of June, China had deployed more than 410,000 5G base stations across the country, and it will roll out 500,000 new ones by the end of 2020, a CAICT report said. As of the end of July, the total number of 5G users in China had surpassed 88 million, accounting for more than 80 percent of the global 5G user base and ranking the country No.1.

As the world's leading 5G equipment provider, Huawei has become the driving force in helping

deploy 5G networks in China, although the company has faced increasing and relentless US attack.

However, in spite of efforts by Washington to force its NATO allies including the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Poland to reject Huawei, the Chinese company remained the largest 5G gear provider, with a market share of nearly 40 percent in the first quarter of 2020.

"The latest progress signaled that China has become highly advanced in 5G deployment with to-

tal base stations rolled out in one city exceeding the overall number of many countries," Jiang Junmu, chief writer at telecom industry news website c14.com.cn, told the Global Times on Monday.

The full-scale coverage of the 5G network in Shenzhen is the first commercial citywide standalone network, which would be indispensable for various application scenarios, Jiang said.

Some Chinese netizens hailed the full-scale deployment of the 5G

network in Shenzhen, which is home to tech companies including Huawei, Tencent and DJI, even as those countries were put on a sanctioning list by the US government as part of the US-initiated technology war against China. "This is a significant step for China in further advancing its technology, especially in the face of the US attack," a netizen said.

"The number of 5G base stations in one Chinese city has surpassed

the total number of 5G base stations in Europe. That's China's speed!" another remarked.

Huawei has been playing a vital role in supporting the latest development of China's 5G network deployment. Rotating Chairman Guo Ping said in a keynote speech Monday that at present, 92 telecom operators worldwide are deploying 5G commercial networks with the total number of 5G users now exceeding 100 million.

Global Times

US officials see no evidence of foreign meddling with mail-in ballots

WASHINGTON

AMERICAN intelligence and law enforcement agencies have not found evidence indicating that foreign governments are trying to interfere with mail-in balloting ahead of the Nov 3 US presidential election, officials said on Wednesday.

Intelligence officials previously have said Russia and Iran were employing disinformation campaigns and other means to interfere in US politics before the election in which President Donald Trump is seeking a second term in office.

But these efforts do not appear to target mail-in balloting, which is expected to surge this year amid the coronavirus pandemic, intelligence

and law enforcement officials told reporters during a briefing, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We have no intelligence that any nation-state is trying to undermine" mail-in balloting, a senior US intelligence said.

A second federal security official added that US agencies "have not seen to date" any "coordinated voter-fraud effort" by a foreign power or anyone else ahead of the election. The official added that US agencies are strongly committed to investigate if any such effort is detected.

US intelligence agencies and former Special Counsel Robert Mueller concluded that Russia used a campaign of propaganda and hacking to boost Trump's candidacy in the 2016



Protesters demonstrate during a "National Day of Action to Save the 'Peoples' Post Office!" outside the Flagler Station post office, Tuesday in Miami. AP

election. Trump has said repeatedly, without offering evidence, that mail-in voting - long a fixture in American elections - will lead to fraud in this year's election. The Republican president trails Democratic challenger Joe Biden in opinion polls.

Federal officials who deal with election security issues told the briefing that their research, including extensive consultations with local election officials, indicated that it would be "very difficult for foreign adversaries" to interfere in US balloting activities including vote counting.

As one official put it, US election authorities are "a lot more aware now" of potential foreign election interference intentions and tactics than they were in 2016. **Agencies**

'Theater of the absurd': Kremlin lambasts US sanctions against Russian research institutes

MOSCOW

THE US decision to blacklist Russian research institutes is a "sanctions theater of the absurd," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"This is a follow-up to some sanctions dependence, a kind of the sanctions theater of the absurd," Peskov said, explaining that Washington is dependent on imposing sanctions and cannot live without sanctions and without declaring restrictions for anyone every day.

According to him, the Kremlin dismissed any claims that Russian organizations "could be behind developing chemical and biological weapons." "This is absolute nonsense."

And given the scientific research of one of the institutes [which is engaged in developing Russia's coronavirus vaccine] we cannot rule out that this is another example of uncovered and rampant non-competitive struggle," Peskov said.

The US Department of Commerce earlier blacklisted the 33rd Central Research and Testing Institute and the 48th Central Research Institute of the Russian Defense Ministry, as well as the Moscow State Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology. The notice specified that, in the case of the 48th Central Research Institute, restrictive measures will apply to all of its three facilities in Sergiev Posad, Yekaterinburg and the Kirov Region.

The document stated that the US authorities had reason to suspect the 33rd Central Research Institute of having links with the Russian chemical program and the chemical weapons test site. It also alleged that the State Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology had links with the Russian chemical weapons program and the 48th Central Research Institute - with the Russian biological weapons programme. **Agencies**

Hurricane Laura slams Louisiana, forecaster warns of 'unsurvivable' wall of water

PORT ARTHUR, Texas

HURRICANE Laura made landfall early yesterday in southwestern Louisiana as one of the most powerful storms to hit the state, with forecasters warning it could push a massive wall of water 40 miles (65 km) inland from the sea.

The National Weather Service said the storm surge, possibly higher than a two-storey house, could be "unsurvivable," acknowledging that as an unusually dire warning.

Laura crashed ashore around 1 a.m. Central Time (0600 GMT) as a Category 4 storm, the second strongest on the five-step scale, packing winds of 150 mph (240 kph) in the small town of Cameron, Louisiana, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

By 4 a.m., it had been downgraded to a Category 3 storm with the center about 30 miles (50 km) north-northwest of Lake Charles, Louisiana, the hurricane center said.

Besides threatening life, the storm was barreling toward the heart of the

U.S. oil industry, forcing oil rigs and refineries to shut down production. [O/R]

"The eyewall of Laura will continue to move inland across southwestern Louisiana during the next several hours," the NHC said in a early Thursday bulletin. "TAKE COVER NOW!"

Maximum sustained winds had slowed to 120 mph (195 kph), but were still strong enough to blow out windows in Lake Charles' 22-floor Capital One Tower, social media imaged showed.

Officials across the hard-hit area said it would be several hours before they could get out to begin search and rescue missions. Downed trees blocking roadways were expected to be the biggest immediate challenge for rescuers.

About 620,000 people were under mandatory evacuation orders in Louisiana and Texas, but officials acknowledged many people would choose to stay home.

In Vermilion Parish, just east of Laura's landfall, the sheriff's office gave



them a stark warning.

"If you choose to stay and we can't get to you, write your name, address, social security number and next of kin and put it a ziplock bag in your pocket," read a statement on the sheriff's Facebook page.

VODKA AND SHELTER

Hurricane-strength winds could blow as far as 200 miles inland to Shreveport, Louisiana, forecasters said.

The oil-refining town of Port Arthur, a city of 54,000, was a ghost town late on Wednesday, with just a couple of gas stations and a liquor store open for business.

Cross-border use of RMB hits record high in 2019

THE cross-border use of RMB in 2019 hit a record high of 19.67 trillion yuan (\$2.85 trillion), a year-on-year increase of 24.1 percent, according to 2020 RMB Internationalization Report released by the People's Bank of China recently.

The report also said that the cross-border receipts and payments were basically balanced, with a net inflow of RMB 360.6 billion yuan. And the cross-border RMB settlement accounted for 38.1 percent of the total cross-border local and foreign currency settlement, recording a new height in history during the same period, with 5.5 percentage points higher than that of the last year.

"The all-time high demonstrates that RMB is gaining an increasingly stronger presence as a payment currency globally," introduced Ju Jiandong, director of Center for International Finance and Economics Research of Tsinghua University.

He added that in general, the internationalization of RMB made steady progress last year. As China further deepens reform and opening-up of the financial sector, RMB has become more significant in the global market, and its role in international payments has been expanded and improved, demonstrating RMB's appeal as an emerging interna-



tional currency.

The report pointed out that the currency reserves of RMB were the 5th largest in the International Monetary Fund's Currency Composition of the Official Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER), with a market share of 1.95 percent, 0.88 percentage points higher than that of 2016 when RMB officially joined the Special Drawing Right (SDR) currency basket.

The market share of the RMB in the foreign exchange trading was 4.3 percent, 0.3 percentage point higher than that of 2016. According to the latest statistics, the

RMB ranked the 5th most-used payment currency globally, with a market share of 1.76 percent.

The report also noted that RMB internationalization was further developed as the RMB has been increasingly used in cross-border payment and financing worldwide in 2019. More foreign central banks held RMB-denominated assets as reserves and the RMB as an invoicing currency witnessed remarkable progress.

The RMB has maintained its positive role in the international monetary system.

"Great changes have taken

place in the current economic and financial landscape, which gives RMB new development opportunities for internationalization," remarked Tu Yonghong, deputy director of International Monetary Institute of Renmin University of China.

She also noted that as world sees ravaging COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession, China infuses impetus to the world economy again with its resilience and potential, which will not only enhance the international community's confidence in China, RMB and world economy, but also make the foundation of internationalization of RMB more solid.

The domestic RMB financial assets held by foreign entities have also increased. By the end of 2019, the scale of China's bond market reached 99 trillion yuan, of which the holdings by foreign entities were 2.3 trillion yuan, increasing 26.7 percent year on year.

The scale of China's stock market stood at 59.3 trillion yuan, of which the holdings by foreign entities were 2.1 trillion yuan, increasing 82 percent year on year.

In the first quarter of the year, RMB's share of global foreign exchange reserve assets rose to 2.02 percent, which was also a record high.

People's Daily

Teen arrested for US Wisconsin fatal shootings

CHICAGO

A 17-year-old has been arrested on murder charges Wednesday following overnight shootings in Kenosha in the southeast corner of U.S. state of Wisconsin that killed two people and wounded one during violent demonstrations over the police shooting of Jacob Blake.

Kyle Rittenhouse has been charged with first-degree intentional homicide. He was arrested in his hometown Antioch, Illinois, a town 30 minutes away from Kenosha, local media reported.

Video of the incident shows a man, alleged to be Rittenhouse, running down the street with an AR-15-style rifle as he's pursued by others attempting to apprehend him. Rittenhouse falls to the ground, then proceeds to turn around and begin shooting at the people trying to disarm him.

At a press conference held Wednesday afternoon, the police officers identified the three victims as a 26-year-old and a 36-year-old who died, and another 26-year-old who was injured. An investigation led by the Kenosha police and FBI has not yet determined whether both deaths are connected to Rittenhouse.

The shootings took place during the third night of unrest in Kenosha. Wisconsin Governor



Tony Evers has declared a state of emergency, and said on Wednesday that the number of Wisconsin National Guard members deployed in Kenosha would be 500, up from 125 on Monday and 250 on Tuesday.

Milwaukee Bucks posted a notice on its twitter Wednesday afternoon boycotting the playoff game Wednesday with the Orlando Magic following the police shooting of Jacob Blake. The NBA, as a result, announced to postpone the games.

Kenosha officials are expecting another night of unrest on Wednesday after the 7 p.m. curfew.

A video posted on social media shows 29-year-old Jacob Blake appearing to be shot by police seven times in the back at close range

as he was walking to his gray van in Kenosha on Sunday evening. Blake was later taken to hospital and remains in critical condition.

At a news conference held early Tuesday, Blake's attorney Ben Crump said that his client is paralyzed and it would "take a miracle" for him to walk again.

Blake's family plans to file a civil lawsuit against the Kenosha Police Department over the shooting, its attorney said Tuesday.

The Division of Criminal Investigation under the Wisconsin Department of Justice is investigating the case. The division aims to provide an incident report to the prosecutor within 30 days.

Kenosha is a city of about 100,000 residents, located between Milwaukee and Chicago.

Xinhua

Washington's malicious drive to roil South China Sea destined to fail

BEIJING

WASHINGTON announced on Wednesday its decision to blacklist Chinese enterprises and individuals involved in China's construction in the South China Sea, further exposing its intention to foment division and spur tensions in the region.

The move marks yet another one of Washington's blatant attempts to meddle in the region's maritime territorial disputes with arbitrary sanctions, an ostentatious breach of its commitment to not taking any side among related parties.

For starters, China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and their adjacent waters. China's infrastructure construc-

tion on its own territory is an exercise of national sovereignty in accordance with international law.

Seeking to justify its ill-founded decision, Washington falsely accused Beijing of so-called "militarization of disputed outposts in the South China Sea," while trying to portray itself as a keeper of peace in the region.

Yet, the truth is that the United States has sent military aircraft to the region more than 2,000 times in the first half of this year alone. That clearly shows who is posing a threat to regional peace.

By rolling out such provocative unilateral actions, the White House aims to create divisions in the region. It tries to drive wedges between China and related Southeast Asian nations, push those

countries to the front and enlist them as pawns in its anti-China agenda.

Furthermore, the attempt of those China hawks in Washington to stoke up waves in the South China Sea reveals a deeper intent to obstruct China's development and pursue hegemony in the region.

Washington's malign scheme to make the South China Sea another anti-China battleground will certainly fail. Since regional countries share a common aspiration to maintain stability and prosperity in the South China Sea, which is the only way to best serve their fundamental economic and security interests.

"The South China Sea is the shared home for the countries in the region and should not be a wrestling ground

for international politics," Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Xinhua earlier this month, urging all regional countries to be vigilant, and prevent the region's hard-won peace and development from being sabotaged by the United States.

Likewise, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said recently that the Philippines would not join the navies of other countries, like the United States, in maritime drills in the South China Sea for fear of raising tensions in the area.

Meanwhile, according to Ren Guoqiang, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense, relevant negotiations in the region have made positive progress. Thanks to shared efforts by all related parties, the South

China Sea has remained generally stable.

And since the COVID-19 outbreak, China has been working with regional countries to contain the deadly pathogen, while cargo ships and airplanes loaded with medical supplies for the coronavirus battle have been busy navigating through the South China Sea, providing a lifeline underpinned by mutual help in these troubled times.

Those have demonstrated regional countries' similar stance to settle disputes through dialogue among countries directly concerned and oppose external forces interfering in regional affairs.

Looking into the future, China, as it has done before, will continue to strengthen maritime cooperation with

other related parties, deepen mutual security confidence, and advance joint development, so as to make the South China Sea "a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation."

Xinhua



Furthermore, the attempt of those China hawks in Washington to stoke up waves in the South China Sea reveals a deeper intent to obstruct China's



SportPesa's Public Relations Manager, Sabrina Msuya (2nd L), and Yanga's mobilization officer, Antonio Nugaz (2nd R), hand over soccer equipment to Mbogala's Captain Sports Centre representatives at a brief event, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event was part of preparations for culmination of Yanga's week of charity activities, known as 'Wananchi Week', slated for Sunday in the city. SportPesa are Yanga's main sponsors. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

Games stop again, this time players decide when they resume

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

NBA players didn't come to Disney solely for a restart. They wanted social reform.

The Milwaukee Bucks showed how far they're willing to go to get it by opting not to play in their playoff game Wednesday. Two more games were postponed later in the day, the second time this season NBA basketball came to an immediate halt.

Other sports followed, just as they did in March when the season was suspended four months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This time, the players will decide how long the stoppage lasts.

"The biggest thing that we all understand is if we're not playing, what are we doing? What are we doing to show and to help what's going on outside this bubble?" Boston Celtics forward Grant Williams said, shortly before the Bucks were scheduled to tip off their game against the Orlando Magic.

Instead, the Bucks players remained in the locker room, finally emerging hours later to read a statement demanding action from lawmakers and encouraging voting by citizens.

They changed the narrative across the entire sports landscape, putting the focus squarely on social justice reform in protest of the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, while three of his children in his car looked on.

While players and teams from baseball, the WNBA, MLS and tennis sat out their competitions Wednesday night, NBA players and coaches met for nearly three hours in a Disney hotel to determine next steps, including whether the season should continue. They did not come to a consensus, a person with knowledge of the meeting told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details weren't revealed publicly.

The NBA's board of governors will meet Thursday morning and likely address whether the playoff games scheduled for that day will be played. The Western & Southern Open won't be, with the U.S. Tennis Association, along with the ATP and WTA Tours, announcing play would be paused after two-time Grand Slam women's champion Naomi Osaka had already said she wouldn't play her semifinal match.

"I don't expect anything drastic to happen with me not playing, but if I can get a conversation started in a majority white sport I consider that a step in the right direction," Osaka tweeted. "Watching the continued genocide of Black people at the hand of the police is honestly making me sick to my stomach."

More lost NBA games would be another punishing financial blow in a season in which the league was already headed to losses of hundreds of million of dollars, potentially leading to ramifications that would be felt in future years.

Before coming to Disney, many NBA

players wrestled for weeks about whether it was even right to play, fearing that a return to games would take attention off the deaths of, among others, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in recent months.

They ultimately decided coming to the bubble and playing televised games would give them the largest platform, though now at least some are wondering if that's still true. Toronto coach Nick Nurse said he's heard some players on his team say they were thinking about going home.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers hopes they won't.

His players considered boycotting a playoff game in 2014 after audio tapes featuring former owner Donald Sterling were revealed. He said this time is different because it's the whole league, rather than one team, weighing the decision.

"I think every team has to decide what they want to do and honestly I hope everyone plays," Rivers said. "I just think showing the excellence in doing your job, there's nothing wrong with that, but also fighting for what's right is important as well."

It certainly is for the Bucks, who play about 40 miles from Kenosha. Sterling Brown, one of the players to read the statement, has a federal lawsuit pending against the city of Milwaukee alleging he was targeted because he was Black and that his civil rights were violated in January 2018 when officers used a stun gun on him after a parking violation.

And it is for the Raptors, whose team president, Masai Ujiri, had an altercation with an Oracle Arena security guard after Game 6 of last year's NBA Finals. A video of it released recently appears to show an Alameda County sheriff's deputy initially shoved Ujiri, who is Black, twice.

They are scheduled to open the second round Thursday against Boston, but Nurse said his players were already having discussions about not playing.

"Boycotting the game has come up for them and again, as a way to try to demand a little more action and I think that's really what they want," Nurse said.

"I think there's enough attention and there's not quite enough action and I think that's what I can sense from the discussion. Their disappointment of man, how can we get something to change?"

It probably starts with actions like the Bucks took. Rivers and LeBron James had passionately described the emotions the NBA community felt after seeing the video of Blake's shooting.

But it's going to take more than players sitting out NBA games.

"It's going to take all our institutions to stand up for our values," former President Barack Obama tweeted, commending the NBA and WNBA players while posting a link to Rivers' comments from earlier this week.

Premier League 2020/21 promises to be competitive, says TFF

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) Director of Competitions, Salum Madadi, has said he expects the coming season to be highly competitive and entertaining as clubs have bolstered their squads with many new players.

The 2020/21 football season kicks off early next month and Madadi said he has been following the developments on the local football, especially on player signings and he is optimistic of a competitive league.

Madadi said from his observation, the current foreign players will make the league more competitive.

He said unlike last season, Premier League squads have this time signed foreign players, who will add value to the local game.

He disclosed that last season many clubs signed foreign players on a try and error basis.

"I'm sure the coming season will be more competitive, I have said so because we have all seen how our local clubs have been doing on the market," he noted.

"Nearly all players who have been signed by our top three clubs Azam FC, Simba SC and Yanga are worthy it," he stated.

"They are players with proven records of performance and some of them play in their respective countries' national teams."

"This season will not be like the previous season when many clubs signed players who had no any significant impact on their teams."

He added: "Last season many local clubs were just signing each Jimmy and Jim, we had foreign players who were failing to catch up with the local players."

Madadi, however, said the coming of the foreign players has both advantage and disadvantage to the country's football.

He said the advantage is that good foreign players this season will boost morale and competition



Simba SC defender, Joash Onyango (R), challenges Transit Camp FC player in a friendly clash, which was played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

among home grown players as they are all fighting for place in their clubs' starting squads.

"The local players are excited to have been joined by foreign players. They are working hard to prove that they are better than the foreigners while the foreigners are also doing their best to show us that they are worth it," he said.

The TFF official said, in the presence of high competition in local clubs, the national team will benefit a lot as the head coach will have many good players at his disposal.

"The local game is now becoming more organized as club administrators are now serious when dealing with players and also morale among supporters and fans is now high," he said.

Madadi said the disadvantage part of having many good foreign players is that upcoming players will lack platforms to expose their talents, as many of domestic sides' coaches are employed on results oriented contracts.

"The disadvantage of having good foreign players in our

league is that our young home grown players will not have a chance to showcase their talents," he disclosed.

"I'm talking of big clubs who compete in international tournaments, that is the platform for our local players to show their talents but in this case it will be difficult for them," he said.

He also said although TFF policy is that all Premier League clubs should have junior teams (U-15, U-17 and U-20) and have less than three junior players on the senior teams, this is not fully practiced by clubs.

"All Premier League teams have junior teams, but the teams are not fully supported. They are there for ceremonial and reference purposes, to me many clubs are results oriented not developmental oriented so a coach cannot feature a player whose impact on the game is very low at the expense of a player who will bring instant results," he said.

Simba, the previous season's Premier League champions, have, on the one hand,

bolstered their squad with the signing of foreign professionals, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s Chris Mugalu, Larry Bwalya from Zambia, Kenyan Joash Onyango, and Ghanaian Bernard Morrison.

Tanzanian players roped in by Simba are Ibrahim Ame, Charles Ilanfy and David Kameta.

On the other hand, Yanga, who took the second spot in the top flight, have bolstered their squad by signing foreign professionals, Carlos St'enio Fernandez from Angola, DRC's Tuisila Kisinda and Mukoko Tomombe, Ghanaian Michael Sarpong, and Burkina Fasso's Yacouba Sogne.

Others signed by Yanga are domestic players Bakari Mwamnyeto, Zawadi Mauya, Farid Mussa, Wazir Junior, Kibwana Shomari and Yassin Mustapha.

Azam FC has signed Alain Thierry from Cameroon, Zimbabwian Prince Dube, Ally Niyonzima from Rwanda and locals Awesu Ally, Ayoub Lyanga, Ismail Kada, David Kissu and Emmanuel Charles.



Tanzanian boxing promoter Juma Msangi (C) poses for picture with the country's Super Middleweight boxers, Twaha Kiduku (L) and Abdallah Pazi after the latter's weight in, which took place at Kineshi Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Morogoro-based Kiduku will trade blows with the Dar es Salaam-based Pazi in a fight that will take place in the city today. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Woods faces a new, stern test to get to FedEx Cup finale

OLYMPIA FIELDS, ILL.

TIGER Woods at Olympia Fields brought concerns about the state of his game.

That was the case 17 years ago going into the U.S. Open. Never mind that Woods was the defending champion. He had gone all of four tournaments without winning. At that stage in his career, it was enough to raise questions about a slump.

Not much has changed this week at the BMW Championship, with a slight change in the narrative. It's not about whether he can win a major. It's whether he can avoid another early end to his PGA Tour season.

Woods has gone four tournaments outside the top 35 – three of those since golf returned from the COVID-19 pandemic in June – and he likely needs to finish among the top four against a 69-man field to reach the Tour Championship. The top 30 advance to East Lake to compete for a \$15 million prize.

"I have to play well. I have to earn my way to East Lake," said Woods, who is No. 57 in the FedEx Cup. "I haven't done so yet and need a big week in order to advance. If I don't, then I go home. This is a big week for me. I'm looking forward to getting out there and playing and competing."

He'll be doing that on a course that is only familiar in its look – tree-lined, a few elevated greens, fairways framed by rough that can cover the top of his shoes and quick, contoured greens.

But then, it's not familiar to many at the second of three FedEx Cup postseason events. Woods, Charles Howell III, Adam Scott and Paul Casey are the only players who competed in that 2003 U.S. Open (Woods tied for 20th). Bryson DeChambeau won the 2015 U.S. Amateur at Olympia Fields, which featured five other players in the BMW Championship field, including PGA champion Collin Morikawa.

Harris English won a college tournament here a decade ago.

"I remember how great a test it was," English said. "It's just a tough golf course. I don't think you're going to see the scores like you did last week. ... It's going to be a good warm-up for the other tournaments coming up, with the Tour Championship and then the U.S. Open. I know we're all excited to be here."

Last week was Dustin Johnson overwhelming the field and the course at the TPC Boston, winning by 11 shots and finishing at 30-under 254, one shot away from two 72-hole scoring records on the PGA Tour. AP

Top European clubs circle as Messi calls time at Barcelona

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi's bombshell request to leave Barcelona is expected to spark a legal battle over a multi-million-dollar buy-out clause but also raises the question of which club could afford him in the heat of the coronavirus pandemic.

Messi's priority has always been to be part of a "winning project" at Camp Nou, and newly-appointed sporting director Ramon Planes on Wednesday hailed the Argentinian as a "winner" the Catalan club was working hard to keep.

Messi is Barca's record scorer and helped the club amass four Champions League titles, 10 La Liga titles and six Copa del Rey trophies.

Barcelona's latest season, however, was not only devoid of trophies (for the first time since 2008), it was also defined by chaos and ended in humiliation with a 8-2 Champions League quarter-final defeat by eventual champions Bayern Munich.

The 33-year-old Messi, a six-time Ballon d'Or winner, has not asked for a transfer so he can his feet up for the final years of his career. This is a considered move aimed at adding to his successes, and in one competition in particular -- the Champions League.

- Million euros a week -

Those able both to afford Messi, who has a reported weekly salary of nearly one million euros, and convince him, may only be Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City, with Inter Milan a third, more distant option.

City would appear favourites, but the club has always trodden carefully around the question of Messi.

For PSG, whose frustration in Europe has been comparable to City's, even though the French club broke new ground by reaching last weekend's final, Messi would also represent a seismic addition to the Qatari project.

A Neymar-Messi-Kylian Mbappe front three would not be a difficult sell.

Staying at Barcelona remains a possibility, however, particularly if under-pressure president Josep Maria Bartomeu resigns.

- 'New winning cycle' -

Bartomeu's new sporting director Ramon Planes, named in place of Eric Abidal a day after Quique Setien was sacked as manager following the Bayern defeat, said on Wednesday that Messi's want-away demand was "a very important story".

"But our idea at the club is still to build a new winning cycle around the best player in the world. We are not contemplating any kind of departure because what we want is for Messi to stay."

Planes added: "You have to have enormous respect for what Messi is and for his history."

AFP

Barca president faces vote of no confidence

BARCELONA

A VOTE of no confidence has been filed against Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu as the fallout to Lionel Messi's demand to leave the club continues.

Messi, 33, shocked Barca on Tuesday when he informed them of his desire to find a new home this summer after nearly 20 years at Camp Nou.

Barca supporters gathered outside the offices at the club's stadium upon learning of Messi's request and chanted for Bartomeu to resign in the hope that it would convince the Argentina forward to stay.

Jordi Farre, who plans to run for the presidency in next year's elections, has also called for Bartomeu to quit and is leading the vote of no confidence to have him removed.

"We consider that Messi's request to leave Barcelona is the latest sign of the mess the club finds itself in," a statement from Nou Impuls Barca, which is the slogan for Farre's campaign, said.

Farre will have 14 working days to gather the signatures of 15% of the club's members, which is just under 17,000 people.

If he manages that, the vote of

"I think the future is positive. I am an optimist. We need experienced players, like Leo Messi... We are putting every effort into ensuring that the relationship between Barca and Messi will continue. We are working internally to convince Leo."

Planes stressed that there was "not an argument between Messi and Barca -- neither deserves it".

"We are working to make Barca a winner. There is no division within the club over Leo. Anyone who knows football wants him to stay here to win again. He's a winner."

- Drastic changes -

Barcelona are understood to believe Messi's release clause expired in June, and that he remains under contract until the end of the 2021 season.

"In principle, this clause expired on June 10, but the unusual nature of this season disrupted by the coronavirus opened the way for Messi to ask to be released from his contract now," wrote Marca newspaper.

"It's the first step towards opening negotiations over his departure, on the basis of which his release clause amounts to 700 million euros (\$828 million)."

Messi joined Barcelona's youth academy at the age of 13 and made his debut in 2004 as a 17-year-old, before going on to score a club-record 634 goals.

Fans were bewildered by the Messi saga.

"There is something that did not work for it to end like this. The atmosphere between Messi and management is not good," said Antoni Reboredo, a 75-year-old pensioner sitting opposite Barca's Camp Nou.

To leave, "it is his right, he has deserved it. He has brought us a lot of happiness. Barca over the past ten years has been him."

Around 100 fans gathered at the stadium Wednesday.

"Last night I had trouble sleeping. We're here to shout our rage and our helplessness," said teacher Toni Colome, a fan for 21 years.

"I still can't believe it... I was getting used to the idea that he was going to have to retire one day, that's life. But not like this."

According to Spanish media, Messi met with new manager Ronald Koeman last week and told the Dutchman he saw himself "more out than in" at the club.

Koeman has vowed to "fight to put Barca back on top" and said at his unveiling he was hopeful Messi would remain at the club for several more years.

The Lisbon loss to Bayern, Barca's heaviest in Europe, exposed an ageing team that Messi has repeatedly said was not good enough as his relations with the club hierarchy grew increasingly strained.

Messi, bad blood, and a burofax: Why does he want to leave Barcelona

BY SID LOWE, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

THE letter (well, "burofax") arrives, recorded delivery. That way, no one can pretend that they didn't get it. Someone opens it -- Barcelona president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, himself? -- and reads it. What does it say? Wait, what? It says that Lionel Messi, the greatest player in the club's history, in any club's history, wants to leave. Now. And for free. And he thinks that legally -- there's a reason he's used a "burofax," after all -- Barcelona have to let him.

And, well, everyone, everywhere goes absolutely wild.

Let's try and answer a few basic questions around the seismic news from Tuesday in the football world.

Messi informed Barcelona by "burofax." By what?

Well, quite. And suddenly it's all the rage. A "burofax" is essentially a formal letter sent by recorded delivery, that is officially signed off by the person who receives it. It is a way of the sender being able to prove legally that they have served notice of the content of the letter. And that makes it part of a legal framework, admissible as part of a court case -- should it get that far.

In other words, Barcelona cannot say "what? You want to go? We had no idea. Why didn't you tell us?"

In short: that's them told. Officially.

So ... is this the end?

Well, it's an end, yes, and it's hard to see how there can be a way back from here. All the more so if there are public statements made in the coming hours and days. It's not just the fact that Messi might be going, either; it's how he might be going, why he might be going, and when.

But does it necessarily mean that he is leaving for sure? No, not really, although it's hard to imagine any other outcome. There's no way back, in the sense that nothing can ever be the same again. Even if he stays, it won't feel the way it did. Even if everything changes but him -- if the president goes, if Luis Suarez stays, if Neymar comes, if all those wildest dreams come true, if he suddenly thinks, "Hey, this is more like it!" -- it's not ever going to be the way it was. Something broke. It already had, of course -- which is why it came to this -- but there is a point at which fixing doesn't really feel possible any more.

And, so what do you do? You let go. What are you holding on for, anyway? If he really is determined to depart, there might well be no point in forcing him to stay.

And yet, that could happen. Barcelona could fight this: The only damage worse than the damage already done might be for Messi to actually, you know, go. Seen from the other side, what you want and what you get are not always the same thing -- even if you're Messi.

What might the reason be? Is this designed to force Bartomeu out? That's an attractive idea, and it probably would change some things for the club's No. 10. The hatred -- and that really must be the word given what we have seen -- is strong. There might be those on the club's board who want Bartomeu to walk, seeing it as the only way to rescue this situation. He's going in seven months anyway, after all. But that fact suggests that it's not about that.

Bartomeu going might have stopped it getting to this point, but having got here, it feels as if it's beyond that now.

Messi knew Bartomeu would be gone soon; all he had to do is wait. But he doesn't have time to wait. He is 33, and he wants to win now. He has, what, two seasons left? Two shots at the Champions League that his prime years have not delivered. And one shot at a World Cup, which he must prepare for, not just show up. If he's going to do it, it has to be now. He doesn't have the time or the patience. He has had enough.

What might the reason be? He's pissed off. Like, really, really pissed off. The desire to go is deep. Bartomeu got him to this point, but even Bartomeu going might not be enough to pull him back from the edge. And think what that means: leaving the club where he has played his whole career, the club where he said he



Lionel Messi

wanted to retire. The club he joined at 13. His home, where his family is, where his children have grown up, where he intends to live the rest of his life and theirs. And yet he still does this.

That's how bad it has become. That's how angry he is, how convinced he is that there's no solution.

That is Bartomeu's legacy.

Well, quite. Which is why Barcelona won't actually let him leave, will they?

First, what's Barcelona? Who is Barcelona? The president? This president?

There are politics to be played out there, you suspect. If Messi leaves, Bartomeu will forever be the president who let him go. Worse, the president who pushed Messi out. But it might be too late to try to prevent that, except by going himself and no longer being the president at all. And even that opportunity might have passed him by now. Besides, even if Messi doesn't go, Bartomeu will always be seen as the man who did this.

And yet Barcelona just can't let it happen. They must make it his fault; they must find a way to justify it. They must fight it, and be seen to fight it. All the more so because if they don't, they will look doubly

bad to have allowed him to manoeuvre them into a position where, just like with Neymar, they can't prevent it.

They have been played, again. They look bloody stupid. Even if they are resigned to him going, they will say they are not: they will argue that the clause does not apply, if only for reasons of image and economy. They will point to the buyout clause (they would love €700m). They will get lawyers onto it. They will try to show that Messi's chance to leave this year for free expired on May 31.

And who is right about that? Is that contract clause valid?

Messi's lawyers will claim that the true date is the end of the season, which, exceptionally, this season was the end of August rather than May. But it will depend on the precise wording of that contract. If, that is, this is to be a legal battle. It's not that simple though, and if you get to a legal fight -- a real one -- you've already lost.

You can't let him go, but how can you not let him go when it reaches that point?

So, as we were saying: They can't let him go, can they?

Well, what are you going to do? Force him to stay and play, with an unhappy

face on, and all that destructive power, until next year when he'll walk for free? And when everything will be worse. Even if he stayed, never left and won it all, this damages everyone forever.

So, you try to change his mind instead? Maybe. But that's not going to be easy and many on the board do not have their heart in it. They have already lost.

And don't believe that this is a momentary flash of anger from Messi, either. This has been building for a very, very long time. And you don't serve formal notice just because you're a bit pissed off. Messi is very, very, very pissed off. But he has also thought about this. A lot.

If he does go, where can he go?

That depends. If he can go ... for free? That opens up loads of opportunities. If he can go ... for his buy-out clause, then nowhere?

But that doesn't resolve anything, and that won't happen. It's not good for anyone. If he stays, it must be because he has been convinced to stay, not because he has been locked from departing, trapped in a relationship he doesn't want anymore. If he can go for a fee, but one that recognises that he wants out and only has a year left on

his contract, then there are a handful of clubs.

Messi wants to win. He needs to trust that it can happen at his next destination. Potential clubs need money, and the desire. Believe it or not, but some clubs wouldn't want him. Manchester United would. Inter Milan too. Maybe Paris Saint-Germain can get the MSN of Messi, Suarez and Neymar back: That would be fun.

It's too soon for the U.S., or Qatar, or some other semi-retirement like that. There have already been conversations with Manchester City. That's the deal that makes the most sense. It's like some heist film. Pep Guardiola and Messi, the old gang, the best in the business, back together for one last job.

How much should we read into (Barca legend) Carles Puyol and Suarez tweeting their support of him?

A lot. That they're on his side. That this is not -- I repeat, not, not, not -- just about Messi. That this is an almighty mess, on many levels. That, yes, we really have come to this, the destruction virtually complete.

What would Barcelona be without him?

They would never be the same again. Or put another way: It doesn't even matter what they would be without him. Not right now. No man is bigger than the club, yada yada. Nonsense, not least because this isn't about a club being bigger than a player, or any player. It is because this is the club; these are the moments that clubs are made of. And this moment, this legacy, will not be fixed nor forgotten. Ever. Ever.

This is their history now, and it will hurt. Always.

It is worth noting that Messi's legacy is likely to be hurt too, and he must know that -- and yet he still wants to go. Even if this works perfectly for Barcelona, it damages them. Imagine they let him go, they get a good fee for him, they sort out their dire financial crisis, they build a team, they win things.

Imagine, then, that he doesn't. He's actually a bit rubbish wherever it goes. It doesn't matter. Their greatest ever player still went when he didn't need to. Or shouldn't have needed to. He reached a point no one should have ever let him reach, and he did so like this. Because you let it happen; in fact, because you made it happen.

This isn't just a player leaving. It's not even just Messi leaving. He's 33. It was going to happen soon. Rather, it's him leaving like this. It is everything that says about you.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Messi, bad blood, and a burofax: Why does he want to leave Barcelona

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Koli Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 #News
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Rashid Juma

Polisi Tanzania sign Simba SC winger on loan

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

KILIMANJARO's Polisi Tanzania, which had for a long time been quite on the transfer market, has started flexing its muscles after signing winger, Rashid Juma, from Simba SC on a one-year loan.

Polisi Tanzania's official social media site account showed Juma pictured with one of the side's officials, with the club expressing delight in roping the youthful performer in.

"We announce we have roped in winger Rashid Juma from Simba SC. He has joined us on a year-long loan deal, our unity is our strength," the statement said.

Polisi Tanzania have also signed marauding striker, Daruweshi Saliboko, from the relegated Lipuli FC.

The forward drilled in nine goals in the previous Vodacom Premier League, which however failed to help Lipuli FC escape relegation to First Division League (FDL).

The Kilimanjaro side has also roped in forward, Ramadhan Kapera, from KMC FC.

The side's social media site account disclosed Kapera is one of players recommended by the club's technical bench to boost for the forward line.

Forward Kassim Haruna from Sahare All Stars of Tanga, and midfielder Datus Peter from relegated Mbao FC of Mwanza are also in the list of Polisi Tanzania's newly recruited players.

Polisi Tanzania are among clubs that had an impressive spell in the previous Vodacom Premier League.

The squad, which was battling it out in the top flight for the first time, ended fifth after collecting 55 points.

Gymkhana A squad cricketers step up pursuit of top honour in 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League



Patel Samaj Club's all rounder, Vishal Patel (front), goes for a six as Jain Sangh side's wicket keeper, Meet Jetha, looks on in the previous year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament game, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Patel helped Gymkhana A team notch victory over Caravans Club in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A clash held in the city early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

GYMKHANA Club A cricketers have tightened their grip on the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A top spot, trouncing Caravans Club by 30 runs in an encounter which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week.

Impressive batting displays by Gymkhana A's veteran all rounder, Vishal Patel, and Nasser Zahoro were instrumental in the squad's convincing win in the clash, which took place at the side's backyard Gymkhana Club's oval.

Gymkhana A went in to bat first after Caravans Club had won toss and elected to bowl.

The in-form Patel, list-

ed as one of the side's top order batsmen in the duel, went on rampage, nailing 74 runs not out that consisted of three boundaries and two sixes as his club raced to 193 runs for eight wickets in 50 overs.

He significantly boosted his squad's quest for staying in control of the innings, backing an equally encouraging showing by Zahoro.

Zahoro, a promising all rounder, put his aggressiveness to show and notched 26 runs which consisted of a four.

He had efficiently stepped up after his side's wobbly start to the innings, which had openers, skipper Abhik Patwa and Abdulrahman Akida, experiencing quick dismissals.

After two more quick dismissals of Amit Raghuvanshi and Mohammed Yunus, Zamoyoni Ramadhan and Kartik Syal managed to help their team pile more runs.

Syal ended his spell with 19 runs, which consisted of a four, Ramadhan recorded 15 runs which included a four.

Gourav Choudhary chipped in with 10 runs not out, successfully closing the side's innings out with Patel.

Jitin Pratap Singh, Suraj Kumar and spinner, Kassim Nassoro, finished with two wickets each during Caravans Club' bowling spell.

Despite being one of few cricket sides in the country, which boast of depth in batting, Caravans Club' resolve waned in the chase after they were skittled for

163 runs in 35.5 overs.

They had a good start in which opening batsmen, Ivan Ismail and Kheel Suchak, posted double digit scores.

Ismail notched 29 runs which included two fours and two sixes, Suchak's spell at the crease saw him score 20 runs which included two fours.

Caravans Club was later pegged back with early exits of key players, Singh and Gokul Das, with the former posting six runs whilst the latter managed seven runs.

There was gritty showing by top order batsman, Suraj Kumar, and middle order batsman, Nassor, as Caravans Club sought to step up pursuit of successful chase.

Nassor ended with 10 runs, which included two boundaries, Kumar scored 14 runs which consisted of a four.

Skipper Sreejith Kumar and youngster Mohamed Omary with double digit figures but the duo's killed off the squad's hopes.

Kumar had the best innings as he chipped in with 26 runs, which consisted of two boundaries, Omary ended with 23 runs, which consisted of a four.

Gymkhana Club's Patwa made up for his less impressive performance with the bat, putting in stellar bowling displays to eventually end with a five-wicket haul, leaking 52 runs in a 10-over spell.

Patwa played a vital role in his side's ability to foil Caravans Club's chase, with Patel piling misery for the opponents as he took two wickets and leaked 30 runs in nine overs.

Gymkhana A, the only team boasting of unbeaten spell in the KNML Division A, have, as a result, notched three wins to collect six points.

They have a net run rate of 2.3380 after amassing 356 runs and leaking 321 runs.

Strikers A now occupy the second spot in the table with four points from two wins and a loss. They have recorded net run rate of -0.3299, posting 465 runs and leaking 371 runs.

Aces A, Aga Khan SC A and Caravans Club are placed third, fourth and fifth respectively in the standing, whereas Gp Pak Stars A are rooted to the bottom of the table.

Namungo FC coach rues striker's exit

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

NAMUNGO FC head coach Thierry Hitimana is dismayed by the exit of the outfit's prolific forward, Reliants Lusajo, who has joined KMC FC.

Lusajo was a top scorer for the Lindi-based side in the previous Vodacom Premier League, drilling in 11 goals.

Hitimana disclosed he hardly knows what happened, given when he made his way back to the outfit after a brief rest he found the player had already left the squad.

"There is no any coach that can let such a striker like Lusajo easily leave his team, given letting the player go means you are weakening your club, I came back and found he had left, that is it," he stated.

He pointed out he has now set his sight on Namungo FC's Charity Shield game against Simba SC, a season opener, which will take place at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha on Sunday.

The Rwandan tactician disclosed he knows the clash will be tough given Simba are the Vodacom Premier League

champions and they moreover have a good squad.

"I know it is a tough clash, Simba are a good team which has prepared well, they are currently preparing for the CAF Champions League, their squad does not have many changes," he said.

"They have left players who were not regulars in the squad and have added new players."

He nevertheless noted Namungo FC will give their all in the clash, as it is seen as a final, and either side will be eager to win the honour.

The two sides will be facing each other for the fourth time, with Simba boasting of a better head to head record.

Simba have posted victory in two of the three matches against the Lindi outfit, whereas the other ended in a draw.

In the Premier League games, Simba edged Namungo FC 3-2 in the first phase prior to settling for a 0-0 draw with their opponents in the second phase match.

In the Federation Cup final, played in Rukwa, Simba cruised to 2-1 victory over Namungo FC.



Former Namungo FC striker Reliants Lusajo.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

