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Payment for suppliers and shortage of desks irk JPM

By Guardian Reporter



This woman is a resident of Nyamahana village in Mlowa ward, Iringa Region. Her name is Aneti Juma, and she is mother to the conjoined twin girls she is holding. The babies, who are sharing the heart, were born at a Tosamaganga designated hospital in Iringa District last July. They are Dorice and Doricas. However, details on the incident have been especially scant. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed authorities in Ubungo District in the city of Dar es Salaam to ensure no pupil sits on the floor due to a shortage of desks.

The president expressed concern that there are many pupils at King'ongo Primary School in Saranga Ward in the district who study while seated on the floor, saying this is discomfort for the pupils and their teachers.

He referred to that situation in remarks made in Kagera Region when inaugurating the revamped Ihungo Secondary School, extensively damaged during an earthquake in September 2016, after which Ihungo students were shifted to other schools.

Funding for the rebuilding of Ihungo Secondary School was boosted by the UKAid/DFID education programme, he said.

The president used the platform to challenge the regional and district top officials to ensure proper expenditure of public funds, in particular funds allocated for specific development projects.

"Leaders must ensure proper expenditure of funds. We are today witnessing the inauguration of this school because the project was well managed.

The 6bn/- provided by the UK

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Govt allows export of food, cash crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has issued assurances concerning permission for crops to be sold outside the country, with a view to providing opportunities to farmers to benefit from extensive cultivation of various crops.

Gerald Kusaya (pictured), the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, made this observation at the weekend during an inspection tour of agricultural

projects in Morogoro Region. He said licences for crop sales across borders will soon start being issued to dealers, so farmers need to grow food and cash crops in abundance.

"The government has decided to open up opportunities for farmers to sell their crops outside the country depending on market availability in order to profit from their work and enhance their standards of living," he said.

Crop traders, especially regarding food crops, need to come forward and take up opportunities as the government will issue licences without delay, he said.

He said the government has allowed crops to be sold outside the country so as to broaden the market for crops grown in the country, to motivate them to produce more.

Farmers of food crops must work harder and produce more crops for them

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Z'bar engages law reform in elderly welfare scheme

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said yesterday that the ongoing law and policy reform is intended to enhance the well-being of the elderly, improve their households and access to health services.

Wrapping up a seminar to review the Accountability and Fulfillment for Older Persons (AFFORD II) project and its implementation plan for 2021, the president assured Isles residents that the government will continue to formulate policies, introduce legislation and develop programs for improvement of older

My government will continue taking care of the elderly through legislation and policies to guide experts in the Ministry of Health and other institutions

people's welfare.

The Older Persons Act No. 2 of 2020 was enacted to create a mechanism for the elderly to be assured of their rights and access to quality health services, he said, noting that the Isles government becomes the first in the region to introduce a welfare scheme covering the elderly, namely the Zanzibar Universal Social Pension Scheme (ZUPS).

The pension scheme for senior citizens was introduced in April 2016, following the 2012 national census which set older people as account for 5.6 percent of the entire population, while pensioners on

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Air Tanzania pacts with Air India for route connectivity

By Henry Mwangonde

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) has entered into an interline agreement with Air India aimed at expanding its connectivity to customers.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, ATCL Managing Director Ladislaus Matindi (pictured) said the deal provides for the two airlines to sell tickets jointly for flights on their route networks,



allowing customers to travel with one ticket, check-in once, and check bags at their final destinations

He said that from now customers on ATCL's route to India will have access to a wide portfolio of destinations on Air India domestic network, with more than 100 destinations via Mumbai.

In turn, Air India customers will have convenient access to ATCL's impressive

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Air Tanzania pacts with Air India for route connectivity

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network in East and Southern Africa, he stated.

ATCL sees this pact as vital to strengthening its international presence, especially presenting Air India service to its clients who want to explore India as well as Far East countries, he said.

Currently ATCL flies twice to Mumbai, from the four trips per week it was operating before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. In his remarks, Indian Deputy High Commissioner R. Chandramoul said the agreement will boost inter-trade between the two countries whose trade volume stands at \$1.4bn annually, by end of November 2020.

He said the agreement is an aspect of preparations for extending the two airline's trips to international destinations.

A few years ago, Tanzania developed a national carrier revitalisation programme,

including purchasing six new aircraft between 2016 and 2018, payment of debts and provision of start-up capital, along with improvement and modernization of its business model.

Purchasing the aircraft was part of Air Tanzania's plan to grow its operations across the sub-region and to wider international destinations.

Air Tanzania was established as Air Tanzania Corporation (ATC) in September 1977 after the collapse of the East African Airways, a jointly owned regional carrier. The airline has perennially operated at a loss and periodically seeks government subsidies.

Purchasing the aircraft was part of Air Tanzania's plan to grow its operations across the sub-region and to wider international destinations



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks at a meeting in Dodoma city yesterday with the chief executives of banks and other financial institutions, namely, the Bank of Tanzania, NBC, NMB, CRDB, TPB, Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank, Azania, TIB, National Social Security Fund and Public Service Social Security Fund. Photo: PMO

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government and 5bn/- from state coffers was properly spent," Dr Magufuli said, underlining the motto of value for money in each project.

He said King'ongo Primary School infrastructure is dilapidated, but authorities are not taking action to rebuild or repair the facilities, commending the person who recorded a video showing pupils seated on the floor, posted to some social media networks.

He ordered city and regional officials to immediately construct new classrooms and purchase desks, pointing a finger of accusation to district officials at Ubungu, as well as its legislator Prof Kitila Mkumbo for not taking measures to improve the school's infrastructures.

"I want all the classes to be constructed before I come to the city," he ordered, vowing to personally inspect the school.

He said it wasn't fair for pupils to continue learning while seated on the floor whereas the government has appointed district officials and the minister to see to it that such problems are solved.

President Magufuli said that he

Payment for suppliers and shortage of desks irk JPM

decided to fire the Geita District Executive Director over misuse of funds. He said the sacked DED was using monies allocated for development projects to purchase vehicles.

The president laid a foundation stone for the construction of a vocational educational center in Kagera Region, expressing gratitude to the Chinese government for funding the construction of the VETA college and the UK for contributing to the refurbishment of Ihungo Secondary School.

The partnership has shown the friendship and good relations that exist between Tanzania and those countries, he stated, explaining that the construction of the college helps to increase the number of VETA colleges, which in recent years rose from 672 centres in 2015 to 712 last year, with 33 colleges are under

construction.

The president directed the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) to build a 10 km tarmac road linking VETA College to the main road, instructing the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo to build a one kilometer tarmac road from the TanRoads stretch to Ihungo Secondary School.



We have started to witness outcomes of the huge investment in the education sector, as chronic truancy has gone down by three percent. As of now children are attending school, enrolment has increased by 30 percent, similarly improving performance in class and in national examinations

Apart from rebuilding the school, the government is building 905 new primary schools, 332 secondary schools, 253 dormitories, 227 laboratories and providing a grant of 1.1trn/- to fund free education from primary to secondary school countrywide, he stated

Dr Magufuli similarly set seven days for the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) to pay suppliers of building materials for rebuilding

the school, after he was informed that some of them face bankruptcy for lack of payment.

The president said construction work had increased primary school enrollment from 8,298,282 in 2015 to 10,938,159 pupils while raising the pass rate from 57 percent to 82.68 percent.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, praised the president for giving priority to education, including his instructions to build technical colleges nationwide and in rehabilitating Ihungo Secondary School immediately after it was wrecked by an earthquake.

The renovation has increased the capacity of the school from 640 students earlier to 1,152 students, she stated.

In the past five years, 84 out of 89 schools were renovated and five were still being renovated,

while in the next five years the government intends to build one girls' secondary school in each region with capacity for 1,000 students.

Minister Jafo said that the ministry shall work hard to ensure that all the government's objectives are attained, saying that being appointed was a mandate to ensure that every Tanzanian child has access to quality education.

The Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti said that rebuilding the school took up 10.9bn/- and in its new version it is one of the best schools in the country.

"We have started to witness outcomes of the huge investment in the education sector, as chronic truancy has gone down by three percent. As of now children are attending school, enrolment has increased by 30 percent, similarly improving performance in class and in national examinations," he said.

Performance in the education sector in region has attained 88.8 percent for primary schools and 90 percent in secondary schools compared to the total targeted section of the population, the RC added.



President John Magufuli and China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke (L), draw the curtains yesterday to launch the construction of a Vocational Education Training Authority college in Kagera Region. Photo: State House

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to benefit more from external markets, he emphasised.

Following the top civil servant's remarks, farmers in Morogoro Region have expressed

satisfaction with the government's position, noting that this will assist them overcome challenges of lack of reliable markets.

Earlier, farmers presented

various challenges they were facing, including lack of reliable markets for their crops and poor availability of farm inputs.

Shelua Ramadhani, a farmer,

thanked the government for issuing that assurance, underlining the view that many farmers now stand to benefit from the crops they produce each year.

Z'bar engages law reform in elderly welfare scheme

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monthly pension accounted for only about six percent of the old age population.

"My government will continue taking care of the elderly through legislation and policies to guide experts in the Ministry of Health and other institutions," he stated.

The Zanzibar leader also accepted an elders' request that they should be given special consideration when seeking services at health facilities, expressed in a meeting with senior citizens at the State House on January 7.

Dr Mwinyi noted that the Zanzibar government spends 6.9bn/- annually to pay a 20,000/- monthly pension to Zanzibaris aged 70 and above, with over 28,513 senior citizens in Unguja and Pemba enrolled in the scheme.

United Nations agencies estimate that one in every six people in the world will be aged over 65 by 2050.

Chloë Horne, Second Secretary at the Irish Embassy, said Irish Aid has been supporting efforts on the elderly for years, commending efforts made by Zanzibar authorities in caring for the elderly, especially with the pension programme.

Ireland will continue to support such projects in Tanzania and in other countries across the region like Malawi, Mozambique and Ethiopia, she stated.

Earlier, HelpAge International

director, Smart Daniel said the world has 901 million elderly people, equivalent to 12 percent of the world's population, a figure that is higher than the number of children under the age of five.

He affirmed that by 2050 there will be 2.92 billion older people in the world by current projections, which shall compel the formulation of better policies for the elderly to make them capable of contribution to the communities beyond working age.

He commended the Isles' government for the pension scheme, noting that the social protection scheme for elders gives Zanzibar an exceptional reputation, a role model for other nations.

Data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) shows that about 68 percent of people above retirement age worldwide receive an old age pension, although it differs from one region to another.

In Europe and Asia about 95.2 percent are covered while in the United States the figure is lowered to about 86.2 percent of its older people. In Africa only 29.6 percent of the older population so far has access to actual pension.

Ireland will continue to support such projects in Tanzania and in other countries across the region like Malawi, Mozambique and Ethiopia, she stated



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma has an audience with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the upcoming Law Day anniversary celebrations. He is flanked by Principal Judge Dr Eliezer Feleshi (L) and Chief Court Administrator Mathias Kabunduguru. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Swine fever leaves over 500 pigs dead in Kahama District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

AFRICAN swine fever has killed more than 500 pigs in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region in just one month, authorities confirmed. Kahama District Commissioner, Anamringi Macha told reporters here over the weekend that said pigs had been killed since the African swine fever, a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, broke out in late December 2020.

He said that following the outbreak of the disease, district authorities have banned the sale of pork to protect consumers after a survey showed that the disease was spreading like wildfire.

According to him, the district authorities in collaboration with the central government are working hard to ensure that the disease is controlled before it spreads to neighbouring districts and regions.

According to him over 500 pigs have died in a short time due to the outbreak.

"Some of the initial symptoms of the disease is the pigs lack of appetite, red skin, (bloody) diarrhea, vomiting, bleeding, cyanosis (blue skin) and necrosis of parts of the skin (blackening) may occur. The pigs may also abort upon infection.

Macha said that the decision was meant to prevent the infection from spreading in other districts and regions because it has no vaccine for prevention.

"We just want our people to remain safe, we also wish good for all people in other parts of the country that's why we are taking all these efforts. So anyone who

will see someone transporting the animal please report him to the nearby leadership for legal measures."

The DC banned transportation of the animal from one place to another without having permission from a certified doctor.

Dr Damian Kilyenyi, extension officer said that more deliberate efforts are ongoing to ensure that the disease is controlled.

Some of the traders commended the government for taking the measures early because this will fight the spread of the disease

Salvatory Moshi, pigs' trader in Kahama said that he will adhere to the government's directives so as to protect consumers' health.

In March 2018, more than 900 pigs were killed by the African swine fever in Ruvuma Region.

In another development, DC Macha warned parents who will fail to send their children in schools who were enrolled to join Form One stern measures will be taken against them.

"We will supervise to ensure that all children who have been selected to join secondary education go to school, we will not hesitate to auction livestock of the parents so as to enable the child/children attend school, so if a parent has cattle, goats, sheep or any animal, we will sell one of them and the money will be used to buy basic school needs of the child," he lamented.

According to him, as the majority of the farmers in the district are currently drying tobacco they usually take youths to work in the farms including those who are supposed to be in school.

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Farmers' concerns over purchase of fake seeds fewer now - TOSCI

COMPLAINTS from farmers over fake seeds of various crops they get from agents that fail to germinate have gone down from 13 incidents in 2018/19 season to six in 2019/20 due to public awareness provided by Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI).

TOSCI acting director general John Msemwa disclosed here at the weekend, saying the complaints have been reduced due to extensive education to farmers that called on them to demand receipts from agents whenever they purchase the seeds and not to discard the packaging

before seeds germinate in farms.

He said the complaints from farmers countrywide spurred TOSCI inspectors to examine seed samples and for those that do not do well in farms were destroyed under TOSCI supervision and stern legal action taken against agents.

Msemwa said TOSCI called on farmers to continue being trained on proper education they receive while insisting on quality seeds for them to reap the benefits from

farming activities.

TOSCI chief seed inspector Emmanuel Mwakatobe called on farmers to immediately report to the institute of any seeds they purchase that do not germinate in their farms after planting.

He called upon farmers to purchase seeds from approved shops that sell farm inputs that have been registered by TOESCI, and not from any other places.

He said the Seeds Act of 2003 and its 2014 amendments set down

procedures for farmers to follow to enable them get compensation in case he purchased fake seeds, so long as he/she has the receipt for the purchase as well as the packaging. "It's better for farmers to use TOSCI certified seeds because there are farmers who still use ordinary seeds and find themselves harvesting two bags of rice per acre while had they planted quality seeds they could reap between 35 and 40 bags per acre," Mwakatobe added.

Precision Air renews AOC certificate

By Guardian Reporter

PRECISION Air has been granted the Aircraft Operation Certificate (AOC) renewal after undergoing AOC inspection in December 2020 by Inspectors from Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA).

Commenting on the achievement Precision Air's managing director and CEO, Patrick Mwanri, said the renewal of the AOC is the continuation of Precision's commitment to serving the country and beyond while observing rules and regulations of aircraft operations.


"We are happy to receive our new AOC certificate and we would like to thank Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) for a professional inspection process. On behalf of the management I am also congratulating Precision Air team for maintaining our standards and always looking for areas of improvements which has resulted to this achievement. This was also possible through their commitment to professionalism," he added.

Precision Air has been able to renew its AOC for 27 years consecutively from 1993 when it was first registered as a commercial schedule and non-schedule airline. Now operating a fleet of nine (9) Aircraft, it is the second designated national

carrier operating to 11 domestic and regional destinations.

What does the AOC renewal mean? Aircraft Operation Certificate (AOC) is the certification granted by Tanzania Civil Aviation which gives permission to Airline to do commercial operation within the country and beyond based on Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA). This certification is issued after intensive review process done by TCAA Inspectors and it is renewable annually.


Precision Air is Tanzanian majority owned company, offering schedule flight from its main hub Dar es Salaam to Arusha, Bukoba, Dodoma, Kahama, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Mtwara, Mwanza, Zanzibar and Nairobi. Apart from scheduled commercial flights Precision air also offers charter services, third party maintenance services through the Approved Maintenance Organisation (AMO), parcel services, and cargo services.



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PUBLIC NOTICE



Derm Electrics (T) Ltd is here to notify the public that;
KELVIN KILIAN CHUMA
 Is no longer an employee of
Derm Electrics (T) Ltd effective 13/01/2021

Please take note that he is not allowed to perform any transactions on behalf of the company.
Derm Electrics (T) Ltd will not be held responsible for any transaction made by the above mentioned.






PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROJECT

Pact is an international non-governmental organisation registered in Tanzania since 2002 with a certificate of registration number 11679 and certificate of compliance number 1790. Pact's work in Tanzania focuses on supporting the government in enhancing health and welfare of vulnerable populations, safety and market linkages for artisanal and small-scale gemstone miners, renewable energy solutions to rural areas and strengthening capacity of local organizations

In line with Regulation 12 of the Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Pact Tanzania hereby discloses to the public of award of a new project, per details below:

Name of project	Strengthening ASM Across Africa
Funding agency	Tiffany & Co. Foundation
Purpose of project	To support Artisanal Mining Associations in economic strengthening and access to markets
Duration of project	December 2020 – January 2023
Budget for FY 2020-2023	USD 125,000
Implementation area	Tanga, Arusha and Morogoro

For more details, kindly contact us at tanzania@pactworld.org



Marianna Balampama
Country Director – Pact Tanzania

Police in Arusha hold 7 over theft

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

POLICE in Arusha Region have detained seven out of 30 people being sought for allegedly raiding the monastery of the Catholic Church missionary, Arusha Diocese and taking away more than 16m/-.

A monastery is a building or complex of buildings comprising the domestic quarters and workplaces of monastics, monks or nuns, whether living in communities or alone.

The 'raiders' are also claimed to have caused loss to the assets of the monastery based in Arusha's Sinoni Ward.

Arusha Regional Police Commander, Salum Hamduni confirmed on Sunday the arrest of the seven suspects and added that they were undergoing interrogation over the robbery.

"Initial investigations on the robbery that occurred on January 13, this year showed that even though there was a court's order, but those who went to implement the order were not mandated," the RPC said and added:

"Court's procedures were not followed. We received reports from the monks of having been invaded by a group of people claiming to implement the order of the court."

RPC Hamduni further said the Judiciary is an independent pillar of state and should not be obstructed in its activities, but in this case the police had to intervene because what was happening did not abide by the law, and is crime.

He said the incident stemmed from an inheritance conflict that was being dealt by the court.

"The person who took upon himself the responsibility in executing the court's order was not among recognised court's

brokers," he added.

Commenting on the incident, Arusha District Commissioner Kenani Kihongosi said:

"Arusha has a very big problem regarding complaints from various people over mistreatment, harassment and victimisation connected with execution of directives from state organs. We cannot close our eyes on these acts and we shall make sure justice prevails on anyone seeking it and if anyone else grabs that justice, stern steps will be taken against him/her."

The head of the monastery Dalmasara Kimanvester explained that even though the area was in conflict that was still being dealt with, it was not true that the people were directed by the court to execute any orders from it.



It will be astonishing to see the factory buildings are completed and nothing is going on. So I ask the government to provide funds in advance for the purchase of the machinery



Information, Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (2nd-R) presents 'Scholarship' certificate to Arusha resident Nuru Mbaraka (C) as the best youth player in last year's the national basketball league dubbed CRDB Bank Taifa Cup. With him (from-L) are CRDB Bank Plc operations director Bruce Mwile, CRDB board member Martin Warioba and Tanzania Basketball Federation president Phares Magesa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

DEPUTY Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe has called on farmers to increase cotton production from 200kg to 800kg per acre.

Bashe gave the remarks at the weekend during the signing event of Performance Agreement for the cotton for 2021 between Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB), cooperative unions and the Cooperatives Development Commission.

The agreement dwells on the agreement in the use of farm input for 2020/21 season.

"Cotton is everything to farmers in the lake zone region, it is among strategic crops in the fifth phase government. Profitable

Govt mobilises farmers for boost in cotton production

cotton production calls for the availability of various farm inputs including seeds, fertilizer and plants pesticides," Bashe was quoted as saying.

The aim of the agreement is to ensure farm inputs are readily available and distributed to farmers in time via the cooperative system and are used appropriately to increase cotton production in 2021 season.

The deputy minister said the government vows to increase

cotton production by mobilising for the right application of farm inputs and hence directed TCB, Cooperative Unions and Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOS) to enter into agreement on the right use of farm inputs.

He said farmers will get farm inputs via AMCOS while abiding by production estimates and the number of farmers.

He said through 12,588 tonnes of quality cotton seeds that has

been distributed to farmers countrywide, the national expectation is to harvest 500,000 tonnes of cotton countrywide from the 2021 farming season.

"Our production this year should not be below 500,000 tonnes countrywide. It is the responsibility for everyone to make sure he does his job and it is in fact quite possible to harvest more than one million tons of cotton," concluded Bashe.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority technician Vincent Attanasi works on major pipe at Mlimani City area yesterday, the aim being to increase the flow of water to several parts of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Lundo Island ideal to wooing tourists'

By Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya, Nyasa

RUVUMA Region consultative committee (RCC) has directed Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) to bring wildlife to Lake Nyasa's Lundo Island in Nyasa District.

Addressing the RCC meeting at the weekend, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme urged TAWA to bring wildlife to the island to increase tourist attractions in Nyasa District that has been named as the tourist hub for Ruvuma Region.

The RC further directed tourism and conservation stakeholders including TAWA and TANAPA to take the responsibility in providing education on conservation and tourism to the people in Ruvuma Region in particular on the importance of the tourism sector to spur economic growth.

Mndeme also directed wildlife corridors in Ruvuma Region be respected and protected because they are among the country's resources and directed for the removal of all human settlements from the corridors.

Following RC's directives,

tourism stakeholders in Ruvuma Region - TAWA, TANAPA and TFS have begun taking steps including the need for the establishment wildlife and birds' sanctuaries in Lundo and Mbambabay islands respectively.

Ruvuma Region's natural resources and tourism consultant Afrikanus Challe said they expect to establish Mbambabay sanctuary that will incorporate Lundo and Mbambabay islands and Mbamba, Tumbi and Ndengere mountains in Nyasa District.

He said the Mbambabay sanctuary will be 597 hectares in area and that the areas are fit for wildlife and birds sanctuaries.

"The mountains and the islands have been bestowed with excellent natural growth of miombo woodland, boulders whilst Lake Nyasa shores are abundant of many kinds of fish," he stressed.

He said Mbambabay sanctuary was important for tourism including fishing, swimming, yachting and canoeing. He said the area was also suitable for fish farming, the activity that would increase residents who depend on fishing for their livelihoods.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Govt pledges continued support for innovative varsity students

THE government has vowed to continue supporting students in higher learning institutions who come up with innovation ideas to meet their desired dreams.

Hai District Commissioner Lengai Ole Sabaya made the pledge on Sunday when speaking at the function to launch the

Association of Arusha Technical College (ATC) alumni.

He said it was the duty of the government to embrace the youth who are innovative and show readiness in issues that bring respect to the nation.

"There are authorities in the government that fail to give

opportunities to students who show their creativity, such issues result in the nation lacking indigenous youth able to serve the nation," he said.

He said through the association he believes the innovators will increase their creativity as well as assisting students still in the

colleges to learn about new, modern technologies and later to assist the communities around them.

He advised The National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) and Tanzania Commission for Universities

(TCU) to sit down together and

form one board that will assist the innovative youth.

Speaking at the event, the Education ministry's director for technical education Dr Noel Mbonde said it would be better for students after graduation to develop in deeds what they learned at the college.

Earlier, the president of the students' government Issa Suleiman said the Association will help in exchanging various experiences and innovations they gained, and added that the challenges they face is lack of funds to develop their professions.

Understanding of COVID-19 in Perspective of Traditional Chinese Medicine

2019 Corona Virus Disease, abbreviated as “COVID-19”, has been exerting a great impact on our lives, health, living, and economy since December, 2019. On January 30, 2020, the WHO officially declared the epidemic COVID-19 as a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” (PHEIC). On March 12, the WHO officially announced that the outbreak of COVID-19 has become a global pandemic.

The onset of COVID-19 is rapid and the infection is widespread. At first, the symptoms are hidden, and there are even patients with asymptomatic infections. These factors have become obstacles to the timely detection of patients with COVID-19. Because there are no favorable targeted treatment measures in the early stage, the initial effect of treatment on COVID-19 is not obvious. Under such circumstances and based on the great success that traditional Chinese medicine has achieved on the prevention and treatment of SARS, China has integrated traditional Chinese medicine methods at the very beginning of COVID-19, which has effectively controlled the spread of the epidemic and minimized the mortality rate. After nearly a year, it is worth exploring why traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) can respond so quickly under the epidemic situation and propose effective prevention and treatment regimens.

Perfect Theory on Prevention and Control of Plague

COVID-19 belongs to the scope of “plague” and “blight” in TCM. The knowledge of TCM on the prevention and control of plague can be traced back to 2000 years ago. There is a record of the plague in *Yellow Emperor’s Canon of Internal Medicine (Huangdi Neijing)*: “The five plagues are easy to be infected with each other. Regardless of the age of patients, the symptoms are similar.” This sentence vividly describes the contagiousness, epidemicity and similar clinical symptoms of the plague.

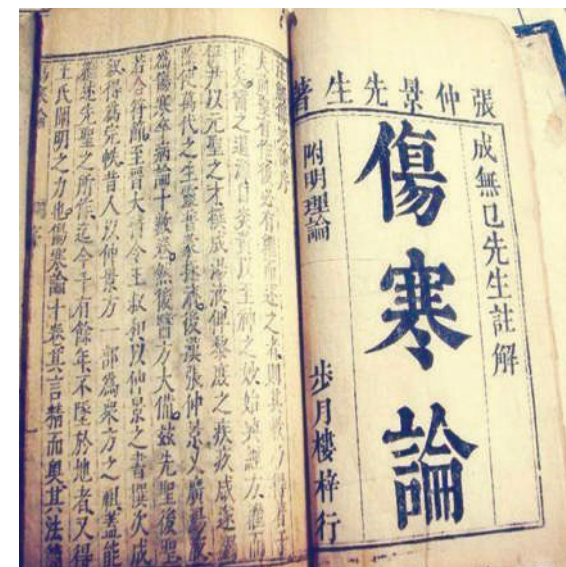
Zhang Zhongjing, the “medical sage” of the Eastern Han Dynasty in China, wrote *Treatise on Febrile and Miscellaneous Diseases*, which recorded the epidemic situation of the plague in the Han Dynasty. “My family is always a big one, with over 200 clansman. Since the year of Jian’an, two-thirds of them have died during less than ten years, among which seven-tenth died from febrile diseases”. *Treatise on Febrile and Miscellaneous Diseases* has established the model of clinical diagnosis of TCM, and the influence of the syndrome differentiation of febrile diseases has continued to this day. For example, the effective prescription in this epidemic, “Lung cleansing



Shanghai TCM hospitals assisting Wuhan in the first half of 2020



A picture showing the spirit of joining hands to fight against COVID-19



Treatise on Febrile and Miscellaneous Diseases written by Zhang Zhongjing from Eastern Han Dynasty

and Detoxification Decoction”, is from addition and subtraction of multiple prescriptions from *Treatise on Febrile and Miscellaneous Diseases* selected by Chinese anti-epidemic experts.

Traditional Chinese medicine has been following the pace of history, and its theoretical foundation has been continuously enriched and improved in accordance with the changes of diseases in different times. The plague occurred frequently during the Ming and Qing Dynasties in China. When doctors at that time found that the theory and experience of predecessors were not enough to deal with the epidemic, the famous doctors Wu Youke, Ye Tianshi, Wu Jutong and others put forward the theory of “febrile disease”, which not only enriched the basic theories of TCM, but also contributed to the prevention and treatment of the plague by TCM. For example, during the Spanish influenza pandemic in 1918, only a small-scale epidemic was caused in southern China at that time, and it was then quickly controlled with TCM involved in prevention and treatment.

It is through the accumulation of more than two thousand years of practice and theory that TCM has formed a method of understanding the disease and formed a complete theoretical system for responding to the plague, which enables TCM to make outstanding contributions to the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

Treatment Principle of Strengthening and Cultivating Healthy Qi

In the COVID-19 epidemic, the incidence in middle-aged and elderly people is relatively high. Also, once the elderly become ill, it is very easy to turn into severe cases, with high mortality rate. This is because the elderly’s disease resistance and immunity are relatively weak. The importance of “healthy Qi kept inside” is always emphasized in traditional Chinese medicine. There was

an answer early in the *Yellow Emperor’s Canon of Internal Medicine (Huangdi Neijing)* to the prevention and treatment of the plague. One is “healthy Qi kept inside”, and the other is “evil Qi avoided.” “Healthy Qi kept inside” emphasizes that the body’s healthy Qi will be sufficient if the body is strong. “Evil Qi avoided” refers to measures such as wearing a mask, keeping distance, and isolating. These two points are both important factors in the prevention and control of the plague, and they are also the principles of TCM that teach people how to deal with the plague correctly.

Many methods of strengthening and cultivating the healthy Qi is also put forward in *Yellow Emperor’s Canon of Internal Medicine (Huangdi Neijing)*.

First, in the case of deficiency in zang-fu, stomach Qi shall be nourished. TCM believes that the spleen and stomach are the foundation of acquired life and the nutritional source of human. During the treatment of disease, when various symptoms of deficiency appear, it is necessary to take care of stomach Qi and drugs that damage stomach Qi shall not be abused.

Second, once the disease is cured, the drug shall be discontinued, which does no harm to the healthy Qi. For the plague, the worsening of disease is rapid and serious, thus some drugs with strong effect are used. If these drugs are taken for a long time or overdose, the healthy Qi can be damaged. Therefore, during the treatment process, once the disease is cured, the drug shall be discontinued to avoid damaging the healthy Qi.

Third, attention shall be paid to food therapy so as to supplement essential Qi. Medical treatment and diet therapy must be carried out simultaneously, especially during the recovery period of patients. Corresponding menu of healthy diets for patients shall be developed to promote their recovery and improve disease resistance.

Fourth, attention shall be paid to both physical and mental health. The spread of the epidemic has caused panic, anxiety, and worry among people. The adjustment of mental state is necessary for the recovery of body health. A healthy mind and good condition can also promote the recovery of COVID-19.

Combination of Multiple Treatment Methods of TCM

In COVID-19 epidemic, it is a highlight and the key to victory that China adopts the way of integrative traditional Chinese and western medicine. In the face of COVID-19, the first step is to make a clear diagnosis, which can be achieved by modern medical testing equipment, such as nucleic acid testing, antibody testing, CT for the lung, etc. But in terms of treatment, there is no specific medicine for western medicine, while intervention and treatment can be performed by traditional Chinese medicine as soon as possible. For example, taking traditional Chinese medicine decoctions can bring down fever and improve immunity, which has played a key role in improving curative effects and saving lives. In addition to the common decoctions, there are TCM health-preserving exercises, moxibustion therapy, and aromatherapy. These methods have played an important role in this epidemic.

TCM health-preserving exercises are a kind of health-care activities that can strengthen the body, adjust the mind, reduce diseases, and enhance the physique based on the theory of TCM. During the most severe period of the epidemic in China, many traditional Chinese medicine doctors led patients to perform eight-sectioned exercise (Ba Duan Jin) in Fangcang shelter hospitals, which not only improved physical fitness and promoted recovery, but also relieved the tension of patients. Eight-sectioned exercise (Ba Duan Jin), according to historical records, has a history of nearly a thousand years, and is

a kind of fitness exercise that has been widely loved by the Chinese since ancient times. Many patients have practiced eight-sectioned exercise (Ba Duan Jin) in the wards and corridors, which not only strengthens the body, assists the healthy Qi, but also relieves the anxiety caused by the disease. Some patients have also maintained the habit of practicing eight-sectioned exercise (Ba Duan Jin) after being discharged from the hospital through the education and training of doctors.

As for moxibustion therapy of TCM, wormwood is used to make moxa sticks and moxibustion is applied to acupuncture points or special parts of the body. The most significant effect is to dispel cold and dampness, dredge the meridians, and strengthen the healthy Qi. The moxa smoke produced when moxibustion burns can also purify the environment, sterilize and disinfect. During the epidemic, many Chinese hospitals in China has burned wormwood to purify the environment and reduce the chance of infection. The effects of dispelling cold and dampness, dredging meridians, and strengthening healthy Qi can improve the immunity of patients and help with treatment. Due to the simple manipulating method of moxibustion and the high quality and low price of moxa sticks, many people in China used moxibustion at home to prevent COVID-19 during the epidemic.

As for aromatherapy, due to aromatic Chinese medicines have the function of dredging the meridians, opening up the orifices and penetrating the bones, through oral and nose inhalation and skin absorption, Qi movement can be regulated through the meridians, so that the Qi and blood are abundant and smooth, and the zang-fu organs are normal, resulting in assisting healthy Qi and strengthening the immunity of body. Examples include wearing traditional Chinese medicine fragrant bags or sachets, burning Chinese herbal medicine atracylodes, etc.

It is because TCM has a wealth of anti-epidemic experience and a relatively complete theory system of plague, as well as a variety of prevention and treatment methods from clinical to home prevention, that it can respond quickly to the epidemic and receive good results in the fight against the epidemic.



Fragrant bags or sachets made with traditional Chinese medicine



Moxa stick for moxibustion therapy



Attention shall be paid to food therapy

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19,000 villagers in Madaba to benefit from 1.3 billion/- worth water project

By Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya, Songea

THE 1.3bn/- worth clean and safe water project implemented in the four villages of Mtepa, Kipingo, Luta, and Madaba in Songea District, Ruvuma Region has been completed by more than 90 percent, giving relief to 19,000 people in the area.

Manager of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Songea District, Eng Mathias Charles said the project has cost more than 1.3bn/-, whereby two tanks have been built, with one tank in Kipingo village being filled with water to start serving the people.

However, he said that in order to complete one of the Madaba tanks, water pumps are to be installed at any time from now on and that the project has involved the construction of two tanks and the installation of 34 kilometers of water pipes.

So far, he said: "The people of Kipingo village have started getting piped water and other villages will start getting the services before the end of this month. As RUWASA, we thank the government for availing money to accomplish this project which is designed to end water woes in the four villages."

Lituta ward councilor, Olaph Pilli said before implementing the project, Madaba had a major water challenge where he said: "This water project has been a

major savior in my ward as of now we've enough water as compared to the past."

For his part, the chairman of water users' association Modestus Mgina has lauded RUWASA for executing the project on time, saying: "This is a big relief to people living these four villages of Mtepa, Kipingo, Lituta, and Madaba."

According to Mgina, the water project is expected to benefit nearly 20,000 people.

Speaking on behalf of Madaba District residents, Desderia Ngatunga, commended the government for implementing the giant project in the district, describing it as a redeemer to women and children who used to spend most of their precious time in search of water.



This water project has been a major savior in my ward as of now we've enough water as compared to the past



Mudrik Soraga, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Economy and Investment), presents a certificate to NMB Bank Plc's Zanzibar cluster manager, Abdalla Duchi (L), in appreciation of the bank's support during the Seventh Mapinduzi Trade Fair and Exhibition. The bank was among the main sponsors of the just-concluded two-week event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

POLICE in Shinyanga Region have detained two people for stealing drugs from Nyamalogo Village Dispensary, in Shinyanga District.

Addressing reporters at the weekend Shinyanga Regional Police Commander Debora Magiligimba named the two as

Police holding two over theft of drugs at village dispensary

William Desdez, a nurse at the dispensary and Sungusungu Matekele, a resident of the village.

He said the incident occurred on January 12 and after receiving reports of the

theft of the drugs and their being sold at Matekele's house, police arrived at the house and arrested the suspect.

He said the police were still interrogating the two suspects to find out if there were more

accomplices, after which they would be referred to court.

"Some of the stolen drugs had already expired for use, but were still being sold to people, the situation that poses health hazards to users,"



Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (R) holds a sample of sunflower cooking oil alongside Simiyu regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka (C) and a Bugali Investment Ltd factory employee shortly after visiting the factory yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chief Justice speaks of the importance of legal practitioners to be posted nationwide

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

CHIEF Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma has suggested the need for legal practitioners to be posted in every court countrywide to facilitate provision of justice.

Speaking during a press conference yesterday, Prof Juma directed the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs to assign officers in various courts in the country to provide legal assistance to the majority of Tanzanians.

"Citizens are very much in need of legal support to understand exactly what their rights are and understand the procedure to follow before registering their cases in courts," he said.

He said the judiciary has noted that people are not aware of what to do before they file their cases and that at sometimes file cases in high court which were supposed to be handled at primary court or at regional office level and hence find themselves wasting time while their issues remain unsolved.

"Starting February and going forward the entire verdict given, will be summarized into three

to four page by using swahili language so that it would be understood by all people involved in the case," he noted.

He further noted that most legal proceedings are being documented in English language in which the majority of the people do not understand and hence through legal and constitution experts stationed in the court, they will be given clarity so that they can understand what has been documented.

He further added that most of the court activities conducted at Primary court are being done by using Swahili language with an exception to High court, Resident magistrate court and District court where all the court references are written in English but proceedings where no lawyer is involved are being done in Swahili language.

The CJ used the opportunity to announce that next week will be the law week in which together with other things will be a time to celebrate 100 years of high court and a time to reflect on achievements and challenges ahead.

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

Mwanza city introduces English medium nursery schools

AUTHORITIES in Mwanza city have introduced English medium nursery schools to enable students to properly master the language.

Speaking to The Guardian over the weekend, the City's Primary Education Officer, Ephraim Majige said establishment of the

school would also improve the quality of education in the region.

The new kindergarten school situated at Nyanza Primary School will be officially opened by the end of this month. He said a delay in opening the school was due to ongoing infrastructure improvement to ensure conducive learning

environment for pupils.

"We also plan to use the school as a source of revenue as all the monies paid as school fees will be deposited in the city's bank account," said Majige adding each of the enrolled pupils will pay a 600,000/- fees per year.

According to him, they have set affordable school fees to allow

many pupils to get access to the school since the aim is also to improve the quality of education within the region.

He said the nursery school will accommodate 360 pupils adding the school fees can be paid in installments.

Plans are to have at least five public English medium schools in

the city, he said.

"The other schools to be constructed in coming years will also provide primary education. Teachers at these schools will be employed by the government," he noted.

Majige added: "This is the first public English medium school in Mwanza region. Other schools

are in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya and Arusha regions."

On academic performance, the official said that Mwanza city was ranked 3rd in last year's standard seven national examinations, noting the aim is to become a leading region in both primary and secondary school national examinations.



Made under Regulation 11 Minimum disclosures of charges and fees

Number	Item/Transaction	Item/Transaction Local Currency	Charge and fees as of 31st December 2020 Foreign Currency
1.0	Current Accounts		
	(a) Required minimum opening balance		
	i) Personal Banking	TZS 20,000/ Salary amount	\$ 50/ E 50/ EUR 50
	ii) Prestige	TZS 20,000/ Salary amount	\$ 50/ E 50/ EUR 50
	iii) Premier (Relationship balance)	TZS 80,000,000 / Salary amount	USD/GBP/EUR 15 to 35
	iv) Business Banking	TZS 100,000 to 500,000	-
	v) Corporate	TZS 250,000 to 1,000,000	USD 500; GBP 300 to USD 1,000; GBP 1,000; EUR 2,500
	(b) Monthly service fee (breakdown per product type)		
	i) Personal Banking	Free to 9.5 00	\$ 10/ E 10/ € 10
	ii) Prestige	TZS 10,000 to 20,000 free for above TZS 30M	\$ 10/ E 10/ € 10
	iii) Premier (Relationship balance)	TZS 40,000 balance ≤ TZS 80m; else free	TZS 40,000 balance ≤ E 30k; else free
	iv) Business Banking	TZS 20,000 to 35,000	USD/GBP/EUR 15 to 35
	v) Corporate	TZS 26,000 free for above TZS 300M, else free	USD/GBP/EUR 12 to USD 26,2; GBP 20; EUR 26.2; free for above TZS 300M
	(c) Cheque withdrawal over the counter		
	i) Personal Banking	TZS 4,000 for amounts up to TZS 25min, else 0.12% of value max TZS 100,000	1.2% of the value, min 5/E/€5
	ii) Prestige	TZS 4,000 for amount up to TZS 25min else 0.12% of value max TZS 100,000	1.2% of the value, min 5/E/€6
	iii) Premier (Relationship balance)	1% of value for amount above USD/EUR/GBP/KE\$/ZAR 10,000	1% of value amount
	iv) Business Banking	TZS 4,000 for amounts up to 25million, 0.12% for amounts exceeding TZS 25million; Max TZS 120,000.00	1% up to USD 20,000; GBP 20,000; EUR 20,000, 2.3% above USD 20,000; GBP 20,000; EUR 20,000, Minimum USD 20; GBP 10; EUR 20
	v) Corporate	-	-
	(d) Fees per ATM withdrawal		
	Local	TZS 1,200 for amount <200,000 and TZS 1,500 for amount >= 200,000	\$0.7
	International	TZS 8,000	\$4
	(e) ATM mini statement		
	Off us	TZS 2,500	N/A
	On us	TZS 800	N/A
	(f) Interim statement per page		
	Retail	TZS 2,500	\$2/ E N/A/ € N/A
	Business Banking	Free	Free
	Corporate	-	-
	(g) Periodic scheduled statement		
	Retail	TZS 500 per Leaf	\$0.3/ E N/A/ € N/A
	Business Banking	-	-
	Corporate	-	-
	- 100 Leaf	TZS 50,000	TZS 50,000 USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	Corporate	-	-
	- 25 Leaf	TZS 15,000	TZS 15,000 USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	- 50 Leaf	TZS 20,000	TZS 20,000 USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	- 100 Leaf	TZS 40,000	TZS 40,000 USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	- 200 Leaf	TZS 80,000	TZS 80,000 USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	(h) Dishonoured cheque		
	Retail	TZS 65,000	\$ 50/ E N/A/ € N/A
	Business Banking	1.2% of value, min TZS 120,000; max TZS 360,000	USD 120; GBP 65; max USD 360; GBP 180; EUR equivalent
	Corporate	1% of value min. TZS 100,000	USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	(i) Special clearance		
	Retail	N/A	\$ N/A
	Business Banking	TZS 25,000	USD 25; GBP 13 EUR 22.2
	Corporate	-	-
	(k) Counter cheque		
	Retail	TZS 50,000	\$ 30/ E N/A/ € N/A
	Business Banking	TZS 30,000	USD 30; GBP 25; EUR equivalent/USD 25; GBP 16, EUR equivalent
	Corporate	TZS 25,000	USD, GBP, EUR 25
	(m) Standing order		
	Retail	TZS 30,000 (Other banks)	-
	Business Banking	Commercial/Other banks	USD 25; GBP 15
		Enter, Relationship	USD 25; GBP 15
		Enter, Portfolio	USD 25; GBP 15
	Corporate	TZS 25,000	USD, GBP, EUR 25
	(n) Balance enquiry		
	Retail	on us TZS 1,000 of us TZS 1,500	TZS 2,500 USD ,GBP, EUR equivalent
	Business Banking	N/A	N/A
	Corporate	N/A	N/A
	(o) Annual Card Fee		
	Retail	TZS 10,000 OR Eqv. in USD	N/A
	Business Banking	-	-
	Corporate	-	-
	(p) ATM card renewal or replacement (indicate costs for different card types)		
	Retail	TZS 20,000	\$ 10
	(q) Overdrawn account interest charge		
	Retail	35% ,Min TZS 8,000 to 20,000	-
	Business Banking	TZS 50, 000	TZS 50, 000
	Corporate	Interest at 35%	Interest at 35%
	(r) Unarranged overdraft		
	(s) Interbank transfer		
	Retail	-	-
	i) Inward telegraphic transfers	0.3% of value min USD 12,max USD 100	0.3% of value min USD 12,max USD 100
	ii) Outward telegraphic transfers-beneficiary/applicant	0.3% of value min USD 55,max USD 200	0.3% of value min USD 55,max USD 200
	iii) Foreign bank draft	Free	Free
	iv) Inward transfers (Local)	Free	Free
	v) Outward transfers (TIS)	TZS 11800	Equivalent TZS 11800
	Business Banking/ Corporate	-	-
	i) Inward telegraphic transfers	USD 12, GBP6, EUR 12	-
	ii) Outward telegraphic transfers-beneficiary/applicant	-	-
	Business Banking/ Commercial	-	-
	- Enter, Relationship	\$60 flat fee for value up to \$10,000, else 0.25% of value min \$60 min; \$280 max ; GBP EUR equivalent	-
	- Enter, Portfolio	\$60 flat fee for value up to \$10,000, else 0.25% of value min \$60 min; \$280 max ; GBP, EUR equivalent	-
	Corporate	-	-
	iii) Foreign bank draft	-	-
	Business Banking/ Commercial	0.28% of value, USD 85min; USD 280 max ; GBP equivalent	-
	- Enter, Relationship	0.28% of value, USD 85min; USD 280 max ; GBP equivalent	-
	- Enter, Portfolio	0.28% of value, USD 85min; USD 280 max ; GBP equivalent	-
	Corporate	-	-
	iv) Inward transfers	Free	Free
	v) Outward transfers (TIS)	TZS 11800	TZS 11800
	(t) Bill payments through ATM		
	Retail	Free	Free
	Business Banking/Corporate	Free	Free
	(u) Deposit fee (Counter)		
	Retail	0.3% of value for any amount above TZS. 100M, max TZS 100,000	0.3% of value for any amount above USD/EUR/GBP 10,000 max USD/EUR/GBP 55
	Business Banking/Corporate	Free	Free
	(v) Other (Counter withdrawal fees)		
	i) Personal Banking/Barclays Direct	TZS 4,000 for amounts up to 25M; else 0.12% for amounts exceeding 25M(max 100,000)	1.18% of value min \$6/E/€ 6
	ii) Prestige	TZS 4000 for transaction amount below TZS 2M	1.18% of value min \$6/E/€ 6
	iii) Premier	1% of the amount that exceed USD/GBP/EUR 10,000	-
	iv) Business Banking	-	-
	v) Corporate	-	-
2.0	Savings Accounts (Disclose for product specific types)		
	(a) Required minimum opening balance		
	i) Personal Banking	TZS 20,000	USD/GBP/EUR 25 or KES2000/ZAR 300
	ii) Prestige / Bonus Saving	TZS 30,000	N/A
	iii) Premier (Relationship balance)	Minimum relationship balance of TZS 80M	N/A
	(b) Monthly service fee		
	i) Personal Banking	7,000 for monthly average balance below TZS. 200k, else free	USD/GBP/EUR 5
	ii) Prestige / Bonus Saving	7,000 for monthly average balance below TZS. 1m, else free	N/A
	iii) Premier (Relationship balance)	-	N/A
	(c) Interim statement		
	Retail	TZS 2,500	TZS 2,500
	Account closure	TZS 30,000	TZS 30,000
3.0	Electronic Banking		
	(a) Internet banking monthly fee		
	Retail	2500 annual fee	-
	Business Banking/ Corporate	TZS 23,000 (Business Banking)	-
	(b) Internet transfers		
	Retail	Free on-us accounts	-
	Business Banking/ Corporate	-	-
	(c) SMS Banking		
	Retail	Free	Free
	(d) Wallet to bank transfer		
	Retail	TZS 1,000	-
	(e) Other (Mobile wallet transfer fees)		
	Retail	TZS 1,500 to TZS 4,500	-
4.0	Foreign Exchange Transaction		
	(a) Purchase/sale of TCs transactions over the counter		
	(b) Purchase of foreign cheque	N/A	-
	(c) Sale/purchase of cash passport	N/A	-
	(d) Telegraphic transfer		
	Retail	0.3% of value min USD 55, max USD 200	-
	Business Banking/ Corporate	0.28% of value, USD 60 min; USD 280 max ; GBP, EUR equivalent	-
	(e) Telex/SWIFT		
	Retail	-	-
	Business Banking/ Corporate	-	-
	(f) Transfer from foreign currency denominated account to local current account (within bank and to other bank)		
	Retail	Free on-us accounts	-
	Business Banking/ Corporate	-	-
Indicative Rates for Loans and Advances			
1.0	Lending Rates	13% – 20% per annum (Negotiable)	8% – 10% per annum for Foreign currency
2.0	Personal Loans		
	(a) Processing/Arrangement/Appraisal fee	-	-
	i) Personal loans	1% of the facility	-
	ii) Overdrafts	1% of overdraft exposure	-
	iii) Mortgage finance	1% of the Mortgage Transaction	-
	iv) Asset finance	N/A	-
	(b) Unpaid loan instalment	N/A	-
	(c) Early repayment	3 Month Interest Amount, Minimum TZS 500,000	-
	(d) Valuation fees	N/A	-
	(e) Other	N/A	-

Made under Regulation 1.1 Cash management

Type of Account	Min Operating Bal.	TZS	USD	EUR
Fixed Deposit	Min Operating Bal. TZS 10000000	-	-	-
Call Account	Min Operating Bal. TZS 10000000	-	-	-
Foreign Currency Account (Fixed/Call)	USD 10000 OR EQV	-	-	-
Type of Account				
Business current account	Opening Bal. TZS 2500000; Min Bal 1000000	-	-	-
Transactional and service fees (per month)	TZS 800 Per Item; Min 26000	-	-	-
Penalty for balances below limit	USD/EUR 14; GBP 7	-	-	-
Penalty for overdrawn account	Interest @ 35%	-	-	-
Cash withdrawal from TZS	Free	-	-	-
Customer Foreign Currency Account (CFC)				
Customer Foreign Currency Account (CFC)	USD/EUR 2500; GBP 1000	-	-	-
Minimum balance	USD/EUR 1000; GBP 500	-	-	-
Transactional and service fees (per month)	USD/EUR 0.80 PER ITEM; MIN USD/EUR 26; GBP 15	-	-	-
Penalty for balances below limit	USD/EUR 14; GBP 7	-	-	-
Penalty for overdrawn account	USD Interest @ 25%; GBP Interest @ 20%; EUR 15	-	-	-
Cash withdrawal from CFC	1% UP TO USD/EUR/GBP 10000; 2% Above that amount; MIN USD/EUR 25; GBP 15	-	-	-
Transfer From TZS to CFC / CFC to TZS	Free	-	-	-
Cash Deposit - Small denominations (\$20,\$10,\$5,\$1)	2.5% OF The Value	-	-	-
Local Currency Transactions				
Outward remittance (TIS/RTGS)	TZS 11800	-	-	-
Amendment fee for Outward remittances / Swift / Telegraphic Transfers by customer or by bank	Free	-	-	-
Inward Transfers (TIS/RTGS)	Free	-	-	-
Investigation fees for non receipt of funds (T/T) where funds have been received	Free	-	-	-
Foreign Currency Transactions				
Outward remittances / Swift / Telegraphic Transfers	0.25% OF VAL, MIN USD 60 MAX USD 295; GBP/EUR EQV, PLUS USD 30 Intermediary charge option is ours	-	-	-
Swift message retrieval after 3 months	USD 3.00 per message	-	-	-
Amendment fee for Outward remittances / Swift / Telegraphic Transfers by customer or by bank	1% OF VAL TRANSACTION; MAX USD 118; GBP/EUR 295	-	-	-
Foreign Cheques deposits (Only TZS from Kenya)	1%MIN USD 35; MAX USD 295	-	-	-
Inward Foreign Bank Draft	0.25% OF VAL, USD 90MIN, USD MAX 295; GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
Foreign Bank Draft	USD/GBP/EUR 11.8; TZS EQV	-	-	-
Inward Swift Transfers	Lack of funds USD 130, Other reason 70	-	-	-
Returned foreign cheques	Free	-	-	-
Investigation fees for non receipt of funds (T/T, Swift) where funds have been received	Free	-	-	-
Standing Order				
Standing order set-up	TZS 12000; USD/EUR 12; GBP 6	-	-	-
Standing order	Within Barclays TZS 6000; USD 7; GBP 5; EUR 5 Per Item	-	-	-
Amend / Stop standing Order	Other Banks: TZS 25000; USD 25; GBP 15; EUR 15 Per Item	-	-	-
Unpaid standing order	TZS 25000; USD 25; GBP 25; EUR 25 Per Item	-	-	-
Absa Integrator – Internet Banking				
Onboarding/Set Up	Free	-	-	-
Salary processing/Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)	TZS 2200; USD/EUR/GBP EQV Per Item	-	-	-
SWIFT Payment/ Cross border	USD 65 OR EQV, PLUS USD 30 Intermediary charge if occur	-	-	-
Direct Debit (within Barclays Tanzania)	Free	-	-	-
Bank Transfer (Own Accounts)	Free	-	-	-
TIS/RTGS	TZS 11800	-	-	-
Integrator Monthly Fee	TZS 20000; EUR/USD/GBP EQV AND TZS 50,000 EUR/USD/GBP EQV For view only	-	-	-
Host to Host Set Up Fee	Quotation available on request	-	-	-
Token Replacement/Extra Token fee Per token (3 tokens free)	Token Replacement/Extra Token fee Per token (3 tokens free); TZS 200,000 for Extra	-	-	-
Bank Direct				
Bank Direct Cash – Cash Intransit	Quotation available on request	-	-	-
Bank Direct Mail – Courier Service	Quotation available on request	-	-	-
Mobile Bank Disbursement				
Transfer to M-Pesa, TigoPesa, Airtel Money, EzyPesa, Halopesa	TZS 2300	-	-	-
Other Service Charges				
Manual processing of salaries	Within Barclays TZS 12000 PER ITEM; With other Banks TZS 12000; GBP/EUR/USD EQV	-	-	-
Closure of Account				
Within 6 months of account opening	TZS 36000; USD 36; GBP 24; EUR EQV	-	-	-
After 6 months of account opening	TZS 29000; USD 29; GBP 13; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Dormant Account Reactivation	TZS 7000; USD/GBP 7; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Cheque Stop payment instructions	LEAF LOST: TZS 30000; USD 30; GBP 25 PER NOTICE BOOK LOST: TZS 60000; USD/GBP 60 PER BOOK; Lack of funds/Any reason: TZS 35400; USD41; GBP 35	-	-	-
Statements				
- Monthly statement	Free	-	-	-
- Interim statement	Free	-	-	-
- Duplicate statement (up to 3 months) per month	TZS 3500; USD/GBP 3.5; EUR EQV	-	-	-
- Duplicate statement (over 3 months) per month	TZS 8500; USD/GBP 8; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Cheque images, per cheque	TZS 26000; USD 20; GBP 14; EUR EQV	-	-	-
MT/900/910/920/940/941/942/950 Statements	USD 13 PER MSG, MIN 70 USD; MAX 410 USD	-	-	-
MT 103 Messages	SWIFT USD 60; RTGS TZS 11800 OR USD EQV; EFT TZS 2200 OR USD EQV	-	-	-
Issuance of Manager's cheque	TZS 26000; USD 20 PER ITEM; GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
Managers Cheque cancellation charges	TZS 14200; USD 14; GBP 8; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Reply to Audit Letters/Audit Report	TZS 130000; USD 132; GBP 66; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Confirmation/Audit/ Certificate of Balances	TZS 35000; USD 35; GBP 30 Per customer request	-	-	-
Registration of Foreign Loan at BOT	USD 470 Once off processing/Registration Fee; USD 710 Annual Fees-Loan administration	-	-	-
Special Clearance	TZS 53000; USD 66; GBP 27	-	-	-
Unpaid/Returned Cheques				
Insufficient Funds (Refer to drawer)	1% OF VAL, MIN TZS 100,000; USD/GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
Uncollected cheque book (after 3 months)	TZS 14000; USD/GBP 14; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Cheque Books	-	-	-	-
- 25 Leaf	TZS 15,000; USD/GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
- 50 Leaf	TZS 20,000; USD/GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
- 100 Leaf	TZS 40,000; USD/GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
- 200 Leaf	TZS 80,000; USD/GBP/EUR EQV	-	-	-
Search fee for documents (2-6 months and above)	TZS 8300; USD/GBP 8; EUR EQV	-	-	-
Lending and Deposit Rates	-	-	-	-
Prime Rate	Quotation available on request	-	-	-
Deposit Rates	Quotation available on request	-	-	-
Trade Finance				
Guarantees	-	-	-	-
Facility	3.33%pa, min USD 590pp8, 0.85%pp	-	-	-

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Lifestyle change effort necessary, but culture is a major impediment

NEW appeals are being issued to the public as well as to health sector authorities to intensify awareness campaigns on regular medical checkups and change of lifestyle following a sharp rise in deaths arising from non communicable diseases (NCDs). Current statistics show that such diseases account for 33 per cent of acute sickness and death countrywide, with urban areas more acutely affected. It is a disturbing situation which requires effort to be impacted in a positive direction, but it is daunting if it will be so.

An exposition on the situation was made at a year-end free screening event to commemorate the role of nurses and midwives in healthcare provision, where the Acting Executive Director for the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Dr Julieth Magandi appealed for changes of lifestyle so that many avoidable deaths do not occur as projected at present. In the past the problem of non-communicable diseases had a clear cultural image, either it was a problem of Europe and America rather than developing countries, or it was a problem of rich people generally, whether living abroad or in poor countries. That changed later.

The trouble with non-communicable diseases is that these ailments arise from the very things that make life either livable of appreciable, like sweet foods and drinks, not to speak of social ranking embedded in having meals with copious amounts of meat. In developed countries the habit still prevalent here that a meal is basically grain and meat or other comes up as an accessory has largely disappeared, with meat being the basis meal and vegetables as an accessory. At times the situation is worse: it

is wine that is an accessory, or an invigorating liquor especially spirits; this was for long embedded in high class culture.

Expecting that the world turns around from these habits that really are the hallmarks of culture at an advanced level, such that meals like legumes (beans of all sorts) or tubers (other than fried potatoes) make their way to tables across rich homes or restaurants around the world looks somewhat comic.

It is like advocating for a meal of whole grain and legumes on a festival in Tanzania, as it is a non-starter even if that is standard food in ordinary people's homes. People have different levels of access to protein-rich foods but scarcely different attitudes to the consumption of such foods, as it is an issue of opportunity.

There is all the same a kind of silver lining in some of the research especially in Western countries, as data from the World Health Organisation and activist organizations suggest that more educated people are more aware of the dangers of excessive protein and sugar intake in diet, or in lifestyle generally. The crisis of NCD exposure has two distinctive parts, one relating to diet at a home/family or restaurant level, and the other relating to what is consumed at leisure, what it is made of and amounts to which one is exposed. Some people get diseases from family diets basically, but many risk disease from entertainment.

That is why the current ministerial initiative is important, in the idea that 'herd immunity' from NCD exposure will be limited to an educated and persuaded section of society, for a while. But many more will see examples of disease, the suffering and could adjust. It is vital to impart such awareness.

World Bank-improved higher education project sets stage for future initiatives

HIGHER education relevance for employment generation is receiving a boost after the government and the World Bank finalized a plan for the World Bank to issue a \$425m loan for enhancing quality in higher education. With the loan the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is set to spend the over 90bn/- credit in rolling out the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) programme. It is a five-year project to be financed by a soft loan from the International Development Association (IDA).

The mainly poor countries' lending window of the IBRD is working to promote higher education as a catalytic force in the changing Tanzanian economy, in remarks by Permanent Secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo. He outlined the plan at a stakeholders' meeting to discuss proposed guidelines in putting the programme on the ground, where he sought for input from beneficiary government institutions to spur professional transformation by strengthening the learning environment and its labour market alignment.

So far about 18 higher learning institutions within the public sector are earmarked for involvement in the project, especially in relation to innovation, economic development and labour market relevance of the study components they offer. The ministry then held another meeting for non-governmental institutions as their relationship

to the programme is different from public institutions of higher learning, but they share the same objectives in relation to the study programmes they offer. In that case the ministry has the task of adapting the programme to demands of different types of institutions, but with set national objectives.

The technical part of the programme is what needs to work in order for its aims to be realized, namely how education can help make graduates easier to employ or to find their way in the market by starting own ventures. But there is another aspect which relates to shortcomings in a fiscal and budgetary context namely the component about increasing human resources for lecturers, librarians and laboratories as part of strengthening of teaching and learning infrastructures. It isn't just a matter of imparting skills on the higher education community on job market course relevance, but even increasing student enrolment, etc.

While it is entirely possible that the technical part is carried out as per the project guidelines, there is a possibility that the welfare dimension overtakes the technical part. In that manner the focus is given to raising student enrollment, recruiting lecturers and other staff, and less to altering existing courses and training programmes to suit a different sort of market. This is likely to be a tantalizing situation for the ministerial authorities, and hopefully they are prepared to administer the programme as per its guidelines.

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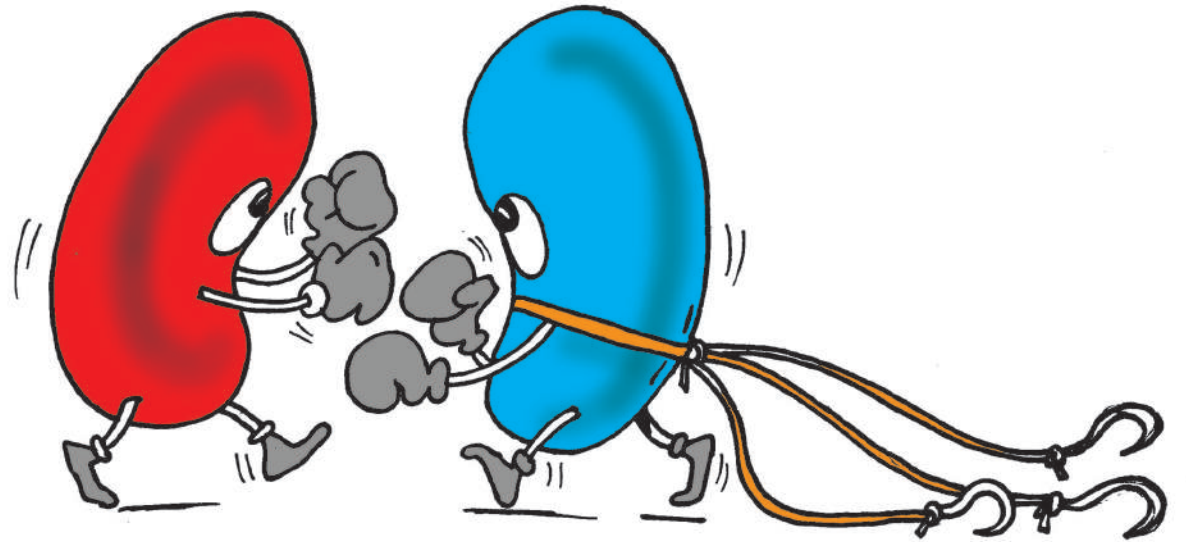
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Natural Vs Artificial Seeds



South Africa failed to get its act together on vaccines

By Shabir A. Madhi

SOUTH Africa has an estimated population approaching 60 million. To achieve herd immunity against COVID-19, the government recently set the ambitious goal of vaccinating 67 per cent of the population - roughly 40 million people. According to the outline of this plan, this would be achieved within 2021.

But is this ambitious target even feasible?

In my view the proposed COVID-19 strategy is not a strategy, but rather an aspirational goal. And an unrealistic one at that.

The elephant in the room is that the government has set a target of immunising two thirds of the population but it hasn't as yet secured the 80 million doses this would require.

This is what we know. South Africa had committed to purchasing enough vaccines for up to about 10 per cent of the population through the COVAX facility - roughly 12 million doses. The facility is a global collaboration for speeding up the development, manufacture and "equitable" distribution of new vaccines. These vaccines are likely to become available from February onward and spread out over the course of the next few months.

The Department of Health has also indicated that 20 million doses of vaccine will likely be received by the end of June or July. As such, it appears that the government has been successful in procuring an additional 6.5 million over and above vaccines from the COVAX facility, and procured about 1.5 million doses from the Serum Institute of India (SII), which is producing the Astra Zeneca vaccine. The initial 1.5 million vaccines from SII have been earmarked for the immunisation of health care workers during the first phase of the COVID vaccine rollout.

But there's a lot that remains unclear. For example how will the jobs for 1.2 million workers in health facilities be covered given that the 1.5 million doses assigned can only reach 750,000 of them. This means that there would need to be some prioritisation of which staff to vaccinate in health facilities.

So aside from the reality that the country doesn't actually yet have the 80 million doses of vaccine required for 40 million people, there's been very little planning that's gone into how these



vaccines are going to be deployed. This has become clear over the past four weeks as government has come under attack for not having a plan.

It appears that government put all its eggs in a single basket and decided to only focus on procuring vaccine through COVAX facility, and only started engaging in meaningful bilateral discussions with manufacturers over the past few weeks.

The Department of Health has now set up a task team to look at operational issues. A good place for this team to start would be to run a reality check in order to set more achievable targets and timelines. The team must also begin to broaden its approach to tap the potential of the private sector and civil society to deploy the vaccine.

Reality check

The government envisages three phases of immunisation. The first targets healthcare workers. The second would expand the rollout to essential workers - people involved in managing disasters such as fire fighters - individuals over 60 years and people with co-morbidities who are at particularly higher risk than most. In total 16.5 million people are targeted in this phase.

In the third phase, the general population older than 18 years would be the target - a total of 22.5 million people.

This is easier said than done. Health care workers are relatively easy to reach. But I'm not convinced that the logistics are in place to be able to reach out substantially - even just to individuals over the age of 65 and those with co-morbidities. Without proper planning, vaccines end up being stuck in depots simply because the logistics haven't been dealt with in terms of how to deploy them.

Even assuming that government procures 80 million doses of vaccine for the 40 million targeted, these are unlikely to

become available in substantial quantities until April. And assuming the government started vaccinating people from April 1, 150,000 people would have to get the jab each day, seven days a week, for the first month. And after that, that number would have to climb to 300,000 people each and every day right through to the end of 31st of December 2021 as most vaccines would require a two dose schedule.

No country other than Israel has come close to 150,000 jabs per day, let alone 300,000. Even countries such as the UK and the US have been struggling to vaccinate even up to 50,000 per day.

Furthermore, since none of the COVID-19 vaccines are authorised for use in children under 16 years of age, who make up about 30 per cent of South African population, the target of vaccinating 40 million South Africans would require immunisation of close to 95 per cent of all adults in South Africa. Considering that a recent Ipsos poll of South African adults indicated that only about 53 per cent of adults would be willing to be vaccinated - and it's unlikely COVID-19 vaccination would be made mandatory - the aspiration of immunising 40 million South Africans by the end of 2021 is unlikely to materialise.

A more realistic target is vaccinating about one third of the population. This is roughly two thirds of the adult population, but not two thirds of the South African population. But even for that to work, there would need to be decentralisation in terms of roles and responsibilities. If the country depends solely on public sector control in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, it will fail dismally.

For this reason, it's critical that the private sector takes a leadership role at the point of delivery. When it comes to the deployment of vaccines, the private sector with general practitioners and numerous

number of pharmacies have got much better outreach in terms of being accessible to South Africans, than public health clinics.

The private sector - be it large pharmacies or general practitioners - need to show social solidarity. They should, for example, guarantee that anyone can walk in and be immunised without having to pay. Without this there will be inequity.

What went wrong

The current muddle stems from two mistakes over the past year. The first was government's decision to pursue - exclusively - vaccine access through the COVAX facility. COVAX was set up to ensure that countries can get enough vaccine for at least 20% of the population. The pricing mechanism built into the equitable access facility meant that bigger economies would pay a premium to subsidise poor economies.

South Africa found itself having to pay \$12-\$13 per dose as an upper middle income country to participate in the COVAX facility. That is more than three times the cost of procuring the vaccine directly from AstraZeneca (or Serum Institute of India) at the prevailing price of \$3 per dose.

Participation in the COVAX facility expresses social solidarity with less resourced countries whose per unit cost is cross-subsidised by wealthier countries and philanthropic organisations. But the initiative is largely agnostic to the realities of the dire straits of South Africa's economy.

The second mistake is that government compounded the problem by not timeously engaging in bilateral agreements directly with manufacturers through an advanced market commitment mechanism. Many other countries, including middle income countries, did this as soon as vaccines went into phase two and three trials.

It's only recently - after the public uproar - that government appears to have been activated to engage in substantive bilateral discussions. The problem is that it's too little too late.

Many of the vaccines, which have been authorised for use in North America and Europe, to be produced over the next 6 months are already earmarked to other countries that made prior commitments.

As a result, South Africa will probably experience another one to two resurgences of COVID-19, before a substantial proportion of the population will have been immunised.

TARI pledges support to transform sugarcane cultivation and production in Tanzania

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has pledged to transform sugarcane cultivation and production industry in the country through promotion of research, technology and agriculture best practices to spur the nation economy.

TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo made the remarks recently after a tour of Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd and other sugar producing companies in Morogoro Region where he said TARI has the key role to play and contribute to achieve sugar self sufficient in the country.

He underscored the need for fruitful commercial production adding that can be achieved if sugarcane stakeholders such as the sugar producing companies and the farmers will increase uptake of technologies generated by TARI Kibaha along with agricultural best practices.

He said also that the farmers must change from traditional agriculture which has always been giving them 4.6 metric tonnes per hectare to 12 metric tonnes under irrigation agriculture.

"We need to increase partnership in research and technology transfer with sugar producing companies, farmers and other stakeholders to increase productivity so that we can achieve and surpass the national target of sugar self sufficient," he said.

TARI director general remarks comes at a time when the current statistics of sugar demand stands at 650,000 metric tonnes against production capacity of 300,000 metric tonnes.

"We are almost half way. So there is this gap that we have to ensure we as research institute, we contribute to bridge it. We can successfully do so if our farmers will adopt new technologies, innovation and good agricultural practices from TARI Kibaha. This, for sure, will enhance sugarcane production and productivity in this country," he said.

"I have made this visit to assess and see for myself research and development of sugarcane and sugar production in different sugar producing companies and I have realised that out growers especially those depending on nature have low yields.

Normally when the farmer conducts agriculture under irrigation and adheres to all agricultural best practices, he or she can harvest up to 12 metric tons against the current harvest of 4.6 metric tonnes of sugarcane per hectare," he said.

"When you conduct irrigation agriculture, you increase crop productivity per unit area. As TARI, we shall continue to promote research, technologies, and best practices to help the farmers increase production," he said.

He called on all sugarcane farmers to adopt the new technologies from TARI Kibaha saying the centre has several varieties that are suitable for irrigation agriculture which, farmers can use to improve and increase production.

Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd commended Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) for extended research and technologies saying supply of quality improved seeds and education has boosted much the company's production of quality sugar.

Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd, agricultural manager Nassoro



TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamillo (L) listens as TARI Kibaha manager Hildeitha Msita and sugarcane lead scientist and national coordinator Dr Nessie Luambano (R) explain the contribution of TARI to the sugar sector at one of the farms at Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd. Looking on are Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd officials. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Abubakari said TARI has so far created conducive working environment for both the factory and out growers especially in the area of advisory services, improved varieties, and good agricultural practices.

Citing an example he said Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd has got five quality sugarcane varieties from TARI-Kibaha which are under commercial production. They are N25, N41, N12, R570, R579 adding that within five years the factory is going to increase production from the current 40 metric tonnes to 100,000 metric tonnes per annum.

"We have got over two hundred varieties which are in different stages of evaluation. Therefore, TARI Kibaha has been very useful to the company's activities such as research, technologies and technology transfer to the out growers to make sure that we improve productivity per unit area," he said

"For a long time we have been in good and healthy relationship with TARI. I believe we

will actually manage to improve sugarcane and sugar production. With this partnership, we promise you that in the next five years, Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd will have done complete transformation to achieve 100,000 metric tonnes of sugar per annum," he said

"President John Magufuli has given us a challenge to produce more sugar and be self sufficient, we are working hard and we will not disappoint him," he explained.

TARI Kibaha Manager Hildeitha Msita TARI Kibaha has the national mandate to coordinate the exercise and some of the main stakeholders are the sugar producing factories like Mtibwa sugarcane Estates Ltd. "As researchers we are working on different technologies which are used by sugar producing companies and the farmers to grow sugarcane for the industries.

She said it is important that there must be a strong partnership between TARI Kibaha

and the main stakeholders to scale up and increase sugar production in the country.

"This can only be achieved if the sugar producing companies and the farmers will adopt new technologies produced by researchers at TARI-Kibaha because they geared at improving production.

She called on the farmers to visit and make use of TARI-Kibaha saying it has already technologies innovation and good agricultural practices available and suitable for the farmers and other stakeholders.

So far the Centre has seven good improved varieties for sugarcane and there are other six which are going to be released by next month making a total of thirteen improved varieties suitable for sugarcane.

"If farmers real want technologies related to improved varieties, good agricultural practices or diseases and paste management they are all available. It is important that they find time and visit Kibaha for im-

proved sugar cane and productivity in their localities.

Sugarcane lead scientist and National Coordinator Dr. Nessie Luambano explained that as a lead scientist in sugarcane she works very closely with different stakeholders. "We are generating different technologies like drought-tolerant seed varieties and those useful under irrigation for the farmers. We are also conducting other extension advisory services like providing education on the best practices, prevention of diseases etc so that the farmers can produce good and desired results," she said.

TARI Kibaha will enhance the use of the technology transfer section to transfer the technologies to the farmers through farmer field days, agriculture exhibition, and media to inform the farmers.

Hadija Kondo, a sugarcane farmer commended the current performance of Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd saying unlike in the past, the company has improved production and working conditions of the farmers.

"TARI is doing a great job. For example, researchers have established nurseries and demo plots which are used by farmers to learn and acquire new technologies for sugarcane development. There are also nurseries for the sugarcane out growers and for the Estate as well," she said.

Traditional seeds which have been used for long time are now being replaced by new improved seeds from TARI. We only use official channel to get them and delivery is faster," she added.

She said TARI researchers have been visiting their farms regularly providing education on the agricultural best practices and technologies. "They have provided education to the agricultural extension officers so that even after their absence, the extension officers will continue carrying out their work of ensuring the farmers produce sugarcane profitably.

Hassan Kandoro, a farmer from Kichangani village in Mvomero District said unlike in the past, nowadays research and technologies have improved production for the farmers. "In recent years, the out growers have access to agricultural extension advisory services that include pasture management.

Trump's deep character flaw and tragedy: Lessons for Nigeria

By Dakuku Peterside

LEADERS with lousy characters will eventually ruin the system or tarnish the image of their countries. The lesson for Nigeria is that we must build strong institutions that can survive any onslaught by radical political juggernauts or demagogues. Strong institutions make strong democracies. Imagine if one judge in a federal high court had issued a court injunction against the election, the drama and lies and subterfuge would have continued till date in the U.S.

"Never has man reached his destination by persistence in deviation from the straight path." - Mahatma Gandhi.

It was apparent to some from the outset when he declared his intention to run for the office of the president of the United States of America that Donald J. Trump lacked character. He lacked the moral values of a town union leader, let alone the 'leader of the free world', the most powerful man in the world.

The United States Republican Party, known for its conservative principles and family values, was aware of the egregious stories around Trump's personal and business endeavours. For a man who likes attaching his name to his business ventures, who had so many failed business ventures, it was surprising that he had enough "brand equity" to become a populist politician.

Before they overwhelmingly voted for him as president on November 8, 2016, most American Christians had heard the 'Access Hollywood'

tape on which Donald Trump boasted of forcing himself on women, and about his habit of sexually assaulting women. The Grand Old Party was aware of Trump's racist credentials. They knew that he spearheaded the Birther Movement against Barack Obama. He expounded the insane conspiracy theory that Obama was not born in America.

Trump did not pretend to have any modicum of decency or that he was a committed democrat. He levelled insults at his opponents during the Republican presidential primaries in 2016, he lied without compunction, mocked a disabled reporter, and shattered all forms of decorum. During the presidential contest, he refused to commit himself to conceding the election in the event of a loss. He insisted that he would only accept the results of the election if he were the winner.

It was all politics, and the United States Republican Party was only interested in capturing political power. Trump exploited the anti-immigrant fears of America's dominant Caucasian population, and the fact that quite a sizeable percentage of Americans were tired of politicians and admired the anti-establishment sentiments he expressed through the promise to shatter the norms and 'drain the swamp.' Trump, the billionaire, positioned himself as a fighter for oppressed Americans; however, many of his countrymen were swindled despite the paradox.

As president, most of Trump's policies anchored on the themes of "America First" and "Make America Great Again" overturned norms. His



immigration policies were blatantly racist, as they targeted poor and Muslim countries. Trump placed a ban on seven Islamic countries from entering the United States - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Saudi Arabia was not on the list, even though most of the terrorists who blew up the World Trade Centre in the infamous '9/11' debacle were Saudis. None of the citizens of countries placed under Trump's travel ban had ever committed an act of domestic terrorism in the United States.

In the diplomatic arena, Trump pulled the United States out of the Iran Nuclear Deal and the Paris Climate Accord. He filed other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members and issued a travel ban on some of the International Criminal Court (ICC) judges. Trump cuddled up to dictators and threw insults at fellow leaders. He famously called Africa a 'shithole' and reportedly disparaged President Muhammadu Buhari before his assistants during the latter's diplomatic visit to the White House.

Little wonder many people had cause to look up to German Chancellor, Angela Merkel as 'the leader of the Free World', a term customarily accorded every U.S. president. Now the 'emperor' is naked, and the long knives are entirely out. There are ongoing mass resignations, all-round condemnation, talks about invoking the 25th Amendment... a looming unprecedented second impeachment, bipartisan calls for his resignation, and the sudden death of 'Trumpism' as a serious politi-

cal movement. However, Trump lacks the moral character to be president of the United States of America. His traducers consider him as an embarrassment to Western civilisation. This lack of character later became his Achilles heels.

When he lost the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden by huge margins - seven million-plus popular votes and 74 Electoral College votes, he should have gracefully conceded the loss, as every American president in the past had done. In this way, he would have left office proudly with some remarkable achievements and his supporters would always revere him, even many who never liked his style.

But, as a braggadocio demagogue, Trump continued to expound silly conspiracy theories to explain away his apparent electoral loss. He propagated lies, deployed insults and intimidation against American public servants overseeing the electoral process, for doing their jobs and refusing to bend to his dubious will.

Even when his legal team lost over 63 court cases, and judges he appointed faulted his absurd legal filings, he continued to deceive his followers that somehow he would continue in office for four more years.

Trump did not care that his dubious antics cost his party control of the Senate, removing the last bastion of check his party would have had on the incoming Biden administration. He was only concerned about his grievances, and the slippery, futile battle to cling on to the presidency.

A power-drunk Trump called his followers to the U.S. Capitol on January 6 to intimidate legislators at the Capitol into overturning the American public's will, in an act that could

have ended the U.S. as a constitutional democracy. He tried to railroad his ever-loyal vice president into exercising powers the latter did not have. He insulted Mike Pence, decried his deputy's lack of courage, and tried to turn his deranged 'MAGAites' against the Senate's ceremonial president.

It should not be unexpected that Trump's long indoctrinated followers felt they owed it a duty to their supposed demigod to teach the legislators, who were trying to take power away from their leader, a big lesson. So, they stormed the legislative building, sacked the lawmakers, and desecrated one of the most sacred edifices of democracy on earth.

Now the 'emperor' is naked, and the long knives are entirely out. There are ongoing mass resignations, all-round condemnation, talks about invoking the 25th Amendment (through which members of his cabinet can remove a president on the grounds of incapacitation), a looming unprecedented second impeachment, bipartisan calls for his resignation, and the sudden death of 'Trumpism' as a serious political movement.

Character is essential in leadership. Trump's lack of a good character has finally undone him. His despicable place in infamous history is assured. However, it was unfortunate that people know about his character and did not think it mattered before voting for him, until things came to the present sorry pass.

The Trump presidency will forever be defined, not by the Christian-friendly posturing, anti-immigrant sentiments and policies, the tax cuts for the rich, the appointment of three conservative Supreme Court judges, the vast rallies or the enormous lies, bombastic talks, inane exaggerations or unbridled insults, but by the horrible events of January 6. This will remain as the date when he egged on his followers to embark on an insurrection against America's elected representatives. His name will forever be mired in infamy.

The events of the past three months in America underscore the importance of two ingredients of democracy. One is the importance of strong institutions. The second is the importance of the character of a leader.

U.S. institutions withstood the onslaught and barrage of assaults from Trump's political machinery and his cronies. The judiciary threw out over 63 court cases.

All the states certified the election results, even when Trump called on some Republican States to rescind them. Even when Trump's mob attacked the holy chambers, the legislature stood its ground to complete its traditional function of accepting and ratifying the electoral college results.

The governor of the State of Georgia, the vice president, and many Republican officials stood their grounds against Trump and his family members' threats on what would happen if they failed to do their bidding by stalling the democratic process. Both institutions and actors in the political space allowed democratic principles to prevail against all odds.

Covid-19 and the rise of journalistic product innovation

By Neha Gupta

THE past year, while difficult, brought about great product innovation in the journalism industry. User-centred product development, which had taken root in 2019, became the focus for big and small news organisations globally in 2020.

This is, in part, according to Anita Zielina, Director of Innovation and Leadership at Craig Newmark J-School/CUNY (in the US). She works at the intersection of media and technology leadership and is an advocate for culture change being closely related to strategy change.

Zielina joined WAN-IFRA's recent Digital Media Europe conference to talk about how tough times can be transformative.

Covid-19 hit the world in March 2020 and had a ripple effect internationally, forcing several media organisations to come to a reckoning not limited to the future business models but with respect to their purpose of existing in the news space and how they could change to become more equitable and sustainable.

What is product? That this field is still emerging in the media industry is exemplified by the fact that there is no universal definition of product.

Zielina describes it this way: "Product is a function at the intersection of editorial, technology and business that actively ensures that all products and services that a media organisation creates addresses user needs, provides an excellent user experience and advances the overarching business strategy."

The immediate impact we saw from the Covid-19 crisis was an emergence or a resurfacing of news products to fulfil specific user needs. Several news outlets whose primary revenue source is events had to rethink and re-organise them online to counter the economic fallout and survive financially.

The Texas Tribune is one such company that translated its annual celebration of ideas featuring policy, politics, art, and the media into a digital affair in September last year - a model that many news organisations globally are trying to build.

Munich's Süddeutsche Zeitung, one of the largest daily newspapers in Germany, brought "München bringt's" to its readers - a product that helped put hyperlocal shops and restaurants crippled by the coronavirus pandemic back on the map and in the minds of customers.

"In many parts of the world, delivery and takeout is not as big as it is in the US, so hyperlocal communities are crucial," Zielina said.

She elaborated: "When you are stuck at home 24/7, it becomes more important what's immediately surrounding you. So, we saw an emergence of news products. Many news organisations used this product development effort to become more holistic in how they approached user-centric product development and design."

The transition for a traditional newsroom to the new product culture has not been smooth, considering the editorial, business and technology teams work in silos.

Working in silos represents people, teams or companies who are working towards the same objective, often in close vicinity but not sharing information - which leads to wasted time and cost, not to mention missed opportunities.

Traditionally, journalists have worked as lone wolves, while product culture is built on inter-team collaboration.

"The general spirit of designing digital products is a collaborative one. We see successful product development when there is a diverse team



with a variety of skill sets in the product team," Zielina noted.

She said skills and talent constitute one of the crucial points of this transformation, adding that several conversations she has had with news companies pointed to a big brain drain away from digital folks who know how to think about product, data, UX (user experience) and UI since they possess the ability to work across industries.

Zielina's tip for media organisations in this regard is to better attract and retain this talent by becoming flexible and meaningful places of work. "Even The New York Times and The Washington Post have a hard time finding product-related talent," she said.

Now, user experience is a person's emotions and attitudes about using a particular product, system or service. It includes the practical, experiential, affective, meaningful, and valuable aspects of human-computer interaction and product ownership.

The user interface (UI) is meanwhile the point of human-computer interaction and communication in a device. This can include display screens, keyboards, a mouse and the appearance of a desktop.

It is also the way through which a user interacts with an application

or a website. The growing dependence of many businesses on web and mobile applications has led many companies to place increased priority on UI in an effort to improve the user's overall experience.

News organisations must understand how to truly serve the people they want to pay for their products through memberships, subscriptions, event tickets, etc.

According to Zielina, higher empathy and user-centricity ultimately allow one to better fulfil the audience's needs and play a bigger role in their lives, which is connected to a higher willingness to pay for a particular product.

"Many corona products are successful because they are built explicitly following a certain user need - parents who have a hard time explaining to their children what a pandemic is or the inhabitants of Munich trying to understand which of the little shops around them would deliver lunch," Zielina said.

A World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) dispatch. Neha Gupta is a multimedia journalist.

More than eight in ten Americans getting news from digital devices

By Elisa Shearer

THE transition of news from print, television and radio to digital spaces has caused huge disruptions in the traditional news industry, especially the print news industry. It is also reflected in the ways individual Americans say they are getting their news.

A large majority of Americans get news at least sometimes from digital devices, according to a Pew Research Centre survey conducted from August 31 to September 7, 2020.

More than eight in ten US adults (86 per cent) say they get news from a smartphone, computer or tablet "often" or "sometimes", including 60 per cent who say they do so often.

This is higher than the portion who get news from television, though 68 per cent get news from TV at least sometimes and 40 per cent do so often.

Americans turn to radio and print publications for news far less frequently, with half saying they turn to radio at least sometimes (16 per cent do so often) and about one-third (32 per cent) saying the same of print (10 per cent get news from print publications often).

When asked which of these platforms they prefer to get news on, roughly half (52 per cent) of Americans say they prefer a digital platform - whether it is a news website (26 per cent), search engines (12 per cent), social media (11 per cent) or podcasts (3 per cent).

Meanwhile, about one-third say they prefer television (35 per cent), and just 7 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, say they prefer to get their news on the radio or via print.

Though digital devices are by far the most common way through which Americans access their news, where they get that news on their devices is divided among a number of different pathways.

About two-thirds of US adults say they get news at least sometimes from news websites or apps (68 per cent) or search engines like Google (65 per cent). About half (53 per cent) say they get news from social media, and a much smaller portion say they get news at least sometimes from podcasts (22 per cent).

Among digital platforms, the most preferred one for news is news websites or apps: about a quarter of US adults (26 per cent) prefer to get their news this way, compared with 12 per cent who prefer search engines, 11 per cent who prefer to get their news on social media and 3 per cent who say they prefer podcasts.

Underneath these numbers lie stark differences by age, with those under 50 showing very different news use patterns than their elders.



Americans aged 50 and older use both television and digital devices for news at high rates, while the younger age groups have almost fully turned to digital devices as a platform through which to access news.

About half or more of adults 50 and older are still turning to TV for news often - 54 per cent of those 50 to 64 and about two-thirds (68 per cent) of those 65 and older. But among those ages 30 to 49, just a quarter say they get news on TV often, and just 16 per cent say the same among those 18 to 29.

For those age groups, digital devices are the dominant choice for news, with 67 per cent of those aged from 30 to 49 and 71 per cent of those aged from 18 to 29 getting news from a digital device often.

Among those 50 and older, differences between digital and non-digital news sources are less pronounced - with 64 per cent getting news at least sometimes from both television and digital devices.

Within digital platforms for news, most age groups turn to news websites at higher rates than to other platforms, with one exception. Americans aged between 18 and 29 stand out in that the most common digital way they get news is social media, while 42 per cent say they get news this way often versus 28 per cent saying the same of either news websites or search engines.

Elisa Shearer is a research associate focusing on journalism research at Pew Research Centre, a nonpartisan American think-tank - referring to itself as a "fact tank" - based in Washington, DC. It provides information on social issues, public opinion, and demographic trends shaping the United States and the world.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE SELECTION INVITATION FOR APPLICATION OF QUALIFICATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SMARTPHONES ASSEMBLY FACTORY UNDER PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) ARRANGEMENTS (TENDER NO. NO AE-020/HQ/2020-21/PPP/01)

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is looking for a prospective private party towards establishment and operation of smartphones assembly factory under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements.
- TCRA now intends to qualify interested reputable and capable company (s) for this business opportunity under Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Maintain and Transfer (DBFOMT) arrangements. It is expected that invitation to bid to the pre-qualified bidders will be made in 4th March 2021.
- The qualification process will be conducted through International Competitive bidding (ICB) under the procedures specified in Public Private Partnership Act, Regulations, 2020 and is open to all applicants as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested applicants may download the qualification documents from the link: <https://www.tcra.go.tz/smart-phone-assembly-factory> or obtain the same from the office of Secretary of the Tender Board at Mawasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, Dar Es Salaam from 09:00-15:00 On Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
- Applications for qualification should be submitted electronically via smartphonefactory@tcra.go.tz or physically in sealed envelopes, in one original plus Two (2) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes and "Tender No. AE-020/2020-2021/PPP/01 for establishment and operation of smartphones assembly factory under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements" on or before 19th February 2021 at 1100hrs East African Time.
- Applications will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of applicant's representatives who chose to attend in the opening at the TCRA conference room.
- Late applications, portion of applications, and applications not received, applications not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

New training programme in pipeline for promotion of workplace decency

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE government will soon come up with a special programme to educate the public on workers' rights, and the Employment and Labour Relations Act with a view to achieving the potentials of a decent work agenda at workplace.

To start with, the Labor Department in the Prime Minister's Office-Labour, Youth, Employment, and the person with disabilities will educate the public on the procedures of obtaining work permits for foreign employees who are coming to work in Tanzania.

Employees from the pub-

lic and private sectors are expected to benefit from the proposed programme.

Labour Officer, from the Prime Minister's Office, Fred Nyaupumbwe revealed this recently when speaking at the just-ended one day workshop for National Dialogue with Labor Officer on access to decent work that was organized by ActionAid Tanzania.

The program will be officially started this month and will be conducted through TV and radio stations and they will find the best time that will allow employees to listen to it.

Nyaupumbwe called on all employees in all areas where they are to use this opportunity so that can operate their

work in a conducive environment and have decent work in their workplace.

He also calls them to send their complaints to 0655 44489, "We will get your report and take action on it," he says, adding: "As PMO's labor department, we have decided to introduce this programme after discovered that majority of employees in the workplace are not aware of this law and what this legislation provides including their rights."

Coast Region- Labour Officer, Richard Muhenga notes: "It's true that majority of employers and employees, especially in the private sector, are not aware of Employment and Labour Relations

Act Cap. 366 of R.E 2019, that in turn causes conflicts in the workplace."

"Educating them on this Act, will help employers comply with employment Act, promote human dignity, improve working conditions and decent work, along with improving workers' protection in areas like safety and health at the workplace," he says

He also calls on employees to provide correct information to labour officers who will visit the workplace to see the main challenges they have and allow the Labour Department to solve the problems they faced.

"Majority of employees in both private companies and

government institutions are afraid to provide correct information to labor officers because are scared to be fired in the workplace," he said

"Don't afraid to be fired, please give us correct information when we visit in your workplace so that we can have proper information about the main challenges you have and later on advising employers on what should be done to ensure you operate your work in a healthy and safe environment," he says.

Assistant Lecturer at the Morogoro-based Jordan University College, Asifiwe Alinanuswe calls on labour officers in areas where they

are to conduct inspections in the workplace to see whether there is compliance with labour laws by the employer or not as in most cases employers doesn't comply with labor laws and guidelines. As a result, the official said that discrimination is very high, and some employers treats workers unfairly and behaving badly towards their employees.

Alinanuswe stresses the need for employers to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) at no cost to protect them from workplace hazards—chemicals, noise, air pollution, sharp objects, wet processes, eye injuries, or burns.

But, Rehema Mohamed

from Tandahimba Small-Scale Processing Association (TASPA) cites sextortion, gender-based-violence, informal contract, and lack of maternity rights as among the key challenges facing young people at the workplace in Tandahimba District. She suggests the need for responsible authorities to address the vice.

"Majority of employers in Newala District are not paying terminal benefits to their employees as well as salary on time according to the terms of worker's employment contract and in accordance to the Employment Act," says RabiaNandonde from NewalaCashewnut Processing plant.

South African scientists discover new chemicals that kill malaria parasites

By Special Correspondent, Johannesburg

SOUTH African scientists have discovered chemical compounds that could potentially be used for a new line of drugs to treat malaria and even kill the parasite in its infectious stage, which most available drugs do not.

The research led by the University of Pretoria, published in the Nature Communications journal this week, found that chemical compounds undergoing trials for the treatment of tuberculosis and cancer -- the JmjC inhibitor ML324 and the antitubercular clinical candidate SQ109 -- can kill the disease-causing parasite at a stage when it normally infects others.

The World Health Organisation said in November that deaths from malaria due to disruption during the coronavirus pandemic to services designed to tackle the mosquito-borne disease will far exceed those killed by COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa.

Malaria killed more than 400,000 people across the world in 2019, according to the latest WHO figures, all but a few thousand of them in Africa. There were 229 million cases across the world, 215 million of them on the continent.

"Our innovation was around finding compounds that are able to block the transmissible stages and we if we are able to do so then we stop the spread of malaria," Research Chair in Sustainable Malaria Control and biochemistry professor Lyn-Marie Birkholtz, who was part of the team said.

Most drugs kill malaria as it gets established in the liver or after it has infected red blood cells, but cannot tackle it once the parasite is released from the cells, which is when it is transmissible to other people via mosquito bites, she said.



Standard Five students of Dar es Salaam-based St Mary's Tabata International School in jovial mood at the weekend on learning that their school had performed outstandingly in last year's Standard Four examinations, whose results were released last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Oysterbay rotary clubs renovate two classrooms

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rotary Clubs of Oyster bay and Ukonga Mwenbe Madafu have renovated two classrooms at Juhudi primary school in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam so as to support smooth teaching and learning environment and thus raise pupils' performance.

Worth 8.2m/-, the classrooms were renovated by the clubs at a shared cost. Various reports point out that a favourable learning and teaching environment was vital in

improving children's performance in schools.

Speaking during the handover ceremony last week, president of Rotary club of Oyster bay, Maryanne Mugo said the club's core zeal is to support the government's efforts towards enabling provision of quality education in the country.

Mugo said the club hopes that pupils will embrace the support which aimed to increase their performance where she called upon them to study and work hard to achieve their future dreams.

"A few months ago, the members of Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam, Oyster bay met with the small group of people from Ukonga who are helping the community. Together they agreed to start the process of being registered as a Rotary Club which has been named Ukonga Mwenbe Madafu Rotary Club and we thank that it has started well by supporting Communities," she said.

She added that the rotary has several areas of focus that includes: basic education and literacy, peace

and conflict prevention / resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, economic and community development and the environment.

Jackton Ochieng, president of Ukonga Rotary Club said; "the mother club (Rotary Club of Oyster bay) recognised and appreciated our plan to repair one classroom at Juhudi primary school and therefore supported the idea by financing the repair of the second classroom."

He commended the technicians who have been working on the project as well as the team of Rotarians and the head of the school.

The school's head teacher Sikitu Iddi commended Both Clubs for supporting the school, something which complements the government efforts of enabling provision of quality education.

Sikitu said some of the pupils were previously studying under unfavourable classrooms, something which was affecting their attendance and performance.

Over 900 villagers in Mufindi District land customary certificates of right of occupancy

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

MORE than 900 residents from six villages within Mufindi District in Iringa Region have been issued with Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) a move which will see villagers using the documents for different purposes including borrowing money from financial institutions.

Handing over the documents to the villagers recently, Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri William said that preparation of the documents was done by the government in collaboration with support from CARE-WWF Alliance.

"You should take advantage of the CCROs to borrow money from banks for development activities," said the DC urging them to inject the money in agricultural projects since the area has rich soil suitable for cultivation of different crops.

William thanked CARE-WWF Alliance for supporting the various development projects within the district. He also appreciated various international organizations for working closely with the government towards ending water and electricity problems.

He said that CRAE-WWF Alliance has been working with the district council in facilitating better land use planning in the six villages namely, Kibada, Utosi, Mapogoro, Uhambila, Igombavanu and Lugodalutali.

The DC added under the programme, a total of 2,922 land plots have been formalised.



Mhajilina Kassim alias Obama (R, foreground), councillor for Mabwepande on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, pictured at the weekend leading residents of the area in a hunt for a python reported to have been terrorising Kitunda suburb. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

In memory of Patrice Lumumba: A View from Russia

By Alexander Mezyaev

SIXTY years ago - on January 17, 1961 - the first Prime Minister of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, Patrice Emery Lumumba, was assassinated.

The name of this man is well known not only in Africa, where it is a symbol of devotion to the people and independence of not only his home country but in the entire continent.

He is known and respected all over the world, and especially in Russia. The bright memory of the fiery freedom fighter lives on in the names of Russian streets, in fiction, in poetry and in films...

In those distant days of late 1960 and early 1961, every Soviet citizen followed the events in the Congo. Soviet newspapers reported on events in this country every day.

The future Prime Minister of Russia, and a journalist at the time, Yevgeny Primakov, wrote reports on the events in the Congo in those days.

One of Primakov's pieces read thus, in part: "The situation in the Congo continues to heat up. Strong support for the legitimate government of Lumumba in the provinces of East and

Kivu ... as well as ferment among the mercenaries of Mobutu. All this indicates a further weakening of the positions of the puppets, with the help of which the imperialists are trying to restore colonial order in the Congo."

The nationwide support for Lumumba is what so especially frightened the imperialists that they decided to liquidate him.

Here's what the CIA reported to the US State Department back in August 1960: "In high quarters here it is a clear-cut conclusion that if (Lumumba) continues to hold high office, the inevitable result will at best be chaos and at worst pave the way to Communist takeover of the Congo with disastrous consequences for the prestige of the UN and for the interests of the free world generally."

Consequently, we conclude that his removal must be an urgent and prime objective and that under existing conditions this should be a high priority of our covert action... This is not conspiracy theory. This encryption is published on the official website of the US Department of State."

The assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba became known after a long delay: only on

February 14, 1961. The news of his death was received as a great tragedy, as the main event of the time.

For several days, the front pages of Soviet newspapers reported mass meetings of workers protesting against Lumumba's vile murder. These rallies were not staged. The people of the Soviet Union really felt anger and pain.

The fact that many citizens perceived the pain of the Congo as their own is indicated by letters and telegrams sent by ordinary Soviet people.

For example, this: "Tears gushed from our eyes when we heard the news of the murder of Lumumba and his associates." This is a telegram from the Berezhnykh family from the Kiev region.

Another letter: "Pensioners of the House Committee of Housing and Maintenance Office No. 5 of the Sverdlovsk District of Moscow in the amount of 3,000 people with deep anger stigmatise the killers of the great patriot of the Congolese people, Patrice Lumumba, and his associates Maurice Mpolo and Joseph Okito. We express our condolences to the Congolese people, and the families of Patrice Lumumba and his associates. M. Kanevsky, on behalf of the Council."



Here is the first page of the main Soviet newspaper Izvestia, as published on the evening of February 14:

Students of a secondary school in the city of Penza wrote a letter to the editorial office of Komsomolskaya Pravda that sounds naive but sincere: "We, pupils of the secondary school No.5, learned with deep sadness about the death of Patrice Lumumba. We ask the Soviet government to take Lumumba's children to the Soviet Union for education. We will be happy to accept them in our city Penza."

Here is how journalist with Pravda newspaper tells about these letters from Soviet people: "I remember how hundreds of letters came to us, to the editorial office of Pravda, every day."

"They were different - typed on a typewriter and written in pencil on lined notebook paper - and they were written by different people, among them professors and workers, collective farmers and writers, but they had one thing in common: anxiety for the fate of the Congo, anger and contempt for the colonialists, great human pain in connection with the death

of Lumumba."

On the occasion of Lumumba's death, Soviet poets Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Yevgeny Dolmatovsky and Yaroslav Smelyakov wrote poems... Ordinary people wrote poems and sent them to newspapers.

The pain that the Soviet people felt for the Congo tragedy was sincere. But what was its basis for those feelings? I think that the reason was the fact that the Soviet people themselves had just freed themselves from the system of age-old exploitation.

This was the same generation, and it felt spiritual unity with the peoples who were waging a similar struggle. It is no accident that poet Yaroslav Smelyakov wrote: "Like an electric shock, the tragedy of the Congo passes through our hearts that have known pain..."

The poetic talent of Patrice Lumumba himself was well known in the Soviet Union. His poems were translated into Russian, and some of them were translated several times by different Soviet poets.

Such, for example, is the fate of the poems "May our people triumph" and "Morning of Africa". The last poem has a very special history in USSR: it had been translated into Russian six times by six different Soviet poets!

Here are the lines from this poem by Patrice Lumumba:

The dawn is here, my brother! Dawn! Look in our faces,

A new morning breaks in our old Africa.

Ours alone will now be the land,

the water, mighty rivers

Poor African surrendered for a thousand years.

Hard torches of the sun will shine for us again

They'll dry the tears in eyes and spittle on your face.

The moment when you break the chains, the heavy fetters,

The evil cruel times will go never to come again.

A free and gallant Congo will rise from black soil,

A free and gallant Congo-black blossom from black seed!

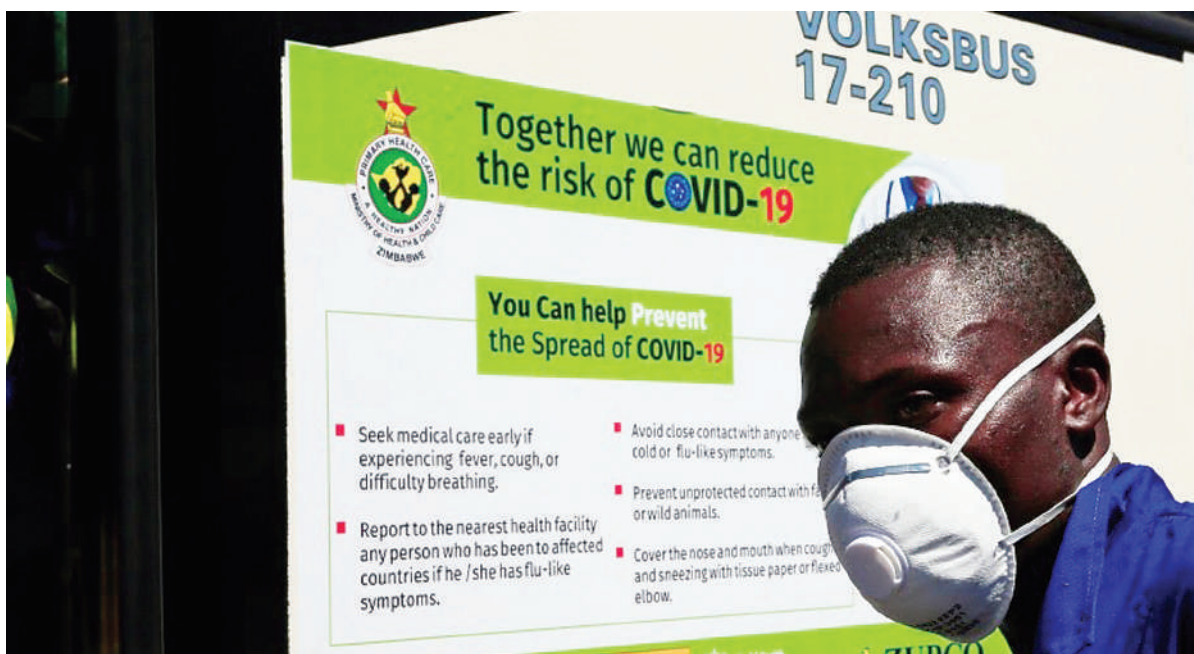
Six decades have passed since the murder of Patrice Emery Lumumba, but we still do not fully know all the circumstances of his death.

However, we know his heroic and selfless life in the name of the liberation of Africa. That is why the name of Patrice Lumumba is known in all corners of the world, and it will forever remain in the memory of all progressive humanity.

Russia remembers Lumumba. The whole progressive world salutes him!

African nationalist leader Lumumba was born on July 2, 1925. He was forced out of office (as his country's first prime minister: June to September 1960) during a political crisis and assassinated a short time later.

Piece emailed to The Guardian by the Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre in Dar es Salaam for publication.



Diversity and inclusion in the year of the Covid-19 pandemic

By Special Correspondent

THE year of the pandemic - 2020 - not only brought with it not only pain and suffering from the Covid-19 virus but also saw major social upheavals on diversity and inclusion issues in the media.

Magazines, being the leading reflectors of society, were in the forefront of covering and reacting to the year. In fact, when it comes to diversity and inclusion, I was able to find and buy 336 magazines, from all categories and genres, that reflected diversity and inclusion by celebrating Blackness on their covers.

A total of 336 Black subjects appeared on the covers of these magazines, almost five times more than what has appeared in the last 100 years.

I reached out to the CEOs and presidents of the major magazine media companies to ask them about what they were doing regarding diversity, inclusion and equality both in their magazines and in their workplaces.

What follows are excerpts from the answers of the CEOs and presidents (in alphabetical order) who took my call and answered my question:

Debi Chirichella, President, Hearst Magazines: "Hearst Magazines is committed to being a workplace, and also creating media, that reflects the world we live in. We put new training programmes into place and added some advisory groups across the company to help us with this. It's a journey and we know it's a journey. I don't think you're ever finished. We made progress in 2020, but we're going to continue to build on that progress."

Andy Clurman, President & CEO, Active Interest Media: "We created a Jedi task force, which is Justice, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and is a cross-section of people from the company.

"We also brought in an ad hoc diversity officer who has been leading this in terms of sourcing, education, facilitating conversations, doing content and promotional audits, hiring practices, so really looking top to bottom through our organisation and our messaging and content. And strategically are there different organisations' approaches within a different group?"

Kent Johnson, CEO, Highlights for Children: "We've done surveys and really looked at how can we be better, because our feelings are, if we're responsible for creating products that affect our society, we better look internally and make sure our company internally

reflects well the society that we live in. And then we're doing it in a way that creates the sense of belonging for everyone at our company."

Bonnie Kintzer, President and CEO, Trusted Media Brands: "It's very important to us and very important to our employees. We have a diversity and inclusion team. They have four pillars that spell out the word MORE within our diversity and inclusion and that's Mentoring, Opportunity, Recruiting and Education. And honestly, I look at these initiatives and I think these are things that we talked about that we should have always been doing. And now we have so much employee involvement to get these things done."

Steven Kotok, President & CEO, Bauer Media Group USA: "We've engaged with a consulting firm that specializes in diversity, equity and inclusion and we're going through a process where we're educating ourselves, meaning the whole company, the whole team.

"And we're having some listening sessions as well to hear from the team. And whatever we do, actions or statements, it may take a little longer, but that's going to come not as a top-down, written by our very excellent communications people, but more bottom-up as a company on where we stand and what we think."

Catherine Levene, President, Meredith National Media Group: "We're focused in two areas. One is the culture inside the company and our workforce and the other is what we show to our consumers and it's not only the right thing to do, it's good business to enhance our content and storytelling.

To be more inclusive both in the content itself, but also in producing that content, whether that be in print, digital, video, in the art that we use, the photography. All of that has to be diverse because our audience is diverse."

David Parry, President & CEO, A360 Media & Accelerate360: "It's a topic amongst our senior executives every week, every day. We're going to see more diversity in the workplace, but we have to also find ways to ensure that we are diversifying the talent pool so we can do so.

"We have to find ways to encourage students from all backgrounds to explore publishing and media as a career path for them. I think everyone is focused on tackling the challenge and because of that, meaningful changes can be made."

•Agencies

US shows absurd logic in discriminating between violent demonstrations in other countries and its own territory

By Liu Huawen

A violent demonstration was staged in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6 local time, when some protesters broke into the U.S. Capitol and forcibly stopped a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

During the incident, four protesters died. On the other day, a U.S. Capitol Police officer lost his life due to injuries caused amid the violence at the Capitol.

While taking powerful measures to suppress such protests at home, the U.S. has no problem with violent demonstrations happening in other countries and regions.

In total disregard of the chaos and social unrest, disturbance in and destruction of normal social order, threats and harm to personal and property safety, as well as attacks on and damage to public transportation, government buildings and facilities and the safety of officials caused by violent protests, the U.S. described rioters' savage acts of violence and vandalism in China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as "a beautiful sight to behold".

Some human rights officials and experts with international organizations and certain Western media outlets have simply adhered to a "politically correct" approach to demonstrations, especially when they happen in developing countries including China.

It looks like they believe civil groups are always right and their attacks on the government are always justified.

It seems to them that human rights could be used as a tool and weapon to attack and criticize the government of other countries at any time, an extreme view in violation of legal logic and the rule of law.

Human rights are not supposed to be a slogan or a simple political label, as they have legal connotations and boundaries of rights, obligations and responsibilities. Human rights, the rule of law, and development are important criteria for assessing the process of social development.

Respecting and protecting human rights are the essential pursuit of the rule of law, as well as the intrinsic goal of development.

The evolution of human rights couldn't be separated from the actual conditions of a country or the support and guarantee of the rule of law.

The long-lasting and large-scale social turmoil brought about by the Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill Movement in Hong Kong was targeted at the political system and government of Hong Kong, directly spoiled the political, social and economic order in the region, and threatened the national unity and security of China.

The violent protesters assaulted Hong Kong residents and tourists from the Chinese mainland, obstructed the police in enforcing the law and in saving individuals under attack and shops that were either smashed, burned or robbed, directly attacked the police and snatched their equipment, including guns, besieged government departments, blocked traffic, examined and attacked passing vehicles, occupied universities for a long time and even stormed the Legislative Council Complex in Hong Kong.

No law-based society can tolerate such act of directly, grossly and severely violating the law.

The Hong Kong government and police department bore a great deal of pressure, and maintained great patience and exercised considerable restraint when

faced with groundless accusations from the U.S. and some other Western countries as well as certain human rights officials and experts with international organizations amid the violent protests.

The U.S., which advocates unilateralism and long-arm jurisdiction, even passed a bill to impose sanctions against Chinese officials over Hong Kong, seriously interfering in the internal affairs of China, undermining the sovereignty of China, and harming the legal rights and interests of Chinese institutions, enterprises and citizens.

Although the recent violent demonstration in Washington, D.C. didn't last long, it provoked intense response from different circles in the U.S.

Many American politicians have made remarks to criticize the illegality and intolerance of the incident. Kayleigh McEnany, White House press secretary in the Trump administration, condemned the violence in strong terms in a statement and stressed that those that broke the law should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, called the incident "an unspeakable assault on our nation and our people". Ironically, she was the same person that described the violent demonstrations in Hong Kong "a beautiful sight to behold".

The American government has arrested a large number of protesters and intends to press charges against them. In response to such a violent demonstration at home, it has taken a firm stand, acted promptly and decisively and inflicted harsh punishment, nothing like what they felt about similar incidents in other countries.

Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire, as a Chinese saying goes. The wisdom and values behind the saying are echoed by the Golden Rule in philosophy, a principle found in most cultures that one should treat others as he or she wants to be treated.

The U.S. has obviously adopted double standard on discriminating between violent demonstrations in America and other countries, and shown entirely different attitudes towards similar incidents in different countries and regions.

In the information age, countries are faced with new governance opportunities and challenges.

They should continue improving and ensuring human rights under the spirits and framework of the rule of law. Countries should treat all members of the international community out of a sense of responsibility and respect the right of people from different countries to independently choose their own development path.

International law has specified the doctrine of estoppel, which precludes a country from asserting something contrary to what is implied by a previous action or statement of that country or by a previous pertinent judicial determination and requires it to adopt the same legal logic for the same legal issue.

A person will never build himself in the society without credibility; it is the same with a country.

Legal logic matters, especially to issues concerning democracy and human rights. Officials from the U.S. and some other Western countries, as well as people who are used to looking at developing countries with prejudice need to pay attention to legal logic, respect the rule of law, and keep consistent in applying rules.

People's Daily



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TechnoServe's entrepreneurship course attracts over 500 retailers

By Francis Kajubi

A record 505 retail shop owners have applied to attend an entrepreneurship training programme by TechnoServe Tanzania during phase three which targets at improving their sales.

Pan African Youth Entrepreneur Development Program Manager, Tunsime Kyando said the programme is also focused on enabling young entrepreneurs raise their sales by 30 percent and help small businesses adopt best practices by 75 percent.

Kyando said of the endorsed businesses, 233 are female owned or an equivalent of 46 percent while 271 are male owned which is about 54 percent. She said the training programme will kickoff at the end of this month.

"We have decided to dedicate the training to new and existing small businesses that have been badly hit by the coronavirus outbreak," said Kyando adding that a baseline survey was conducted prior to understand the businesses picked.

She asserted that Techno Serve Tanzania which is implementing the programme is aimed at increasing adoption of best shop management practices among retailers to at least 60 percent of those in the market in the next two years.

The PAYED programme which is funded by Citi Foundation also exposes shop owners to regulatory authorities such as Tanzania Revenue Authority, Tanzania Drugs and Medical Devices Authority, Weights and Measures Agency and manufacturers cum suppliers like Mauzo Sheet, ASAS Dairy, Shambani Dairies,



PAYED programme manager Tunsime Kyando speaks at a past event.

Bakhressa Group, Laiki Soap and DukaPro as important partners top their businesses.

"Youth unemployment is one of the greatest challenges inhibiting economic growth, stability and broad-based prosperity from being realized across Africa. TechnoServe and Citi Foundation have partnered to address this chal-

lenge by working with youth groups across four African countries," she added naming the other countries as Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Nigeria.

The programme has already trained over 945 youth entrepreneurs, managers or employees of small and retail during phase one and two. "We have also helped them form

business groups that help aggregate orders, share information and act as support system in the market," the PAYED Program Manager explained.

Bank gives 50m/- scholarships to budding basketball cup stars

By Smart Money Reporter

TWENTY-SIX budding basketball stars who excelled at the inaugural CRDB Taifa Cup tournament have been awarded scholarships to attend various skills training courses in the country worth 50m/-.

Deputy Minister for Information, Arts, Youth Sports and Culture, Abdallah Ulega commended the bank's leadership for backing government efforts to commercialise sports and develop capacity of youth to meet growing market demand for skills.

Ulega urged Tanzania Basketball Federation to work in partnership with likeminded stakeholders such as CRDB, Azam Television, Sanlam Insurance, Mayfair Insurance and Cool Blue and ensure that youth acquire skills that will complement their sports talents.

"We at the Ministry promise to cooperate fully with all stakeholders to boost development of basketball and other types of sports because the sports industry is currently one of the biggest employers in the country," he added.

In welcoming remarks, CRDB Bank Plc's Corporate Affairs Director, Tully Mwambapa said the sponsorship is continuation of the bank's policy to develop capacity of local youth so that they can employ themselves as jobs are hard to come by.

Mwambapa said through its corporate social investment policy, CRDB has been targeting youth development through various avenues including sports hence the banking rolling of this year's Taifa Cup with an over 200m/- war chest.

"The bank through its CSI policy saw it fit to associate sports and education

hence decided to award the best performing basketball players with scholarships to attend training courses that will give them skills to exploit economic opportunities in the market," she said. She further noted that the successful players were selected on merit both on the basketball pitch but also their performance at school through a review of their records.

In a vote of thanks, TBF's President Phares Magesa thanked CRDB's management for the sponsorship saying decision to extend the education scholarships will motivate more youth to participate in the game and qualify for the national event next year. "We hope that more corporate players will join this bandwagon," Magesa said while thanking the co-sponsors for backing the game which has huge growth potential in the country.



CRDB Bank Plc's corporate affairs director, Tully Mwambapa.

Jua Kickstarter Fund for African entrepreneurs doubles to R30m

JOHANNESBURG

THE Jua Kickstarter Fund has doubled to \$2m (R30m). The fund was launched by African industrialist Adam Molai in November 2020 with \$1m available for African entrepreneurs.

The increase in funding is from US-based angel investing and mentorship firm Simba Global Start-ups. Molai says the added capital will allow the fund to make bigger investments in enterprises as well as fund more businesses.

"Simba Global Start-ups has pledged to match, like-for-like, our contributions, which is absolutely incredible. This is an example of how Africans can work together to solve the challenges facing the continent. As an African entrepreneur who has experienced the gruelling journey of establishing businesses, I firmly believe that Africa's destiny lies in the hands of Africans," says Molai.

Jua will provide successful applicants with funds - to launch or grow their businesses - as well as mentoring and guidance. Entrepreneurs from across Africa or those who operate in Africa are eligible to apply. The entire application process is electron-



Adam Molai, founder of Jua Kickstarter Fund.

ic and funds are expected to be disbursed to successful applicants within 12 weeks of their shortlisting, in a first for Africa. Applications close on 31 January 2021.

Simba's founder and CEO, Dr Philippe Kisunzu, says the company's vision in investing in Africa's future was not only to create jobs and strengthen African economies but also to enable Africa to become

the financial benchmark for the world in the 21st century

"As a result of our Jua-Simba partnership, we hope to expand our vision exponentially on behalf of Sub-Saharan African indigenous entrepreneurs who will not only create jobs for the citizens in the region but also provide financial security for themselves and their families. With Jua-Simba partnership, we look to optimise our synergies to produce a combined societal impact greater than the sum of our individual societal impacts" says Kisunzu.

Over 500 applicants from across Africa In the two months since its launch, Jua has received over 500 applicants from across Africa. Most of the applications have come from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Entrepreneurs from Ghana, Tanzania, Benin, Namibia and eSwatini have also applied. Entrepreneurs in need of capital for their ideas or those who are looking to expand their enterprises are encouraged to apply.

"We are looking to help African entrepreneurs grow or launch their businesses. Our priority is businesses with impact in terms of job creation and scalability across the continent. Obviously, entrepreneurs with proven businesses, solid business pedigree and who have clearly articulated their business propositions, target market, channels or those with innovative solutions to Africa's many challenges stand a much better chance of being successful," concludes Molai.

Mozambique's minimum wage negotiations back

MAPUTO

THE Labour Consultative Commission (CCT), the tripartite negotiating forum between the Mozambican government, the trade unions, and the employers' associations, on Friday resumed discussions about increasing the statutory minimum wage.

According to the spokesperson for the meeting, Emidio Mavila, the CCT, in addition to the minimum wage, will also analyse the performance of the National Social Security Institute (INSS), and the performance of the labour administration institutions, including the mediation and arbitration commission. "The government and its partners will reflect on the opportunity to resume negotiations to revise the minimum wages for 2021", said Mavila, at the opening of the CCT session "and to analyse the employment policy for the present five year period."

The representative of the country's main trade union federation, the OTM (Mozambican Workers' Organisation), Damiao Simango, said the country's workers wanted to see the question of the increase of the minimum wage definitively resolved. He admitted that there might not be time to increase the minimum wage this year "but we can start reflecting on what can be done next year. It must be recognised that the workers are going through difficulties, and those difficulties must be shared."

The head of labour policy for the Confederation of Business Associations (CTA), Antonio de Sousa, recognised the difficulties facing workers on low wages, but claimed that nothing can be done this year. He wanted 2020 to be regarded as "year zero," and all the discussions to be held in 2021.

Zanzibar Trade, Industry minister urges businesses on formalisation

By Smart Money Reporter, Zanzibar

IN a bid to get recognition by authorities and access credit from financial institutions, business people have been challenged to register formally and pay taxes to contribute to national development.

Zanzibar's acting Minister for Trade and Industry, Mudrik Soraga said last week while closing the seventh business forum and exhibition organised to mark the 57 anniversary of the isles revolution that modern economies are built by formal businesses which pay taxes.

Soraga who is Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Economy and Investment further noted that in order to grow by learning from peers, business owners should also participate in both local and international exhibitions.

"Your participation in such business forums and exhibitions means getting exposure that will assist in widening markets for goods and services that you produce," Soraga said while noting that growth of small businesses plays a key role in speeding up national economic growth.

"To the organizers, I say we also need to invite foreign exhibitors to attend this forum in future so that local business owners have a broader base to learn from," he added while commending NMB for continuing to be the main sponsor of the annual event. He also handed the bank and other sponsors certificates of appreciation.

Speaking after being presented with the certificate, Zanzibar NMB Branch Manager, Abdallah Duchi pledged continue improvement of products and services to help meet the isles government's development plans including the blue economy.

"Our bank is an important partner of manufacturers and small businesses who



Zanzibar NMB branch manager, Abdallah Duchi, we serve with tailor made products and services to better serve the market," Duchi said while paying tribute to Ministry of Trade and Industry for organising the event which attracted more than 360 business owners and managers.

Heirs expands oil and gas portfolio with acquisition of 45pc of OML 17



Heirs Holdings chairman Tony Elumelu.

LAGOS

HEIRS Holdings in partnership with affiliated company Transnational Corporation of Nigeria Plc has announced the acquisition of a 45% participating interest in Nigerian oil licence OML 17 and related assets, through TNOG Oil and Gas Limited (a related company of Heirs Holdings and Transcorp), from the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Total E&P Nigeria Limited and ENI. In addition, TNOG Oil and Gas Limited will have sole operatorship of the asset.

The transaction is one of the largest oil and gas financings in Africa in more than a decade, with a financing component of US\$1.1 billion, provided by a consortium of global and regional banks and investors. OML 17 has a current production capacity of 27,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day and, according to our estimates, 2P reserves of 1.2 billion barrels of oil equivalent, with an additional 1 billion barrels of oil equivalent resources of further exploration potential.

The investment demonstrates a further important advance in the execution of Heirs Holdings' integrated energy strategy and the Group's commitment to Africa's development, through long term investments that create economic prosperity and social wealth. Heirs Holdings' heritage and approach to business fundamentally underscores its commitment to inclusive development and shared prosperity with its host communities. Heirs Holdings is fully invested in the development of the Niger Delta region.

Heirs Holdings' strategy of creating the leading integrated energy business in Africa is executed through a series of strategic portfolio holdings. Transcorp is one of the largest power producers in Nigeria, with 2,000 MW of installed capacity, through ownership of Transcorp Power Plant and the recent acquisition of Afam Power

Plc and Afam Three Fast Power Limited. Transcorp closed the US\$300 million Afam acquisitions in November 2020.

Transcorp supplies electricity to the Republic of Benin, as part of an emphasis on promoting regional integration and delivering robust power supply to catalyse development in Africa. Transcorp also operates OPL281, under a production sharing contract with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Similarly, Heirs Holdings' subsidiary, Tenoil is the operator of OPL 2008, under a production sharing contract with NNPC. Tenoil also owns the Ata Marginal Field, which will commence production in Q2, 2021, with 3,500 barrels of oil per day.

Chairman of Heirs Holdings, Tony Elumelu stated: "We have a very clear vision: creating Africa's first integrated energy multinational, a global quality business, uniquely focused on Africa and Africa's energy needs. The acquisition of such a high-quality asset, with significant potential for further growth, is a strong statement of our confidence in Nigeria, the Nigerian oil and gas sector and a tribute to the extremely high-quality management team that we have assembled.

As a Nigerian, and more particularly an indigene of the Niger Delta region, I understand well our responsibilities that come with stewardship of the asset, our engagement with communities and the strategic importance of the oil and gas sector in Nigeria. We see significant benefits from integrating our production, with our ability to power Nigeria, through Transcorp, and deliver value across the energy value chain."

Speaking further, he said "I would like to thank Shell, Total and ENI, for the professionalism of the process, the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, and the NNPC for the confidence they have placed in us." Speaking on the investment, the President/GCEO of Transcorp, Owen Omogiafo, said "This deal further demonstrates Transcorp's integrated energy strategy and our determination to power Africa."

Mozambique not in a position to ratify AfCFTA agreement

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE is not in a position, in the short-to-medium term, to ratify the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), Celeste Banze, an economist at the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP) maintains.

Banze argues that the reforms of the country's tax policy, in the context of the free trade area of the Southern African community (SADC), have not yet produced the desired effect. An analysis which 'Carta de Moçambique' has seen reveals that the economist is also sceptical about the ratification of the free trade zone accession agreement in the medium term, because of the non-tariff barriers burdening public expenditure in the current context.

The AfCFTA is an African Union free trade treaty aimed at establishing a single market and an area of free movement of people and goods, with the gradual elimination of customs duties over a period of 10 years and the possibility of monetary union. The agreement came into force on the first of January 2021 in several African countries, but with the exception of others, including Mozambique, which has signed but not yet ratified it.

Even so, "in the case of Mozambique, in the short and medium term, it is necessary to take steps to prevent the country from being absorbed, granting advantages and taking losses due to non-tariff barriers and losses in tax revenue, given that the agreement requires the gradual reduction tariffs by up to 90%," Banze says.

Banze recalls that, in the context of the implementation of the SADC free trade area, the Tax Authority of Mozambique (AT) in 2015 prepared a list of at least five actions to mitigate the negative impact of the regional market, but they have not yet had the desired effect.

"The actions raised have actually made some progress, and the AT's efforts to implement them are recognised, but they have not yet had the expected impact. As an example, in 2020, a text published by the CIP on the introduction of the sealing of alcoholic beverages showed that (...), three years after it was introduced, it had not yet reached the expected goal of increasing the contribution of

Consumption Tax by 20% to cushion the expected losses resulting from the lowering of customs duties by 10%. And the biggest obstacle is corruption. In this context, what means [does Mozambique have] to face up to a free trade zone of continental proportions?" the economist asks.

Banze concludes her analysis by stating that, although the AfCFTA is commendable at the continental level and will certainly bring numerous advantages, given the heterogeneity of countries the advantages will not all come at the same time. Mozambique still needs to consolidate its position in the commercial exchanges it carries out at the SADC level, then explore new markets.



An economist with Mozambique's Centre for Public Integrity, Celeste Banze.

SA backpedalling on debt guarantee risk state firms

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's backpedalling on debt guarantees provided to a state-owned bank threatens to shut the lender and other cash-strapped government entities out of the bond market.

The Land and Agricultural Development Bank of South Africa has been battling to repay its debt since a drought caused many of its customers to default on their loans. To get on a stable footing, the lender proposed that National Treasury partially guarantee new notes it will issue as part of a restructuring. The Land Bank said on January 14 the plan was rejected by the finance ministry and the guarantee withdrawn.

"There is now an elevated risk that this latest action may impact the ability of other state-owned entities to raise funding," Olga Constantatos, the head of credit at Futuregrowth Asset Management Ltd., which owns Land Bank debt, said in a note titled 'BOOM! Land Bank Drops a Bombshell.'

SA's finances have been stretched by constant support to unprofitable state-owned companies, deep-seated corruption and a wage bill that has jumped 40% over the past 12 years. The Land Bank provides almost 30% of loans to the agricultural sector, and Finance Minister Tito Mboweni has said the lender is too important to fail.

"It may also have credit-ratings implications" for state-owned issuers, as ratings companies factor guarantees into their assessments, Constantatos said. "We've been negotiating on those terms for eight months."

The Land Bank will issue regulatory filings when there is progress to report regarding talks with lenders, the Treasury said in an email. There have been no delays, it said.

"The whole nature of the liability solution has fundamentally changed, so we have to start all over again," Constantatos, whose firm oversees the equivalent of almost \$13 billion in assets, said. The assumption that there would be a partial guarantee of 60% was key to getting the restructuring done and hadn't been an issue before, she said.

"Up in the Air"
"There are too many things that are now up in the air for any lender to work on this new liability solution and deliver implementation by March," said Jones Gondo, a credit analyst at Johannesburg-based Nedbank Group Ltd. "Chief among these things is why the National Treasury can't commit to a guarantee as presented?"

The Auditor General issued a disclaimer in the lender's latest annual results, citing a lack of evidence to reach a conclusive audit. Land Bank, after a R3 billion last year, has said it needs another R7 billion to ease a cash crunch. It's also being sued by Standard Chartered Plc, with judgment reserved following a hearing in December.

The government now wants creditors "to accept involuntary participation in a five-year amortizing structure," exposing them to all of the risk, said Gondo. If the latest plan fails, bondholders may face a liquidation with poor recovery prospects, he said. "I don't see why they would accept this proposal, if only to be extremely accommodating to the Land Bank and National Treasury as shareholder."

Safari firm, Asilia Africa establishes training programme for tour guides

By Smart Money Reporter

A TRAINING programme to upskill young Kenyans and Tanzanians in providing different hospitality roles was launched in Arusha in November last year thanks to a US\$100,000 (over 230m/-) grant from Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU).

A Safari company with properties in Kenya and Tanzania, Asilia Africa said in a report that the focus of the new programme is on employees under the age of 35. The scheme will enable them to cross-train into different hospitality roles with an objective of helping young people to be more resilient to the economic shockwaves caused by the global coronavirus outbreak. The programme enables those already employed in a specific role to train and gain an additional, external qualification in a new role.

Commenting on the programme, Asilia's Director of Operations, Gerard Beaton said, "The shockwaves of Covid-19 have been profound around the world and no less felt in the remote communities and areas we operate." "We hope that by offering this training at this time, we can empower our staff and help them to become multi-skilled, and improve their future prospects. We are also excited about the positive effect it will have on the service we are able to offer our guests in camp," Beaton added.

The programmes ran over an initial one-month foundation period, where students were educated in theoretical and practical basics of their particular hospitality disciplines by experienced professionals who are working in their disciplines.

The remaining three to six months is intensive practical training where students are coached by a mentor in 'live' practical environments amidst paying clients/guests. The students are continually assessed according to a set practical programme where daily theoretical and weekly practical assessments are conducted by their mentors and monitored by their trainers.

In Africa, employee training is often based on peer training without a theoretical foundation, therefore the qualifications obtained cannot be transferred to a certificate or diploma. This makes it difficult for employees to provide documentation to new employers when they move on in their career.

Consequently, the training programme carried out at Asilia Africa is certified by internationally recognised training institutions within the hospitality and safari



One of the Asilia Africa trainees is Guide Zawadi from Serengeti.

guiding sector. All participants will receive a diploma to prove that they have completed a professional training course.

IFU's support to train at Asilia is part of IFU's overall effort to support companies and employees in handling the consequences of Covid-19. IFU has made an extraordinary commitment of DKK7.5m to IFU Sustainability Facility to support various efforts such as purchasing protective equipment and training employees in the project companies. "Many young Africans struggle to find ways to develop their skills and gain employment in the formal economy. IFU has a distinct focus on supporting people in gaining a stronger foothold on the job market and assisting our partner companies in ensuring decent jobs and demonstrating innovative ways of skill development," said IFU's Senior Investment Manager, Emil Sierzynski.

Asilia is a leading safari company in East Africa with a footprint of 19 properties across Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar. Employing 700 people, vocational training and upskilling has always been at the heart of the organization. Thirty-percent of the staff are from local communities, and 30 percent of all management roles are held by women.

"Asilia is a good example of a company acting in a socially responsible manner not least during the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are pleased to support their efforts," Sierzynski added.

Asilia Africa's total staff count is 99 percent from continental Africa, with less than a percent from outside the continent. The 2018-19 year saw nearly 80,000 hours of training, development and upskilling of staff in four key programmes: Asilia Assistant Manager Training, Asilia Guide and Walking Guide Training, Asilia Chef Training, and Asilia Waiter/Service Training.

The company was one of the first in Tanzania to launch an in-house guide training programme in 2015, which incorporates walking guide training. Always pushing the boundaries, Asilia caused a stir in the industry a few years ago when an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper asking women to apply for the guide training programme.

In 2014, one female guide qualified. The next year, two women qualified and now, Asilia is incredibly proud to have six upcoming female guides. Joining the 2021 guide

training will be 10 young wildlife enthusiasts, five from Kenya and five from Tanzania.

Tourism is a crucial pillar of the economy in both Kenya and Tanzania, providing jobs both directly and indirectly and a valuable source of foreign currency. A recent study by the African Leadership's School of Wildlife Conservation found that over 2 million tourists visited wildlife areas earning Kenya US\$1.03bn in 2019, which contributes approximately 11 percent of the 2019 Gross Domestic Product. Overall tourism contributed US\$1.54bn in 2019 and provided employment for 1.6 million people, significantly in remote and rural areas where there are no alternative sources of income beyond subsistence farming.

Since the start of the pandemic, a government survey has estimated that tourism has so far lost KES80bn (US\$750m) and almost 1.3 million jobs in the travel industry. It is a similar story in Tanzania, where it is estimated that earnings from tourism will decrease from US\$2.6bn (about 6trn/-) projected earlier to US\$598m (1.4trn/-), a 77 percent decline.

Commercial director of Asilia, Gordie Owles comments: "Asilia chose, as Covid-19 struck, to not desert its duties to people, wilderness and wildlife. The results were that many of our teams were forced to learn new skills and adapt to a different way of working," said Asilia's Commercial Director, Gordie Owles who added that the company appreciates working with IFU to assist communities.

China's estimates surpassed as economy grows 2.3 pc in 2020

BEIJING

CHINA'S economy recovered to pre-pandemic growth rates in the fourth quarter, propelling it to full-year expansion of 2.3 per cent and making it the only major one to avoid contraction.

Gross domestic product climbed 6.5 per cent in the final quarter from a year earlier, fuelled by stronger-than-expected industrial output, the statistics bureau said Monday. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg had predicted 6.2 per cent growth for the quarter and 2.1 per cent for the full year.

The recovery was aided early on by fiscal and monetary stimulus that boosted investment in infrastructure and real estate. Once China had virus cases under control and factories were able to resume production, growth was spurred by strong overseas consumer demand for Chinese exports, especially medical equipment and work-from-home devices.

"The quarter really seems to have shown the economy ended the year on a strong note, manufacturing is doing well," said Cui Li, head of macro research at CCB International Holdings in Hong Kong said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. The softer-than-expected retail sales data in December may reflect the cooler weather and the resurgent virus in northern parts of China as some cities enforce new restrictions to control the outbreak.

The onshore yuan strengthened as much as 0.06 per cent to 6.4779 versus the dollar after the release of GDP growth figures, while the ChiNext Index of small caps gained 1.6 per cent. The yield on the most actively traded contract of 10-year government bonds gained 2 basis points to 3.165 per cent, set for the highest in two weeks.

Emerging from the pandemic larger than when it started is a capstone to a dramatic year for the world's second-largest economy, which began 2020 with a historic first-quarter slump when the coronavirus lockdowns brought most activity to a halt.

With global output likely contracting 4.2 per cent last year, China's gains mean it increased its share of the world economy to 14.5 per cent, according to World Bank estimates, compared with 22 per cent for the US. Based on projections from the International Monetary Fund, China will now overtake the US by 2028, two years earlier than previously predicted, according to Nomura Holdings. Economists expect China's GDP will expand 8.2 per cent this year, continuing to outpace global peers, even as other large economies begin to recover with vaccines being rolled out.

The ongoing recovery in 2021 will depend on whether China can prevent a large-scale spread of virus infections, and on whether it can pass the baton of spending from local governments and large state companies to smaller businesses and consumers.

Household spending and investment by manufacturing companies has lagged overall growth in 2020.

An increasingly tense trade relationship with the US could also weigh on the outlook. In his final weeks in office, President Donald Trump has tightened restrictions on Chinese businesses to curb the nation's dominance in high-tech industries, roiling financial markets. It's still unclear how the incoming administration under Joe Biden will navigate those issues.

Global demand for Chinese-made goods is expected to remain strong as the pandemic continues to keep large parts of the world's population locked down. Already the top exporter, the value of China's goods shipments increased 3.6 per cent in 2020, according to official data. Imports declined 1.1 per cent, resulting in a \$535 billion annual trade surplus, the highest since 2015.

The fiscal and monetary stimulus to support the economy through the pandemic has been accompanied by a surge in debt, a development that authorities are now seeking to address as the recovery takes hold. At a December meeting to lay out economic goals for 2021, the ruling Communist Party signalled that stimulus would be gradually withdrawn, although it would avoid any "sharp turns" in policy.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

How Covid-19 has shattered Kigali's night-time economy

KIGALI

THE date March 14, 2020 will indeed not be forgotten in Rwanda's history, most notably for being the time when the country reported the first case of Covid-19, a pandemic that would later disrupt most aspects of Rwandans' lifestyle and economy like elsewhere across the world.

Kigali, a city whose streets, bars, nightclubs and restaurants used to be packed especially during weekends, its streets are now empty by 8p.m, the start time of Covid curfew. But, like elsewhere in the country, businesses in these spots now close as early as 6p.m, creating a ghostly quiet atmosphere in these popular commercial centres that are usually teeming with patrons during night-time hours.

Only essential businesses like pharmacies are operating 24 hours a day. This is also the case in locations such as Remera, Kicukiro and Nyamirambo that were known to be 'alive' even in the dead of the night.

All these are results of the Covid-19 directives in place which include halting business operations past 6:00p.m as well as closure of bars. The preventive measures, business operators say have affected business operations that had a 24/7 structure.

According to Eugene Mugisha, Manager at Iwacu +250, a bar and restaurant in Kicukiro District, businesses that used to attract many customers at night are feeling pinch brought about by the

pandemic.

He said: "We are earning less than we used to. We have had to reduce the number of staff members because of the few working hours. This time we are using 30 per cent of employees. The clients have also reduced to 15 per cent compared to pre-Covid-19 era." Mugisha said that his business would attract an average of 3,000 people between 6 p.m. and early morning.

Alex Shyaka, Director of Sawa Citi that runs a supermarket chain in Kigali also explained how the pandemic has not spared their operations. "We were affected big time. On average, people working in offices leave work at 5p.m, which means that they have a few minutes to purchase as we now close at 6:00p.m," he said.

He added that "with the inter-district travels being restricted at the moment, buses that used to leave or arrive at Nyabugogo bus parking and buy some snacks are no longer doing so, hence reduction in revenue." The businessman says that before the outbreak of Covid-19, the business had got used to working 24 hours a day.

Will the 24/7 working culture come back to life?

Twelve years ago, the City of Kigali launched a 24-hour business campaign to boost the city's night-time economy. The idea was to have a city that never sleeps, a bustling metropolis that offers opportunities and memorable experiences to its inhabitants and visitors any time of the day.



Kigali mayor Pudence Rubingisa.

During his inaugural press conference in 2018, Mayor of Kigali City, Pudence Rubingisa, also pledged additional efforts in promoting the business culture of working 24/7, placing infrastructure and public transport on his priorities.

All factors constant, once achieved, the 24/7 business culture among other things benefits a country's economy through provision of jobs, and increased

tax revenues because businesses are earning more hence paying more taxes.

This being said, it leaves a question of whether it will be easy for this culture to bounce back post-Covid-19. According to Teddy Kaberuka, an economic expert, there are chances that when the pandemic is dealt with, this culture will rejuvenate.

"Once Covid-19 goes away or is put

under control, the 24/7 working culture will bounce back because people have understood the importance of working hard especially after a crisis so as to recover what they lost during hard times," he said.

He added that: "On the other hand, decision-makers should redefine the working framework of this culture, it should be more practical and this goes hand in hand with availing essential things like transport late at night, security and other things of the sort." Shyaka also said that there are some prerequisites that should be given attention to the night-time economy to come back to life.

"We expect that once this pandemic goes away, people will be eager to go out and have fun as they used to, hence resuming the 24/7 working culture," he said. However, he added, relieving Covid-19 restrictions may happen at a time when people are comfortable with working from home and hence reducing the demand for commodities.

"In this case, to revive this culture will require campaigns that seek to increase the demand for night time goods and services," he explained. Businesses are also anticipating upcoming national and international events such as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), slated for the week of June 21 this year, to increase money circulation among the public and hence cause the demand for products and services.

WORLD

Vaccine nationalism puts world on brink of 'catastrophic moral failure', - WHO chief

GENEVA

THE world is on the brink of "catastrophic moral failure" in sharing COVID-19 vaccines, the head of the World Health Organization said yesterday, urging countries and manufacturers to spread doses more fairly around the world.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the prospects for equitable distribution were at "serious risk" just as its COVAX vaccine-sharing scheme aimed to start distributing inoculations next month.

He noted 44 bilateral deals were signed last year and at least 12 have al-

ready been signed this year.

"This could delay COVAX deliveries and create exactly the scenario COVAX was designed to avoid, with hoarding, a chaotic market, an uncoordinated response and continued social and economic disruption," he said.

Such a "me-first approach" left the world's poorest and most vulnerable at risk, he said at the opening of the body's annual Executive Board meeting in virtual format.

"Ultimately these actions will only prolong the pandemic," he added, urging countries to avoid making the same mistakes made during the H1N1 and HIV pandemics.



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

The global scramble for shots has intensified as more infectious virus variants circulate.

Tedros said more than 39 million vaccine doses had been administered in 49 higher-income countries whereas just 25 doses had been given in one poor country.

A delegate from Burkina Faso, on behalf of the African group, expressed concern at the meeting that a few countries had "hoovered up" most of the supplies.

Observers say this board meeting, which last until next Tuesday, is one of the most important in the U.N. health agency's more than 70-year

history and could shape its role in global health long after the pandemic ends.

On the agenda is reform of the body as well as its financing system, which was revealed as inadequate after its largest donor, the United States, announced its withdrawal last year.

"WHO has to remain relevant and ... has to come out of this crisis with more strength than before," said WHO Executive Board Vice-Chair Bjoern Kuemmel of Germany in comments last week.

But he expected resistance from some countries to pressure to boost financial contributions. **Agencies**

Time for Pompeo to end his sanction tricks - spokesperson

BEIJING

A CHINESE government spokesperson yesterday condemned the so-called U.S. sanctions imposed on officials of the central and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) governments, saying that it is time for U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to end his sanction tricks.



The spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council made the remarks after the U.S. Department of State imposed so-called sanctions following the detention of Benny Tai and others by the Hong Kong police for suspected violations of the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR in accordance with the law.

Voicing strong opposition to the "sanctions," the spokesperson called the move a serious interference in China's internal affairs.

By blatantly organizing the so-called "primary election" or "referendum," Tai and others constituted a grave challenge to the constitutional order of the HKSAR, the spokesperson said.

Their actions are aimed at subversion and are suspected violations of the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR and other laws of the city, the spokesperson said, adding that the police detention and investigation are carried out as required by law and to safeguard rule of law.

The spokesperson noted that certain anti-China U.S. politicians like Pompeo have continued their rampant interference in China's Hong Kong affairs and have adopted a practice of imposing so-called "sanctions," which only expose their sinister intentions to contain China under any pretext.

The so-called "sanctions" are merely cheap political tricks and will never shake the determination of the Chinese central government and the Chinese people in safeguarding the country's sovereignty, security and development interest or the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, the spokesperson added.

The implementation of the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR has helped restore the city's social order at a remarkable pace, providing a solid guarantee to the legitimate rights and freedom of its residents, the spokesperson said, adding that nothing can stop Hong Kong from embracing peace and stability. **Xinhua**

'We're starving': US-bound migrant caravan hunkers down after Guatemala crackdown

VADO HONDO

HUNDREDS of Honduran migrants huddled overnight on a highway in eastern Guatemala after domestic security forces used sticks and tear gas to halt the passage of a U.S.-bound caravan just days before U.S. President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

As many as 8,000 migrants, including families with young children, have entered Guatemala since Friday, authorities say, fleeing poverty and lawlessness in a region rocked by the coronavirus pandemic and back-to-back hurricanes in November.

"There's no food or water, and there are thousands of children, pregnant women, babies, and they don't want to let us pass," said a Honduran stuck at the blockade, who gave his name only as Pedro.

Guatemalan authorities say they have sent hundreds of migrants back to Honduras.



Hondurans taking part in a new caravan of migrants, set to head to the United States, gather in front of police officers blocking the road in Vado Hondo, Guatemala on Sunday. **REUTERS**

A Reuters witness said about 2,000 migrants were still camped out on the highway near the village of Vado

Hondo, about 55 km (34 miles) from the borders of Honduras and El Salvador, after clashing with Guatemala

lan security forces on Sunday. "We're starving," said one Honduran mother, stuck

behind the cordon with her 15-year-old son, her daughter, 9, and her 4-year-old niece.

"All we have is water and a few cookies," said the woman, who declined to give her name, but added that she and other travelers had formed a prayer circle as they camped out.

Other migrants evaded the gridlock by fleeing into the hills to continue onward to the border of Mexico, where the government has deployed police and National Guard troops.

"We ran into the mountains because I'm traveling with my one-year-old," said Diany Deras, another Honduran.

Mexico's border with Guatemala was quiet.

"All is calm here," said a National Guardsman in charge of a border crossing directly opposite Tecun Uman, Guatemala, where caravan leaders hope to cross into Mexico. He sought anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media. **Agencies**

Russia's pullout from Open Skies Treaty was inevitable due to US position, says Beijing

BEIJING

RUSSIA'S withdrawal from the Treaty on Open Skies, announced by the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday, was inevitable due to the lack of desire to cooperate in the United States, spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Hua Chunying told a regular briefing yesterday.

"As I understand the direct reason behind Moscow's decision to initiate the procedure

to exit the Treaty on Open Skies was the US unilateral pullout despite the international position. It significantly undermined bilateral trust between the armed forces of the two countries and transparency between the sides," she noted.

"Russia tries to preserve the treaty but did not receive any positive reaction from the US or other parties to the treaty," the diplomat underlined.

"For a long time now, the

US has stuck to the Cold War mentality and the America first policy, simultaneously leaving multilateral agreements and international organizations which affects the international arms control regime and disarmament.

Facts show that a bright future can be secured through dialogue and cooperation rather than unilateral policies. China is calling on the US to listen to concerns of the international community and take

measures to maintain global strategic stability, peace and security in the region and beyond," the spokesperson concluded.

On January 15, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced that Russia launches withdrawal from the Treaty on Open Skies. Other parties will receive the relevant notification when the domestic procedures are completed.

Washington was accusing Russia of selective compli-

ance with the treaty and violation of a number of the treaty clauses for several years. Russia has its own complaints to Washington regarding the treaty implementation. In 2017, Washington announced introduction of certain restrictions against Russian surveillance flight over the US territory, causing Russia to respond in a mirror-like fashion. The US pulled out from the Open Skies Treaty on November 22. **Agencies**

County in SW China makes a name for vegetable production

VAST vegetable fields are unrolling in Xiushan neighborhood, Tonghai county, southwest China's Yunnan province, where various species of vegetables are thriving in palette-like grids divided by straight ridges.

"Every household here grows vegetables," said Zhao Siwang, Party head of Xiushan's Dashu community. The village has sold its vegetables to Thailand, Vietnam, and even the Middle East, the Party head told People's Daily, with pride on his face.

Tonghai county is a well-known production and distribution base of vegetables in Yunnan province. In recent years, by advancing supply-side structural reform of the agricultural sector, the county significantly

optimized its vegetable varieties and improved vegetable quality with standardized production, which successfully helped it build a brand for its products.

Being an inland county, Tonghai sells 36 percent of its vegetables to overseas markets. The per capita disposable income of rural residents in the county is expected to reach 19,615 yuan (\$3,032) in 2020, up 6,980 yuan from 5 years ago, or increasing 9.2 percent annually on average.

Quality is the reason for the village to win market shares overseas, according to Zhao.

Dashu community started vegetable production in 1998. After 18

years of development, both Zhao and his fellow villagers felt they encountered a bottleneck. Therefore, the community decided to seek new methods to replace traditional ways of production, taking quality and efficiency as top priorities.

Today, sticky traps and solar desiccation lamps are seen everywhere in the planting areas of Dashu community. In addition, modern sprinkler irrigation systems are installed in the fields.

"Infrastructure has been gradually improved in recent years. Green technologies are making our vegetables better, and that's our core competitiveness," said Zhao, pointing at the vegetables grown in neatly

divided grids. According to him, the community has adopted unified standards and offered technical guidance on variety selection, application of organic fertilizers, and plant spacing.

Cheng Xiuling, a vegetable farmer of Tonghai county, joined the county's Yuantai cooperative in 2019. The cooperative offers meteorological monitoring and weather forecast, as well as soil data monitoring services in its plantation.

After joining the cooperative, Cheng for the first time used a smart water and fertilizer all-in-one machine, as well as a humiture system and a video surveillance system. "The cooperative offers unified tech-

nical standards and marketing strategies, which reduces our concerns," said Cheng.

He Lai, chairman of the cooperative, told People's Daily that Tonghai county introduced an agricultural internet of things (IoT) last May, which has enabled the cooperative to make its vegetable production smarter and trace its products in a more comprehensive and precise manner. "In the future, consumers can watch the growth of vegetables on their mobile phones," he said.

Gaoyuan farm produce company in Tonghai county has a workshop that processes turnip strips. These strips, after being packed, are exported to South Korea and Japan.

As a flagship product of the company, these turnip strips generate export revenue of \$8 million each year. "The price of turnips per kilogram is 0.6 yuan at most, but it surges fivefold after a dozen rounds of processing," said Yang Wei, general manager of the company.

In July 2019, vegetables processed by the company were for the first time shipped to Shenzhen's seaports via railway before they arrived at their overseas destinations. From shipping products on trucks covered by quilts, to developing professional road and railway cold chain logistics, Tonghai will definitely embrace bigger achievements in the vegetable business, Yang said. **People's Daily**

Merkel's party picks Laschet as next leader

BRUSSELS

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel's governing Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party on Saturday elected Armin Laschet, a governor of the country's most populous state, as its new leader, making him the most likely candidate to succeed Merkel after the September national election.

Laschet (pictured) defeated Friedrich Merz, a lawyer regarded as a traditional conservative, with 521 votes against 466 at an online convention of the center-right CDU.

Norbert Roettgen, a third candidate and head of the German parliament Bundestag's foreign affairs committee, was eliminated in the first round of voting.

Laschet vowed continuity of Merkel's policies in his speech on Saturday.

A centrist governor of populous North Rhine-Westphalia state since 2017, Laschet pledged to do everything so the CDU would do well in the upcoming regional elections and keep the party's hold on the post of chancellor.

Laschet's victory was also seen as a decision by CDU delegates for continuity of Merkel's policies. Merkel has been chancellor since 2005 but announced in late 2018 she would not seek a fifth term in office.

Laschet, who will turn 60 on Feb 18, has said he wants to keep the party coalition and rejected calls to recruit more conservative voters.

While the victory put Laschet in a strong position as a candidate to succeed Merkel, some believe that prospect is not totally guaranteed.

German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who was favored by Merkel a year ago as successor, later dropped her position as CDU leader and also her candidacy for the 2021 CDU election.

Various polls suggest Bavarian governor Markus Söder, leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU) and the CDU's sister party, might also become a strong candidate.

The two parties formed a union in elections, and plan to make a decision on their joint candidate in March. Laschet was born in a suburb of Aachen near the Belgian and Dutch borders and had worked as a journalist and in the publishing industry from the mid 1980s to late 1990s.

"I think it was a victory based more on his political style than on the political substance. And as close to a Merkel continuation as possible," Carl Bildt, a former Swedish prime minister and co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, said in a tweet after the vote.

Agencies

Russia dismisses outcry over detention of Navalny

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said yesterday that Western countries' expressions of outrage over the detention of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny were designed to distract their own citizens from domestic problems.

Police detained Navalny on his arrival in Moscow on Sunday after he flew home from Germany for the first time since he was poisoned last summer.

"Respect international law, do not encroach on national legislation of sovereign states and address problems in your own country," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wrote on Facebook.

Navalny's case could trigger new sanctions against Russia, especially against a US\$11.6 billion project to build a natural gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, with some EU countries saying they want the bloc to swiftly impose such measures.

Four masked police officers detained the opposition politician at passport control on Sunday evening, the first time he had returned home after being poisoned by what German military tests showed was a Novichok nerve agent, a version of events the Kremlin rejects.

Russia's prison service said he had been taken into custody due to alleged violations of a suspended prison sentence that Navalny, 44, says was trumped up.

It said he would be held in custody until a court hearing expected on Jan 29 that will rule whether to convert that suspended sentence into a real three and half-year jail term.

The foreign ministers of Germany, Britain, France and Italy called for Navalny's release. Lithuania said on Sunday it would ask the EU to swiftly impose new sanctions on Russia.

Czech Foreign Minister Tomas Petricek said he wanted the bloc to discuss possible sanctions. Jake Sullivan, one of US President-elect Joe Biden's top aides, told Moscow to free Navalny, and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Twitter he was deeply troubled by Moscow's decision to arrest Navalny. Lavrov dismissed Western consternation.

"You can feel the joy with which these comments (on Navalny's arrest) are coming out," said Lavrov.

"Judging by everything, it allows Western politicians to think that by doing this they can divert attention away from the deep crisis that the liberal model of development finds itself in," he said.

Agencies



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

Challenges shadow Palestinian election call despite hope

RAMALLAH

AFTER Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas set the dates for holding the general elections in the Palestinian territories, analysts say the election call offers hope to end the internal division, but internal and external challenges are still ahead.

On Friday, Abbas (pictured) issued a presidential decree that called for holding the legislative elections on May 22 and the presidential elections on July 31.

Many Palestinians doubt that their first national elections in 15 years will achieve reconciliation between the two rival Palestinian groups, Abbas's Fatah Movement and the Islamic Hamas movement.

The Palestinian legislative elections haven't been held since 2006, while the last presidential elections were held in 2005.

Hani al-Masri, the Ramallah-based political analyst, told Xinhua that the American administration's upcoming change, the Arab and international pressures, and Hamas's flexibility might be the reasons that pushed Abbas to make his decision to set dates for holding the general elections.

"What I fear is not the external factor. I fear that these elections will constitute an entry point to reproduce the existing situation of internal division between Fatah and Hamas without a real change and restitution," al-Masri said.

He added that holding the Palestinian elections "would face internal challenges, such as the internal division and providing a free and fair environment without fraud."

"The external challenges are related to the financial interventions, and whether the Palestinians, Israel, and the United States will respect the election results," al-Masri said.

He also said that setting dates for holding the elections before launching a national dialogue between the political factions "is like going upside down," add-



ing that "this dialogue should agree on making the elections successful, instead of discussing substantial issues that harvest big failure."

Al-Masri proposed that the factional dialogue "should prepare for a proper

environment for holding the elections and agree upon a transitional government that prepares for free and transparent elections that everyone respects its results."

Mustafa Ibrahim, a Gaza-based po-

litical analyst, told Xinhua that it is essential to hold the elections to renew the Palestinian political system, "but no one can predict what would happen during the upcoming stage."

Ibrahim expressed hope that the general elections will lead to an end of the internal Palestinian division that has continued since 2007, when Hamas took over the Gaza Strip.

Rajab Abu Serreayah, a Ramallah-based political analyst, told Xinhua that "if nothing happens and there will be no obstacles or challenges, the elections would strengthen the position of the Palestinian Authority as a legitimate and elected body to open a political horizon for the next stage."

He added that the Palestinian Authority would emerge after the elections, reinforced by Fatah and Hamas's partnership.

"It will be stronger than today, which means that any agreement with the next Palestinian Authority will be guaranteed implementation," Abu Serreayah said.

Agencies

China's historic economic comeback, beacon of hope for world

BEIJING

CHINA has done something no other major economy did in 2020.

Beating expectations with a 6.5-percent growth in the fourth quarter, China's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 2.3 percent year on year last year, exceeding the 100-trillion-yuan (15.42 trillion U.S. dollars) threshold for the first time, official data showed Monday.

That makes China the only major economy to post growth in 2020. In the context of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and recession, the good news from China is even more commendable.

The early days of 2020 were devastating for the world's second-largest economy. But after a quarter-long lull in economic activity, the resumption of business forged ahead with resolute and targeted virus containment measures in place.

The unique formula China adopted in response to this global health crisis is well captured in the acronym "PROTECT" -- the Party's strong leadership, responsibility at all levels, openness and transparency, technology, early action, cooperation, and targeted measures. The formula shows how the Chinese economy fought its way out of the virus-induced slump.

Not only did China avert a full-blown recession, but the scale and speed of its V-shaped recovery were impressive. It's worth noting that the Chinese leadership decided in May not to set a numeric growth target for 2020. High on the agenda was people-first development and a new development paradigm.



In addition to stabilizing its economy, China has also reached a number of development milestones: the elimination of absolute poverty, wrapping up the 13th Five-Year Plan period, and comprehensively designing the next.

Given China's stellar growth figures over past decades, a 2.3-percent growth may seem not worthy of a victory lap. But at a time when the world is still struggling under the pandemic-triggered recession, the hard-won expansion will provide precious experience for economic recovery in the new year.

China's contribution to world economic growth has long been around 30 percent as the major growth engine. The latest World Economic Outlook report released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development predicts that China will contribute more than one-third of global economic growth in 2021.

The vicious onslaught of the pandemic has plunged the world economy into its worst crisis since the Great Depression of 1929. This time, the world may take longer to regain its footing, as the crisis will leave long-lasting sequelae and pose major global challenges.

If the past is any guide, the sweeping crisis will lead to structural changes in the global economic landscape.

As domestic demand in developed countries starts to decline, new engines of economic growth emerge around the world.

When policymakers in some countries have resorted to populism, insular nationalism, and the politicization of economic issues while dealing with a crisis of such a magnitude, China has championed free trade, multilateralism, and the construction of a community with a shared future for humanity.

China makes continuous efforts to protect intangible cultural heritage

NOT long ago, two new intangible cultural heritage items from China were inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, making the country top the list with 42 items.

The newly enshrined items are Taijiquan, a kind of traditional martial arts, and "Wangchuan ceremony and related practices for maintaining the sustainable connection between man and the ocean," which was nominated by China together with Malaysia. Both items have a history of several centuries in China.

Taijiquan's relaxed, circular, gentle and flexible movements, the traditional concepts reflected in the movements of Taijiquan, including the cycle of Yin and Yang, the two opposing principles in nature, and the theory that "man is an integral part of nature", as well as the standing posture featuring straightness of the body demonstrate the unique characteristics of gentleness, inclusiveness, and strength in Chinese culture.

As a vivid example of respecting lives

and revering nature, the Wangchuan ceremony has also witnessed the spread of Chinese culture in countries along the Maritime Silk Road.

As the two items containing the "genes" of Chinese culture have been recognized as world-class intangible cultural heritage, they will surely enhance Chinese people's confidence in their culture, and open the door to the unique concepts, wisdom, and charm of Chinese culture wider for the rest of the world.

In recent years, a multitude of Chinese intangible cultural heritage items have been acknowledged by the UNESCO, such as Kunqu Opera, Peking Opera, the Dragon Boat Festival, Zhusuan, also known as Chinese abacus, acupuncture of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the 24 solar terms.

It signifies that the values deeply rooted in China and the traditional Chinese wisdom based on several thousand years of history are increasingly recognized and respected by the international community, and that China's unique cultural resources and spiritual

pursuits are making new contributions to the building of common values of humanity.

In fact, besides intangible cultural heritage, other achievements made in China's cultural sector have also attracted global attention in recent years. Cultural activities on Chinese festivals have been held all over the world; Chinese film and television works have won a great number of overseas followers; and the export of online works of Chinese literature has become global cultural phenomenon.

China's achievements in bidding for the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list have shown the recognition Chinese culture has gained worldwide as well as the country's commitment to ensure the inheriting of fine traditional culture.

The traditional Li textile techniques of spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering of China, which is now an item on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, was in imminent

danger of extinction when China decided to nominate it as intangible cultural heritage over a decade ago. At that time, the centuries-old techniques had less than one thousand inheritors.

After it was officially inscribed on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list, China has put into action its promise to protect the traditional techniques and mobilized various social forces in facilitating the inheriting of the techniques, eventually revitalizing the precious intangible cultural heritage. Successful entry into the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list is not the destination, but a new starting point for the inheriting and protection of cultural heritage.

Only by constantly improving its capability to protect intangible cultural heritage and effectively addressing problems troubling the protection and development of various intangible cultural heritage items, can China comprehensively raise public awareness of intangible cultural heritage and help it shine more brightly in the world.

People's Daily

SPORT



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

We're all rooting for you Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

THIS week, a most auspicious and august event will take place in the land of West African football heavyweights Cameroon.

Indeed, Cameroon will host the African Nations Championship, otherwise known as the CHAN finals this week and significantly, the Taifa Stars are part of the assemblage of teams who will be trading blows in a football sense at the eagerly awaited tournament which continues to burgeon in stature.

However, there is cause for concern. The football gods deemed it fitting in their questionable wisdom to hurl us into a tricky pool dubbed Group 'D' which consists of football powerhouse Zambia, whose lustrous pedigree requires no further elaboration.

The group also has minnows, Namibia, and dicey opponents, Guinea.

Importantly, this will be the Taifa Stars' first foray into the no quarters asked and none given, merciless arena of international football since the 2019 AFCON finals, which, of course, included our increasingly swelling contingent of icons earning their keep in foreign lands far away from home comforts.

Tellingly though, the CHAN finals are expressly reserved for home-based players on the continent.

At this juncture, it is critical to note that the entire populace of the country has solidly thrown their weight behind the Taifa Stars.

Indeed, following the extraordinarily hellish, trying and wrenching year we have all endured in this country, what with the patently obvious horrors of COVID-19 and its attendant economic burdens, we all collectively could do with a lifting of our wearied and discouraged spirits, the heartening, feel-good news of the COVID-19 vaccines notwithstanding.

Thus, it is this writer's fervent wish that

by putting their best foot forward at the CHAN finals, the Taifa Stars will be able to provide us with a much-needed salve to ease our wounded souls.

God speed Taifa Stars. As you ready yourselves to take on the opposition, may you be ever-propelled forward by chariots driven by those two sterling human attributes of courage and steeliness.

This now provides us with a fitting moment to seamlessly segue into the dramatic and cliffhanging finale of the Mapinduzi Cup, which is traditionally held to ring in the New Year with that characteristic joie de vivre that only the beautiful game can provide.

Ahead of that gripping and electrifying finale, tongues had been set a-wagging seemingly across the extensive expanse of the country because it pitted those two old archfoes, Yanga and Simba SC, against each other.

We all expected a titanic and epic showdown and I'm happy to report that we were not let down in the slightest.

In what was a truly gladiatorial duel reminiscent of the gladiatorial battles hitherto witnessed in the Colosseum at the height of the Roman Empire, both nemeses battled to a barren draw during the allotted 90 minutes.

But wait! That was the cue for high drama to seize hold of the proceedings as a penalty shootout was required to settle the high stakes affair.

As the shootout commenced, Yanga fans were obviously jittery over their so-called penalty shootout jinx.

They need not have worried because their side in the end conquered Simba SC to emerge all-victorious 4-3 via a penalty shootout.

Yanga's penalty jinx; what penalty jinx? The interesting thing now to observe is whether this Mapinduzi Cup triumph will hand Yanga the impetus to finally loosen Simba's vice-like grip of the Mainland Premier League crown.

So, just in case you, Dear Reader, did not already know it, Tanzanian football will be the dominant football scene to keep an ever-watchful eye on in the expectedly riveting months to come!

MultiChoice Tanzania unveils new promotion for customers



Head of Marketing at MultiChoice Tanzania, Ronald Shelukindo.

By Guardian Reporter

MULTICHOICE Tanzania has launched a mouthwatering upgrade offer, dubbed 'Panda Tukupandishe'.

This offer gives all active and disconnected DStv Bomba, Family and Compact packages' customers a chance to pay and get to view programming on higher package within 48 hours at no extra cost. Speaking at the launch of the DStv 'Step up' campaign, The Head of Marketing at MultiChoice Tanzania, Ronald Shelukindo, commented that; "At MultiChoice, our mission is always to deliver value to our customers by making great entertainment more accessible."

"Our key priority is to put our customers' needs at the heart of everything we do. We listen to our customers to understand their changing lives, the economic pressures they face and what matters most to them."

"We recognize that most of our customers are living in tough economic times and understand our customers are under pressure to make every shilling they spend count. As such, we're constantly reviewing our prices."

"Hence, we are delighted to launch a 'Step-up' campaign, 'Panda Tukupandishe', whereby our customers will be upgraded to the next higher packages at no extra cost. This offer is valid for all active and non-active DStv customers from January 14-March 31 2021", he noted.

MultiChoice Tanzania's Acting Customer Value Manager, Lucy Kisasa, added that with this offer, the firm's customers purchasing Bomba package will be required to pay for Family bouquet worth and DStv will step them up to Compact package.

They will get access to witness the biggest leagues in the world such as English Premier League (EPL), the Spanish football league, Italy's Serie A and the other major championships in the world.

SPORTS

Assessing Yanga's squad depth after mini-transfer window

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE December-January transfer window is officially closed and Vodacom Premier League clubs cannot sign players until the 2020/21 season is over.

In a notoriously difficult time for clubs to do business, but a number of eye-catching deals still went through.

Here we assess where Yanga improved, and failed to improve, in the mini-transfer window that closed on Friday.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Yanga have chosen to largely stick with the line-up that has seen them remain the only unbeaten side after 18 rounds of matches in the league, not to mention the small matter of 2021 Mapinduzi Cup competition triumph.

In goal, Metacha Mnata remains the first choice but the exploits of Faroukh Shikhalo in the Mapinduzi Cup tournament provides a good headache for the technical bench.

In defence, there are concerns in some quarters about the full-back positions. Shomari Kibwana and Yassin Mustapha are good but question marks remain if they are good enough.

In big games, coach Cedric Kaze has to tweak his line up to field players who will offer them defensive support to avoid being targeted as a weak line by the opponents.

Adeyum Saleh and Paul Godfrey 'Boxer' will continue warming up the bench but one would have expected Yanga to at least upgrade their full-backs options.

The rather surprising signing of Dickson Job from Mtibwa Sugar means there are five first team centre backs competing for two starting spots.

Lamine Moro and Bakari Mwamnyeto's places are safe. Unless Yanga play three at the back, at best, Job is expected to be competing for the substitute role with Abdallah Shaibu and Said Juma.

In midfield, Mukoko Tonombe will continue adding purpose and thrust that had been missing and, with the



Yanga players take part in training session in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Congolese playing higher, Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto' can 'keep playing in a more natural deep position to keep things ticking over, as well as burst forward into the box when needed.

Abdulaziz Makame has been loaned out to Polisi Tanzania, leaving Farid Mussa, Zawadi Mauya, Deus Kaseke and Haruna Niyonzima competing.

Kaseke will likely continue being used as an impact substitute off the bench, a role he has excellently played this season.

Up front, Yanga have boosted their attacking options with the signing of Burundi duo, Said Ntibazonkiza 'Saido' and Abdul-Razack Fiston.

Fiston is an all-round forward, adding to Yanga's attacking in pretty much every way.

'Saido' needs no further introduction. In his three competitive matches for Yanga, he showed he is a player who attempts passes in the final third, takes shots, scores his big chances and creates them.

While Fiston does not fill a gaping hole on the field positionally, he brings

the star quality, unpredictability and sheer force of nature that Yanga have lacked this season. For those reasons, alone, he is an A-star signing.

With the likes of Yacouba Songne, Tuisila Kisinda and Tonombe in the Yanga squad, head coach Kaze has a number of options when trying to get the best out of his latest arrival, who joins a team laced with versatility.

The most obvious choice for coach Kaze would be to continue in his favoured 4-2-3-1 formation, with Fiston replacing Ghanaian striker, Michael Sarpong, as the lone striker, supported by a trio of Songne, Ntibazonkiza and Kisinda.

A sign of a top squad is having two quality players in every position. Yanga can lay claim to having exactly, though pound-for-pound, Simba still have the better squad but, with the addition of Ntibazonkiza and now Fiston, Yanga are closing the quality gap.

Whoever has the edge off the pitch has a better chance of winning the title race.

Zanzibar squash player lifts 2021 Mapinduzi Cup tourney silverware

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ZANZIBAR'S Salehe Kuna has emerged as the overall winner of a two-day Mapinduzi Cup squash tournament which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) over the weekend.

The tournament attracted 19 players from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Kuna beat Mainland Tanzania's Adam Tapyia 3-2 in the final. The Isles' player had posted a similar win over Samir Lakhani in the last four to make to the final.

Tapyia had cruised to 3-1 win over Addi

Hamis 3-1 in a highly competitive semi-final tie to sail through to the final.

Players, who qualified for the quarterfinals, were Iddi Khamis, Samir Lakhani, Nuhu Hussein, Ansh Doshi, Saleh Juma, Adam Tapyia, Mohamed H. Ali and Arif Shamji.

Speaking after the tournament, Tanzania Squash Federation (TSF) secretary general, Marwa Busigara, thanked all players who competed at the event.

"I'm very happy with this year's Mapinduzi Cup squash tournament, the competition was very high and competitive, I thank all players and

DGC management for making this tournament a success," he said.

The DGC Chairman, Alfred Kinswaga, who was the guest of honour at the tournament's presentation ceremony, hailed the club's Squash Section for successfully hosting the Mapinduzi Cup.

"At this club, we have six squash courts, I'm delighted that the Squash Section has managed to host this year's Mapinduzi tournament," he said.

"This is very good as it brought players from Zanzibar and other parts of the country, sports are not only for health but also bring unity as evidenced today (Sunday)," he said.



Squash players from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, who took part in the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, in a group picture after the event's completion in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Man United's title hopes boosted by draw at faltering Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, England

MANCHESTER United really are Premier League title contenders again, and Sunday's 0-0 draw against Liverpool at Anfield proved it once and for all.

It was hard to watch at times, with two old rivals showing too much respect to the other to cut loose and really go for the win. At times United also rode their luck, particularly in a one-sided first half that was dominated by Liverpool. But the measure of United's performance (and the result) was that when the final whistle went, there were no fist-clenching celebrations or high-fives to mark a point at Anfield. Instead, there was a sense of disappointment that they didn't convert at least one of their second-half chances to win the game and end Liverpool's four-and-a-half year unbeaten home run in the league, which now stands at 68 games.

"We are coming away with a point, and the lads are disappointed," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said. "It was an opportunity missed with the chances we had, but we were playing a very good side. I'm disappointed, but a point is OK if you win the next game. We have improved and progressed, but we know we can do better."

United turned up with a plan and the self-belief earned over a 15-game unbeaten streak away from home in the league -- a run that stretches back to last January's defeat here -- and headed back onto the team bus with a clean sheet and top spot still in their possession.

The temptation in modern-day football, perhaps as a side effect of the demands on social media for everything to be bigger, better or faster than everything that has gone before, is to only gauge progress by how exciting and eye-catching a team may be. United were rarely eye-catching or exciting on Sunday, but there were solid and organised and, by the end of it, the team running out ideas and belief were Liverpool, who failed to score for the third successive league game.

By full-time, United looked most likely to emerge as winners and, but for two crucial late saves by Alisson Becker to deny Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba, Liverpool's long unbeaten home run would have come to an end and United would now be six points clear of the faltering champions.

While United are on the upswing again, Liverpool are falling back towards the pack, which was inevitable in many ways after their record-breaking title success last season.

When United walked off the Anfield pitch following a 2-0 defeat 12 months ago, they were 30 points behind Liverpool and seemingly a million miles from even contem-

plating a fight for the title. A year on, United are leading the way.

This fixture is always a symbolic measuring stick for the two clubs. When Mohamed Salah scored Liverpool's second in that 2-0 win last year, it marked the moment when everyone at the club began to believe that the title was theirs -- Anfield erupted as soon as Salah's shot hit the net, and they never looked back. On Sunday, there was no such defining moment, but United will have left with their own sense of having crossed the Rubicon by playing Liverpool at Anfield and emerging unscathed, hammering out a message to Jurgen Klopp's team that they can once again look them in the eye as equals.

In last season's fixture here, United were in the midst of a slump that had left Solskjaer fearing for his job, and they played at Anfield in panic mode. But there was a swagger about United this time, even if they were forced to withstand heavy Liverpool pressure for long periods of the first half. There was no panic despite being overwhelmed by a wave of shots and Liverpool possession -- instead, just an air of trust in the counter-attacking game plan that left Klopp's side frustrated long before the final whistle.

It's the way United play right now. And it has made them competitive again, but to take the next step, they will soon have to find a way to take greater control in midfield and also be more clinical when they have goalscoring chances.

Pogba was once again impressive for United -- Harry Maguire was also outstanding at the back -- and the pace and movement up front was a constant worry for Liverpool, despite Marcus Rashford's continuing inability to hold his runs and avoid the offside trap. That is one of a number of tweaks that Solskjaer and his coaches need to address, but in comparison to a year ago, they are minor details that can be fixed fairly easily.

Klopp also has tweaks and corrections to take care of with his team, but the solutions are less easy to find because of injuries and the reality that after almost three years of incremental improvements, progress has perhaps hit a ceiling. Burnley are next up, with Sean Dyche's team due at Anfield on Thursday, before two tough away games at Tottenham and West Ham. Liverpool are a team that could easily win all three games and banish the growing gloom, but on current form, they could also drop points in each of them.

For Klopp, though, the story would have been different had the result gone Liverpool's way against United. "If we won 1-0, I'd think it was completely fine," he said. "You can't deny Manchester United chances for 90 minutes. You never could. They're in a good moment."

ESPN

Ozil confirms Fenerbahce move from Arsenal

LONDON

MESUT Ozil confirmed his move from Arsenal to Fenerbahce, saying he was "very excited" to play for the former Turkish champions and that he was fit despite missing nearly a year of football.

Sources told ESPN on Saturday that Ozil has a verbal agreement with Arsenal to terminate his contract and will join Fenerbahce in the coming days.

Fenerbahce posted images of Ozil late Sunday, stopping short of officially announcing a done deal by stating: "Our club is bringing Mesut Ozil to Istanbul to continue the transfer processes."

Ozil, 32, has not played for Arsenal since March and was left out of the club's Premier League and Europa League squads at the start of the season. He has long been linked with a move to Fenerbahce, Turkey's second-most decorated club.

Speaking to Turkish broadcaster NTV on Sunday, Ozil, who has Turkish ancestry, said he was looking forward to playing for Fenerbahce, a club he said he has sup-

ported all his life, and added he would arrive in Istanbul early on Monday to seal his move.

"I am a Fenerbahce fan. That is why I am very happy to be coming to Turkey with Fenerbahce," Ozil said. "I'm very excited. God gave me the chance to wear this jersey as a Fenerbahce fan. God willing, I will carry it with honour and do everything I can for the team."

"Of course, I'm missing a few matches. I haven't played in a match in a while, but I am physically fit, I have no issues," he said, adding he had been training with the first team at Arsenal during his time off the pitch.

Signed in 2013 for a then-club record fee of £42.5 million from Real Madrid, Ozil played a crucial role under Arsene Wenger in ending Arsenal's trophy drought, winning the FA Cup in his first season.

But he found himself marginalised under Wenger's replacement Mikel Arteta, who said the player's omission from the squad was for "football reasons."

(Agencies)

How Lionel Messi finally saw red after 753 zen-like Barcelona matches

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

WHEN Lionel Messi's moment came, it was, of course, spectacular.

Stage? The Spanish Supercopa final. State of play? Defeat or victory balanced infinitely delicately. Classic Messi territory.

For 753 Barcelona matches, sufficient to make him the greatest player in history, this has always very specifically been Messi territory.

From his first Liga goal, scored against Albacete in the 90th minute nearly 16 years ago, via his extra-time winner against Estudiantes, scored with the club badge on his chest, in the Club World Cup final of 2009, right up to him choosing the 92nd minute of a Bernabeu Clasico to win the match 3-2 with his 500th Barcelona goal -- believe me when I tell you that this was Messi territory. Messi-time.

Only this time, the "spectacular" wasn't a goal but the right hook Messi swung at Athletic Bilbao's goal-scoring, beard-growing, trumpet-playing striker Asier Villalibre.

In street fighting terms, you'd call it a rabbit punch. And when Messi saw the first red card of his entire Barcelona career, there can't be any question, at all, that referee Gil Manzano, albeit helped by video repetition, got the decision right. No suspicion that man from Don Benito in Badajoz, down in Spain's south west, was a memento collector. The type of referee who says to himself: "Right, old son, this night I'm going to go down on history for being the first person ever to send Messi off in a Barcelona match. History beckons!"

No, there's no question that Messi lost his temper, took a swing and connected then was ordered to take the long, solo, embarrassing walk to the dressing room (for only the fourth time in his entire career, more of which later) for just cause.

Not even the cast, scriptwriters and tense jury room atmosphere of "12 Angry Men" (Sir Alex Ferguson's favourite film, if you care to know) could have got Messi off on a not guilty verdict.

And what's more, you have to hand the Argentina international even more credit.

Not only was it bound to be spectacular when he finally received his marching orders for Barca, there also was bound to be a sense of genuine "timing" when it occurred.

With very little time left of a ding-dong, see-saw Supercopa final that eventually brought Athletic Club only their second major trophy in 37 years, this particular piece of timing was dramatic enough. As I've pointed out, it happened when that Messi of the ages would normally be scoring or creating the 3-3 goal to take the final to penalties.

But this season, of all seasons, it had to happen -- didn't it? If Messi's miraculous on-pitch patience wasn't running empty, nagging at him to explode and to seek personal vengeance by now, then it would never happen. Ever.

From the sacking of Ernesto Valverde, almost exactly a year ago, through the clown circus of Quique Setien's hapless time in charge, via an almighty walloping at the hands of Bayern Munich, an operationally tragic attempt to quit the club he loves, including that Bufofax and the unspoken threat of court action, the weeks of mutual hackle-bristling between Messi and Ronald Koeman -- like all great cinematic affairs -- was suddenly turning into a genuine bromance. And with a trophy having been, literally, only seconds away from making this the honey-sweetest beginning to what might still become his last handful of months at Camp Nou, but then dramatically slipping away in the 90th minute ... when else was Messi going to be re-

carded?

Honestly, I ask you? Nevertheless, it's time to set another couple of parts of the record straight.



Sunday's red card was the first Leo Messi has received while playing for Barca's first team, a length of 753 matches. (Agencies)

Firstly, referee Manzano, the man from Don Benito, gets an "assist" in this process. No, I'm not recanting; the red card was fully justified.

But his refereeing was as if he were a refugee from the 1968 summer of love, flowers in his hair, those round lightly tinted John Lennon-style specs, a guitar slung over his shoulder and a ticket to Woodstock sticking out of his feather-decorated leather waistcoat pocket.

Manzano took a "Hey man, it's all groovy" approach all night as Athletic's players applied a shrewd, not uncommon, but wholly illegal approach to disrupting both Barcelona's and Messi's rhythm.

A foul, a nudge, a pull of the jersey, a trip -- it started very early on with Iker Muniain, who committed at least three bookable offences but wasn't yellow-carded once.

"Peace love and happiness" was Manzano's attitude. A waggle of the finger, a raised eyebrow or, at his sternest, a "Hey bro! You're harshing the vibe man!" reprimand.

It might have made Joni Mitchell's lip quiver, but nobody else's. Least of all the clever, preprogrammed and magnificently determined Athletic players.

It wasn't brutal, it wasn't unusual, and (the point is) Messi has been suffering this for what's getting close to 900 professional matches.

But wait, there's more. The actual sending off, that momentous image of this little genius traipsing off having let his side down, having let his guard down, also told a tale of what Manzano might want to reflect on as what's happened sinks in.

The action comes as Barcelona are mounting an attack. You might call it, were you script writing this, "a last, desperate attack." From 2-1 up in the 90th minute, they're now teetering on the edge of losing (to an Athletic Club who, frankly, deserve the trophy for some absolutely outstanding determination, skill and chutzpah) and there are mere seconds left.

Messi, unfit because of hamstring problems during the semifinal, has played well below par; but it's factual that he helped create the 1-0 goal for Antoine Griezmann, and he is enough of a threat for Athletic to have systematically tried to bump him, tug at him or trip him.

As the crucial moment comes, Messi has sprayed a lovely ball to the left, releasing Jordi Alba, and it's another type of "signature" moment.

Think of all the commentaries you've listened to since 2012: "Messi ... to Alba flying down the left wing ... Alba takes the ball, he cuts it back to the edge of the penalty area aaaaaaandddd Meessiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii! Goal, goal, goal!"

You remember them, right? Well, so does Villalibre. As Messi tries to hare off in pursuit of what will be a cutback pass from Alba, Villalibre (who already has been booked) remembers the script.

It's only an opinion, but I'll wager he remembers the tactical briefing the Athletic squad have all had in the days leading up to this game: "DO NOT LET MESSI RUN FREELY ONTO AN ALBA CUTBACK, AT ANY COST."

And so the striker, who'll later charm the football world by celebrating the trophy with his teammates by producing his trumpet and playing victory songs, tries to put a full body check on Messi in what the knows, if spotted, will mean a red card for him, not Messi.

Only this time, Messi does what you, I or any normal person would have done many, many seasons ago: He lets disappointment, frustration, the sense of burning injustice overwhelm him, and he takes a swing.

He was in the wrong. It was a red card action. Athletic deserved, overall, to win the final. All these are facts.

But when Manzano goes to look at the video, he does half a job. He is undoubtedly aware that a lot rides on

this, he has been told that Messi took a swing at an opponent and he is running over with that in mind.

He looks at the repeated action and completely ignores the fact that Villalibre's action was wholly illegal and that he too had to be sent off.

Emblematic of the referee's night, emblematic of Athletic's "we know how to give ourselves the edge" attitude.

When Messi was first red-carded in senior football, it was a piece of absolute, utter nonsense: Argentina vs. Hungary in August 2005.

The kid, still an unquantified genius rather than the 24-karat article he'd very quickly become, was on the pitch 90 seconds before Vilmos Vanczak first of all tried to hack him down, then nearly tugged his shirt off his back until Messi tried to free himself and was judged, ludicrously, by referee Markus Merk to have committed a sending-off offence.

I'd like to think that Merk buys Messi chocolates and flowers every year on the anniversary to try to make amends.

The other? Copa America 2019 -- Chile's Gary Medel tries to head-butt him twice, Messi simply stands his ground, they go chest to chest and both get reds from the Paraguayan referee -- somewhere between the clear cut of the Supercopa and the clear comedy of that Hungary friendly 15 years ago.

"Medel is a player who always plays right to the limits of the law and he's provocative, but I didn't think either of us merited a red card," Messi said afterward.

There have been other moments when this beckoned. Remember the UEFA Supercup Final between Barcelona and Shakhtar in 2009?

He definitely put his forehead onto Darijo Srna's nose but was pardoned by referee Frank De Bleckere when he probably shouldn't have been.

Over the years, I recall a few where Messi too has been at the outer limits of staying on the pitch. He's no angel.

But from the first day I watched him, for Barcelona B in Autumn 2003, until today, I've seen opponents kick, tug, barge, attack, provoke and try to damage him.

One of the first questions I ever asked him (by then it was 2005): "You get kicked all the time but you never react. Are you made of industrial rubber?"

He told me, then, that, early in matches, he could feel the pain and discomfort, but once a contest was in full flow, he was so desperate to get the ball and influence the result that he barely felt any of it.

Yet what he feels most keenly, especially now, is a sense of loss, a sense of further great achievements potentially slipping away, a sense of "where have all the good times gone" and I've no doubt a sense that Father Time is starting to scythe at him just as dangerously as any opponent ever has.

So when Villalibre, loveable for his beard, his Ron Swanson from "Parks and Recreation" impersonation, his terrific equaliser in this dramatic final and for his magical trumpet voluntary once the cup was in Basque hands, added a little streetwise bodychecking to his repertoire, I find it little to wonder at that Messi, finally, snapped.

Justice wasn't done because the referee allowed the temperature to boil up and over thanks to choosing flower power over card power, justice wasn't done because Villalibre didn't get a second booking.

But, Leo, old chum, justice was done for your right-hook rabbit punch.

It's been a long time coming, I genuinely don't know how you kept your temper until now. But the next few games you miss because of suspension for violent conduct, well, you earned them, all right.

And now that this has happened, if you thought they were out to provoke you before, just watch what comes next.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Lionel Messi finally saw red after
753 zen-like Barcelona matches

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Female wheelchair tennis players participate in recent training at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's courts. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Gymkhana Club urges parents, guardians to back children's participation in sports

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) has advised parents and guardians in Tanzania to involve their children in sporting activities.

Alfred Kinswaga, DGC chairman, issued the statement at the end of this year's edition of the Mapinduzi Cup squash tournament, which took place at the club last weekend.

He disclosed that the facility values the importance of sports among children. He said DGC has seven sports sections with all accommodating children.

"I'm asking all our members to bring their children here to play. We have the facilities which are friendly for them. Sports are good for the mental growth of young people," he said.

He also outlined DGC's strategic plan of involving many children in sports, saying they want to start offering golf and swimming basic training to young people every weekend.

"We started with football, which had the young ones train here every weekend, junior tennis players also train here, soon we will go to golf, swimming and other sporting activities," he disclosed.

"We want the young ones to have basic knowledge of sports, we want to groom them so that they can become good athletes in the future," he said.

Kinswaga said gone are the days where sports were taken as a pastime activity, saying now sports are a big industry with billions of money involved.

"Sports are now a big business, with billions of money being involved in them, we must give our children the opportunity to play, you never know, maybe in the future they can earn their living through sports," he said.

He thanked the DGC Squash Section and organizers of Mapinduzi Cup squash tournament for the event which he described as successful.

The DGC chairman also thanked Zanzibar players for taking part at the tournament.

"On behalf of DGC, I thank Zanzibar players for taking part in this tournament. I also appreciate Salem Construction for sponsoring this year Mapinduzi Cup tournament," he disclosed.

"Squash is a unique sport which can be played at any time by people of all ages, we will arrange to visit Zanzibar so that we can play there," he said.

Taifa Stars plot Zambia downfall in CHAN finals



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has said he is upbeat ahead of the squad's match against Zambia in the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals in Limbe, Cameroon today.

In a monitored interview, the coach said morale and confidence among his players is extremely high, noting good results in today's game will boost his squad's chances of performing well in other games.

"The morale in the camp and confidence is very high, all players are in good shape, we will play to win," the coach stated in a brief monitored interview.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, who is with the team in Cameroon, also said all the players are ready for the game.

He also said the coming in of veteran and experienced defender Erasto Nyononi and assistant coach Suleiman

Matola has boosted morale in the team.

The two arrived in the camp late, as Matola was with his club, Simba SC, in this year's Mapinduzi Cup competition in Zanzibar, while Nyononi was attending to family matters.

"All the players are looking forward to the game, we are waiting for the team doctors to assess injured players today evening (yesterday), but all in all the team is in good shape and ready for the game," he said.

Taifa Stars are in Group D alongside Zambia, Guinea and Namibia.

Players making Taifa Stars in the CHAN finals are Aishi Manula, Juma Kaseja, Daniel Mgore, Shomari Kapombe, Edward Manyama, Yasin Mustafa, Yusuph Mhili, Lucas Kikoti, John Bocco, Feisal Salum and Deus Kaseke.

Others are Erasto Nyononi, Said Ndemla, Baraka Majogoro, Ditram Nchimbi, Adam Omary, Farid Mussa, Ayoub Lyanga, Israel Mwenda, Zubeir Dabi, Bakari Mwametyo and Ibrahim Ame.

Zambia's national team's head coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic is reported to have said his squad is ready for today's game.

The coach issued the comments after his side's 1-1 draw with Libya in a friendly which was the team's final preparatory match on Thursday.

He stated: "We have tried all the players that we are counting on except a few and we have checked the two goalkeepers, seen where we are at present, how to do things and how not to do things."

"The match has given us very good answers that we need to be concentrating from the first to the last minute cause one moment of lapse you allow them to shoot and concede a goal like this it would have been much better to go into the match against Tanzania with confidence by winning," he said.

The two teams have played 31 times, with Zambia winning 17 games, losing five and posting draw nine times.

TPC election attracts 15 contenders

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has disclosed that 15 people have collected forms to contest for the committee's leadership posts at the body's coming election scheduled for Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The TPC outgoing secretary general, Tuma Dandi, said all preparations for the election are going on very smoothly.

"Preparations for our election are going on very smoothly, the election will be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city on Saturday and so far 15 people have collected forms to contest for various posts at TPC," he said.

Dandi, who announced that he will contest for the TPC chairmanship, could not mention people, who have collected the forms, saying he only knows names of few people who will contest.

He said former Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) secretary general Ramadhan Namkoveka will contest for the same position at TPC, Vincent Kanduma will contest for the vice-chairman's post, whilst Francis Gugu is vying for the treasurer general's post.

Dandi, who is expected to win easily, has served as the TPC secretary general for one term.

He had, in the previous interview, described his term in office as a mixed bag, saying the committee failed to fulfill some of its obligations due to lack of finances and the coronavirus pandemic affected them a lot this year.

"There are some things which we managed to achieve, but we failed some due to lack of finances and the coronavirus crisis this year affected us a lot," he said.

Under Dandi, the TPC worked hard to promote Paralympic sports, and the sports turned out to be quite popular in Tanzania during the committee's officials' tenure.

After taking over as the TPC secretary general, Dandi then said part of his agenda will focus on enhancing athletes performances, good governance, strategic partnership and marketing.

The TPC leaders, who will be ushered into office on Saturday, will be tasked with, among others, ensuring that Sports for People With Disabilities (SPWD) develop in the country by making sure that they have a strong capacity building initiative for both administrative and technical officials, introducing long-term athletes and coach.

Ruvu Shooting recruit seven new players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COAST Region's Ruvu Shooting have bolstered their squad by signing five new players, seeking to finish within the top four spots in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

In addition, the team hopes to enter the camp ready for preparations for the VPL second phase, which started recently but was bought to a halt to give room for Tanzania's Taifa Stars' participation in the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals in Cameroon.

Ruvu Shooting's information officer, Masau Bwire, said the registra-

tion of the players has taken into account the recommendations issued by the squad's technical bench headed by Charles Boniface Mkwasa.

He mentioned the registered players as Edward Manyama from Namungo FC, Haji Mwinyi from Zanzibar's KMKM, James Msvu from Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, Adam Kiondo from Yanga and Haruna Fadhill as free agents, each signing a six-month contract.

"We have already completed the registration of players in the mini transfer window and now we are focusing on preparations so that the squad can return with renewed

vigour and perform well in the second phase," he said.

Bwire said Ruvu Shooting can live up to their expectations if they will continue with the morale they have had since the first phase.

He also warned other VPL sides they should brace for defeat in the latter's fixtures against Ruvu Shooting as soon as the league resumes.

The Ruvu Shooting official said their squad coached by native coach, Mkwasa, is strong, and they are using this period to work on weaknesses the squad showcased in its fixtures in the VPL's first phase.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV
TONIGHT @ 9:00
NIRVANA
TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastAfrica RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM