



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS BY RESIDENTS AROUND MORO'S MINDU DAM PAGE 3

GOODS



TRAINING FOR TRANSPORTERS OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PAGE 4

TOURISM



US GOODWILL AMBASSADOR TO BEGIN SIX-DAY MOUNT KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION PAGE 5

RESEARCH



SIDA-FUNDED PROJECT TO BOOST SCIENCE AND INNOVATION PAGE 6



Minister: Register pupils, make cash demands later



A Dar es Salaam resident buys school supplies for her daughter at a shop in the city's bustling Manzese market zone yesterday ahead of Monday's countrywide re-opening of schools for the new academic year. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has directed heads of primary and secondary schools not to turn away students who have not paid any agreed monetary contributions, but accept them first and resolve such issues later.

Innocent Bashungwa, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) issued this directive as schools open on Monday for a new academic year.

Various such institutions are known to be strict on fees or

“Schools are about to open early next week and we have been receiving concerns from parents that they are being charged against the government's directives,” he said.

other contributions with those who have not complied turned away on reporting, a point the minister took up with administrators when he launched the training calendar on curriculum implementation for regional education officers and

TURN TO PAGE 2

Global Finance fetes BoT chief

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Governor, Prof Florens Luoga, has been named among ten best performing central bank governors in Africa, thanks to operational reforms over the past year.

The central banker report cards, published annually by Global Finance since 1994, grade central bank governors of 101 countries and territories, including the European Union, the Eastern Caribbean zone, Central African States, and West African States, all of which have monetary unions.

The magazine provides free country economic reports, where it ranked Prof Luoga the seventh in Africa with a grade score of B- and the third in East Africa, with Morocco's central bank governor Abdellatif Jouahri featuring among the top 10 best central

TURN TO PAGE 2



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi makes remarks at Zanzibar's Maisara Mosque yesterday shortly after Friday prayers. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Zanzibar frees 29 inmates

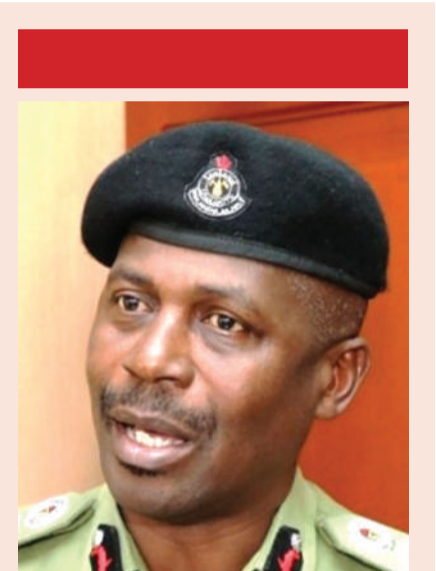
By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has pardoned 29 prisoners who were serving various sentences at different correctional facilities in Unguja and Pemba, an act of clemency to mark 58 years of the Zanzibar Revolution.

Zena Ahmed Said, secretary to the Revolutionary Council and Chief Secretary, said in a statement that the pardon was based on the powers vested in the President under Article 59 of the Zanzibar Constitution.

President Mwinyi ordered that prisoners who benefited from the pardon

President Mwinyi ordered that prisoners who benefited from the pardon are deemed to be free effectively from January 11, 2022.



'Burundian refugees can all go back home'

By Correspondent Prosper Kwizige, Kigoma

WEEKS after the closure of Mtendeli refugee camp in Kakonko District, Kigoma Region, the government has appealed to remaining Burundian refugees to return to their country voluntarily as it is now peaceful.

Sudi Mwakibasi, the director for refugee services in the Ministry of Home Affairs issued this appeal while briefing Regional Commissioner Thobias Andengeny (pictured) at the Nyarugusu refugee camp in Kasulu District.

The government encourages all remaining Burundian refugees in Nyarugusu and Nduta to go back to their country as everything has now stabilised, he stated, underlining that as Burundi is now peaceful, "many of the refugees have lost their refugee status, so they should go back home to contribute to the country's development."

The reason for the Burundian refugee crisis was political instability, but the situation has now stabilised and there is enough security to enable its citizens to live peacefully, he emphasised.

"There is no reason for them to continue staying in the refugee camps. They should remember that being a refugee is a temporary life, so they have to go back to build their nation," he said.

On his part, the RC acknowledged that Tanzania had its ups and downs with the Burundian government but both governments are satisfied that the security situation is good and Burundi needs its citizens to back home to resume life peacefully.

Some of the refugees said that what is said by the two governments is just theory and the reality is that Burundi has no permanent security

TURN TO PAGE 2

are deemed to be free effectively from January 11, 2022.

Unguja beneficiaries include Vuai Juma Makame, Abdalla Juma Abdalla, Mrisho Moh'd Mrisho, Vuai Matogo Vuai, Said Rashid Khamis, Foti Joseph Magingi, Vuai Hassan Moh'd, Juma Omar Risasi, Omar Ali Omar, Abdalla Malik Moh'd, Mohamed Khamis Mohamed, Makame Mduki Makame, Amar Shukur Hamad, Sadam Hussein Tajo, Khalfan Mzaka Khalfan and

TURN TO PAGE 2





President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Abdullah bin Ali Alsheryan, at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday shortly after receiving the envoy's credentials. Right is Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula. Photo: State House

'Burundian refugees can go back home'

FROM PAGE 1

and so they are not in a position to decide whether to remain in Tanzania or repatriate.

Nzeyimana Nyandwi (48) said they have reliable information that the majority of the Burundian returnees do not live in peace. Many of them are taken at night and subjected to brutal acts including looting or killings, he said.

Nyandwi, who has lived in exile for nearly 20 years, insisted that if the government will pressure him to return, he will ask for special protection from

the international community as he is not ready to return to Burundi now.

A total of 7,753 refugees from Burundi returned home last year while more than 2,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were granted asylum in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe.

Kigoma Region remains with refugee camps from Burundi and DRC. Nyarugusu and Nduta camp in Kasulu district, listed next for closure Mtenledi camp was officially closed late last year, officials affirmed.

Zanzibar frees 29 inmates

FROM PAGE 1

Abdalla Moh'd Marijani.

Pemba beneficiaries were listed as Suleiman Khamis Suleiman, Moh'd Rajab Hamad, Hafidh Ali Abdalla, Yusuf Shaib Juma, Ali Bakari Suleiman, Omar Juma Ali, Abdalla Omar Suleiman, Twahiru Muhsin Salim, Sultan Hassan Khatib, Ramadhan Hassan Soud, Haji Omar Haji, Hashim Moh'd Khamis and Khamis Sheha Idd.

The official pardon, issued annually in marking the revolution, includes aged

prisoners, those who are chronically ill, had minor offences and are left with marginal time to serve their jail terms, showing good discipline and regretting their mistakes.

Prisoners with offenses such as intentional murder, armed robbery, theft of public properties, offenses against women and children, drug offenses and those with many offenses are not pardoned, officials said.

Minister: Register pupils, then make cash demands

FROM PAGE 1

quality assurance officers. The ministry had received complaints from parents and guardians about being charged whenever they take their children for registration ahead of school opening, he said.

"Schools are about to open early next week and we have been receiving concerns from parents that they are being charged against the government's directives," he said.

He said there are scenarios which parents are coming across including students being told that schools are full and at times a teacher responsible for

registration is away, he elaborated, directing that each school should have in place a registration teacher, selected before schools are opened.

Regional and district authorities must ensure they oversee the implementation of the free education policy, he said, pointing out that the government releases 26bn/- every month to facilitate free education run by local governments.

Education officers in collaboration with ward executive officers should identify children eligible for registration in school and sensitize parents to register them if they are yet to do so, he urged.

Late 2015, the government abolished fees for state-run secondary schools, 13 years after primary school fees were ended. The move was meant to guarantee every child in the country 11 years of free schooling.

Parents shoulder costs like uniforms, sports gear and classroom needs like exercise books, pencils and pens, making the move a major policy shift aligning the country with neighbouring Uganda in offering free universal education.

The move to scrap fees in primary schools in 2002 in the wake of conditions set for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)

debt cancellation initiative.

This enabled an increase in primary school enrolment from 59 percent of children aged seven to 13 in 2000 to 94 percent in the next few years, but parents pay for extras like school books

and uniforms, while fees for high schools in the late 2015 measures.

The new policy aimed at freeing families from any fees or mandatory contributions for 11 years of schooling, with experts saying that Tanzania is

on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on education.

It targets enrolling more than 90 per cent of children in primary schools, after abolishing fees and pushing the building of schools in each village.

Global Finance fetes BoT chief

FROM PAGE 1

bankers worldwide.

Central Bank of Egypt governor Tarek Amer also made the world's top 10 ranks for 2021, with Mauritania governor Cheikh El Kebir Moulay Taher given the lowest rating (D) in the Africa zone.

Jouahri, the governor of Bank al-Maghrib (Morocco), earned an A grade, the highest distinction awarded by the central banker report cards, for the fourth time in a row, credited with tripling the supply of funds to commercial banks and expanding the range of bonds and securities the apex bank would accept in exchange for refinancing.

Tarek Amer, Egyptian central bank governor, was also rate 'A' grade for working to restore Egypt's macroeconomic stability, crediting BoT for cutting its discount rate for lending to banks, and lowering reserve requirements to provide additional liquidity to banks.

"The central bank said it would provide regulatory flexibility to banks and other financial institutions for loan restructurings to borrowers experiencing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mobile money operators were allowed to increase their daily transaction limits," the report noted.

Tanzania's GDP rose by 5.7 percent in the first quarter of 2021, supported by global demand for gold. GDP grew 7.0 per cent in 2019, projecting a lower growth rate this year and subdued inflation at less than 5.0

percent.

Elsewhere in East Africa, Kenya Central Bank Governor Patrick Njoroge was ranked third in the continent with B+, with the report stating that Kenya's tea and flower exports resumed late July.

The country's economic recovery would be driven by growing remittances from workers abroad and a bumper harvest of maize, the governor indicated.

The Kenyan central bank lowered its benchmark lending rate at the onset of the crisis, and also lowered reserve requirements, permitting commercial banks to restructure distressed loans.

Governor John Rwangombwa of Rwanda's central bank ranked fourth in the continent and second in the region B+ grade as the country responded quickly to address the effects of the coronavirus on its fast-growing economy.

In March/April, the bank cut reserve requirements to ease liquidity constraints, to a record low of 4.5 percent, enabling commercial banks to restructure outstanding loans for borrowers facing temporary cash-flow challenges arising from the pandemic.

The government announced a \$52m package for local banks to help support funding for business continuity, while the World Bank provided \$14.25m of International Development Association (IDA) credit in immediate funding to the country's Covid-19 emergency response project, it added.



Innocent Bashungwa (2nd-L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), cuts a ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to launch curriculum implementation and training calendar for regional education officers and zonal schools' senior quality controllers. Others are permanent secretary (RA-LGs) Prof Riziki Shemdoe (2nd-R), deputy permanent secretary (RA-LGs - Education) Gerald Mweli (L) and Commissioner of Education representative Venance Manoni. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Addis Ababa not backing Tedros' nomination for 'supporting' TPLF

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia's government on Thursday said it will not support the re-election of Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, its national, for his second term as director-general of the World Health Organisation, as political differences in the country played out on the world stage.

In a bizarre letter to the WHO executive board, Ethiopia's ministry of foreign affairs said Dr Tedros, himself a former foreign minister, threatens the organisational integrity of the WHO because he has taken sides with a proscribed group in his native country.

"He has not lived up to the integrity and professional expectations required from his office and position," says a letter sent to the board, currently chaired by Dr Patrick Amoth, the Kenyan obstetrician and gynaecologist and director-general of the Ministry of Health.

"He has been interfering with the internal affairs of Ethiopia including Ethiopia's relations with the state of

Eritrea... (And) continues as an active member and supporter of the TPLF (Tigray People's Liberation Front) that is proscribed as a terrorist group by the Ethiopian parliament."

Ethiopia said it wants the board, a 34-member body, to investigate his conduct, saying he had violated his "professional and legal responsibility". But the letter was sent ahead of a crucial 150th session of the board when it will "screen" the candidacy of Dr Tedros for his second term.

The board is due to meet for its annual meeting on January 24-29 to agree on the agenda for the World Health Assembly as well as vet candidates for the upcoming elections for director-general due in May during the 75th World Health Assembly.

The Assembly will vote only on candidates submitted by the board and since the nominations closed in November, only the Ethiopian incumbent has shown interest in the seat.

In October, Kenya, Rwanda and Botswana wrote to the board endorsing

Dr Tedros's candidacy.

Nairobi's diplomats say Kenya supports Dr Tedros to complete his maximum tour of two five-year terms because it is "Africa's turn". Having served under two critical disease outbreaks - the Ebola epidemic in the DRC in 2018 and Covid-19 pandemic since late 2019 - Dr Tedros has passed his toughest exams yet, Kenya says.

His candidacy is also supported by the European Union, Barbados, Bahrain, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Malta, Oman, Indonesia and Kazakhstan. Traditionally, one only needs to be nominated by any of the 194 members of the WHO Assembly, not necessarily his or her home country, to contest the seat.

But Ethiopia wants him out of the race for allegedly blowing the TPLF horn on the world stage. Earlier in 2021, Addis Ababa claimed he had tried to acquire arms and diplomatic backing for the TPLF (Tigray People's Liberation Front), a movement that was part of the ruling coalition when he served as minister, but which Ethiopia now considers a terrorist group.

DC directs Morowasa to identify environmental degradation due to activities around Mindu Dam

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO district commissioner (DC) Albert Msando has directed the Morogoro Urban Water Sewerage Authority (MOROWASA) and the Wami/Ruvu basin to embark on a special operation to identify all people who have diverted water from Mindu Dam this adversely affecting the environment.

of water in the sources flowing into the dam including Mzingu, Ngerengere, Mgeta and Mlali rivers due to the increased human activities.

Msando made the directive after his two-day visit to various rivers and other water sources in the district where he witnessed a number of people who have been destroying the sources by conducting agriculture and other human activities.

"This is a government order, go and carry out an operation

to remove all people who are diverting water from the rivers which are the major source of the Mindu dam, conducting activities near water sources is illegal, so those who will be found reluctant to adhere to the laws, should be ready to face their charges in the court," he said.

The DC said Morogoro Municipality residents depend on the Mindu dam by 70 percent, so allowing diversion of water in the rivers sending water to the dam,

puts lives of these residents in danger due to shortage of water.

Msando further wanted residents in the municipality to ensure that once the masika rains begins, should start planting trees in their houses and offices so as to help overcome impacts of climate change including drought.

Morowasa director Eng. Tamimu Katakweba said environmental degradation, agriculture, livestock grazing and depletion of water

sources were among major reasons for the drying up of rivers which are the main source of water for the Mindu Dam.

He said the authority is currently implementing big water projects worth 13bn/- which involves

construction of various water infrastructures to supply water in Morogoro municipality, saying that if rivers are destroyed, then will affect the projects and water supply to the residents.

Eng John Kassambili,

Water Resources Engineer from the Wami/Ruvu Basin said they are soon going to commence the operation and will arrest all people who have diverted water from the rivers in Morogoro Region.



Embattled former Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (L) in tête-à-tête with his advocate Moses Mahuna yesterday shortly before Arusha Resident Magistrate's Court found him and his six co-accused with a case to answer relating to economic sabotage. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Allan Isack

Tourism ministry training guides, drivers ready for post-pandemic recovery period

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

THE world is slowly, but surely emerging from the 24 months of travel slump, Tanzania has started to equip local players in the country's tourism industry with new knowledge for the 'new normal.'

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is kicking off extensive training programmes to enlighten and empower local tour guides and other ground actors in the travel industry, preparing them for the post pandemic era in the sector.

At least 200 tour guides from various entities are attending the workshop, organized through the Mweka Wildlife Training Institute of Kilimanjaro but taking place at the Tarangire National Park

located halfway between Arusha and Manyara Regions.

"We are grateful to the government in providing this crucial training as they are not only timely, but also very important now that the industry is recovering from the two-years of global travel slump due to Covid-19," stated the Chairperson for the Tanzania Tour Guides Association (TTGA), Emmanuel Mollel.

According to Mollel, while the training sessions are beneficial to them, most tour guides and drivers are still constrained financially, thus cannot afford some costs related to training such as paying for their own accommodation and meals.

"The industry suffered a lot during the 2020 and 2021 period of Coronavirus pandemic, therefore the majority of our members still suffer the effects, there was no work for them and they

practically earned nothing in the two years," pointed out the TTGA Chair.

Training sessions will be conducted in Tarangire for two-weeks consecutively.

A leading tour guide Max Mbise is the head of the team which is undergoing the special post-pandemic tourism training.

"We really appreciate getting this rare opportunity and are grateful to President Samia Suluhu and her government for remembering this sector in the Covid-19 funds," said Mbise.

With over 500 official tour companies operating the mainland Tanzania, tourism remains a leading employer in the country.

Despite the pandemic, Tanzania claims to have received more than 1 million tourists in the course of the year 2021, hoping to get even more this year.

UMATI embarks on programme to assess state of delivery of services in Morogoro, Songwe regions

By Beatrice Philemon

UMATI, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that provides sexual and reproductive health services, has embarked on a programme to assess and identify Service Delivery Points (SDP) that offers Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) in Morogoro and Songwe regions.

An official from Umati Upendo Daudi who is the technical officer said the assessment will begin this month in Kilosa and Mbozi Districts.

"We have already allocated funds for such assessment so that we can have a proper data on how many SDPs that offer adolescent and youth friendly health services in both regions and how many are not," she said.

According to her, this was a new strategy designed to help adolescent girls and boys to

utilize adolescent and youth-friendly health services in their localities, protect girls from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and prevent diseases and early death.

She added that the organization will start to create awareness on Sexual reproductive health and rights to local communities in the named areas to assist parents and guardians allow young people to access services, recognize the value of providing health services to adolescents and support such provision and the utilization of services by adolescents.

She added that currently, UMATI and ActionAid Tanzania are implementing a project called Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight Capacity for Rights-based Public Resources Management in Health and Agriculture in

Southern Africa (PSA).

The project is being implemented in 12 villages in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region and Mbozi District in Songwe Region with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The villages where the project is being implemented are Mvumi, Msowero, Ludewa, Ulaya, Muhenda, Chanzulu and Itete in Kilosa District and Iyula, Hasamba, Itaka, Zelezeta and Igamba in Mbozi District.

The main goal of the project is to achieve improved accountability and gender responsiveness in public resource management particularly in the areas of HIV/SRH services for adolescents and youth and contribute to the realization of Southern African Development Community (SADC) health commitments for Tanzania.

**EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE
PROVISION OF GEOPHYSICAL (RESISTIVITY) SURVEY AND
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL BIODIVERSITY SURVEY
- REF. BB-0001**

BBJV, executing Early Services for the EACOP Project invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:

- Execution of a Geophysical Resistivity Survey.
- Execution of Marine Environmental / Biodiversity Survey.

In the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies partaking in the EACOP Project

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and a Jetty with Load Out Facility for Oil Tankers, near Tanga in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES

The requirements for the Geological resp. Environmental Survey, shall include provision and operating of but not limited to:

- * Execution of the Geophysical Survey (Geoelectrical Survey to record the resistivity of the sea bottom) including providing specialist equipment and personnel to execute the survey at the Tanga waters, processing the survey data and 3D modelling the geophysics of the soil at relevant location.
- * Execution of the Marine Environmental Biodiversity Study including providing specialist equipment and personnel to execute the survey at the Tanga waters and processing the survey data into a 3D modelling the geophysical of the soil at relevant location.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- * A minimum of five (5) years experience in execution of required surveys and processing the data as per international standards common in the Oil and Gas business.
- * An experience list for similar services supplied to the Upstream Oil and Gas or comparable market in the last five (5) years.
- * ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates;

Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to p.manuels@ballast-nedam.com (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before 12 noon Tanzania Time, on 27th of January 2022

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.

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BONITE BOTTLERS LTD would like to inform the general public on our compliance of the government ban on the use of plastic seals on all Kilimanjaro Drinking Water bottle caps. This is inline with adhering to the ongoing government green policy on conserving the environment.

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MTI supports provision of health services to refugees residing in Kigoma Region

By Correspondent Prosper Kwigize, Kigoma

MEDICAL Teams International (MTI) has provided assistance worth more than 2bn/- to strengthen provision of health services to refugees in Kigoma Region.

Receiving the donation here yesterday, Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Thobias Andengeny commended MTI for agreeing to work with the government to address various health challenges at the camps especially the provision of medical equipment and construction of health facilities to facilitate provision of medical services.

He said the organization has also been conducting capacity building training to health professionals, staff government and community health workers (CHW).

MTI Resident Director, Dr George Mwita noted that the assistance provided includes medical equipment, medicines, construction of health facilities and capacity building to CHW.

Dr Mwita noted that MTI apart from providing services to refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) it also supports the government efforts towards reducing maternal and child mortality rates by implementing various reproductive health interventions especially for mothers and children.

He emphasized that in pursuit of this goal, the medical teams had saved more than 4237 pregnant women by ensuring they

gave birth to healthy babies. He said women were also educated on the importance of attending clinics during pregnancy and make sure they give birth at health facilities.

Mwita pointed out that Kigoma region is a major beneficiary of health care and assistance provided by donors including MTI who came to the country for refugees.

He said they have so far provided medical aid worth more than 1bn/- to Kigoma Region which has been disbursed to different hospitals in Kakonko, Kasulu, Kibondo, and Kigoma districts.

Kasulu District Medical Officer Dr Robert Rwembangira said the district hospital faces the shortage of health workers whereas it has only 20 staff out of the required 200. He said the available staff is equivalent to 15 percent of needed health workers.

Rwembangira noted that despite the various support they receive from donors, including UN agencies, service delivery is still uncertain due to the lack of service providers, especially doctors, nurses and midwives which leads to the people to travel for long distances seeking specialized medical services in other hospitals including in a refugee camps.

He called on the government to recruit enough health workers to keep up with the national health policy especially at a time when the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday when introducing a pilot project aimed at preventing humiliation and sexual harassment. It will be implemented in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Right is Assistant Inspector of Police Christopher Newton. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

Govt chemist conducts training for transporters of hazardous materials

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) has conducted training for transporters of hazardous goods to help them avoid health risks when transporting the items from one destination to the other.

Opening one-day training to hazardous goods transporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, the Chief Government Chemist, Dr Fidelice Mafumiko said the training was part of the authority's effort to reinforce implementation of the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act, 2003.

He said transporters are very key stakeholders in the whole process of transporting

hazardous chemicals from the ports up to the final destination.

Dr Mafumiko said the training to drivers also aimed at acclimatizing the transportation guidelines of hazardous goods and collaborating with stakeholders to solve emerging challenges.

He named some of the challenges facing transportation of hazardous goods as poor packaging, unpacking and transportation. He said there are some drivers who are not aware of the guidelines for transportation of chemicals, thus putting them at risks of getting health effects.

"We have today (yesterday) met to discuss and share experience on how to solve challenges aimed at improving safe transportation of chemicals," he said.

"It is our hope that the contribution collected from the discussion would add value to improve our role towards implementation of our duties," he added.

According to him, the law provides for the management and control of the production, importation, transportation, exportation, storage, dealing, and disposal of chemicals and for matters connected therewith.

Tanzania Association of Transporters (TAT) CEO, Hussein Wandvi, commended GCLA for training the drivers adding the acquired knowledge would help to improve the driver's conducts.

He admitted that most drivers and even transporters are not aware of the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act,

2003, hence the need for regular trainings.

"We need this kind of training to build the capacity for our drivers as well as our company staffs. Today's training was crucial for all transporters as they will now be able to avoid risks during transportation of hazardous chemicals," he said.

Last year, the GCLA office conducted training to small scale miners and processors and urged them to be registered to be legally recognised by authorities as users of chemicals to control unsafe use of chemicals

He said the aim of the training was to build the capacity of the mineral processors on the best way to operate their activities without affecting people's health or environment.



Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande (L) shares a light moment with National Board of Accountants and Auditors chairperson Prof Sylvia Temu in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the first meeting of NBAA's recently reconstituted board of directors. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

NBAA board of directors challenged in transparency and accountability

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has challenged the board of directors of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) to embrace transparency and observe the country laws, guidelines and regulations when executing their duties.

Hamad Hassan Chande, Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning threw the challenge yesterday when speaking at a ceremony to launch the NBAA board of directors at the APC conference centre in Bunju, Dar

es Salaam.

"The board is mandated to put in place policies and strategies that will guide the management in implementation of its responsibilities as well as in serving Tanzanians," said the deputy minister, adding, "I am hopeful that you will work diligently and honestly for the benefit of the institution and the nation."

He however urged members of the board to make use of the various working tools given to them including documents which elaborates on their responsibilities. He said the use

of such working tools would make their job easier.

"From your speech I have been able to know the institution as well as its responsibilities. As the deputy minister, I will plan my schedule so that I can visit all the institutions and agencies under the ministry. This will help me to deeply understand the various responsibilities of the finance ministry," he said.

Chande urged the board of directors to cooperate and supervise the NBAA since it is an important institution for the accountancy and auditors professionals in managing

financial resources.

Prof Sylvia Temu, Chairman of the NBAA national board said they are ready to work and supervise the profession. He thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for appointing him to chair the board, promising to work in accordance with the guidelines and regulations to achieve the targeted goals.

NBAA Executive Director, CPA Pius Maneno commended the deputy minister for launching the board of directors, adding they will collaborate with the appointed members to ensure efficiency in service provision.

Academic year: Police embark on school bus special operation

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

IN a move at reducing road accidents and assuring safety for pupils and students in the academic year scheduled to start next week, Police Force in Kilimanjaro region has embarked on special operation to inspect all school buses and other motor vehicles.

Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander (RPC) Simon Maigwa said they have embarked on inspecting all commuter vehicles and school buses before opening of the schools, a move that aims at stepping down road accidents and assuring safety of all road users including pupils and students.

He said police officers have been dispatched throughout the region to check that school buses are up to code and equipped with all required needs.

"The exercise will be conducted in all seven districts of Kilimanjaro region namely Mwangi, Rombo, Same, Moshi rural, Moshi Municipal, Hai and Siha," he said.

He said: "We will also have more special patrols in all roads, particularly main roads; we have decided to inspect all commuter vehicles and school buses."

He added that, last year all vehicles that were found with mechanical problems were fleet out of service, and released after undergoing mechanical services.

"We have already contacted all school owners to bring their school buses for inspection for the safety of the pupils and students who use them in their daily transportation," she explained. He further warned all school bus owners to obey

road safety regulations vowing that the government will not hesitate to take stern measures

against drivers who are causing unnecessary road accidents.

The Kilimanjaro police chief further explained the exercise also aims at reducing road accidents, cautioning reckless drivers.

"My appeal to all school and college owners is to bring all their school buses for mechanical inspection for the sustainable safety of their children," he said.

RPC Maigwa said they also conducted a special meeting to the school buses' drivers and students/pupils matrons and patrons so as to create more awareness on road regulations.

"Apart from inspecting school vehicles in Kilimanjaro region, we also had capacity building training on road regulations and road safety to the school drivers as well as pupils and students' matrons and patrons for sustainable road safety," Maigwa elaborated.

On his part, Kilimanjaro Acting Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Peter Mizambwa said cooperation between school owners and traffic unit offices has greatly improved and this helps to work together to ensure safety of the children.

"We are very glad to see school owners are voluntarily bringing to our mechanic unit their school vehicles for inspection," he said.

Commenting on the exercise, one of the Moshi residents, Peter Msele whose vehicles were inspected said; "We are concerned with safety as well. And it's certainly not ok with me to have things out of inspection. And that's why we are working diligently with the police in this exercise."

Msele said every mechanical problem identified in his vehicle will be fixed soon for the safety of the pupils and students.

US goodwill ambassador to begin 46th six-day Mount Kilimanjaro expedition

Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi.

TANZANIA'S Goodwill ambassador for tourism in the United States (US) Macon Dunnagan, will early next week start his 46th six-day Mount Kilimanjaro Climb along with a group of other tourists.

This year, apart from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the Goodwill Envoy from Charlotte, in North Carolina in the US will also have a special climb in Mount Meru.

Speaking with this paper in Moshi soon after he arrived from the US, Dunnagan SAIS he has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro 45 times, and wrote many books about attractiveness of the Tanzania tourism destinations including his famous book named 'Sons of Kilimanjaro'.

He was later announced by the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) as a Goodwill Ambassador for Tanzania's tourism.

In December last year, Macon Dunnagan participated in this year's special Mount Kilimanjaro Uhuru Expedition as part of the commemoration of the 60 Years of Tanzania Independence.

This was his 45th six-day Mount Kilimanjaro Climb that broke a record of the first Whiteman to climb many times, according to the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA).

During the Uhuru Expedition, the Chief Park Warden for Tourism at KINAPA, Charles Ngendo commended the envoy who is the US national for participating in the special Mount Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Expedition.

He added that, to date, there is no record that shows that there is any whiteman who has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro many times as Dunnagan.

Before his official marriage in the US, the Goodwill ambassador, engaged his wife Kim Brown at the Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) three years before celebrating their engagement by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro through the Rongai route in a special expedition organised by ZARA Tours.

Dunnagan, who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with ZARA Tours for more

than 40 years, comes to Tanzania every year two or three times with a group of tourists to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and visit some tourism destinations in Tanzania with his group including Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) for fun or for the cause.

Speaking with this paper in an exclusive interview a few moments after descending from the mountain at his special 45th Mount Kilimanjaro Climb before he left for his home, Charlotte, North Carolina in the US, the US national explained that he has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro 44 times, and wrote many books about the attractiveness of the country's tourism destinations including his famous book named 'Sons of Kilimanjaro', and later on he was named by the TTB a 'Goodwill Ambassador' for tourism in his country.

In the year 2018, Dunnagan, came along with the verifiable record of climbing Kilimanjaro 4 times in 28 days, and from Monday of July 2, 2018, starting taking first group to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in different four summits in only 21 days, and he said that he is enjoying helping non-profits plan and implement Kilimanjaro climb fundraisers.

According to Dunnagan, he has helped organisations and clubs like Rotary "End Polio Now" and Ovarian Cancer Canada to plan for Kilimanjaro Fundraising climbs.

"As you know, I have four groups including a charitable organisation called Samaritan's Feet which raises funds to buy shoes for the needy people Worldwide, a group of students from Cannon School in Charlotte, North Carolina in US who climb Mount Kilimanjaro to learn more about it, as well visiting Serengeti National Park for that cause, and a group of Rotarians from 7680 Charlotte Club who will climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds from the Rotary "End Polio Now" initiative," he said.

According to Dunnagan, he has helped organisations and clubs like Rotary "End Polio Now" and Ovarian Cancer Canada to plan for Kilimanjaro Fundraising climbs.



NMB Bank Plc card business manager Sophia Mwamwitwa (C) presses a button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to start a search for 100 weekly winners in the ongoing 'NMB MastaBata Kivyako vyako' promotion raffle chiefly meant to boost card-aided payments in the country. Others are NMB card business officer Mary Mwasikili (R) and Gaming Board of Tanzania Inspector Pendo Mfuru. The initiative sees the bank reward customers embracing the idea of a cashless society. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kenya bureau approves two standards for grains storage

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has approved two new standards that will guide quality and safety requirements for hermetic bags for the storage of grains.

Through the new standards, KEBS has addressed the use of hermetic storage for woven

polypropylene bags and rigid plastic silos for the storage of dried food commodities, derived products and seeds without the use of pesticides as a preservative in storage.

Hermetic bags are air-tight bags that prevent air/water from getting into the cereals stored in them. The new standards ensure that these bags preserve the contents

while restricting the existence of cereal pests by depleting oxygen supply levels producing carbon dioxide.

Requirements for the outer bag and hermetic liner include and are not limited to breaking force of the sacking, water vapour transmission rate (WVTR), oxygen transmission rate (OTR), packaging and labelling among

others specified.

"As part of our contribution to food security, these standards will go a long way in ensuring that grains and cereals are effectively protected from infestation and moisture loss, thereby, reducing post-harvest loss," says, Lt Col (Rtd.) Bernard Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS.



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema (L) pictured earlier this week presenting to Darlen Athanasi of Segese-Msalala in Kahama District a new 2.4m/- motorcycle to help the latter earn some money for her basic needs by using it as a bodaboda. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Zambia receives over 222,000 more COVID jobs for vaccinating children

LUSAKA

AN additional 222,300 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine arrived in Zambia this week to boost an on-going program to get jobs in the arms of children aged 12 to 18, said a statement.

The vaccines were purchased and donated by the US through the COVAX initiative as part of efforts by Washington to rapidly expand vaccine coverage, according to a statement by the US Embassy in the capital Lusaka.

Authorities in the Southern African nation started vaccinating children against the coronavirus last December in a campaign steadily gaining momentum.

In a recent virtual press conference Health Ministry official Kalangwa Kalangwau underlined that achieving herd immunity would be 'key in winning the fight against COVID-19.'

"I want to assure parents

that Pfizer (vaccine) is safe for children and protects them from infection," Kalangwa said.

The country's Health Ministry on Thursday reported 2,167 new COVID-19 cases, raising the total to 291,582. The death count stands at 3,834 after four additional fatalities.

Of the total 8.4 million people eligible for vaccination in Zambia, 1.4 million have been fully vaccinated, according to official figures.



Authorities in the Southern African nation started vaccinating children against the coronavirus last December in a campaign steadily gaining momentum.

Zanzibar President urges youth to venture into self-employment

By Guardian Reporter

IN celebrating the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution, Zanzibar President Hussein Mwinyi has welcomed both local and foreign investors to establish investment projects in the island.

Speaking during his speech recently in Zanzibar, President Mwinyi said the country is open for business and urged youth and women to make the best of available opportunities.

He urged youth to be

innovative and utilise opportunities available in the country by initiating innovative business projects so as to increase income and boost the economy.

Backing on President Mwinyi's call, Qnet East African Regional Coordinator Muqtadir Suwani said youth can also increase income through Direct Selling as it is a low capital entrepreneurial venture. Direct selling is a business model that offers entrepreneurial opportunities to individuals as independent

contractors to market and/or sell products and services, typically outside of a fixed retail establishment, through one-to-one selling, in-home product demonstrations or online.

He said the business makes it suitable for youth and women.

In a media statement that was issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the Regional Coordinator pointed out that while all other sectors of the global economy have suffered great loss owing to the Corona pandemic, the Direct Selling

industry has remained resilient and even experienced growth.

"Direct Selling is a sales channel used by companies to promote their products away from a physical retail location and directly to the end consumer primarily relying on word-of-mouth promotion from existing users," he explained.

The Regional Coordinator said with direct selling growing exponentially, it offers Tanzanian youth great self-employment opportunities.

According to the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) the global economy shrunk by 4.4 percent in 2020. Yet at that same time, the latest Direct Selling Report, published by the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA) shows global direct sales increased by 2.3 percent year-on-year, from US\$175.3 billion in 2019 to US\$179.3 billion in 2020.

Similarly, the International Monetary Fund recently raised its projection for economic growth in 2021 to 6 percent, up from 5.5 percent, and projects

4.4 percent growth in 2022.

"In line with these projections, the direct selling company Qnet, experienced a record-breaking growth of up to 65 percent in some African markets," the Regional Coordinator added.

"From 2017 through 2020, the Direct Selling industry saw a CAGR of 3.0 percent demonstrating resilience where most commercial sectors are experiencing a downward trend due to the pandemic," reads the report in part.

Govt disburses 470m/- for construction of designated secondary school in Meru

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

THE government has disbursed 470m/- to Meru District Council in Arusha for construction of a designated Ambureni secondary school.

Speaking here yesterday during a meeting with the project's construction committees, village and ward leaders in Meru District Council, the District Executive Director, Zainabu Makwinya said the government has also provided 80m/- for construction of a dormitory at Patandi special needs primary school.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has issued the funds for implementation of these two projects because she recognizes and value pupils with special needs, we need to support them by ensuring the projects are implemented at required standards and completed on time," said Makwinya.

She said that construction of a dormitory at the Patandi special needs primary school should be completed on time to allow pupils to start using the facility this academic year. She urged those responsible of supervising the projects to ensure value for money in each of the projects.

She added that the district has

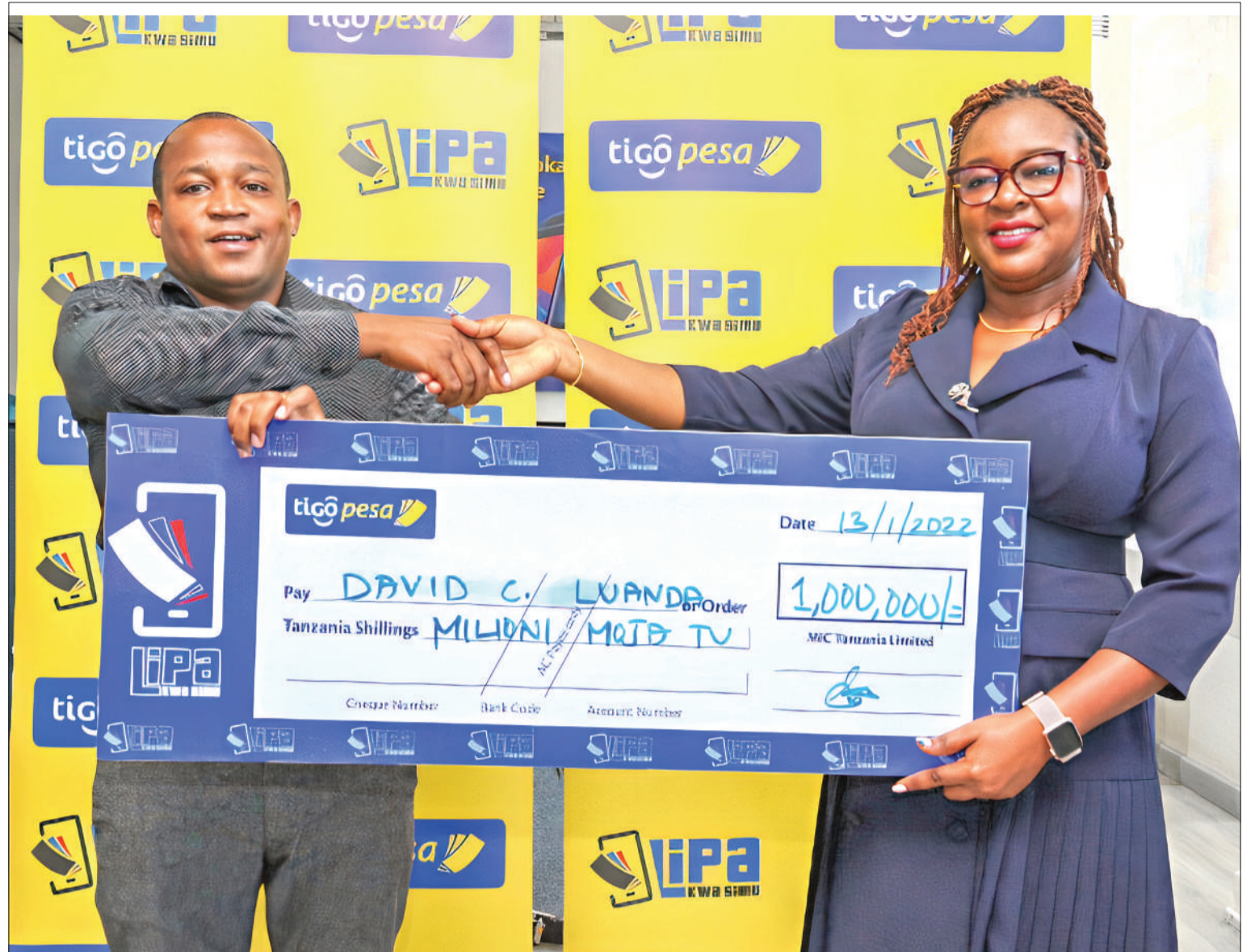
also received another 250m/- for construction of Meru health centre and 300m/- for construction of a district hospital.

She said the monies for construction of a district hospital were sourced from the COVID-19 recovery fund provided to the central government by the International Monetary Funds (IMF) while those for construction of Meru health centre were from various levies.

Akheri Ward Councillor, Julius Mungure thanked the government for providing the funds for construction of a dormitory at Patandi primary school, saying the move shows how it values children with special needs. He said the move will improve learning environment for pupils, thus resulting in improved academic performance.

Patandi special needs primary school head teacher, Jackline Mtui said construction of the dormitory will apart from motivating pupils to study hard, contribute to increased school attendance as well as academic performance.

Meru district council has in the first quarter of the 2021/2022 academic year provided 100m/- for construction of a health centre at Maroroni.



Tigo Pesa Angelica Pesha (R), Tigo Pesa's head of mobile financial services, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for 1m/- to David Luanda for emerging one of ten winners of 1m/- each of the firm's last 'Lipa kwa Simu Uwini' promotion raffle for last year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SIDA-funded project to boost science, technology and innovation in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

Strengthening STI Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has been launched in the country to support efforts to strengthen national innovation systems.

The project launched at a

multi-stakeholder consultation meeting early this week was attended by about 50 participants representing government ministries and policy-making bodies, research and ethics regulatory bodies, the private sector and local communities.

The ceremony was graced by Prof James Mdoe, Deputy

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

In his speech to participants, Prof Mdoe drew attention to the need to strengthen scientific research and the national innovation ecosystem as part of wider efforts to address global challenges. He noted that the project had arrived at the right

time.

The SIDA funded projects supporting Tanzania in its efforts to strengthen its national innovation systems in line with the recommendation on science and scientific researchers, a landmark international accord adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

(UNESCO)'s 195 member states in November 2017.

At the meeting, participants were invited to exchange ideas on the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers and the implementation of its ten key areas.

The recommendation sets common standards and norms

for the research systems, with provisions that address human rights, scientific freedom, ethics and integrity and knowledge circulation, among other things.

Tanzania is one of six pilot countries taking part in the project, alongside Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Namibia, Sierra-Leone and Zimbabwe.



Traffic police officers keep watch as efforts continue to lift and move to safety a heavy-duty truck involved in a road crash along the Ubungu Maji stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Uganda to destroy 400,000 doses of expired vaccines for COVID-19

KAMPALA

UGANDA is set to destroy over 400,000 doses of expired Covid-19 vaccines at a time when less than half of the targeted 22 million people have been vaccinated.

Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng said the vaccines had been supplied to the northern part of Uganda, but were not

used.

The expired doses are mainly Moderna and a few doses of AstraZeneca, she added.

Health State Minister Margaret Muhanga had a few weeks ago said the government is working on vaccination drives across the country, especially in northern Uganda where the uptake was low.

She said the low uptake of the vaccine had affected the fight against the virus.

"Due to low uptake of the vaccines, we started vaccination campaigns across the country, starting with the Teso, Lango sub-regions," she said.

At the time, she said the target is to have over 15 million people vaccinated by the start of January 2022.

Omicron-fuelled Covid-19 rise in Africa steep but brief -WHO

By Guardian Correspondent

After a six-week surge, Africa's fourth pandemic wave driven primarily by the Omicron variant is flattening, marking the shortest-lived surge to date in the continent where cumulative cases have now exceeded 10 million.

"Early indications suggest that Africa's fourth wave has been steep and brief but no less destabilising. The crucial pandemic countermeasure badly needed in Africa still stands, and that is rapidly and significantly increasing COVID-19 vaccinations. The next wave might not be so forgiving," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Africa.

Speaking in a virtual press conference, Dr Moeti said as of 11 January, there have been 10.2 million COVID-19 cases in Africa. Weekly cases plateaued in the seven days to 9 January from the week before. Southern Africa, which saw a huge increase in infections during the pandemic wave, recorded a 14 percent decline in infections over the past week.

"This year should mark a turning point in Africa's COVID-19 vaccination drive. With vast swaths of the population still unvaccinated, our chances of limiting the emergence and impact of deadly variants are frighteningly slim," said Dr Moeti.

"We have the know-how and the tools and with a concerted push we can certainly tip the balance against the pandemic."

South Africa, where Omicron was first reported, saw a 9 percent fall in weekly infections. East and Central Africa regions also experienced a drop. However, North and West Africa are witnessing a rise in cases, with North Africa reporting a 121 percent increase this past week compared with the previous one.

Across the continent, though, deaths rose by 64 percent in the seven days ending on 9 January compared with the week before mainly due to infections among people at high-

risk. Nonetheless, deaths in the fourth wave are lower than in the previous waves. Hospitalizations have remained low. In South Africa, for instance, around 9 percent of its over 5600 intensive care unit beds are currently occupied by COVID-19 patients.

In countries experiencing a surge in cases, the fast-spreading Omicron variant has become the dominant type. While it took around four weeks for the Delta variant to surpass the previously dominant Beta, Omicron outpaced Delta within two weeks in the worst-hit African countries.

Testing, which is crucial to COVID-19 detection and surveillance—including genomics, rose modestly by 1.6 percent over the past week with over 90 million—mostly polymerase chain reaction (PCR)—tests carried out across the continent. Twenty-three countries recorded a high positivity rate of over 10% over the past week.

Across Africa, WHO is supporting countries to bolster genomic sequencing through training in key areas such as bioinformatics and specimen handling. The Organisation is also helping procure and deliver critical laboratory equipment and supplies to countries.

So far 30 African countries—and at least 142 globally—have detected the Omicron variant. The Delta variant has been reported in 42 countries in Africa. In West Africa where COVID-19 cases are on the rise, the number of Omicron sequences undertaken by countries including Cabo Verde, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal is growing. In Cabo Verde and Nigeria, Omicron is currently the dominant variant.

While the continent appears to be weathering the latest pandemic wave, vaccinations remain low. Just around 10 percent of Africa's population has been fully vaccinated. Vaccine supplies to the continent have improved recently, and WHO is stepping up its support to countries to effectively deliver the doses to the wider population.

'Experts' opinions vital in improving education'

By Guardian Correspondent

EDUCATION Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda has expressed intentions to use different education experts including retirees to improve the education sector.

According to Prof Mkenda the experts' contributions would be of great value to individual Tanzanians as well as the nation.

Prof Mkenda made the remarks in Dodoma Region yesterday when speaking during an office handover event from the previous Education Minister, Prof Joyce Ndalichako.

This follows a recent cabinet reshuffle by President Samia Suluhu Hassan whereas Prof Joyce Ndalichako was appointed the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office -- Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities and Prof Mkenda taking over the new Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

Prof Mkenda said he would use the first three weeks in office to hold talks with the ministry officials and workers, a move he said would help to know the challenges and find ways to resolve them. He said the main role of his ministry is to improve the quality of education for enhanced productivity.

He said since the ministry is one of the crucial departments, there is a need to promote team work and ensure collaboration between workers and senior officials.

"We need to be careful when executing our duties because the education ministry is crucial. We do not need to change things overnight, we need to deal with issues with extra care to avoid confusing people," he said, appealing for cooperation from ministry workers to effectively perform his roles.

He said his office doors will be open for experienced workers to share with him some of the important things that would lastly see the education sector improving.

He urged the staff not to be cowardly but to work hard to improve the country's education sector. He also wanted them to criticize him whenever they saw him going the opposite way.

Meanwhile, Prof Joyce Ndalichako assured the staff that the ministry is in safe hands, calling upon them to cooperate with the newly appointed minister.

She however urged him to properly supervise education projects that the government is implementing at various places across the country. She said there are many on-going projects including construction of schools, dormitories and girls secondary schools.

"There are on-going projects in the education sector; the government has released funds for construction of vocational training colleges which has to be completed within schedule to allow students enrolment," she said.



Saniniu Laizer (L), who has made a fortune as a small-time tanzanite miner in Simanjiro District's Mirerani township, presents 10m/- to public officials led by district commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera (2nd-R) as contribution to the district's education fund. This was during Education Stakeholders' Day celebrations held on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Airtel Tanzania to pay 2bn/- interest to over 10 million customers

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania Plc has started to disburse over 2bn/- to its over 10 million Airtel money users in the country as interest accrued from July to September 2021.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently about the interest pay-out, the company's Director of Airtel Money, Isaack Nchunda said: "We are extremely gratified to see the growth of Airtel money users day after day. Airtel Money service continues to be a major foundation

for our customer's economic activities.

He added: "We are currently disbursing 2,011,886,007 billion Shillings to our customers who have been using the platform over this period, and the payments go directly into their Airtel money accounts."

He said the interest will be paid to individual customers, retail agents, and other Airtel money business partners based on their Airtel money wallet transactions.

Share of interest is dependent

on the level of activity the user has had on Airtel Money for the said period, he said, adding that such activities include transfers, bill payments, and airtime purchases to name a few.

Upon receiving the disbursed amount, Airtel money customers can redeem the interest via cash withdrawal, airtime, or bundle purchases, and transact the bonus to pay bills or purchase products.

Nchunda said: "This revolutionary mobile money platform has played a huge role in

building final inclusion and access to services in the country. Women and youth have seen the ease and convenience of using Airtel Money and are taking advantage of the numerous Airtel Money services that simplify and improve their lives."

He said the company's service has also been a key resource empowering small businesses, noting Airtel's priority is to make sure that the platform remains the most agile and responsive to customer needs.



Cuthbert Midala (R), head of CCM's electoral unit, pictured in Dodoma yesterday presenting forms to Hatibu Mngeja, who is aspiring for nomination as the party's candidate for the National Assembly Speaker's seat. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Global growth to slow through 2023 adding to risk of lending in developing economies

By Guardian Reporter

GLOBAL growth is expected to decelerate markedly from 5.5 per cent in 2021 to 4.1 per cent in 2022 and 3.2 per cent in 2023 as pent-up demand dissipates and as fiscal and monetary support is unwound across the world.

This is according to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

Following a strong rebound in 2021, the global economy is entering a pronounced slowdown amid fresh threats from COVID-19 variants and a rise in inflation, debt, and income inequality that could endanger the recovery in emerging and developing economies.

The rapid spread of the Omicron variant indicates that the pandemic will likely continue to disrupt economic activity in the near term.

World Bank Group President David Malpass said: "The world economy is simultaneously facing COVID-19, inflation, and policy uncertainty, with government spending and monetary policies in uncharted territory. Rising inequality and security challenges are particularly harmful for developing countries. Putting more countries on a favourable growth path requires concerted international action and a comprehensive set of national policy responses."

The World Bank's Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, Mari Pangestu said: "The choices policymakers make in the next few years will decide the course of the next decade. The immediate priority should be to ensure that vaccines are deployed more widely and equitably so the pandemic can be brought under control."

Pangestu said that tackling reversals in development progress such as rising inequality will require sustained support.

She added: "In a time of high debt, global cooperation will be essential to help expand the financial resources of developing economies so they can achieve

green, resilient, and inclusive development."

Ayhan Kose, Director of the World Bank's Prospects Group, said: "In light of the projected slowdown in output and investment growth, limited policy space, and substantial risks clouding the outlook, emerging and developing economies will need to carefully calibrate fiscal and monetary policies. They also need to undertake reforms to erase the scars of the pandemic."

Kose said the reforms should be designed to improve investment and human capital, reverse income and gender inequality, and cope with challenges of climate change."

The slowdown will coincide with a widening divergence in growth rates between advanced economies and emerging and developing economies.

Growth in advanced economies is expected to decline from 5 percent in 2021 to 3.8 percent in 2022 and 2.3 percent in 2023—a pace that, while moderating, will be sufficient to restore output and investment to their pre-pandemic trend in these economies.

In emerging and developing economies, however, growth is expected to drop from 6.3 percent in 2021 to 4.6 percent in 2022 and 4.4 percent in 2023. By 2023, all advanced economies will have achieved a full output recovery; yet output in emerging and developing economies will remain 4 percent below its pre-pandemic trend.

For many vulnerable economies, the setback is even larger: output of fragile and conflict-affected economies will be 7.5 percent below its pre-pandemic trend, and output of small island states will be 8.5 percent below.

Globally and in advanced economies, inflation is running at the highest rates since 2008. In emerging market and developing economies, it has reached its highest rate since 2011.

Many emerging and developing economies are withdrawing policy support to contain inflationary pressures—well before the recovery is complete.

Nigeria records 3,598 cholera deaths in 2021

ABUJA, Nigeria

A total of 3,598 people in Nigeria died from a cholera outbreak in 2021, an official from the Federal Ministry of Water Resources said Thursday.

Emmanuel Awe said in a statement that cases were reported in 32 states as well as

the capital Abuja.

He said a total of 107,911 people were diagnosed with cholera last year.

Awe noted that the outbreak was caused by a lack of sufficient access to clean water.

"Waterborne diseases are actually preventable, and all we have to do is to ensure that our

people always have access to clean and safe drinking water," he added.

Cholera is a water-borne life-threatening disease. An estimated 1.4 billion people are at risk for cholera globally, with around 2.8 million cases and 91,000 related deaths occurring annually.

Developing countries are

disproportionately affected because of their lack of resources, infrastructure and disaster preparedness systems.

In Nigeria, cholera is an endemic and seasonal disease occurring annually mostly during the rainy season and more often in areas with poor sanitation.

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**Taking A New Look
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It is unsavoury for ministers to skip elementary procedural requirements

JUST how prone to shortcuts and for dubious reasons that many in the public sector are likely to be was in evidence in remarks by highest government officials on what needs to change in the way high level appointees of President Samia Suluhu Hassan conduct their work. Vice President Dr Philip Mpango was plaintively asking ministers to be 'sympathetic' to the president for the sheer amount of work she has to do, and refrain from overburdening her with work that ought to be done elsewhere. A couple of examples the VP used to illustrate his remarks were sufficient to show that there is a gap of procedural observances.

In one instance a cabinet minister pushed to the president's desk a proposed contractual arrangement without even having asked for a legal viewpoint from the Attorney General, the VP noted, picking another issue as bypassing the prime minister to rush to the president. There is a psychological problem of identifying the motivation, as in legal terms there is an aura of contempt - the problem is whether it is contempt of the top officials the minister would be skipping, or it is of the president herself. Either way a minister takes it for granted that all is well, moving to ignoring the procedure and seeking a direct answer.

While the issues being discussed related to ministers there are scores of public officials who don't have to report to ministers directly, or do not feel bound to do so, and this has always been a problem in defining the scope of ministerial responsibility especially

in relation to executive agencies. Depending on the tone adopted by the government, for instance in this clarification by the vice president, bureaucrats will learn if there is a shift in 'red lines' or it is business as usual. For all gaps in observance of procedure stem from hidden agenda, the wish to rush government commitment to something; one can always smell a rat there.

It can be said that with the latest cabinet changes, the time to 'study' the sixth phase to see how corruption can be pursued without much worry is closing out. The president has consistently reorganized the line-up when it was clear that things weren't working as expected, at times just on one organization like the her dissolution of the Dar es Salaam port board of directors early last month. But ministerial shuffles are more effective measures as often it is habits in a whole sector or administrative structures that need to change.

Government is a vast organisation which can't forcibly close out all avenues for wrongdoing, but when the issues are made clear and rectifying measures taken, the public can hope that the best will come out of it. That is why the new functions of government coordination and inspectorate, as well as responsibility for central government contractual engagements, may uplift things. Even if a minister tries to push an issue to the highest desk, those around the president - and the pusher - know where the file will land. Hurrah!

Diversity is unavoidable but raises big security challenges

THERE is an expression we are used to observe in the past 20 years at the least, that Tanzania is an island of peace in a wider environment of turmoil. The fact however is that most countries that we on this side think are in chaos are actually having just pockets of chaos in mainly peaceful environments, until there is an outbreak of civil war, which by nature leaves few places, or activities in a country intact. So our neighbours have pockets of disturbances (one or two provinces out of 26 or thereof) in DRC, for example.

Yet there are other threats that have been avoided for the most part since Africa attained independence, and the founding generation of African leaders knew the Cold War in ideological terms, where each country chose what allies it wanted on the international stage, and the language it observes. Most of that ended in 1989 at the time that the Berlin Wall collapsed and Eastern Europe started to rapidly move to the Western orbit, and it appeared that was the path for everyone. Democracy and capitalism were the twin elements of the world's future, and soon each country was practicing democracy of one kind or another.

As a matter of fact no country has really ever disputed the need for democracy, but the definitions are twisted to suit current purposes those in power wish to advocate, explaining their own failings in the area in terms of disbelief - and influence - of external forces in their countries. One mode of such

definition is to identify democracy with Western culture, but over time the idea that people of other cultures can durably live with oppression by grasping it as a cultural preference has waned. So there is more of visible democracy around the world, but when nations reach limits of potential reforms they think of hitting back.

That is partially what is happening at the moment, as two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are showing a kind of readiness for actions that were unexpected in the past, demanding for instance assurances that a country along its borders will never be admitted into the Western alliance. But why is that necessary unless it is meant to remove the sense of allies' duty to protect its democracy if someone moves to check that? Wishing for this assurance is being cited as an aspect of 'indivisibility of security,' that the big power won't be secure if the tiny neighbour becomes part of the Western alliance.

Another major cloud to global peace is the principle of 'indivisibility' of major ancient civilisations which split into various governments when power shifted via a revolution. Here too, a small regime's affinity to the Western alliance prevents its being dragged into an indivisible nation, a problem of cultural diversity, attachment to ancient tradition and unity as one sovereign country. It becomes an inflexible principle tied to culture rather than democratic modernity, referendum, and it can spark a dangerous nuclear standoff.

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Banditry, governance and need for change in media coverage

By Chris Tony Akhabue

Truth is like surgery. It hurts a great deal. Yet, it has the capacity to heal wounds. Wounds of those willing to accept and administer its healing potencies.

In the words of a famous French writer, feminist and political activist, Simone De Beauvoir: "The oppressor would not have been so strong, bold and powerful if he hadn't accomplices among the oppressed".

The above line aptly and succinctly, without ambiguities, logically and didactically illustrates our present quagmire circumstance as a nation in dire need of time-tested and result-oriented remedies. Banditry and kidnapping for ransom collection have become the most pervasive and intractable violent crime against humanity in Nigeria in recent times. Hardly a day passes without ugly reports of kidnappings and killings in and around the country.

It used to be, before now, a very rare occurrence to read on the pages of newspapers or see on television about violent crimes as opposed to what is now the order of the day. Before now, reports of violent killings by robbers or by assassin's used to elicit empathy from well-meaning individuals in the society. That was then. The good old days.

But now, people have grown indifferent to daily reports of incessant gruesome killings. This is so, probably due to the frequency and alarming high number of persons exterminated needlessly without provocations. It is fast becoming a way of life in Nigeria. Nigerians, with unbelievable and remarkable capacity to stomach any nonsense, are already getting used to this new normal.

There is absolutely nothing Nigerians cannot get used to. Their patience and resilience in accepting and rationalising the indefensible is irritatingly legendary.

It is no longer possible for anyone to keep accurate record of the dozens of innocent people slaughtered daily in their homes, in their farms and on transit. A report like: "39 killed and 26 missing in renewed attacks", is common place in many parts Nigeria today, particularly in the Northern parts of the country.

Take up any newspaper of your choice any day of the week, what you see are gory tales of reckless but needless massacre of innocent women and children and peace



loving peasants in their farmlands. It is now a dangerous adventure travelling by road in any part of the country as the fear of death or of being kidnapped for ransom has become a recurring factor in the list of considerations of many travellers on our highways. It is simply an understatement to say it has reached an alarming crescendo.

What is probably more worrisome is that no one seems to pay any attention to the attacks and gruesome killings. Nobody talks about the unacceptable decimations. Instead, politicians are aligning and strategising on how to win the next elections. What has gone wrong with everybody? I have since come to the painful conclusion that Nigeria is critically sick and in dire need of drastic time-tested remedy if we will ever make it back to the part of sanity as a nation.

The feeble and ill-coordinated fight against the plague of criminal herdsmen, banditry and other allied virulent pestilences plaguing the Nigerian nation is multi-dimensional and somewhat intractable because of the support the criminal elements enjoy from among the oppressed and the highly placed individuals in the society. The insurgents are becoming more daring in their approach and operations partly because they have felt the weak pulse of response and defence from the government which clearly is expository of lack of will power or paucity of leadership.

Otherwise, how does one explain, for instance, the audaciousness of bandits and other criminal elements taking the war to the doorsteps of the military in their fortified formations?

The almighty Nigerian Defence Academy, NDA, was attacked and men killed, and the bandits walked away after the attacks unmolested, just like a scene in a motion picture. Several other government institutions and various police stations have been attacked and desecrated without resistance. Highly placed individuals and

servicing security personnel have been abducted effortlessly without resistance.

The other day, operatives of the DSS were taken like little prey on the street. Divisional police officers, military and other paramilitary officers abducted and ransom are paid to bandits to secure their release.

With countless communities paying millions of naira monthly as taxes to bandits in a sovereign nation where there is a constituted government. Tell me, who is safe in Nigeria? No one is. And nowhere is safe either.

So, you are on your own. You secure yourself if you are able to. You provide your own security, your own light, your own water, your own education, your own transportation, your own everything.

Almost everything, you provide for yourself. The body language of government is defeatist and the bandits are acquainted with this knowledge and are cleverly working with this understanding to their advantage to the consternation and dismay of government and the governed.

Government's criminal negligence or remissness to secure the lives and properties of its citizens and the nonchalance and complacency of our political class in proffering timely solutions to the intractable socio-economic menace is not only appallingly unacceptable but grossly incontinent and incontrovertibly nonsensical. It is ridiculously preposterous to sane minds.

Otherwise, what is your definition of a government that allows induced intimidation and psychological mutilation of a section of the populace just to whip them into some form of ungodly submission?

The lack of will power or paucity of internationally acceptable best practices mechanism in dealing with the menace of insurgency has seriously tainted the credibility of the current leadership.

Just some few days ago, the

governor of Katsina State, Aminu Bello Masari, in utter frustration, occasioned by the ceaseless attacks and wanton destruction of lives and property by bandits under the watch of constituted authorities, on a BBC TV programme, expressed the readiness of his government to assist citizens to acquire arms to protect themselves since the military and government have not been able to secure even themselves and the ordinary man on the street.

By that singular declaration from a sitting governor of a state, it is clear that there is a growing vacuum of thinking and paucity of leadership that makes for a statement such as this to sound almost credible and a way forward.

This is completely an expository of a failed government to provide leadership and direction when it mattered most. What is your evaluation of a government that negotiates and pays ransom to bandits and terrorists?

A government that is asking citizens to come and have guns to protect themselves? I don't know about you. But in my estimation, such a government is not only irresponsibly undependable and unreliable but also a burden and a great liability to the electorate. Such a government stands accused as a willing accomplice in the furtherance of the evil course of the enemy of the state. Of what use would it serve here to highlight the various ways government has unwittingly become accomplice? It would only amount to overflogging the obvious.

The instrumentality of the media in nation building is monumental and can never be underestimated.

In order not to be seen as a willing tool, an accomplice to banditry and terrorism, the media should, as a matter of urgency, re evaluate and fine-tune its reportage of the activities of insurgency.

The current style of the media reporting millions of naira collected as ransom by bandits is glamourising.

The reports make it sound lucrative and financially rewarding to the simple-minded.

The media should, therefore, deemphasize reporting the huge millions collectable from the pervasive and illicit trade so as to make the evil trade less lucrative especially at this trying and auspicious times of our life as a nation groping for time tested, sustainable and wholly dependable solutions to the malevolent and recalcitrantly malignant malaise of banditry and terrorism.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Young mothers turn to small businesses for income generation

KIGALI

Teen mothers from vulnerable communities are appealing for financial support to get capital so as to create viable small businesses that could lift them out of poverty and eradicate malnutrition among their children.

According to official statistics, about 100,000 teenagers gave birth in the last four years in Rwanda, with many dropping out of school to become teen mothers. In 2016, the number of teenage births recorded were 17,849. In 2017, it reduced to 17,337 teenage births.

However these numbers of teenage pregnancies have been on the rise since 2018. Teen mothers and their parents trained on fighting unwanted pregnancies and eradicating malnutrition. All photos: Courtesy. With the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant measures to contain it, chances are high that numbers might have been increasing even faster than before.

Poverty, family conflict, emotional frustration from lockdowns and interrupted school schedules have all exposed vulnerable girls to both unplanned sex and sexual abuse which resulted into increased number of teen mothers, they say.

Some of those who spoke to Doing Business said that they tried some different small businesses but later counted losses due to lack of enough financial support and Covid-19 impact while others are struggling to eradicate malnutrition as they have no single source of income.

"When I gave to birth I faced discrimination and stigma from my family and community. I have been facing hurdles in raising my kid because I would not even have access to a soap at home as I have no source of income to afford basic needs on my own," said 21-year old Shukrani Umtoni, from Rwamagana District, who gave to birth when she was in secondary school.

She said that her child is always sickly as she can't always afford nutritious food due to lack of a sustainable source of income. She said she tried the business of retailing tomatoes but later counted losses due to small capital.

"I got Rwf3,000 capital to retail one basket of tomatoes in the market. The profit I would get is Rwf1,000 within two days. I ended up counting losses and stopped such business because whenever I would gain between Rwf500 and Rwf1,000 per basket of tomatoes, this wouldn't satisfy my needs to the extent of even spending the capital," she said. Mutoni noted that she needs another capital to revive such a small business or do another business.

"Selling tomatoes requires one to always have money that can be invested for instances when tomatoes easily rot away in case they lack clients," she said. The teen mother is optimistic that she could soon get support to start vocational training on tailoring from which she hopes to do as a sustainable business.

"This is a business from which you generate at least Rwf3,000 a day of which you can spend Rwf1,000 and save Rwf2,000 a day," she said. Adeline

Nyirabagume is the 16-year old teen mother who has a one-year-old baby. She was impregnated, when she was in Primary five, by a man who has now vanished.

"Since then I have never seen him again. When I call him he tells me he is in Kigali and I have never received any support from him," she narrated. She said that her baby is currently suffering from malnutrition due to lack of capacity as she can barely afford her needs.

"I rarely feed my baby with vegetables and fruits among other nutritious foods due to lack of financial capacity. Sometimes we eat once a day. My baby's life is not really well because I have no source of income. Any support to start an income generating business could help. I prefer tailoring and hair-dressing," she said.

Asimwe Diana, another teen mother added that having experienced rape and later stunting among children born from teen mothers causes extra trauma. However, she said, when teen mothers get income generating activities, it could help in healing their hearts as long as they see their children growing well. "Tailoring has been found as a viable and sustainable source of income," she said.

Gaining from vocational training The teen mothers could soon breathe a sigh of relief as they are among teen mothers who trained on fighting stunting and malnutrition by MFURA Foundation, a non-governmental organization supporting teen mothers in Rwamagana District and will also gain vocational training to start tailoring as source of income to improve their lives.

Radjab Mbonyumuvunyi, the Mayor of Rwamagana District urged the teen mothers to work together and make use of gained vocational training skills to improve their lives and lives of other teen mothers. "Any teen mother appealing for support can come to us and seek how their problems can be addressed," he said.

Marie Clarisse Mfurayabo, the Founder and Executive Director of the foundation said that at least 50 teen mothers will acquire 18-month Vocational training on tailoring to enable them to raise their children and improve living conditions, under TUBARENGERE project in partnership with Rwamagana District.

"At least 40 teen mothers have also concluded tailoring courses and have started to generate income. For teen mothers to attain their objectives and make dreams true, they need to be specific on what they need and avoid peer pressure that can disorient them. Their future is brighter when they return to school and avoid more pregnancies and when they get support that can help improve their lives and afford needs," she said.

"This is a way of healing their trauma and restoring hope," she noted adding, "we have also trained parents of teen mothers reminding them to embark on parental responsibilities as a way of preventing more pregnancies among their children."



Mfurayabo, the founder and executive director of the foundation (centre), with teen mothers and their parents.

BREAKTHROUGH

After rejections, Cape Town woman celebrates as her books hit shelves

CAPE TOWN

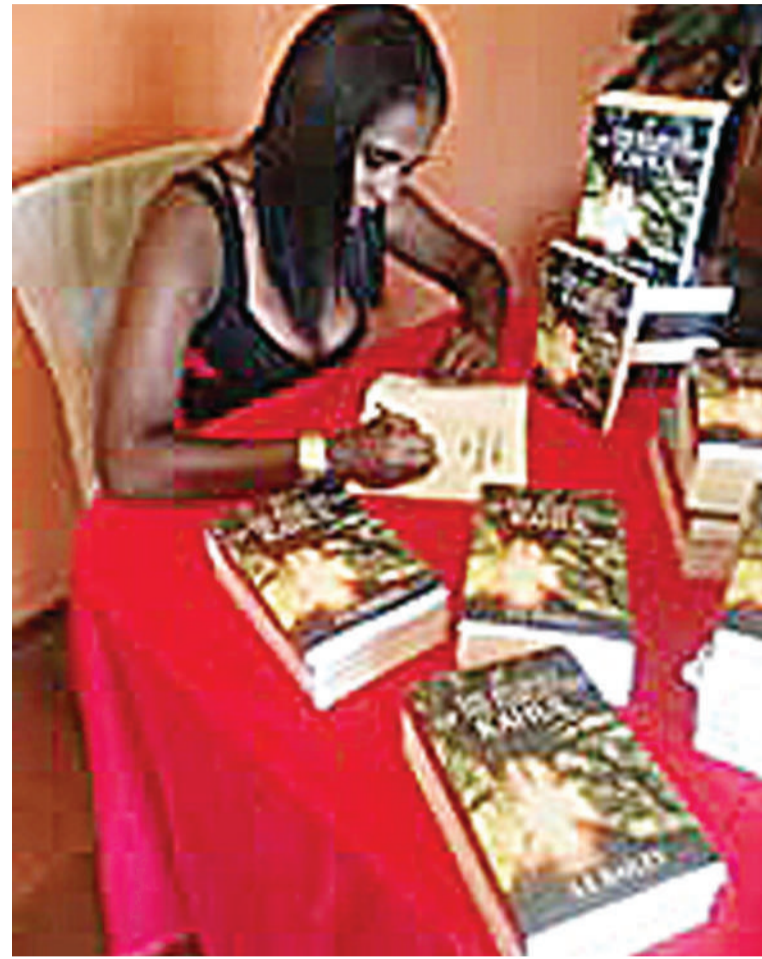
After being rejected by publishers, a Cape Town woman says she is on "top of the world" as her long-awaited series of fiction books have hit the shelves. Sue- Ellen Bailey, 39, started writing at a young age when she was a young girl living in Bonteheuwel and Mitchells Plain and always dreamed of pursuing it as a career.

Speaking to News24, the author said her journey leading up to having her books published wasn't easy - her work was rejected by publishing houses and she struggled to find the right person to edit her books. Sue- Ellen Bailey, 39, started writing at a young age and always dreamed of pursuing a career path in writing.

"I started putting pen to paper in 2019 and gave birth to my first manuscript of *The Journey of the Forgotten Kahul*. This book has a special meaning to me and is based on a magical journey of 'where do I come from', a question that so many people ask themselves," said Bailey. Bailey who lives in Parow, said her first book had always been an inspiration because of her parents encouraging her to always read, write and be creative.

"I would spend hours every-day writing. Coming up with the next sequel for the books was as easy as eating a slice of cake. I'm a firm believer of if you love what you do, you'll always have things to do. Writing for me has never been about work, it's something I enjoy doing, and it's definitely rewarding in so many ways," said Bailey. Bailey decided to publish her own book, which hit the shelves in May last year, a moment she said she would always treasure.

She said: "I've had to market the book myself which is difficult without any assistance.



Sue- Ellen Bailey with some of her books.

Editors couldn't commit to the book due to Covid and not having the time on their hands, but I was determined to see this journey through." The book was edited by Lauren Mooi Publishing in Johannesburg.

Bailey added that writing was her passion that she wholeheartedly enjoyed and dedicated herself full-time to her writing. "Spending hours inside my house in pure quietness jotting down what I want to say in the next chapter and letting my creative juices pour down in my writing has been very rewarding," she said.

Bailey's second book in the series, *The Kahul*, is set to be released in March with the third one scheduled for release towards December. "I am very dedicated to

my writing and as a self-published author I have not limited myself to one genre," said Bailey. She has also written another book for children - *"Salley and her friends finding Squirey the Squirrel"* - which is being reviewed and will be released in Afrikaans, English, and Xhosa.

The fictional book takes the reader on a journey of discovery where they come from. Bailey recalled an "emotionally proud" moment for her was when a little boy came up to her at one of her book signings and asked her if she really wrote the journey of the forgotten Kahul. She said: "He was so shocked when I said 'yes, I did'. He said he thought someone that wrote the Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings books from overseas had written my books." "We all

have an ability to tell and write our own stories. We all have the vision to be creative and that comes from within, that is where our own magic manifests from within. South Africans are very special people because we come from a country where the Cradle of Mankind was discovered," she added. According to the author, it was important for her to break away from the Cape Flats stigma.

"Having lived most of my upbringing in Bonteheuwel and Mitchells Plain, I've seen an increase in lots of positive mind-blowing stories that come out of the Cape Flats areas, and I really want to implore people to get rid of the perception that the Cape Flats is a place that has no ambition," she said.

Towards the end of the year, the bubbly author said she had the privilege of attending a writer's workshop at Zeekoevlei Primary School in Grassy Park with co-host Stanley Jacobs from Cape Flats Stories. Bailey said the workshop she attended was liberating.

"That was a mind-blowing experience. It was such a privilege having a writer's workshop with the Grade 7 learners and parents at the school. Western Cape MEC of cultural affairs and sport Anroux Marais was also in attendance to show her support at the writer's workshop. Engaging with those present was liberating. Our young kids really are our future, and it makes me so proud that they are reading at their age," said Bailey.

Bailey added that due to the success of her books, she had decided to donate books to the grade 7 class of Zeekoevlei, the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, and local non-profit organisations (NPO) in the area. "I encourage youngsters from the Cape Flats to read because the power of reading holds the key to success. We all have the ability to write and are very creative individuals," she added. The book is available at local bookstores and online at Amazon.

TECH SAVVY

Innovation to help manage beehives on mobile phone

NAIROBI

Two university students have come up with an app dubbed Ibees that helps farmers detect problems within the hives in real-time.

Jackline Tum and Clinton Odour who are Electrical and Electronic Engineering students at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology came up with the innovation in February 2021. They say they were driven by the need to take care of bees given their importance in food production.

"Every third bite of food we take depends on bees' pollination, yet we lose an unprecedented 30 percent of our bee colonies every year. In countries across Africa, honey bees could help protect wildlife, grow food crops, and earn a living," says Ms Tum. "However, sustaining apiaries based on traditional work practices in the face of parasite infection, rodent invasion, and hive heists has become a hindrance to apiary profitability."

With the advances made in technology, she says, it is now possible for farmers to monitor beehives real-time at the palm of their hands. "This way, the farmers will have the chance to act before it is too late," Tum explains.

So how does their device work? The device is placed inside the beehive for both the Kenya Top Bar hive and Langstroth. "Once fitted in a beehive, the device automatically monitors the internal conditions of the hive such as temperature and humidity, knocks to detect intrusion and even the weight of the beehive to enable the beekeeper to



Jackline Tum and Clinton Odour, Electrical and Electronic Engineering students who developed an app that helps farmers detect problems within the hives.

know when honey is ready for harvesting," says Ms Tum.

"Once an anomaly is detected, the farmer receives a text SMS in real-time regardless of the type of phone being used." The duo say they are working on a feature that will enable farmers to receive alerts via push notifications.

The device, which costs Sh1,999 per unit, is suitable for both domestic and commercial farmers. The techies spent Sh200,000 to develop the app, the cash they had won in the Producers Direct, youth na Agribiz competition that they used to kick start the business.

Currently, the platform which has a team of three engineers is targeting the over 90,000

domestic and commercial beekeepers who own over 2 million beehives in the country. "We also target beekeepers outside the country," Mr Odour says. The platform seeks to do a major rollout in March this year.

Though the techies see a bright future for their innovation, the platform hasn't been spared some major challenges. For instance, the global chip shortage has led to skyrocketing prices in some of the components they rely on.

Covid-19 also had a negative effect on their startups as they experienced huge delays associated with the complex global supply chains and importation of some of the components they use in the devices.

"At Ibees we aim at empowering farmers not only in Kenya but globally to maximise their apiary profits while protecting our tiny heroes who are on the verge of extinction. The massive amounts of data collected from the network of the connected intelligent beehives could also be used by researchers, conservationists, and governments for analytics to find insights on the viable solutions to the rapid bee colony decline."

The importance of bees in the continent cannot be underrated as the venture is a major economic activity and a key source of livelihood. For every bite of food we take, experts say, bees are the responsible pollinators. According to USAID, Kenya produces 7,300 tonnes of honey that amounts to Sh3.6 billion annually.

This only accounts for 20 percent of Kenya's honey production that has been tapped from a potential of 30,000 tonnes. This means that the country loses an estimated Sh19.3 billion annually from untapped beekeeping. In an effort to augment beekeeping, the government recently allowed citizens to practice beekeeping on public land, such as forests to increase their livelihood.

But challenges such as having thieves who harvest the honey at night and attacks from rodents and honey badger still persist, bringing hindrances on apiary growth. This prompts regular hive inspection which is labour intensive and dangerous to women. The regular inspection further disturbs the bees, a factor that at times forces them to abandon the hives.

DETERMINATION

Disabled group dreams big on avocado venture

NAIROBI

In 2005, a group of 15 people living with disabilities came together in Murang'a South sub-county and founded Vision Farmers Challenged Group aimed at building better lives. They were 10 women and five men who after sessions of brainstorming, settled on horticulture seedlings business.

"There was a craze of Hass avocado and macadamia ventures. Apart from the dairy sector, the avocado and nuts were threatening coffee farming," says Rebecca Njeri, the group secretary. Around that time many disillusioned coffee farmers were clearing their bushes owing to poor prices, debts and corruption bedeviling the sector and replacing them with avocado or macadamia.

"We analysed the market for the two products and decided that it was bound to be long term. We knew as the craze picked up, there would be a scramble for seedlings. In 2005, a grafted Hass Avocado seedlings was retailing at Sh500 while that of exotic macadamia was going for Sh700," Ms Njeri says.

The group says that it drew a market strategy that would see them capitalise on the high demand for the two crops. They planned to sell a grafted Hass avocado for Sh300 and an exotic macadamia plant at Sh500. Their chair, Damaris Muthoni says she volunteered to host the project on her land situated in the neighbourhood of Maragua town.

"We wanted to found our project with the lowest capital possible. We started with 100 macadamia seedlings as well as 200 avocados. We bought the seeds from our neighbours and after nurturing them in a nursery, sought grafting experts to transform them from traditional into exotic varieties," Ms Muthoni says. It took them three months to hit the market with 20 Macadamia seedlings and 160 of Hass Avocado.

"We made Sh58,000 as gross earnings and Sh38,000 net profit. It was encouraging. But by the time we were doing our third batch of sales in 11 months, new seedling dealers had sprouted and



Members of Murang'a South sub-county's Vision Farmers Challenged Group.

the price was going down," Ms Muthoni says.

To reduce expenses in tandem with falling market prices for seedlings, the group decided to stop buying avocado seeds, rather pay people to collect for them from market places and in neighbours' farms.

"We also decided to do away with the macadamia seedlings since apart from the seeds being costly, they had proved to be very problematic to graft. Grafting hardwood is never easy and the success rate was so poor," she adds. By 2010, the group was doing well, selling on average 2,000 Hass avocado seedlings every five months.

"But the prices kept on falling to a point that by 2017, a Hass avocado seedling was going for Sh200. To beat the competition, we went down to Sh150. This made us popular with farmers and we would sell all

of our stock. We were selling at least 2,000 seedlings every six months," Ms Muthoni says.

The group's treasurer, Jane Wairimu says between 2006 and 2010 each member was getting on average Sh6,000 as annual pay and which improved to Sh8,000 in 2011. As their customer base grew, the earnings increased sharply to Sh15,000 between 2012 and 2014. At the same time, through training programmes, they have helped found 12 groups in Murang'a County that have the disabled as members and are now self-reliant.

"In 2015, the county government started issuing free Hass avocado seedlings to farmers. Most politicians also eyeing the 2017 polls started issuing them free of charge. Our business slowed and our dividends dipped to Sh4,000 in 2016 to 2018," Ms Wairimu says. In 2018,

the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kephis) partnered with the group in efforts to produce quality seeds.

"This collaboration helped us a great deal since we received inputs free of charge as well as our water bills going down substantially since Kephis gave us water tanks to harvest water. It also footed the bills of procuring grafting buds and also provided us with a grafter," she says.

By 2021, the group's profitability had improved and was able to pay Sh8,000 dividends per six months after Kephis also helped them win market confidence by giving them a dealership certificate and included the group in its list of accredited Hass avocado seedling sellers.

"All we want now is for the government to connect us with irrigation water to save us the 20 percent on earnings that we lose to suppliers during dry seasons.

We have also started thinking of other ways to grow ourselves. We are now working on a way to use our savings to buy land and build commercial houses," she says.

The treasurer says they have saved enough to buy a piece of land for the project "and we are also seeking help from the government and donors to help disabled groups dealing in Hass avocado seedlings to acquire more land."

On average, she says one Hass Avocado tree per year can fetch a minimum of Sh7,000 and an acre can carry 350 trees translating to at least Sh2 million in earnings. "If those of us not severely disabled can be empowered to actualize our entrepreneurial plans, we won't be a bother and we won't need charity to make ends meet..." Mr Joseph Irungu, a member says.

REGRET

Woman realises she has been scammed by fake travel agent when checking into hotel

JOHANNESBURG

Mbalenhle Nyembe made a booking for a hotel stay through a "travel agent" known on Twitter. Little did she know that she had fallen for a bogus offer.

She tells W24 that the travel agent's online presence was hard to miss. "He couldn't stop talking about tourism and his passion for it. It's all we spoke about, really, and we were all rooting for him," she says. Before being scammed, Mbalenhle also met him in person, and he seemed like a sincere and honest young person trying to make a living for himself, she tells us.

This meant that she trusted him and when she wanted to book her holiday, she felt comfortable doing it through him. Mbalenhle says they settled on R7 400 for the nights booked at a Cape Town hotel instead of the R11 000 which the hotel actually charges.

"He insisted that I pay a minimum of 50% to secure the booking. I could pay the full amount, but for some reason, I opted for only paying 50%, and planned to pay the balance when checking in," she explains.

However, when her holiday dates arrived and she went to check in at the hotel in Cape Town, she was told a reservation had been made, but not paid for. She then met another person who had fallen for the same scam.

"I met a young woman at reception who had booked everything with him (the scammer), including activities that were paid in full. I felt so sorry for her," she adds. In a thread on Twitter, Mbalenhle told her story, and it turns out she was not the only one scammed.

Mbalenhle had since opened a case against the scammer and says, "I would like to get my refund, and I would like him to refund all the people that he scammed. Whether I get a refund or not, I'm not dropping the charges. I want the law to take its course and have him prosecuted. I want justice for all the people he scammed of their hard-earned money."



South African Mbalenhle Nyembe.

OBITUARY



Chekkit Technologies founder and CEO Dare Odumade.

Nigerian startups help fight scourge of fake medicines

LAGOS

Startups in Nigeria are helping fight counterfeit pharmaceutical drugs in Africa's most populous nation, where the prevalence rate of fake drugs is higher than the global average 10% and contributes to several deaths annually.

The most counterfeited are drugs for anti-malaria, pain and antibiotics, according to the National Agency for Food & Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). To fight the flood of fake pills, the agency, in partnership with the startups has created stickers with unique codes that manufacturers and distributors can attach to boxes and sachets of pills. Consumers can then use apps on their phones to scan

the code and confirm their authenticity.

Lagos-based Chekkit Technologies' mobile app allows patients to check authenticity and enables manufacturers to see the number of new customers using their products. "They've (manufacturers) also been able to discover things like side effects, potential side effects their product could have on consumers based on what people say about their product," the company's founder Dare Odumade told Reuters.

NAFDAC's director of investigation and enforcement directorate Kingsley Ejiofor said the agency had in the past three years seized 2 trillion naira (\$4.8 billion) worth of counterfeit drugs. He said tracking apps were boosting

the confidence of consumers.

"We currently have about 200 containers of counterfeit medicine at the ports scheduled for destruction. Just imagine the people that could have died as a result of use of such products," Ejiofor said, adding that China and India were the major sources of the fake medicines.

At Sproxil Africa, a mobile authentication firm, Managing Director Chinedum Chijioke said the company's app empowered users to validate the authenticity of products they were purchasing. Biofem Industries imports pharmaceutical products and uses Sproxil technology, which has helped create more visible supply chain for its drugs and other fast-moving consumer goods, said Chief Executive Officer Femi Soremekun.

HI-TECH

Smart hospitals gear up to deploy over 7 million IoMT devices globally by 2026

BEIJING

A new study by Juniper Research has found that smart hospitals will deploy 7.4 million connected IoMT devices globally by 2026; over 3,850 devices per smart hospital. This global figure represents total growth of 231% over 2021, when 3.2 million devices were deployed.

The concept of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) involves healthcare providers leveraging connected devices such as remote monitoring sensors and surgical

robotics to improve patient care, staff productivity, and operational efficiency.

The research identified smart hospitals in the US and China as leading the global adoption of IoMT devices; accounting for 21% and 41% of connected devices respectively, by 2026. It highlighted digital healthcare initiatives implemented during the ongoing pandemic and high levels of existing digitalisation within healthcare infrastructure as key to these countries' leading

positions.

The new report, Smart Hospitals: Technologies, Global Adoption & Market Forecasts 2021-2026, identified remote monitoring as key to delivering smart hospital services. It analysed how adoption of remote monitoring technologies accelerated during the pandemic significantly, due to difficulties associated with delivering in-person healthcare.

This accelerated adoption is set to continue over the next five years, as patients become acclimatised

to remote monitoring and benefit from proactively managing and treating health conditions.

However, it identified that the real-time nature of remote monitoring requires low latency, high bandwidth connections to ensure transmission of patients' health data is not interrupted or distorted. As a result, it encourages smart hospital vendors to develop partnerships with network operators to leverage multi-access edge computing to drive major reductions in lag and latency.

Research author, Adam Wears explained: "The emergence of remote monitoring within healthcare presents an opportunity for network operators to place themselves within the digital healthcare value chain. Smart hospital technologies generate significant quantities of data, meaning that the edge computing function provided by network operators will be crucial to the successful roll-out of these systems."

EXPERT-ADVICE

Why do New Year's resolutions fail? Experts weigh in on how to make them stick

ABU DHABI

Symbolic of the fresh start the New Year presents, or a way of setting yourself up for failure the moment January gets going? Opinions on New Year's resolutions are divided.

While some enjoy making a list of what they hope to achieve over the coming months, looking forward to ticking off each achievement, others are convinced that a wish-list of things that may or may not get done remains an unwanted nagging reminder of personal disappointment.

"A New Year may symbolise a turning point between the past and the future, an occasion we can call a 'new beginning'," says Dr Diana Cheah Houry, psychotherapist at Thrive Wellbeing Centre. "We make resolutions to encourage ourselves to reach goals that are hard to achieve without a serious decision."

"New Year resolutions help individuals to manifest their goals and create a vision for the year ahead which provides both focus

and direction," says Mandeep Jassal, a behavioural therapist at Priory Wellbeing Centre Abu Dhabi. "This is particularly useful at the start of the year to give a fresh outlook and purpose for the next 12 months."

Resolutions differ from person to person and from culture to culture, but similarities often appear in the pledges made. Weight loss, new jobs or promotions, healthier lifestyles and saving money tend to feature globally, alongside taking up new hobbies, self-care and environmental promises such as reducing waste or recycling more.

A recent survey of more than 2,000 adults in the UK by GoCompare found that two out of five people planned to make resolutions for 2022. Alongside the usual wishes, people also hoped to spend less on grocery shopping and cut back on food delivery.

Why do we make New Year's resolutions? The idea of putting together promises for the year ahead has its roots in religion. People used to make small promises to the gods they worshipped, for exam-



Mandeep Jassal, behavioural therapist, Priory Wellbeing Centre Abu Dhabi.

ple, that they would return borrowed items or repay debts. The Romans made their promises to the god Janus, after whom January is named, inextricably link-

ing the practice with the start of the year.

"When we want to change something in our life that makes us unhappy and discontent, we

make resolutions to fix that issue," says Taruna Karamchandani, therapist at Miracles Dubai. "New Year is usually a popular time of the year when people want to press that 'reset' button and give themselves a second chance to get in control of their lives. The New Year is the beginning of a new chapter - a chapter for many to create something new or get some things right."

Why you should (and shouldn't) make resolutions

There are benefits to making a list of things you would like to achieve within a set time frame. One that particularly resonates during these pandemic times is the hope which resolutions can offer, along with the ability to believe change is possible. Resolutions can also make the changes we wish to effect feel more concrete and therefore

more achievable. Not to mention that the act of writing them requires a certain amount of introspection and reflection, both on the year past and the one ahead.

"Resolutions can provide a sense of direction, for example, in an individual's career, spiritual or social life - all of which help to create a 'growth mindset'," says Jassal. "As individuals learn and expand their mind, they often find this can help them to 'open up' and create more opportunities in their life."

Alternatively, making resolutions can force individuals into a cyclical rather than organic way of thinking. Much as a person might abandon their diet "until next Monday" if they break it mid-week, so too might resolution-makers be tempted to throw their pledges out the window if they break them by January 20.

More recently, the notion that adhering to a less rigid "resolutions must be made in January" way of thinking has been gaining traction, particularly in conversations around mental health. "Many people go about attaining their goals from a 'need', 'should' and 'want' space," says Karamchandani. "It almost gives a sense that if the goal isn't achieved, their lives will come to a standstill. This 'desperation energy' puts unwanted pressure on them which in turn impacts the momentum, so they are likely to give up."

Why do resolutions fail? Resolutions often become a list of unwavering, one-dimensional promises we make to ourselves - lose weight, get a pay rise, meet a partner - whereas the life goals most likely to succeed are ones that are built over years, a fact making them difficult to quantify in list form.

SHORTAGE

A US school district can't find janitors, and it is now offering pupils U\$15.30 per hour for cleanliness

NEW DELHI

MINNESOTA

An American school district desperately needed 18 janitors - so they started hiring students to clean after class.

The unusual work-study program launched at Blaine High School last week. The Star Tribune first reported. Students must be at least 16 years old and are paid \$15.30 an hour, according to a job application posted by the district, the largest school district in the state of Minnesota.

Schools across the USA are struggling to hire essential workers including substitute teachers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and janitors - positions historically known for low wages and poor benefits.

When schools transitioned to virtual learning during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, many workers left the industry for good. This has led some districts to offer signing bonuses up to \$20,000 and recruit parents to fill substitute positions.

Blaine High School's student

janitors do not clean bathrooms or locker rooms and can take the bus home from work, Tom Karp, the assistant director of buildings and grounds, told the news outlet. Their primary responsibilities are sweeping, vacuuming, taking out the trash, and disinfecting surfaces. The lack of a commute opens up the application to younger students who may not have a driver's license, he added.

Record numbers of Americans have been quitting their jobs in search of better working conditions and the greater cleaning industry is no exception. Residential cleaning companies told Insider they're having to turn down business and reschedule or even cancel regular customers because they can't find enough staff.

"We're trying everything we possibly can, but there's also a limit as to what a small business can offer ... There's a fine line between getting employees and making enough profit to cover all your expenses," Jonathan Bergstein, owner of Maid to Sparkle, told Insider in November.



Janitors work at the Mildred Avenue K-8 School in Boston on July 9, 2020.



ITV			
SATURDAY 8 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:00	Al Jazeera
6:00	HABARI	12:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	12:55	Habari za saa
7:00	Habari	13:00	Mjue Zaidi
8:00	Al Jazeera	13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
9:00	Watoto wetu	13:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Shika Bamba 5	14:00	Art and Lifestyle rpt
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	14:15	Soap: Love to Death
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:55	Habari za saa
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	15:00	Meza Huru
12:50	Korean: Jumong	16:30	Watoto Wetu
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt	17:00	The Base
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe	18:00	Jiji Letu
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	18:10	Albu yako rpt
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	18:15	Mapishi
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:30	DWTV: Kesho leo
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	19:00	Afya ya Jamii
19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
19:30	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Dakika 45
21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	22:00	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW
21:30	Art and lifestyle	22:15	Soap: Love to Death
22:00	ITV TOP 10	23:00	Habari
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:30	The Base
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
01:15	DWTV	02:00	DWTV
SUNDAY 9 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	HABARI	7:30	HABARI
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:30	Al Jazeera	8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Watoto Wetu	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt	9:55	Habari za saa
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	10:25	Jagina rpt
15:30	Mwangaza	10:55	Habari za saa
16:30	ITV Top 10	11:00	The Base rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo	11:55	Habari za saa
18:00	Jiji Letu	12:00	Al Jazeera
18:15	Mapishi	12:30	Afya ya Jamii
18:30	Matukio ya wiki	12:55	Habari za saa
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt
20:00	Habari	13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	13:55	Habari za saa
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	14:00	Soap: Love to Death
21:10	Mizengwe	14:55	Habari za saa
21:30	Mjue Zaidi	15:00	Meza Huru
22:15	Bongo Movie:	16:30	Watoto wetu
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	17:00	The Base
02:05	Al Jazeera	18:00	Jiji Letu
MONDAY 10 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:10	Yu wapi
6:00	HABARI	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	18:30	Uchumi na biashara
7:30	HABARI	19:00	Jarida la wanawake
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
8:55	Habai za saa	20:00	Habari
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
9:55	Habari za saa	21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
10:00	Watoto wetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu
10:55	Habari za saa	22:20	Soap: Love to Death
11:00	ITV Top Ten	23:00	Habari
11:55	Habari za saa	23:30	The Base
TUESDAY 11 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	00:30	Al Jazeera
6:00	HABARI	02:00	DWTV
6:40	Kumekucha	THURSDAY 13 Jan	
7:30	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	6:00	HABARI
8:55	Habai za saa	6:40	Kumekucha
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	7:30	HABARI
9:55	Habari za saa	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
10:00	Watoto wetu	8:55	Habai za saa
10:25	Jagina rpt	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
10:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu
11:55	Habari za saa	10:25	Shamba lulu
12:00	Al Jazeera	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
12:30	Afya ya Jamii	11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:55	Habari za saa	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt	13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
13:55	Habari za saa	15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
14:00	Soap: Love to Death	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
14:55	Habari za saa	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
15:00	Meza Huru	18:00	Jiji Letu
16:30	Watoto wetu	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
17:00	The Base	19:00	Jungu Kuu
18:00	Jiji Letu	19:30	Shika Bamba
18:10	Yu wapi	20:00	Habari
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	21:00	Malumbano ya hoja
18:30	Uchumi na biashara	23:00	Habari
19:00	Jarida la wanawake	23:30	The Base
19:30	Soap: Uzalo	00:30	Al Jazeera
20:00	Habari	02:00	DWTV
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	FRIDAY 14 Jan	
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
21:45	Chetu ni chetu	SATURDAY 15 Jan	
22:20	Soap: Love to Death	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
23:00	Habari	6:00	HABARI
23:30	The Base	6:40	Kumekucha
00:30	Al Jazeera	7:00	Habari
02:00	DWTV	8:00	Al Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 12 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
6:00	HABARI	8:55	Habai za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
7:30	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:00	Watoto wetu
8:55	Habai za saa	10:25	Jagina rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	10:55	Habari za saa
9:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base
10:00	Watoto wetu	11:55	Habari za saa
10:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera
11:00	ITV Top Ten	12:30	Afya ya Jamii
11:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa
SUNDAY 16 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:00	Shamsham za pwani
6:00	HABARI	13:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	14:00	Soap: Love to Death
7:00	Habari	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Meza Huru
SATURDAY 15 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	16:30	Watoto wetu
6:00	HABARI	17:00	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	18:00	Jiji Letu
7:00	Habari	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	18:30	Uchumi na biashara
9:00	Watoto wetu	19:00	Jarina la wanawake
10:00	Shika Bamba 5	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	20:00	Habari
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
12:50	Korean: Jumong	21:45	Chetu ni chetu
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt	22:20	Soap: Love to Death
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe	23:00	Habari
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	23:30	The Base
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	00:30	Al Jazeera
18:00	Jiji Letu	02:00	DWTV
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	FRIDAY 14 Jan	
19:00	Jungu Kuu	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
19:30	Shika Bamba	SATURDAY 15 Jan	
20:00	Habari	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
21:00	Malumbano ya hoja	6:00	HABARI
23:00	Habari	6:40	Kumekucha
23:30	The Base	7:00	Habari
00:30	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV	SUNDAY 16 Jan	
THURSDAY 13 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa	8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jagina rpt	10:25	Jagina rpt
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt	11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya Jamii	12:30	Afya ya Jamii
12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt	13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death	14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu	16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi	18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara	18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarina la wanawake	19:00	Jarina la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu
22:20	Soap: Love to Death	22:20	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV
FRIDAY 14 Jan			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha		

WORLD

Ten years on, Costa Concordia shipwreck still haunts survivors

GIGLIO

ESTER Percossi can still hear the screams, feel the cold and see the terror in people's eyes.

She is one of the survivors of the shipwreck of the Costa Concordia, the luxury cruise liner that capsized after hitting rocks just off the coast of the small Italian island of Giglio on Jan 13, 2012, killing 32 people in one of Europe's worst maritime disasters.

Percossi and other survivors have returned to the island to pay tribute to the dead and again thank the islanders who, in the dark and dead of winter, helped 4,200 crew and passengers - more than six times the number of winter residents that night.

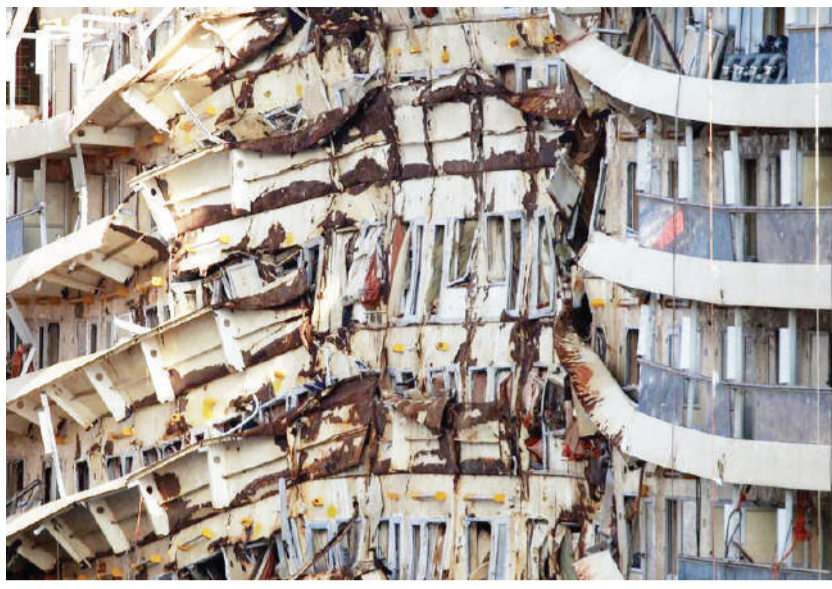
"It is extremely emotional. We come here today to remember, most impor-

tantly, those who are no longer with us, and to relieve the hell that we went through and try in some way to exorcise it," Percossi said on arrival on Wednesday ahead of Thursday's commemorations.

"I remember the screams of the people, the people who were jumping into the sea. I remember the cold, the sensation of terror in everybody's eyes," she said.

While there were many heroes that night, the ship's captain, Francesco Schettino, was not among them. Branded "Captain Coward" by Italian media for abandoning ship during the rescue, he was sentenced to 16 years in prison in 2017 on manslaughter charges.

One crew member who did not leave was Russel Rebello, a waiter who



A view of the previously submerged side of the Costa Concordia cruise ship, off the coast of the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Jan 13, 2014. AP

helped passengers get off the ship. His body was recovered only several years later, when the massive, rusting hulk was righted and towed away in the most expensive maritime wreck recovery in history.

"My brother did his duty, he lost his life helping other people, obviously I am proud of that and I think that he would be very proud of what he did, helping so many other people," said Russel's brother Kevin as he arrived for the commemorations.

"I am trembling, this is amazing," Rebello said as he entered San Lorenzo church for a memorial Mass with survivors and islanders ahead of a ceremony where flowers were being dropped into the sea.

The Concordia was left on its side

for two-and-a-half years, looking like a giant beached white whale. For some residents, it never left.

On the night of the disaster Sister Pasqualina Pellegrino, an elderly nun, opened up the local school, the convent and a canteen to take in the shipwrecked.

"It is a memory that never fades. Even when the ship was still there, it looked like a person who had been abandoned, it oozed sadness, because I could see it from the window," Sister Pasqualina said.

"And even now it's not nice to remember it. But unfortunately that's life, you have to keep going with the pain, with the joy, day by day," she said.

Agencies

Chinese FM recaps New Year trips to African, Asian countries

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday held an interview with the news media after concluding his recent trips to Eritrea, Kenya, the Comoros, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Noting the tradition of Chinese diplomacy that Chinese foreign ministers make their first overseas visit to Africa at the start of each year, Wang said that in spite of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he travelled to Africa as scheduled, which has demonstrated China's original commitment to promote China-Africa solidarity and cooperation.

Wang said Eritrea is a traditional friend of China, and the two countries share similar views on upholding independence, maintaining political and social stability, and exploring their own development paths.

Kenya, he said, is China's comprehensive strategic and cooperative partner, and China-Kenya cooperation is playing an exemplary and leading role in the joint building of the Belt and Road between China and Africa.

China and the Comoros, though different in size and level of development, have become a model of equal treatment and win-win cooperation between countries, Wang said.

China and Africa share similar ideas and interests, and their cooperation has a solid foundation, great potential and a promising future, he added.

During his visit to Kenya, Wang said that China stands ready to propose the "Initiative of Peaceful Development in the Horn of Africa."

In his interview with the media on Monday, Wang said that the core of the initiative is to

support countries in the region to stay out of any geopolitical competition between major countries while keeping their fate in their own hands.

Wang said China has put forward three proposals. First, the Horn of Africa should strengthen intra-regional dialogue to overcome security challenges; secondly, the Horn of Africa should accelerate regional revitalization to overcome development challenges; third, the Horn of Africa should explore effective ways to overcome governance challenges.

The "Initiative," upon being put forward, has received positive responses from Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and other countries in the region, which believe that it meets the urgent needs of countries in the Horn of Africa, and that China's appointment of a special envoy for the Horn of Africa indicates that the Chinese side will play a more active and constructive role there.

On the so-called "debt trap" allegation against China, Wang said that the so-called "trap" is in fact a narrative trap created by those who wish to forever plunge Africa into a "poverty trap" and "backwardness trap."

Wang said China has conducted practical and efficient investment and financing cooperation with African countries on a voluntary, equal and scientific basis according to the needs of the African side, which has benefited, not burdened, the people of Africa.

Noting that Africa's development needs have further expanded with its social and economic development in recent years, Wang said China is ready to work with Africa to consolidate and deepen traditional cooperation such as infrastructure construction, while pushing forward cooperation in



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attends the completion ceremony of the Chinese-built oil terminal at the port of Mombasa with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Jan 6, 2021. (PHOTO / MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHINA)

other emerging areas.

China will also work with Africa to pay more attention to improving livelihoods and make greater contributions to Africa's industrialization and modernization, he added.

As to the relationship between China and the Maldives, Wang said this year marks the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic ties, adding that the two countries have become a model of friendly exchanges and mutual benefits between countries.

It is in the common interests of the two peoples that China and the Maldives jointly build the Maritime Silk Road, Wang added.

Wang said that the two countries should take a broader view and open up a new chapter of mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation.

On China-Sri Lanka relations, Wang said that the sound political mutual trust between China and Sri Lanka provides a strong impetus for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Wang also said that China always gives priority to developing countries in vaccine coop-

eration. As long as developing countries have requests, Wang noted, China will respond and take action.

At present, the plan announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping to provide vaccines to Africa has been implemented, Wang said, noting that China will provide Kenya with an additional 10 million doses of vaccine and will continue to offer sufficient vaccines to the Comoros to help it achieve the goal of universal immunization.

The Chinese side will continue to provide vaccines and anti-pandemic supplies to South Asian countries, and cooperate with interested countries in the research and development of specific medicines, Wang added.

Chinese vaccines are now being sent to every corner of Asia, Africa and Latin America where vaccines are needed, he said, adding that China will continue to stand with other developing countries until the final victory against the pandemic is won.

Wang also said that China always gives priority to developing countries in vaccine coop-

Xinhua

Russia able to ensure its security, not going to wait for West's promises diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA knows how to ensure its security and is not going to endlessly wait for some changes and West's promises, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated at a press conference yesterday.

According to the top diplomat, NATO is trying to dictate its will to everyone. "We know and are able to safeguard our security in any case, and I can assure you that we are not going to endlessly wait for some changes and promises," Lavrov said.

The foreign minister recalled that Moscow had already tried to put forward a draft treaty on European security, but it was "tactlessly misunderstood." "We said that we just wanted to translate political obligations into a legally binding form. The answer was illustrative - [they stated that] <...> legally binding guarantees could be provided exclusively to NATO members," according to Lavrov.

Agencies

Omicron not 'big flu'; it 'can bite', expert says

THE fast-spreading Omicron variant should not be treated like influenza, because it can pose severe risks to unvaccinated people and its long-term effects on recovered patients still remain unclear, health experts said.

As the new strain has swept the world and caused several outbreaks in China, Chinese experts have called for accelerated efforts to expand vaccination and resolutely adhere to the country's science-based virus control strategy.

"Omicron is not a 'big flu', and it can bite, especially for people without strong immunity," Zhang Wenhong, leader of the COVID-19 treatment expert team of Shanghai and head of Fudan University Huashan Hospital's infectious disease department, said at a science forum in Shanghai last week.

He said that successfully fending off the threat of Omicron requires building robust herd immunity and preparing sufficient medical resources.

Some Western countries, despite a significant increase in daily new infections, have managed to lower their COVID-19 death rates because of high vaccination coverage, according to Zhang.

"We should further expand initial immunization and the rolling out of booster shots," he said at the forum. "Meanwhile, it is important to ensure adequate provision of health-care resources in different regions so that immunocompromised people infected with the novel coronavirus can be treated effectively."

Initial studies from global researchers have suggested that the Omicron variant more readily infects the upper respiratory tract and may not attack the lungs as much as other strains.

However, the new strain remains a serious global health risk due to its high transmissibility and potential to evade vaccine-induced immunity.

The World Health Organization said in a news briefing released on Tuesday that it recorded 15 million new COVID-19 cases worldwide last week, the highest number of cases reported in a single week. The Omicron variant is rapidly displacing the Delta variant in all countries, it added.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, said recently on social media. "While some reports show a reduced risk of hospitalization of Omicron compared to Delta, there are still far too many people infected, in hospital sick & dying from Omicron (& Delta)".

In another post on social media, she said: "Omicron is not mild. Omicron is not flu or the common cold. SARS-CoV-2 is not endemic yet. Now is not the time to give up," she said.

In China, the Omicron variant has triggered a domestic outbreak concentrated in Tianjin municipality and Henan province. A number of regions have also detected imported infections with the new strain.

Zhang Boli, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a top traditional Chinese medicine expert, said the Omicron variant appears to be more elusive and to spread more easily.

"Although most local patients only have mild symptoms, it is not appropriate to treat it as a 'big common cold,'" he said. "Data from overseas have shown that a large number of Omicron patients have exhibited lingering effects after recovery, and the proportion is higher than that for influenza."

As a result, it would be irresponsible to loosen virus control restrictions, Zhang said, adding that China's "zero-COVID-19" policy should be capable of tackling the new strain's local spread.

"Mass vaccination should be ramped up further, as vaccines' effect in preventing serious cases and deaths remains strong," he said.

According to the National Health Commission, China had administered more than 2.9 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines as of Tuesday.

Agencies

DEMOCRACY has always been comprehended differently since ancient times. However, it's agreed that any colonial rule in human history is against the marrow of democracy.

Hong Kong had never enjoyed democracy under British colonial rule.

It was since 1997 when the Chinese government resumed its exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and established the democratic system for the special administrative region that Hong Kong has embraced a new era of democracy guided by the "one country, two systems" principle.

The Chinese central government firmly supports Hong Kong in developing a democratic system that conforms to the region's constitutional status and actual conditions, and has

How Hong Kong's system of democracy is constituted

taken significant steps to advance Hong Kong's democratic development.

Hong Kong's democratic system is based on the Constitution of China and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). It is showing new vitality after constant development, playing a significant role in safeguarding Hong Kong's long-term prosperity, stability and security.

According to the Constitution and the Basic Law, Hong Kong has established an electoral system that suits its actual conditions. The system abides by the "one country, two systems" principle, ensures that Hong

Kong is governed by patriots, accommodates the interests of all sectors of Hong Kong society, ensures balanced participation, and facilitates economic and social development. Being continuously refined, it is showing an increasing higher level of democracy.

According to the Basic Law, the method for selecting the Chief Executive shall be specified in the light of the actual situation in the HKSAR and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress. The ultimate aim is the selection of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic proce-

dures, and the selection of the legislature by universal suffrage.

The Basic Law grants extensive democratic rights and freedoms to Hong Kong residents. Under the Basic Law, permanent residents of the HKSAR have the right to vote and the right to stand for election in accordance with the law, and Hong Kong residents have freedom of speech, freedom of the press and publication, freedom of association, assembly, procession and demonstration, and other rights and freedoms provided for under the Basic Law and the laws of the HKSAR. It is under such institutional guarantee, Hong Kong's democracy is widely ensured.

To effectively respond to public opinions in developing the democratic system, the government of the HKSAR attaches high importance on the ideas of the public in improving and reforming the electoral system. Apart from soliciting professional opinions via statutory organizations, the HKSAR also learns about the appeals and suggestions of the public through public consultations. The public consultations cover a wide range of aspects, such as the selection of the Chief Executive, the formation of the Legislative Council, the election of district councils and the election of village representatives. In Hong Kong today, the making of public policies

and public governance involve broad social participation, which can effectively improve governance. Under the guidance of the HKSAR government, Hong Kong's governance is joined by different social sectors and personalities, and all participants can fulfill their duties and cooperate with each other in the governance work of their districts.

This mechanism gives play to the leading role of the government, and facilitates cooperation among different social sectors on social governance. It also guarantees the right to know of the public, as well as the right to participation in the making of public policies, enabling the public to effectively join social governance.

People's Daily

Russia expects US, NATO to give written response on security guarantees, Lavrov says

BRUSSELS

MOSCOW expects that the United States and NATO will furnish written responses on the issue of security guarantees, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference on the results of Russia's diplomatic activities in 2021.

"We expect our colleagues to give responses, written responses, putting their proposals on paper like we did. Meanwhile, we will certainly continue activities to make sure that we are prepared for any kind of developments," he pointed out.

"On the whole, we are confident that if there is goodwill and willingness to make compromises, then it's always possible to find a mutually acceptable solution," the Russian top diplomat stressed.

Lavrov noted that at the beginning of last year, Moscow and Washington had managed to extend the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) for five years without any conditions, which was what Russia had called for.

"We appreciated this step by the Biden administration, which was actually one of the first taken after the formation of the Democratic administration," the Russian foreign minister noted.



According to him, Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Joe Biden of the United States emphasized the need for dialogue on all issues related to strategic stability at their meeting in Geneva last June.

On December 17, the Russian Foreign Ministry released a draft agreement on security guarantees between Russia and the United States and a draft agreement on ensuring the security of Russia and NATO member states.

Consultations on the issue took place in Geneva on January 10, followed by a meeting of the Russia-NATO Council in Brussels on January 12 and a session of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Permanent Council in Vienna on January 13.

Agencies

UN chief calls for efforts to prevent further suffering for millions of Afghans

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called on the international community to take immediate action to prevent further suffering for millions of Afghans.

"We need to act now to prevent economic and social collapse and find ways to prevent further suffering for millions of Afghans," the UN chief told reporters at the press stakeout at the UN headquarters in New York. "Without creative, flexible and constructive engagement by the international community, Afghanistan's economic situation will only worsen."

Despair and extremism will grow," he noted. The top UN official also urged the United States and the World Bank to unfreeze Afghan funds, locked since the Taliban's return to power, to prevent "the nightmare unfolding in Afghanistan" from getting worse.

"The U.S. has a very important role to play because most of the financial system in the world operate in dollars and, obviously, there is a meaningful volume of funds that are frozen in the United States and in several other countries in the world."

But the way to apply them in a way that is not diverted but really serves the interests of the Afghan people is something in which we are working hard to make sure that all the necessary guarantees are provided," said the secretary-general.



Noting that the World Bank administers a reconstruction trust fund for Afghanistan and last month the bank transferred 280 million U.S. dollars from that fund to UN Children's Fund and World Food Programme operations in Afghanistan, Guterres said that "I hope the remaining resources - more than 1.2 billion dollars - will become available to help Afghanistan's people survive the winter."

Guterres also called on the Taliban to protect the rights of women and girls. "No country can thrive while denying the rights of half its population," he said.

The United Nations and partners launched a more than 5 billion dollars funding appeal for Afghanistan on Tuesday, in the hope of shoring up collapsing basic services there, which have left 22 million people in need of assistance inside the country, and 5.7 million requiring help beyond its borders.

Xinhua

Egypt's president hails World Youth Forum as opportunity for 'constructive dialogues'

CAIRO

THE World Youth Forum (WYF) held in Egypt offered a real opportunity for exchanging views through constructive dialogues, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi said on Thursday.

Sisi made the remarks at the closing session of the 4th WYF held in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh, with the participation of Egyptian and international organizations, civil society institutions, and young people from across the world. The Egyptian president said the WYF 2022 created "a state of serious and constructive dialogue for the sake of establishing peace and achieving sustainable development through ideas and creativeness of the world's youth."

He declared the year 2022 as "a Year of Civil Society," during which the forum and the relevant bodies in Egypt will establish a platform for dialogue between the state and the youth, as well as local and international civil society institutions.

Among other proposals that Sisi made included assigning the forum to establish youth groups comprising local and foreign members to let them take part in the preparations for the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) scheduled for later this year in Sharm El-Sheikh. The forum was also asked to activate a permanent platform for interactive dialogue between the youth from Egypt and the world to share visions and ideas.

WASHINGTON

AMID an increasingly heated nationwide debate on anti-pandemic regulations, the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday blocked the Joe Biden administration's vaccine-or-test mandate for large businesses.

In a 6-3 decision, the conservative-majority said the White House overstepped its authority by seeking to impose the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) rule requiring workers at U.S. businesses with 100 or more employees to either

US top court blocks Biden's vaccine mandate for workplace, dissension continues

get vaccinated or submit a negative COVID-19 test weekly. According to the court, Congress has not given OSHA the power to enact such a rule.

"Although Congress has indisputably given OSHA the power to regulate occupational dangers, it has not given that agency the power to regulate public health more broadly," it wrote in an unsigned opinion. "It is instead a significant encroachment

on the lives -- and health -- of a vast number of employees," it added.

The mandatory vaccination measure of OSHA, which would affect 1.8 million business entities and around 84 million workers in the United States, started to take effect on Monday, but some workers were in limbo as they await a ruling from the top court. The court's decision came as COVID-19 infections linked to the highly contagious Omicron

variant are increasing rapidly across the United States, and Americans, from officials, experts to the general public, are becoming intensely divided over coronavirus-related measures.

Unsurprisingly, the ruling caused a new round of disagreement and argument in the country. Biden, in a statement issued in the wake of the ruling, said he was "disappointed that the Supreme Court has chosen to block

common-sense life-saving requirements for employees at large businesses that were grounded squarely in both science and the law." The ruling "does not stop me from using my voice as President to advocate for employers to do the right thing to protect Americans' health and economy," he said, calling on states and businesses to step up vaccination requirements to protect workers, customers and communities.

Labour Secretary Marty Walsh called the court's decision "a major setback" to the health and safety of workers in the United States. Gerald Harmon, president of the American Medical Association, one of the largest doctors' groups in the country, said he was "deeply disappointed" because the court "halted one of the most effective tools" in the fight against the pandemic. Meanwhile, the country's retail groups re-

joined at the court's decision.

In a statement on Thursday, the National Retail Federation's Senior Vice President of Government Relations David French said it is "a significant victory" for employers.

The federation urged the Biden government to "discard this unlawful mandate and instead work with employers, employees and public health experts on practical ways" to increase vaccination rates and contain the spread of the virus.

Xinhua

UK PM Johnson's future uncertain after party apology

LONDON

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson apologized on Wednesday for attending a "bring your own booze" gathering at his official residence during Britain's first coronavirus lockdown, as a senior figure in his party and opponents said he should resign.

Johnson admitted for the first time that he had attended the party at 10 Downing Street in May 2020 when COVID-19 rules limited social gatherings to a bare minimum, saying he understood public anger.

"I know the rage they feel with me over the government I lead when they think that in Downing Street itself the rules are not being properly followed by the people who make the rules," an ashen-faced Johnson told parliament.

"I offer my heartfelt apologies," he said.

Johnson said he regretted his action and had thought the gathering was a work event - drawing jeers and laughter from opposition lawmakers.

"I went into that garden just after six on the 20th of May 2020 to thank groups of staff before going back into my office 25 minutes later to continue working," Johnson said.

"With hindsight, I should have sent everyone back inside."

Leaders of all the main opposition parties called for his resignation, while the Conservatives' leader in Scotland became the first figure in his party to say Johnson should now quit.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer said the public - who handed Johnson a landslide election victory in December 2019 after he promised to secure Britain's exit from the European Union - thought him a liar.

"The party's over, prime minister," Starmer told him.

"After months of deceit and deception, the pathetic spectacle of a man who has run out of road. His defense that he didn't realize he was at a party is so ridiculous that it is actually offensive to the British public."

'Not Sunk Yet'

Anger has grown since ITV News



UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

reported Johnson and partner Carrie mingled with about 40 staff in the Downing Street garden after his Principal Private Secretary Martin Reynolds sent an invitation asking attendees to "bring your own booze". Johnson's press secretary said the prime minister had not seen that email.

Numerous people, including some lawmakers, have described how the rules kept them from the bedsides of dying loved ones last May in contrast to the events in Downing Street.

Some of Johnson's own Conservative lawmakers had said his response on Wednesday to the growing furor would determine his future.

"He's taken on a lot of water and is listing but not quite sunk yet," one of them told Reuters.

Senior ministers rallied round Johnson to express support on social media, but other lawmakers were unconvinced, most notably Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross.

"Regretfully, I have to say his position is no longer tenable," Ross told Sky News, having earlier spoken to Johnson. Sky said he would submit a letter of no confidence in the prime minister.

To trigger a leadership challenge, 54

of the 360 Conservative MPs in parliament must write letters of no confidence to the chairman of the party's "1922 Committee".

"It sounds to me, I'm afraid, very much as though politically the prime minister is a dead man walking," said Roger Gale, another Conservative lawmaker who has also written a letter calling for Johnson to face a challenge.

Lockdown Party

Just two years ago, Johnson was riding high: he had secured the biggest Conservative majority since Margaret Thatcher's in 1987 after promising to get Brexit done. He had led the campaign to leave the EU in 2016's referendum.

But a series of missteps over everything from sleaze scandals and the opulent refurbishment of his flat to his handling of COVID-19 and now Downing Street parties have drained his political capital.

Two snap opinion polls on Tuesday showed well over half of respondents thought Johnson should resign. Last month, the Conservatives lost a parlia-

mentary seat they had held for almost 200 years while the party's comfortable lead over Labour in opinion polls has evaporated.

Bookmakers slashed their odds on Johnson being replaced as prime minister this year, with local elections in May viewed as another moment of jeopardy.

When details of the gathering first emerged, Johnson said he could not comment until a senior official, Sue Gray, concludes an investigation into other allegations - initially denied - that he and his officials held rule-breaking parties.

In response to the calls for his resignation, he again deferred to Gray's investigation.

"I cannot anticipate the conclusions of the current inquiry, I have learned enough to know that there were things we simply did not get right. And I must take responsibility," he said.

Opponents said he had not apologized for the party itself which Johnson said on Wednesday "could be said technically to fall within the guidance", but was simply sorry he had been found out.

While parliament resounded with demands for his head, Johnson's biographer Andrew Gimson said he was unlikely to quit unless forced out by his parliamentary colleagues.

"He will be looking for a way through this. He is not the resigning type," Gimson said.

China's FAST telescope helps achieve important scientific research results in 2021

CHINA'S Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), also dubbed the "China Sky Eye," helped scientists make important new scientific research achievements in 2021, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said on Jan. 5.

The FAST has witnessed continuous improvement in its operational efficiency and quality over the past nearly two years since it was officially put into operation. The annual observation time of the facility has exceeded 5,300 hours, far more efficient than international peers expected. Such efficiency is crucial to its scientific outputs.

Neutral hydrogen, the most abundant element in the universe and an element that has existed in abundance in different ages of the universe, is one of the best tracers for the distribution of scale-variant matter.

With self-developed HI Narrow Self-Absorption (HINSA) technique, an international cooperation team led by Tao-Chung Ching and Li Di, scientists with the National Astronomical Observatories under the CAS (NAOC), obtained for the first time high-confidence detection result of the Zeeman effect in protostellar core envelope using the FAST, which serves as important observational evidence for answering the question of magnetic flux, one of the three classic questions about the formation of fixed stars.

Fast radio bursts (FRB), which were first discovered in 2007, are



Photo shows the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) of the National Astronomical Observatories under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. (File photo)

the brightest radio bursts in the universe. The seemingly extragalactic radio pulses last only a few milliseconds. So far, scientists have detected several hundred events of FRBs, and only a few of them indicated bursts from a single repeating FRB source.

FRB2102 is the first repeating FRB source known to man. In 2017, it became the first FRB that was accurately located and whose host galaxy was identified.

Using the FAST, an international cooperation team led by NAOC researchers Li Di, Wang Pei, and Zhu Weiwei, carried out observation of FRB2102.

The team detected 1,652 independent bursts from the source in about 50 days and obtained the largest sample of FRB events to date, with its number of FRB events surpassing the total number of FRB events in all the pub-

lished papers of the field.

Pulsars can emit highly periodic pulses, with the pulse periods ranging from 1.4 milliseconds to 23 seconds.

Short-period pulsars, which are also called millisecond pulsars, are comparable in accuracy to the best atomic clocks on earth. Therefore, finding pulsars is one of the main targets of scientific observations by large-scale radio telescopes in the world.

The FAST has by far helped scientists identify about 500 new pulsars, becoming the world's most efficient facility in discovering pulsars since the beginning of its operation.

Equipped with 19-beam receiver at L band, the FAST is so far the world's most powerful facility for searching for pulsars.

Within less than two years, Galactic Plane Pulsar Snapshot

survey (GPPS), a major priority project of the FAST led by Han Jinlin with the NAOC, conducted about 620 hours of scientific observations and completed 8 percent of the planned search area.

Up to now, the project alone has found 279 new pulsars, including 65 millisecond pulsars and 22 pulsars in binary systems. The project found more pulsars within one and half years since its launch than the Arecibo telescope in the U.S. did in 15 years.

Believing that international cooperation and openness and sharing of relevant resources are essential to scientific and technological innovation, China established the principle of gradually opening the facility in accordance with international practice at the beginning of the construction of the FAST. On March 31, 2021, the FAST officially opened to the world and started to collect observation applications from astronomers around the world.

The FAST received 7,216 hours of observation applications submitted by scientists from various countries during this round of application collection and finally granted approval to 27 international projects from 14 foreign countries, according to Jiang Peng, executive deputy director of the FAST operation and development center and chief engineer with FAST. These projects started to use the FAST for scientific observations in August 2021, Jiang said.

People's Daily



Coastal Union head coach, Melis Medo (C), instructs his players during a recent training session that took place in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

Coastal Union head coach issues warning to Yanga

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COASTAL Union's head coach, Melis Medo, has warned the 2021/22 NBC Premier League leader, Yanga, not to expect good results when the outfits lock horns in the top-flight match at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Sunday.

The league leader has not managed to post a victory over Coastal Union at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium for several seasons.

The situation has made this weekend's duel an eagerly-awaited clash.

Medo, a US tactician, disclosed the game will be tough, but his main goal is to make sure his outfit performs well and get three points on the home turf.

"The game will be good and tough. It's no secret that Yanga is good and has good players, but it should be noted that last season they lost a tie here so with us having a better team this season, they should prepare for stiff oppo-

sition," the coach stated.

He said Coastal Union will not let Yanga walk all over them simply because they lost the previous game at home against Mtbwa Sugar.

The coach was adamant that they will not easily succumb to their opponents.

Coastal Union conceded a 1-0 loss to Mtbwa Sugar at Mkwakwani Stadium on December 28 last year.

Mtbwa Sugar midfielder, Salum Kihimbwa, netted the lone goal for the club from a penalty to help his club collect three points.

Yanga has not registered victory in a match against Coastal Union at Mkwakwani Stadium for seven consecutive seasons.

The last time Yanga won the match at the stadium was on February 4, 2015.

The club cruised to a 1-0 win over Coastal Union thanks to the then skipper Nadir Haroub 'Cannavaro' goal on the 11th minute of the game.

Double-fault: Visa revoked again, Djokovic now faces deportation

MELBOURNE, Australia

NOVAK Djokovic faces deportation again after the Australian government revoked his visa for a second time, the latest twist in the ongoing saga over whether the No. 1-ranked tennis player will be allowed to compete in the Australian Open despite being unvaccinated for COVID-19.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said yesterday he used his ministerial discretion to cancel the 34-year-old Serb's visa on public interest grounds – just three days before play begins at the Australian Open, where Djokovic has won a record nine of his 20 Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic's lawyers were expected to appeal at the Federal Circuit and Family Court, which they already successfully did last week on procedural grounds after his visa was first canceled when he landed at a Melbourne airport.

Deportation from Australia can lead to a three-year ban on returning to the country, although that may be waived, depending on the circumstances.

Hawke said he canceled the visa on "health and good order grounds, on the basis that it was in the public interest to do so." His statement added that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government "is firmly committed to protecting Aus-

tralia's borders, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Morrison himself welcomed Djokovic's pending deportation. The whole episode has touched a nerve in Australia, and particularly in Victoria state, where locals went through hundreds of days of lockdowns during the worst of the pandemic and there is a vaccination rate among adults of more than 90%.

Australia is currently facing a massive surge in virus cases driven by the highly transmissible omicron variant. On Friday, the nation reported 130,000 new cases, including nearly 35,000 in Victoria state. Although many infected people aren't getting as sick as they did in previous outbreaks, the surge is still putting severe strain on the health system, with more than 4,400 people hospitalized. It's also causing disruptions to workplaces and supply chains.

"This pandemic has been incredibly difficult for every Australian but we have stuck together and saved lives and livelihoods. ... Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected," Morrison said in a statement. "This is what the Minister is doing in taking this action today."

AP

Application of 'blue economy' may uplift soccer in Zanzibar

By Correspondent John Kimbute

ZANZIBAR-based clubs and their fans were watching as a sort of re-run of the Azam Sports Federation Cup late stages was being played out at Amaan Stadium, as four teams from the Mainland Premier League reached the semi-finals of the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, with all Zanzibar clubs exiting at the group stage.

That is not exactly the spirit of the tournament, as it is expected to showcase the capacity of Zanzibar clubs.

It is what they can do in a limited arena of competition, either with Mainland clubs or selected regional outfits.

Failing to scale the group stage for all Isles clubs was an evident drawback on their part, which illustrates that they are down one step of the ladder from Mainland sides, and even without including other regional club tournament champions or credible contenders for any of the championships.

This situation has not always been so, though it can be said to generally reflect the soccer imbalance between the Mainland and Zanzibar, which is true in other league systems. Talent follows money, so Zanzibar has depressed teams.

It can easily be asserted that what counts in club football is the ability to invest in the play systems – good training environment, good players, and capable technical benches – not wayfarers and journeymen, living on day-to-day allowances, hired to play or to handle teams.

Or training in makeshift premises where it isn't even predicted how a ball is passed and is expected to go, or if a player can make a quick turn – as tiny potholes in poorly maintained grounds singularly limit the extent of player flexibility, thus of training scope.

Saddled with such constant factors – ownership of stadiums, sponsorship – the rest is predictable.



Azam FC striker, Yahya Zaydi (R), attempts to get the better of Zanzibar's Meili 4 City FC player as the outfits faced off in the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament match that took place in Zanzibar on January 4. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

In other words, Zanzibar faces a structural development problem in its soccer improvement prospects which isn't dissimilar to the Mainland, but a few of its other 'constant factors' are worse, regarding the capacity of public institutions and individual investors to run Premier League sides.

An illustration is a manner in which a prominent Zanzibari who runs Azam Group of Companies (and there are others) sent a team to the place that is listed on the Mainland Premier League.

It is plausible that many Zanzibaris would have been wishing to see Azam FC take the

cup as the nearest of kin this side of the Union, surely.

Left at that point it is valid to say that many in the Zanzibar soccer fraternity won't be fighting tooth and nail to bring about changes that reduce the dominance of Mainland clubs in the tournament and wider events, regional or continental.

The reason for that hypothesis is that they have a representative who often does well in those contests, namely Azam FC, but surely this is like borrowing an impeccable suit to attend a wedding, that such a person really won't feel comfortable. Lies can be taken that

far, not farther.

In that case, the problem of enhancing Isles soccer capacities so that they compare with the Mainland remains valid, not for the talent but for retention ability, and to that extent, recruiting professionals from within the country or in the neighbourhood as it was the case with clubs participating in the tournament.

A team built on the presence of some professionals has an edge in what the coach can train, or direct players to do, as they already have the required ability.

It becomes an issue of the coach's own ability to think out the best methods, facing no hindrance as to applying them, with excellent ball control.

This ability is slowly creeping into more Mainland Premier League club sides but it is likely to be much slower in Zanzibar unless there is a strong presence of the foreign private sector being welcomed into Zanzibar, to a settled role in the economy.

While there are plenty of good ideas coming up and starting to be applied, it is likely that the Zanzibar Diaspora, which can lift economic and sporting prospects, shall require a safe environment, not one depending on policy moods.

That may bring up the need for 'rationalization' of land ownership, enable individuals to trade plots for cash, build a new class.

When that is in place, strong commercial and marine agricultural groups of various sorts, not to speak of more resilient tourism sector players would be at hand to collect players from all over the place, create excellent training grounds and pay good coaches to give the best training.

Such a need in the sports sphere doesn't create grounds for the actual change of direction but it can contribute to the sort of yearnings that when put together, point a finger at the need for change.

It is a long shot but it is plausible, as the alternative is that Zanzibar soccer fans be satisfied with Azam FC achievements, simply.

Azam FC forward Chilunda opens up misunderstanding with Spanish outfit

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC striker, Shaaban Chilunda, is still embroiled in controversy with the Spanish club, Tenerife, saying his former club's leaders were the ones who ruined the deal for two outfits that needed him.

Chilunda said that after things went awry in Spain he received offers from two sides in Egypt.

The forward pointed out Ghazl El-Mahalla SC based in El Mahalla El Kubra, which has Tanzanian midfielder Himid Mao, is one of the clubs that needed him.

He said the situation between him and his former employers forced him to terminate his contract with the outfit.

He disclosed that he sent his complaint to the world football governing body (FIFA) for help in getting a letter of resignation.

He said that he was ready to give up the money he was claiming and that the only thing he was fighting for was a release letter, which could have cleared him to play for on one of the



Azam FC attacker, Shaaban Chilunda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

two sides.

The attacker revealed: "I told them to just give me a letter. I thought it best to look for life elsewhere but I could not leave without being cleared to leave the club."

"That's what made me go to FIFA to see how they can help me because at

first I just wanted a letter confirming my release but later the club found out that I had found an outfit somewhere, they sought to ruin plans."

"When I saw that they had ruined me I went back to FIFA to file a claim for my entitlements, I have not been paid yet but I believe I will be paid because

it is my right."

"In fact, the situation affected me psychologically so I decided to return home to rest my mind," he said.

He said after arriving home Azam FC was the only club he saw fit to turn out for.

Te footballer pointed out: "I have been raised by this team, it is the team of my life and I know it well so I have not seen where to go beyond here while I wait for other offers."

"I believe I will be able to play professional football again. I did not give up on that, one of the outfits that gave me that offer is the one that Mao plays for and I was completely ready to play football there," he said.

Chilunda said with the help of his teammates he believes they will help Azam FC get good results and become a better team even though their current results are not pleasing.

The 23-year-old Azam FC youth academy graduate returned to the senior team from the Moroccan club, Moghreb Tétouan, during the mini transfer window.



Chelsea aim to clip Man City's wings

LONDON

CHELSEA need a repeat of their Champions League final victory over Manchester City to rekindle their Premier League title challenge with the English champions threatening to build a realistically unassailable lead just days into the new year.

An 11-game winning run has taken City 10 points clear of the Blues at the top of the table, while third-placed Liverpool are 11 points back with a game in hand.

Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel appeared to be the one coach with an Indian sign over Pep Guardiola with three wins in quick succession towards the end of last season, culminating in lifting the European Cup in Porto.

However, City's 1-0 at Stamford Bridge in September proved to be a telling turning point in the campaign at a time when Chelsea led Guardiola's men by three points.

In contrast to City's formidable form, Chelsea have faltered during the busiest spell of the Premier League season, winning just one of their last five games.

A coronavirus outbreak over Christmas combined with a series of injuries played its part in restricting Tuchel's options, but they have bounced back over the past week to comfortably see off Tottenham 3-0 over two legs to reach the League Cup final.

"Here at Chelsea we don't make selections of trophies, we go for everything," said captain Cesar Azpilicueta.

"The big ones have more impact, but what we all want is to be able to celebrate silverware with the fans at the end of the season."

City's own mass Covid outbreak affecting 21 players and staff fell fortunately for the league leaders over a period of just one game in 14 days.

Guardiola was one of those to test positive and was absent for a 4-1 win at Swindon in the FA Cup last weekend as a result, but is expected to return to the touchline on Saturday.

Liverpool can take advantage of dropped points for one or both of the sides above them in the table when they host Brentford at Anfield.

However, the Reds will have to cope without Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane, who are away at the Africa Cup of Nations.

- Top 4 up for grabs -

If the title race has descended into a procession over the past month, the race below the top three for a place in next season's Champions League has heated up.

West Ham have moved back into the top four on the back of three straight wins and will be confident of extending their advantage over fifth-placed Arsenal when they host Leeds on Saturday, who they comfortably beat in the FA Cup last weekend.

Tottenham are four points back on the Hammers but would go above them should they win two of their three games in hand.

However, Spurs are in desperate need of a response from their meek exit in the League Cup when Arsenal visit for the first north London derby played in front of a full house at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Sunday.

The Gunners have shot back into contention for a return to the Champions League as young talents such as Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli, Martin Odegaard, Emile Smith Rowe and Aaron Ramsdale have flourished since a miserable start to the season.

But Arsenal's poor record on the road against the other members of the traditional top six has returned with crowds this season.

Mikel Arteta's men were thrashed at City and Liverpool and blew a lead to lose 3-2 at Manchester United in December.

United also need to get back to winning ways in the league to remain in the hunt for the top four when they face Aston Villa for the second time in a week.

Villa were the better side despite losing 1-0 in the FA Cup at Old Trafford on Monday and have made the most exciting moves in the transfer window so far with Philippe Coutinho and Lucas Digne in line to make their debuts.

*Fixtures (all times GMT)

*Today

Manchester City v Chelsea (1230), Newcastle v Watford, Norwich v Everton, Burnley v Leicester, Wolves v Southampton (all 1500), Aston Villa v Manchester United (1730)

*Tomorrow

West Ham v Leeds, Liverpool v Brentford (both 1400), Tottenham v Arsenal (1630)

AFP

Hosts Cameroon light up Cup of Nations to qualify for knockout stages

YAOUNDE

HOSTS Cameroon became the first team to qualify for the knockout stages of the Africa Cup of Nations on Thursday as captain Vincent Aboubakar and Karl Toko-Ekambi both scored twice in a 4-1 demolition of Ethiopia in Yaounde.

It was a game that brought the tournament to life after a goal-shy first round of group matches saw a meagre total of just 12 in 12 encounters, four of which were penalties.

Cameroon had been the only team out of 24 at the tournament to score more than a single goal in their first match when a brace of Aboubakar spot-kicks saw them beat Burkina Faso 2-1 on Sunday.

Back at the same Olembe Stadium in the capital Yaounde they ran riot, although only after Dawa Hotessa gave Ethiopia a shock lead.

Lyon forward Toko-Ekambi quickly headed in the equaliser and then Aboubakar added a brace early in the second half before Toko-Ekambi completed the victory.

"We played well going forward but we still need to improve defensively. Things are only going to get tougher," said Cameroon's Portuguese coach Toni Conceicao.

Toko-Ekambi, Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Collins Fai all also hit the woodwork for the Indomitable Lions, and the five-time African champions are now well-placed to finish top of Group A.

They are three points clear of both Burkina Faso and Cape Verde, who met in Thursday's late game in Yaounde with the Stallions of

Burkina Faso winning 1-0 thanks to a first-half goal by Hassane Bande, who belongs to Ajax.

Ethiopia, the 1962 champions, are left still looking for their first point and their first win at any Cup of Nations since 1976. This is their third appearance at the finals since then but they have now gone 10 matches without a win at the tournament.

- Fans stay away - Cameroon's fine victory was played out in front of vast swathes of empty seats at the 60,000-capacity Olembe Stadium, with supporters in the football-mad country choosing to stay away from venues in large numbers.

"We hope there will be more people there for the third match," said Toko-Ekambi. Organisers have restricted crowds to 60 percent of capacity because of the pandemic, although for games involving Cameroon the limit is raised to 80 percent.

Nevertheless fans must also be vaccinated against Covid-19 and provide proof of a negative coronavirus test, enough to put off many in a country with a very low rate of inoculation.

Despite that Cameroonians are very much behind their team, while the country deals with separatist violence in its two anglophone regions, both of which straddle the Nigerian border in the west.

Troops and armed men exchanged fire on Wednesday in the town of Buea in the Southwest region, leaving several injured.

Buea is a short drive from the coastal town of Limbe, which is hosting eight matches at the Cup of Nations including all games in Group F.

The teams in that group -- Tunisia, Mali, Mauritania and Gambia -- are using Buea as their training bases.

An opposition senator was also found shot dead in the region on Wednesday.



Vincent Aboubakar (R) celebrates scoring his second goal, and Cameroon's third, in their 4-1 defeat of Ethiopia at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFP)

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Liverpool's shortcomings without Salah, Mane give Arsenal hope

LIVERPOOL, England

IF there was ever any doubt over the importance of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane to Liverpool, Takumi Minamino provided the only proof you need in the 90th minute of the club's goalless Carabao Cup semifinal first-leg draw against Arsenal at Anfield on Thursday.

Minamino, handed a starting role by manager Jurgen Klopp due to the absences of Salah (Egypt) and Mane (Senegal) on Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) duty, had the opportunity to make himself the match-winning hero by scoring from 10 yards in the final seconds. The former FC Salzburg forward had a clear sight of goal, but with the chance to score and give Liverpool a potentially decisive 1-0 advantage ahead of next Thursday's second leg at the Emirates, he fired high over the crossbar.

It was the kind of chance that Salah and Mane, who have scored 33 times between them this season, would have devoured, ruthlessly scoring yet another crucial goal for Klopp's

side. But Minamino isn't in the same league as Salah or Mane. Neither is Diogo Jota, who is an excellent support act alongside Liverpool's two world-class forwards but nowhere close to being able to fill the void that their international commitments have created. Divock Origi has often been Liverpool's late super-sub, but a knee injury continues to keep the Belgium international on the sidelines, so he isn't available to replace Salah or Mane.

At the end of a game against an Arsenal side forced to play with 10 men for 66 minutes following the first-half sending off of Granit Xhaka for a foul on Jota, Liverpool created just one effort on target, and that came deep in stoppage time from substitute Curtis Jones.

"Any team would miss Salah, Mane and [Naby] Keita," Klopp said. "We've known that already for years. This team was what we had tonight, it can play and score, definitely."

Had Liverpool been at full strength, with Salah and Mane in the forward line, it is difficult to imag-

ine that they would not have put this tie beyond Arsenal at the halfway stage. While it is no surprise that they are not the same potent force without Salah and Mane, Liverpool's impotence against Arsenal will worry Klopp, both in the immediate term and going forward.

The fixtures have fallen reasonably kindly for Liverpool during AFCON, with only two Premier League games (against Brentford and Crystal Palace) set to be impacted by the absence of Salah, Mane and Keita (Guinea). Salah and Keita could even be

back in time for the Palace game on Jan. 23 if Egypt and Guinea fail to progress from the group stage.

All three missed this game, and will miss the return leg, so a potential trip to Wembley for a major trophy against Chelsea on Feb. 27 could fall by the wayside because of their unavailability.

In the long term, though, there is the prospect of having to eventually replace two players who are out of contract in June 2023. They are both 29, so have plenty still to give, but if one goes, it will leave a huge hole to fill. Losing both

would be disastrous. It is a reality that, by the time Salah and Mane are back in Liverpool shirts, the team could be out of the Carabao Cup and with their already-slim title hopes as good as over.

Klopp must somehow find a way to make his team more potent and threatening when they travel to London for the second leg next week. Whatever he comes up with, the Liverpool boss will now know that Mikel Arteta, his Arsenal counterpart, will have a plan to nullify it.

Arsenal have made steady progress under

and Guinea-Bissau to qualify."

"Give our best" - The odds will be heavily in Egypt's favour against today's opponents, Guinea-Bissau, who are making their third consecutive finals appearance but have yet to win a game at Africa's flagship competition.

For Egypt to make a deep run though, they will need Salah, one of three finalists for the FIFA best men's player award, to rediscover his magic on the international stage.

"I don't think we are the first candidate (to win) this tournament, but we do our best to win it," Salah said earlier this week.

"We have a good coach. We have a good team. We have a very good group and they've played for the national team for 10, 11, years now so I know we have (a) very good team.

"So, we give our best and hopefully we win it." Liverpool will be keeping a close eye on Egypt's fortunes, along with those of Sadio Mane's Senegal, with contract talks involving Salah a key topic of conversation around Anfield.

Salah has fewer than 18 months left on his current deal and in a recent interview with GQ magazine said he wanted to be rewarded for his huge contribution.

"I want to stay, but it's not in my hands," he said. "It's in their hands. They know what I want. I'm not asking for crazy stuff."

"The thing is when you ask for something and they show you they can give you something (they should) because they appreciate what you did for the club."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



ESPN

SPORT

Hosts Cameroon light up Cup of Nations to qualify for knockout stages

PAGE 19

Midfielder Clatous Chama returns to Simba SC



Clatous Chama

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ZAMBIAN midfielder, Clatous Chama, has officially made his way back to Simba SC on a two-year deal after terminating his contract with Moroccan club, RS Berkane.

Chama was reported to have reached an agreement with his club, Renaissance Sportive de Berkane of Morocco, to terminate his three-year contract with the outfit last month.

The footballer was contracted to play at the Municipal Stadium of Berkane until

August 2024.

Chama wore his trademark number 17 shirt at Simba SC.

The midfielder will reclaim his shirt back. It is currently worn by Pape Ousmane Sakho, who will switch to jersey number 10 which was previously worn

by Ibrahim Ajibu.

Chama allegedly cited failure to adapt to Morocco's climate and food as his main reason for contract termination with the 2020 CAF Confederation Cup Champions.

The midfielder is popularly known

as 'Triple C' derived from his name, Clatous Chota Chama.

He has returned to Tanzanian soccer giants, Simba SC, which has struggled since he left mid-last year.

Chama, who formerly turned out for Zambia's Nchanga Rangers, Zesco United, and Lusaka Dynamos, spent three years with Simba SC.

The skilful midfielder won three league titles with the club, affectionately referred to as 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi'.

The mercurial midfielder, who joined Simba SC in 2018 after terminating his contract with Lusaka Dynamos in July that year, signed a new deal last year which would have kept him at the Dar es Salaam side up to 2023.

Simba SC Board of Directors' Chairman, Salim Abdallah, said that the club's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, is already in Morocco to secure the signing of the Zambian player.

"Our talks with Chama are going on well. Our CEO, Barbara, and some of the leaders of the registration committee are on their way to Morocco to complete their registration."

"The deal will always be a success, as officials are in Morocco for talks with Berkane which signed the footballer this season," he noted.



Michael Magori

Upcoming artist opens up on failure to release album

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A budding Tanzanian Hip Hop artist, Michael Magori, alias 'Michael Magow', has described the difficulty of releasing an album young artists encounter while providing the right approach.

The Dar es Salaam-based rapper, singer, and songwriter, in 2018, was shortlisted as a winner for Empawa100 as he emerged in the top three in the contest which was an initiative by emPawa Africa.

The musician is best known for his songs titled 'Scene', 'Tena', 'Any More', and 'Sing My Song'.

Magori revealed: "As a young artist you need a lot of music management as well as a general understanding of music, you need people who are willing to sacrifice for you to make sure you succeed."

"A record label that will help you grow your music and be successful in terms of funding is important for an artist to have, most young artists do not have."

Magori further revealed that music albums have to be well-organized, having either a story or theme from the first song to the last.

"The album must have a theme that the listener must first understand, so many upcoming artists do not know the sequence before putting an album in the market."

"Artists at the major label usually put out a single first, unless they are dropping one of those overnight albums."

"The lead single rallies the fans gets press talking, and builds energy for playlists or radio," Magori revealed.

Due to the continuation of South Africa's 'Amapiano' music genre widely used by some artists in Tanzania, Magori has encouraged artists to create Tanzanian music.

'Amapiano' is a hybrid of deep house, jazz, and lounge music characterized by synths, airy pads, and wide percussive basslines.

It is distinguished by high-pitched piano melodies, 'Kwaito' basslines, low tempo 90s South African house rhythms, and percussions from another local subgenre of house, known as 'Bacardi'.

Magori said: "We have to have a vibrant voice of Tanzanian music. We have more than 120 ethnic groups, we can base our music on our Tanzanian voices, and we can have our music heard and sung by all people in the country and beyond."

"South Africa has succeeded in having its identity which for many years, the country's musicians have been glorifying it, so, we have to have our own identity that will be developed and later make other people imitate our music," the musician noted.

Simba SC eyes Mbeya City FC scalp in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Ismail

Tano

Simba SC has disclosed it will come out firing on all cylinders when it faces Mbeya City FC in this season's NBC Premier League clash which will take place FC at the Sokoine

Memorial Stadium in Mbeya on Monday.

Simba SC emerged as 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament winner, edging Azam FC 1-0 at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar on January 13.

Rwandan striker, Meddie Kagere, netted a spot-kick to steer

Simba SC to the victory over Azam FC after the latter's Ugandan keeper, Mathias Kigonya, fouled Simba SC midfielder Pape Ousman Sakho.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC's Information and Communication Department Head, warned Mbeya City FC it should

brace for his team's onslaught.

Ally said after completing the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup campaign, his side is focusing on the NBC Premier League, which will see the outfit take on Mbeya City FC.

The official pointed out: "We have finished

the Mapinduzi Cup here in Zanzibar, the team is returning to Dar es Salaam, then it will travel to Mbeya for our game against Mbeya City FC."

"Mbeya City FC should prepare for the match because we are out to excel."

"Our goal is to win so

that at the end of the season we can achieve what we set out to do," the official revealed.

"We have achieved success here in Zanzibar by winning the Mapinduzi Cup, we are looking for other trophies."

Simba SC returns to the NBC Premier League whilst sitting second in the league standings with 24 points from 10 games, whereas age-old rival, Yanga, is leading after collecting 29 points in 11 games.

In a related development, Simba SC's skipper, John Bocco, said despite not having a place in the team's starting lineup, he acknowledges the tactics of the club's coach Pablo Franco.

Bocco said in the short time he has been coached by the Spaniard tactician he has learned many issues that he believes will make him better in his role.

"The truth is, in the two months we have been under Franco's tutelage I have learned a lot of techniques that I did not know in the past even though I do not regularly get a chance to start in his squad," Bocco noted.

The captain has been a key player for Simba SC since joining the outfit five seasons ago from Azam FC.

Last season, the footballer emerged as the Premier League's top scorer, netting 16 goals.



Zanzibar President, Hussein Mwinyi (L), presents a certificate of appreciation to the Executive Director of the National Insurance Corporation (NIC), Elirehema Doriye, for the former's gratitude and recognition of the latter's institution as one of the sponsors of the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, which ended in the Isles on January 13. The showdown was one of activities aiming at celebrating the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DON'T YOU DARE EVER LET ME DOWN!

