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Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey

BUSINESS GGML donates 50m/- to support CCBRT mission

Absa Bank Tanzania promotes vaccination to country's programmes

Villagers set to benefit more from Regrow project

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UN agencies, TATO link up on community impact, income

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

POOR communities near key tourist spots are set to get their share of tourism dollars, if a proposed strategy backed by two UN agencies for spurring the local economy is endorsed.

The plan given as an integrated tourism and local economic development, seeks to find the best method for ordinary people living near the major tourist circuits in the northern, southern, western and coastal zones to benefit from the tourism business.

The country offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Tanzania are backing up a green growth and innovation disruptions project along with the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO). The point is to find an anchor for integrated tourism and local development strategy, top officials asserted.



Tracing the tourist dollar in northern Tanzania," a study by the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) asserts that in attracting 700,000 tourists with total earnings of nearly \$950m, around 18 percent of the income (\$171m) reaches communities nearby, via a scatter of 'multiplier effects.'

Dr Josaphat Kweka, lead consultant at the Talanta International Ltd which drew up the document says the plan is expected to enhance recovery of tourism from the COVID-19 pandemic and identify ways in which local businesses and communities around the tourist attraction assets realize benefits from the industry, to elicit their commit-

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Study: Heart disease stalking capital city



Defence and National Service minister Dr Stergomena Tax (R) and Rwanda's Ambassador to Tanzania, Maj Gen Charles Karamba Teny, have a quick word on the sidelines of the 11th East African Community Defence Partnership Summit held in Arusha city at the weekend. Photo courtesy of EAC

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A NEW study has uncovered a rise in the number of cases of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Dodoma city, with 26.4 per cent of households having at least one member with an ailment linked to NCDs.

Dr Francis Levira, a researcher with the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) explained at the weekend that the study has shown that cardiovascular diseases lead NCDs in the capital, with a prevalence of ten per cent, back pain (7.8 per cent prevalence), diabetes (5.5 per cent of households), heart diseases (4.1 per cent) and chronic respiratory diseases (3.0 per cent) as the leading types of NCDs.

The research focused on sustainable development in urban Tanzania taking Dodoma as a case study. It indicates that overall, 31 per cent of households reported multiple NCDs cases, in one or more than one person.

Presenting the research findings he



Dodoma is one among cities recording notable sustainable development in health, education and housing conditions

said multiple NCD cases are common in households with older household heads compared to younger ones.

The study is part of the sustainable health learning cities (SHLC) project aimed at strengthening capacity to address health and education challenges in neighborhoods across some growing cities in Africa and Asia, he stated.

Research includes Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Bangladesh, China, India and the Philippines, with filed results showing that about 49 per cent of Dodoma residents aged 18 years and above do not comply with recommended exercise levels per week.

Five World Health Organisation

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Kinana set to chair democracy centre



By Guardian Correspondents

ANOTHER high-profile leadership function is dangling for Col. (rt'd) Abdulrahman Kinana (pictured), a former ruling CCM secretary general who was on Friday unanimously elected as the party's vice chairman (Mainland).

He is later this week expected to assume functions of the revolving chairmanship of the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) from Zitto Kabwe,

Leader of the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo).

The 70-year-old retired army officer and one-time Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (2001 to 2006), Defence minister and CCM presidential campaign manager in several general elections, is set to take over at a national conference.

TCD chief executive officer Bernadetta Kafuko said in a statement

yesterday that the gathering, which will be themed on justice, peace and reconciliation, will be convened by the centre and will run for two days starting tomorrow.

The handover is expected to take place after the conference opens as ACT-Wazalendo has reached the end of its term of office in the position.

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UK minister to flag off key education initiative

By Guardian Reporter

UK cabinet minister Vicky Ford, who is charged with Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is in the country for a three-day visit to launch a key education programme, among other engagements.



A brief sketch said that Vicky Ford was appointed to the cabinet last September, and took over the Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean portfolio in December

President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to hold talks

with the UK cabinet official, as well as Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Minister Ford will thereafter join Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkanda his Regional Administration and Local Governments counterpart In-

nocent Bashungwa in launching a flagship education development programme for quality schools. The project will increase access to education for over four million children, with a particular focus on improving educational standards for disabled children,

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Kinana set to take up democracy centre chair

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Accordingly, Zitto Kabwe will formally vacate the position for Kinana as the most eligible official from the ruling party.

Kafuko said that preparations for the conference were on schedule with the TCD technical committee doing its utmost to ensure that things run satisfactorily, urging political parties and other stakeholders to support the centre towards making the event a resounding success.

This will help to ensure progress for the nation in general and TCD in particular, she stated, noting that various stakeholders including members of the diplomatic corps have shown keen interest in participating in the conference.

"There is immense interest shown in the centre and the upcoming conference by a wide array of national and international institutions as well as religious and civic organisations," she added.

TCD, which is guided by the motto "Smooth and peaceful approach to politics and elections", is a non-partisan organisation founded in mid-2005 by political parties with parliamentary representation.

Its current members are CCM, Chadema, the Civic United Front, NCCR-Mageuzi and ACT-Wazalendo.

Political parties with no parliamentary representation are associate members participating in TCD governance organs by being represented as a bloc by one political party on a six-month rotational basis.

The centre is meant to serve as a cross-party platform through which parliamentary parties cooperate in building and strengthening a culture for multiparty democracy through dialogue and consultation for strategies on a democratic development agenda.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-L) exchanges greetings with NMB Bank Plc's head of government business, Vicky Bishubo (in yellow T-shirt), shortly after inaugurating this year's edition of the nationwide Uhuru Torch Race - as chief guest - in Njombe Region. Right is Anne Makinda, a former Speaker of the National Assembly. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UK minister to flag off key education initiative

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children from resource-poor areas and girls. UK funding has helped over 15.6m children worldwide to get an education from 2015 to 2020, including 8.1m girls, the UK High Commission said in a statement at the weekend.

The minister who departs tomorrow will have a range of meetings and visits to Moshi and Dar es Salaam depicting the breadth and depth of the UK's relationship with Tanzania, in business, climate change as well as in combating serious and organized crime. Ahead of arrival, the minister

expressed her delight to make a visit to Tanzania to launch a major education initiative, looking forward to talks with President Samia and top officials, and seeing the UK-Tanzania relationship in action. A brief sketch said that Vicky Ford was appointed to the cabinet last September, and

took over the Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean portfolio in December. She was previously under-secretary of state for Children and Families at the Education portfolio from February 2020 to September 2021. She was first elected as Conservative MP for Chelmsford in 2017. Her responsibilities include

Africa, the Caribbean and small island developing states plus Latin America, especially in relation to conflict stabilization and mediation, international finance, safeguarding global education, gender and equality, plus the provision of scholarships, the Foreign Office sketch noted.



African Business Council president Dr Amany Asfour (L) gifts CRDB Bank Plc group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela a souvenir as members of the Egypt, Zambia, Botswana, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Uganda business chambers tour the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Others in the picture are East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture CEO Charles Kahuthu (2nd-R) and CRDB Bank Congo CEO Jessica Nyachiro. The delegation commended CRDB's strategy, whose thrust is on expanding its operations across the East Africa region in the wake of the implementation of the African Free Trade Agreement. The bank is one of the main sponsors of this year's East African Trade and Industry Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Study: Heart disease stalking capital city

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standard mental health questions were used to measure population mental health wellbeing score and determine the percentage of the population with depression, he stated.

Other research findings suggest that 11 percent of the populations are depressed with 24 percent in the low income category compared to 1.7 percent from high income levels, it said. Individuals with long-term illnesses reported a higher proportion of depression at 36 percent, the study noted.

Respondents who reported to never do physical exercises also reported a high percentage of depression at 17 percent, in contrast with eight percent for those doing regular exercises, it stated.

Prof Davis Mwamfupe, the mayor of the capital, officiated at the opening ceremony of the stakeholders' meeting that brought together local government authorities and other ministerial departments. He lauded the researchers for the good work and how it depicts reality in the city.

The findings will help in reviewing different policies and regulations and see how the city was growing, he declared, noting that the report also profiles the city's improved sustainable development in the past few years.

A majority of residents, at 49 percent live in private houses and 45 percent live in rented premises, while

72.4 percent of residents use septic tanks and 11 percent of households are connected to the public sewage disposal system.

At least 63 percent of houses in the capital have toilets and 36 percent of households share toilets. Water supply reached 30 percent of households piped inside their houses, while 37 percent of households access water piped to household yards, the report noted.

Most city residents have an exclusive room for cooking and 45 percent cook outside their houses. About 33 percent cook within house corridors, it was indicated.

"Dodoma is one among cities recording notable sustainable development in health, education and housing conditions," the researcher affirmed.

The city faces increasing

migration and urbanization within the region and beyond, while education coverage was mostly universal with primary school enrolment for pupils aged 7 to 13 years of age was universal but some tended to drop out later, leaving 87 percent net enrolment. Enrolment has minor disparities by gender, with enrolment ratios for the capital on the whole being higher than the national average, the city father intoned.

Factors associated with low enrolment include household head's employment status, single parent families, the presence of employed adult household members and location of a household in the city agglomeration, the report indicated.

Ordinary level secondary school enrolment for children aged 14 to 17 years stood at 86 percent gross enrolment and 58 percent net presence in school up to the end, researchers noted.

Half of pupils attend schools within 20 minutes of walking while 50 percent of pupils reach school tired or failing to return home for lunch and return to school for afternoon classes, the presenter added.

UN agencies, TATO link up on community impact

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ment to sustainable conservation.

The strategy seeks to empower all actors in the entire tourism value chain to improved capacity and become more competitive, resilient and effectively integrated into the industry, he stated, elaborating that it focuses on growth, poverty reduction and social inclusion.

It similarly promotes participation and local dialogue, connects people and their resources for decent employment and a higher quality of life for residents in the surroundings,

he stated, emphasizing that a key aspect of sustaining the benefits and contribution of tourism on the economy is to ensure local ownership as anchoring the tourism development strategy.

The sustainability of tourism assets depends significantly on the extent to which the surrounding local community appreciates and benefits directly or indirectly from its development or growth, he declared, telling stakeholders at the weekend that a strategy to ensure tourism stirs local economic development is of utmost importance.

Christine Musisi, head of the UNDP

country office, said at the key players' strategic meeting to deliberate on the blueprint that the UN agency realizes the importance of involving communities close to tourism spots and extended zones in conservation and in sharing benefits of the tourism business.

The strategy can catalyse change by enhancing linkages in the tourism ecosystem through job creation, stimulating innovative business models, and uplifting livelihoods, she stated.

In brushing up the proposed blueprint, UNDP will collaborate with UNWTO and TATO on the basis of ministerial projections on how best the plan can be implemented once it is

endorsed, he asserted.

"Tracing the tourist dollar in northern Tanzania," a study by the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) asserts that in attracting 700,000 tourists with total earnings of nearly \$950m, around 18 percent of the income (\$171m) reaches communities nearby, via a scatter of 'multiplier effects.'

Marcel Laizer, the UNWTO deputy director for development assistance, said that cultural tourism is the best method to transfer tourists' dollars to the poor in the surrounding areas compared to other types of tourism, as it offers complementary products

that are invisible in the other tourism models.

These products include making optimal use of local knowledge, culture, attractions like visiting traditional healers, taking up samples of handicrafts, tasting the cuisine or even taking up cooking classes, as well as taking pictures of samples of rare animals like chameleons, birds, snakes, aside from life legends of those communities, he stated.

Creating win-win situations by focusing on enhancing the length of stay and local expenditure through offering new activities is the key to the new strategy, he explained.

TATO chairman Wilbard Chambulo said the strategy should also focus on how to increase the number of tourists as its multiplier effects will certainly touch a wider mass of ordinary people.

TATO CEO Sirili Akko expressed gratitude to UNDP for generous support to the organization and the sector at critical moments, commending UNWTO for its diligent patronage of the industry.

"We thank our UN partners for the support and patronage and the government for guidance," he said. TATO remains a reliable partner for stimulating local content in the industry supply chain, he added.

Teachers complain about transfers to still unfinished primary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TEACHERS in Mbeya region have appealed to the government to allocate them at work stations whose infrastructure have been completed in order to enhance performance and students' perform well in their examinations.

They also called on the government to address challenges facing them in

regard to payment of their benefits including money for leave and transfer; the issues that they say contribute to their underperformance.

The remarks were made at the weekend by Sekela Malanga, Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) Secretary for Mbeya Region at the Union's meeting that discussed on various challenges facing teachers.

Malanga said many teachers, espe-

cially those allocated to new schools often face hardships especially when they are forced to teach students in classes whose construction have not been completed.

He added that the situation removes the morale in teaching resulting in poor passes in examinations.

"We teachers face many hardships, a teacher is allocated to a new school but on arriving there he finds poor

surroundings, incomplete infrastructures, no teachers' quarters including other essential needs, it discourages a lot," he lamented.

He also called on the government to stop forcing teachers receiving their salaries via commercial banks; instead they should use Mwalimu Commercial Bank (MCB).

Mbeya Region TTU Chairman, Nelsigwe Kajuni said the education sec-

tor are among important sectors for national development due to its production experts hence they should be well looked into.

He said if teachers have many complaints they fail to perform well as they spend a lot of the time trying to solve the problems instead of teaching students in class.

For his part, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said the

government recognizes challenges facing teachers and continues to work on them to make sure they work in a friendly environment.

He said teachers are the ones holding the development of students as they are the ones can make them pass or fail, hence he pledged to work with them in solving some of the challenges they face.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angeline Mabula (3rd-R) pictured at the weekend moments after landing in Tanga Region by helicopter while leading a ministerial delegation on a mission to provide feedback on the resolution of a land-related dispute involving 975 villages. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt tells UNDP all production sectors receive more funding

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Finance and Planning minister, has told the UN Development Programme (UNDP) that the government is fully set to make sure all essential production sectors receive additional funding to enhance their performances.

Dr Nchemba made the remarks when he met with and held discussions with UNDP delegation led by its country Director, Ms Christine Musisi here.

"In the 2022/23 Budget and subsequent ones, we shall invest more funds in productive sectors including agriculture for strengthening irrigation, quality seed production, food storage, quality livestock, fishing and improving business environment for small and medium entrepreneurs," he explained.

He said that these sectors were Phase VI Government's priorities and go in tandem with the implementation of the Nation's 2025 Vision and Five Year National Development Plan

The Minister praised the UN organisation for its contribution in the country's development in various economic and social sectors and asked for it to continue supporting government efforts in developing its people.

For his part, the Ministry's Permanent secretary, Ms Amina Khamis Shaaban said the Third National Five Year Development Plan is estimated to cost 40.6trn/- from the private sector and appealed to UNDP, to assist in finding the funds in collaboration with its various affiliates.

For her part, UNDP Country Representative Christine Musisi assured Tanzania that her organisation will continue working together with the government in contributing to its economic and social development through various projects in which it has invested including agriculture, blue economy as well as improving other production sectors.

She pledged that her organisation will continue to provide funds in production and investment areas through the Ministry of Finance and Planning but also convince other stakeholders globally to invest money in various investment areas that will contribute in poverty alleviation.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Kizazi Hodari-Southern Zone

Background

Deloitte Tanzania has been awarded a contract to implement a Kizazi Hodari – Southern Zone project in Tanzania. This is a five years' project (March 2022 to February 2026) funded by the American People through USAID aiming at supporting the Government of Tanzania's (GOT) Ministry of Health to achieve HIV epidemic control by improving the health, well-being, and protection of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and youth in high HIV burden communities within the Southern Zones of Tanzania specifically Iringa, Njombe and Ruvuma regions. The program intends to increase access to and use of health/HIV, social, and protection services among OVC and youth in order to contribute to 95-95-95 goals: 95% of persons living with HIV (PLHIV) know their HIV status; 95% of PLHIV who know their status are on treatment; and 95% of PLHIV on treatment are virally suppressed, by 2030.

Deloitte is therefore seeking for experienced, self-motivated, highly competent individuals with exemplary ethical conduct to join the Kizazi Hodari – Southern Zone program in any of the following 25 positions.

Position Title	Vacancy	Position Title	Vacancy
Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Manager	1	Economic Strengthening Officer	3
Communication Manager	1	Case Management Officer	3
Result Management Office Manager	1	HIV Integration Officer	3
Technical & QI Manager	1	HIV Preventive Officer	1
Administration Manager	1	M&E Officer	4
Regional Program Manager	1	Grant's officer	1
Economic Strengthening Coordinator	1	HR and Administration Officer	1
Gender & Youth Coordinator	1	Financial accountant	1
HIV Prevention Coordinator	1	Accountant	3
Case Management Coordinator	1	IT Associate	1
Senior Grants officer	1	Drivers	11
Senior MEL Officer	1	Office Attendant	1
Health Informatics Officer	1		

To access the detailed job descriptions and requirements, please visit <https://deloitte.tt/3iQD6tL>. If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV, photocopies of academic certificate, and names of three referees with their contacts, quoting the position you are applying for on the subject of your email and application letter.

Applications should be submitted **electronically** to the following email address: **KizaziHodari-Southern Zone@deloitte.co.tz** not later than **15th April 2022 at 4:30 p.m.** Hard copy applications will **NOT** be accepted.

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TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



INVITATION TO TENDER

PROVISION OF ANNUAL FACILITY'S MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES

4 April 2022

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Co Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk storage facility for Petroleum Products with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA of Switzerland. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. TIPER hereby invites via International Competitive Bidding (ICB) eligible contractors to bid for **Provision of Annual Facility's Mechanical Maintenance Services**.
3. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) hereby invites experienced and reputable Mechanical Contractors who are locally registered in Class three (III) or above, to tender for provision of maintenance service in Mechanical Works on annual basis.
4. Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document by sending their request letters through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz or may obtain a hard copy of tender document at TIPER PROCUREMENT OFFICE on **Mondays to Fridays at 8:00A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**
5. All bids properly filled and enclosed in plain envelopes in one original plus one copy, properly filled and enclosed in plain envelopes marked **Tender No: TP/04/2022/ICB/W/002 for Provision of Annual Facility's Mechanical Maintenance Services**. All bidding documents must be delivered by Courier or Physically to: **The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.** The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **4.00 P.M. local time on 18th April, 2022**
6. All tenders in one original plus one copy respectively enclosed in a single envelope must be addressed and delivered physically to the Tender Committee Secretary, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER), P.O Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam
7. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **April 08, 2022 at 10:30am to 11:30 am** local time.
8. During the site visit all bidders will be required to come with own PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This include as minimum **Steel Toe Safety Boots, Cotton Overcoat and Helmet**. Bidders without PPE's will not be allowed onto the site.
9. There shall be NO public opening of bids.
10. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
11. TIPER is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

**THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),
P.O. BOX 2608,
KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.**

VETA graduates appeal for priorities to access council loans in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent

GRADUATES in various fields from VETA training college in Shinyanga have appealed to the government to give them priority in accessing the 10 per cent council loans to the vulnerable groups of which four per cent is issued to youth entrepreneurs.

They said a huge number of graduates from VETA colleges were loitering in the streets due to lack of employment and capital for self-employment.

They made the remarks at the weekend at their graduation through special programme to enhance technical knowledge to the youth sponsored by the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities).

The graduate's statement read by Mariam Saidi said a total of 238 students - 135 boys and 103 girls graduated, but the challenge they face is lack of employment as well as capital for self-employment.

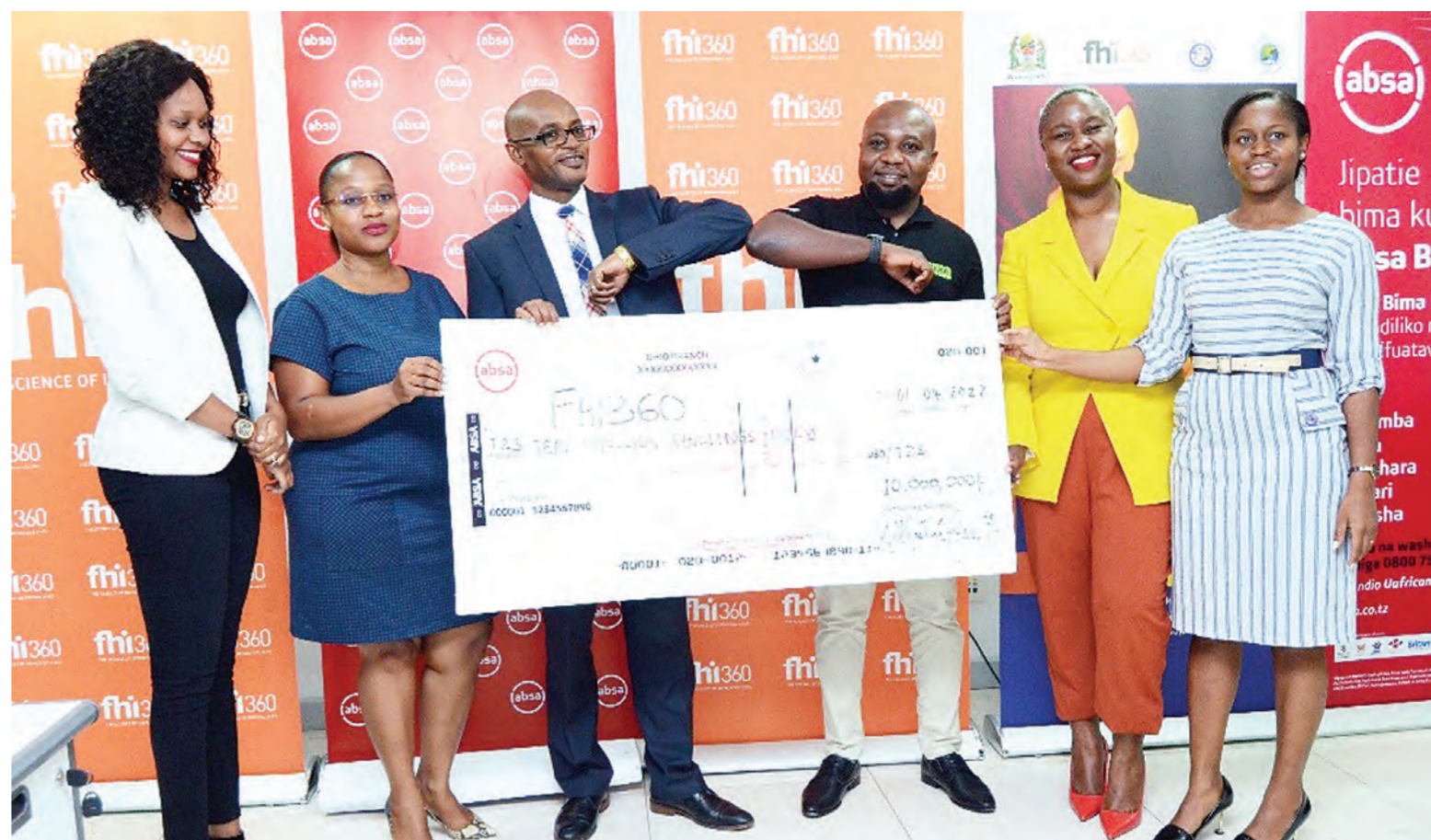
"We thank the PM's office for the training that has given us knowledge, but our main cry is lack of employment and business capital," she said, and appealed to the government to give them priority in accessing Council loans.

For his part, Acting Shinyanga VETA College Principal, Magu Mabelele said for the training provided to the youth, they were well trained because they participated in building the Igunga and Kishapu VETA schools, including in the making of tables, chairs and desks for both primary and secondary schools for Shinyanga municipality.

For his part, the programme Coordinator, Donald Bukombe cited technical fields the students had learned at the college as including domestic electricity works, modelling innovation, tailoring, masonry, welding, carpentry and repair of electric appliances.

The ceremony's official guest, Shinyanga District Administrative Secretary, Boniface Chambi allayed fears from the graduates saying Council loans were available; hence they should form groups and follow all the set procedures in accessing the loans.

Meanwhile, he called upon the graduates that when they go back to their homes they should be good ambassadors in mobilising the people to emerge in big numbers for the population and Housing Census slated for August this year to enable the government in its development plans.



Hugo Chilufya (3rd-L), Absa Bank Tanzania's Corporate and Investment Banking director, presents a dummy cheque for 10m/- to Family Health International (fhi360) country director Waziri Nyoni (to his-L) in support of the agency's vaccination campaign against Covid-19 in the country. The event was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Looking on (from-L) are Absa Tanzania citizenship manager Hellen Siria, fhi360 senior technical advisor Theresia Mrema, Absa head of global markets/sales Irene Rwegalulira and Absa relationship manager Neema Athanas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

HBF members trained on VAT e-filing system

By Beatrice Philemon

HINDU Business Forum (HBF) members have been trained on Tanzania Revenue Authority's upgraded Value Added Tax (VAT) electronic filing system for easy submission of tax payments to TRA, hence enhancing revenue collection.

TRA tax management officer, Patrick Massawe said when speaking at a one-day training over the weekend, which was organised by HBF and involved more than 70 business people

from different sectors across the country. The new system target medium and large business persons across the country for tax payments.

Under the programme, HBF's members were trained on the benefits of the new VAT filing system, how to operate it, how to register for the un-registered taxpayer, how to submit their VAT payments, and how to use the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) application or banks.

They were also trained on how to process invoices with verification

codes as well as how to fill in all appropriate parts of the purchase of goods and services and all adjustments required to be made by the taxpayers.

According to Masawe, VAT-E filing system is a new system designed to simplify the filing processes to improve taxpayers' filing of VAT returns. "We're here to educate Hindu business communities because are not knowledgeable on it, the system will help them to get VAT payments report on time," he said, noting that

the system is easy to make assessments for the new system and identify people who can interfere into the system without permission.

HBF's convener Amit Ladwa lauded TRA to conduct a seminar for HBF's members because the majority of them are not knowledgeable about it and how to use it for VAT returns.

"We commend the government and the TRA's efforts in upgrading its digitization of the tax filings and returns," he said.

The upgrade will certainly address

several challenges faced by taxpayers currently when filling the VAT returns which our TRA colleagues shall take us through and we hope and expect that the upgrade will also facilitate the timely review and refund of VAT going forward as TRA's system should be able to validate all the input VAT claimed, by the taxpayer automatically and instantaneously.

"We cannot ignore the fact that digitization has its challenges and shortcomings too, we do expect some teething issues in the initial stages

which I'm sure shall be resolved over time," he said, requesting TRA to fix the bugs timely and not to penalize the taxpayers for any errors or misclassifications whilst filling the tax returns.

According to him, imposing penalties hurt taxpayers more when they arise from unintentional faults or errors, so when I say teething problems I do mean that TRA should in this initial stage not bare their teeth and instead exercise tolerance and understanding towards taxpayers," he noted



Millie Rughani (L), Tanzania Universal Concept Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS) director, presents a trophy to Visual Calculation winner Mary Gerald at UCMAS' first national competition in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The latter is a Standard Six pupil at the city's Montfort Primary School. Right is UCMAS Business Development director Roger Ohemeng awarding the winner's classmate, Tutindaga Gwamaka, who scooped the Mental Calculation trophy. The contest is meant to develop children's concentration, creative thinking, memory power, logical reasoning abilities and confidence in facing challenges. Centre is UCMAS' technical director for East Africa, Samuel Hansen. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Manyara regional secretariat told to treat workers fairly

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Region's Secretariat officials have been called upon to serve workers fairly and professionally and with creativity so that they should perform in tandem with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's work speed.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by Dr Laurean Ndungulu, the Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management) when addressing the Secretariat's staff in order to know problems they face when performing their duties.

He said as they do so they should make sure they abide by laws, regulations and work procedures governing public service.

"We must endeavour to serve workers professionally, we must not victimize them, we should give them their rights," Dr Ndungulu said.

He also called on them to recognize problems facing workers under them and deal with them promptly so that even if they retire they should leave good marks for others to emulate.

He also used the occasion to call on them to be creative and work with high professionalism.

For his part, the Secretary of the Public Service Commission, Mathew Kilama said among their responsibilities is to advise the President about issues of appointment of officials and advise all workers as well as issuing various guidelines.

Earlier, welcoming the officials, Manyara Regional Administrative secretary, Caroline Mthapula said in the past they were in short of engineers but the issue was solved after the government employed several of them who were now supervising development projects.

Mthapula said they still in short of workers, as well the existence of heads of departments who have been acting on the posts for long time and the shortage of equipment, in particular vehicles because the region is huge, it needs reliable transport to supervise all development projects.

Igunga District Council pays out 471.7m/- to vulnerable people

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

IGUNGA District Council in Tabora Region has dished out a total of 471.78m/- in loans to vulnerable groups including women, youths and people with disabilities in July to October 2021.

The council community development officer, Godfrey Chueze revealed this at an event of

issuing loans for the quarter beginning October to December 2022 to 14 vulnerable groups valued at 88.20m/-.

Chueze explained that the money is aimed to empower people economically and is drawn from 10 per cent of the Council internal revenue.

He said the community development department in the district continues to empow-

er its residents economically in implementing the Local Council Financial Act (cap 290).

He said in FY 2021/22 the council implanted development projects after allocating a total of 229.7m/- being 10 per cent of its internal funds to the vulnerable groups.

He said in the FY 2021/22 for quarter year period July to September, the council dished out loans totaling 113.98m/- to the vulnerable

groups.

However, he stressed that the loans provided to vulnerable groups were interest free and are dished out after the groups satisfy all the set conditions.

Speaking after receiving the loans some beneficiaries including Magreth Benjamin, Wakulu Juma, Hamisi Kafumu and Kimali Busagara at different times, among others

thanked the government for providing them with the interest free loans.

For his part, the acting Igunga District Executive Director, Joseph Elias called on the beneficiaries to use the money for the intended purposes only and which had to be repaid within the given time and pledged that the council will continue allocating money from its internal revenues for more groups to ben-



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (TECHNICAL REGULATION EXPERT – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TF0B5747-TZ
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TF0B5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Technical Regulation Expert
Reference No: P169561

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received funding from the World Bank to implement the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA). The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals (MoWEM) of Zanzibar intends to use part of the funding from the ZESTA Project to hire a qualified expert to support ZURA to strengthen the technical regulation framework of the electricity sector so as to provide effective regulatory oversight and ensure sustainable development of the energy sector.

Objective

The Technical Regulation Expert will be responsible for developing and implementing a technical regulation framework and systems for enforcing and monitoring sector entities' compliance with technical standards and requirements to ensure the safety, security, and quality of electricity supply in Zanzibar. The establishment of the technical regulation framework and systems will be in accordance with best practices in international regulation relevant to Zanzibar. He/She will support ZURA to develop regulatory tools comprising technical standards, regulations, guidelines, rules and codes to govern use of the electricity network by all users (end consumers and generators/vendors), as well as procedures to be adopted by ZURA to enforce them and systematically monitor compliance by sector agents.

Scope of assignment

The Economic Regulation Expert will be embedded within ZURA and be required to provide direct support to the Authority to perform the following duties:

- Develop, disseminate, and support implementation of technical standards, regulations, rules, and codes governing electricity infrastructure development, its operation and maintenance and quality of service provided to regulated consumers.
- Establish and roll out a framework and procedures for systematic monitoring of all relevant sector entities' compliance with the established license terms and conditions.
- Conduct periodic technical compliance monitoring visits and audits, identify areas of non-compliance, and support the regulated entities that are non-compliant to understand all the contents of the regulations and what they imply in terms of obligations.
- Provide training to ZURA staff to review and conduct investigations on accidents/incidents relating to electricity supply and, where necessary, support resolution of customer complaints relating to supply quality and reliability.
- Provide technical input into evaluation of license and electricity tariff applications submitted by all sector entities.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports on the state and technical performance of Zanzibar's power system.
- Support ZURA to comply with its roles during preparation of Zanzibar's electricity Integrated Resource Plan/Power Master Plan, including reviewing the technical assumptions and deliverables.
- Participate in determination of investment requirements for Zanzibar's electricity sector in the short, medium and long term.
- Support ZURA to comply with its roles during monitoring of implementation of new investments in electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and advise ZURA Management on demand and supply issues.
- Establish the appropriate technical regulation framework for promoting variable renewable energy development in Zanzibar.
- Support RGoZ in the process of determining the appropriate market structure, policy and regulatory framework to promote private sector investment in Zanzibar's electricity sector.
- Participate in research in new technologies capable of playing a critical enabling role for renewable energy and energy efficiency integration and facilitate the adoption of digital technologies and grid modernization to improve performance, efficiency and flexibility.
- Prepare terms of reference for engaging consultants to undertake studies, monitor implementation of consultancy contracts including review and approval of deliverables.
- Represent ZURA in designated industry fora at national, regional, and international levels including activities of the regional energy regulatory associations.
- Provide hands-on training to ZURA staff during execution of the above tasks and recommend to ZURA Management relevant training opportunities offered by national, regional and international institutions that are beneficial for ZURA staff in the department of technical regulation.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible expert to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested experts should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The expert should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.
- Master's Degree in Engineering, Renewable Energy or Business Administration.
- At least ten (10) years' working experience in the electricity sector as a technical regulation expert, of which at least five (5) years should have been in senior management capacity.
- Demonstrable knowledge of electricity sector issues and utility operations in Africa, including technical, economic, financial, and legal regulatory aspects.
- Previous experience in power sector technical regulation in Sub-Saharan Africa will be an added advantage.
- Superior data management, analytical, report writing and presentation skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

The attention of interested expert is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Expert intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations

The Expert will be selected in accordance with individual Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following <https://www.zanzibar-energy.com/energy-sector-library/>, then on the institution choose Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 07:00 to 03.30pm East African Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person (hard copy along with an USB drive), or e-mail by 10.30am EAT on April 25, 2022.

ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT (P169561) TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TECHNICAL REGULATION EXPERT

1. Background

Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority (ZURA) was established under Act No. 7 of 2013 as a legal entity with the mandate to regulate the electricity, water and petroleum sectors. The functions of ZURA include among others, licensing, tariff review, monitoring performance and standards with regards to quality, safety, health and environment, and enforcing regulations. ZURA is also responsible for promoting effective competition and economic efficiency, protecting the interests of utilities, consumers and service providers and promoting the availability of regulated services to all consumers including low income, rural and disadvantaged consumers in the regulated sectors.

According to Section 11(1) of the Act, ZURA's mandate is to: (i) establish standards for regulated goods and services and terms and conditions for supply of goods and services; (ii) ensure that all utility suppliers provide adequate service and have means to finance their activities; (iii) prepare codes of conduct, reporting requirements, scheme of service, staff regulations and any other actions necessary to regulate utilities effectively; (iv) facilitate and encourage private sector participation, fair competition, and participation in investments in public utilities; (v) ensure compliance by public utilities with the laws governing their activities; (vi) prepare and issue rules and directives to public utility sector; (vii) establish and implement adequate systems for monitoring the compliance by licensees with standards and applicable regulations, and making such information publicly available; (viii) establish an appropriate procedure for receiving, enquiring and resolving complaints by customers in relation to any utility services within the time provided under the regulations of the Act; (ix) facilitate the resolution of complaints and disputes; (x) disseminate information about matters of its functions; (xi) have due regard to the preservation and protection of the environment, the conservation of natural resources and health and safety of users; and, (xii) issue orders to regulated public utilities.

The electricity sector in Zanzibar is expanding and recently the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United

Republic of Tanzania (URT), secured funding from the World Bank to implement the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access (ZESTA) Project. The objective of the project is to expand access to reliable and efficient electricity services and to scale up renewable energy generation in Zanzibar. The project is supporting development of Zanzibar's first grid-scale 18MWp solar PV generation plant and battery storage infrastructure, construction of 132kV high voltage transmission infrastructure and investments in electricity distribution and access. In addition, the project is supporting sector institutional strengthening, and design and implementation of key planning, strategy, and regulatory frameworks. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals (MoWEM) of Zanzibar and the government-owned utility, Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO).

The ongoing and planned developments in Zanzibar's electricity sector necessitate strengthening of the regulatory environment, particularly the economic and technical regulatory framework, in order to support effective and sustainable development of the sector. The enhanced regulatory environment will particularly be critical in expanding electricity access, attracting private sector investments into the sector in the future and will also enable scaling up of renewable energy generation investments in Zanzibar.

MoWEM and ZURA wish to use part of the funds for the ZESTA Project to engage the services of a qualified and experienced expert in technical regulation to support ZURA to strengthen the technical regulation framework of the electricity sector so as to provide effective regulatory oversight and ensure sustainable development of the energy sector.

2. Objective

The Technical Regulation Expert will be responsible for developing and implementing a technical regulation framework and systems for enforcing and monitoring sector entities' compliance with technical standards and requirements to ensure the safety, security, and quality of electricity supply in Zanzibar. The establishment of the technical regulation framework and systems will be in accordance with best practices in international regulation relevant to Zanzibar. He/She will support ZURA to develop regulatory tools comprising technical standards, regulations, guidelines, rules and codes to govern use of the electricity network by all users (end consumers and generators/vendors), as well as procedures to be adopted by ZURA to enforce them and systematically monitor compliance by sector agents.

3. Scope of Work

The Technical Regulation Expert will be embedded within ZURA and be required to support the Authority to perform the following duties:

- Develop, disseminate, and support implementation of technical standards, regulations, rules, and codes governing electricity infrastructure development, its operation and maintenance and quality of service provided to regulated consumers.
- Establish and roll out a framework and procedures for systematic monitoring of all relevant sector entities' compliance with the established license terms and conditions.
- Conduct periodic technical compliance monitoring visits and audits, identify areas of non-compliance, and support the regulated entities that are non-compliant to understand all the contents of the regulations and what they imply in terms of obligations.
- Provide training to ZURA staff to review and conduct investigations on accidents/incidents relating to electricity supply and, where necessary, support resolution of customer complaints relating to supply quality and reliability.
- Provide technical input into evaluation of license and electricity tariff applications submitted by all sector entities.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports on the state and technical performance of Zanzibar's power system.
- Support ZURA to comply with its roles during preparation of Zanzibar's electricity Integrated Resource Plan/Power Master Plan, including reviewing the technical assumptions and deliverables.
- Participate in determination of investment requirements for Zanzibar's electricity sector in the short, medium and long term.
- Support ZURA to comply with its roles during monitoring of implementation of new investments in electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and advise ZURA Management on demand and supply issues.
- Establish the appropriate technical regulation framework for promoting variable renewable energy development in Zanzibar.
- Support RGoZ in the process of determining the appropriate market structure, policy and regulatory framework to promote private sector investment in Zanzibar's electricity sector.
- Participate in research in new technologies capable of playing a critical enabling role for renewable energy and energy efficiency integration and facilitate the adoption of digital technologies and grid modernization to improve performance, efficiency and flexibility.
- Prepare terms of reference for engaging consultants to undertake studies, monitor implementation of consultancy contracts including review and approval of deliverables.
- Represent ZURA in designated industry fora at national, regional, and international levels including activities of the regional energy regulatory associations.
- Provide hands-on training to ZURA staff during execution of the above tasks and recommend to ZURA Management relevant training opportunities offered by national, regional and international institutions that are beneficial for ZURA staff in the department of technical regulation.

4. Deliverables of the Technical Regulation Expert

- Technical standards, regulations, rules, and codes governing electricity infrastructure development, its operation and maintenance and quality of service provided to regulated consumers.
- Framework and procedures for systematic monitoring of all relevant sector entities' compliance with the established license terms and conditions.
- Technical compliance monitoring visits and audits of regulated entities.
- Training to ZURA staff to review and conduct investigations on accidents/incidents relating to electricity supply and, where necessary, support resolution of customer complaints relating to supply quality and reliability.
- Technical input into evaluation of license and electricity tariff applications submitted by all sector entities.
- Quarterly and annual reports on the state and technical performance of Zanzibar's power system.
- Input into preparation of Zanzibar's electricity Integrated Resource Plan/Power Master Plan.
- Progress reports on implementation of new investments in the electricity sector.
- Technical regulation framework for promoting variable renewable energy development in Zanzibar.
- Input into determination of the appropriate market structure, policy and regulatory framework for private sector investment in Zanzibar's electricity sector.
- Terms of reference for engaging consultants to undertake studies, and progress reports on implementation of consultancy contracts.
- Back-to-office reports on events/workshops attended.
- List of relevant staff training opportunities.

5. Qualifications and Experience

The Technical Regulation Expert should have the following minimum qualifications and experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.
- Master's Degree in Engineering, Renewable Energy or Business Administration.
- At least ten (10) years' working experience in the electricity sector as a technical regulation expert, of which at least five (5) years should have been in senior management capacity.
- Demonstrable knowledge of electricity sector issues and utility operations in Africa, including technical, economic, financial, and legal regulatory aspects.
- Previous experience in power sector technical regulation in Sub-Saharan Africa will be an added advantage.
- Superior data management, analytical, report writing and presentation skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

6. Reporting

The Technical Regulation Expert will report to the Director General of ZURA and work closely with ZURA's economic regulation and technical regulation teams.

7. Duration of assignment

The assignment shall be on full-term basis for a period of three (3) years, subject to a probation period of six (6) months. The contract may be extended subject to satisfactory performance and depending on need.

8. Duty Station

The Technical Regulation Expert will be based in Zanzibar City, Unguja, as an embedded consultant within ZURA.

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals,
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)
email: saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
Maisara, Zanzibar
Tel: +255 776 858555

E-mail: procurement@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz



Constitutional and Legal Affairs deputy minister Geoffrey Pinda (C) pictured with the ministry's permanent secretary, Mary Makondo (2nd-L), Registrar of Legal Aid Services registrar Felistas Mushi (L), Legal Services Facility - Tanzania CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala (2nd-R) and Zanzibar NGOs registrar Ahmed Khalid. It was at the conclusion of this year's edition of the Legal Aid Conference held in Dodoma late last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Avocado farmers laud govt for removing levies on the crop

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AVOCADO growers in Rungwe district, Mbeya region have thanked the government for removing several levies on the crop that had been chasing away buyers.

In recent months, fruits produced by farmers in the district lacked market and began to rot due some buyers running away from obstacle that ended in losses to farmers.

Briefing reporters here at the weekend, the farmers said they have asked the government to increase efforts in looking for buyers for their fruits especially at this time when the government has scrapped some of the levies on the crop.

Solomon Mwakapenda, an avocado farmer said they had been facing hardships because the government was arranging them buyers instead of letting them free to deal with their crop.

He said they were being forced to go and receive payments from financial institutions, especially banks or some other companies, the procedure they said was cumbersome for them.

He said in the period when buyers had run away from them, they incurred huge losses because they were forced to sell their fruits to middle-

men who were buying the crop at 30,000/- per bag.

For his part, Jafary Isyaka said farmers were being charged 150/- per kg whereby 50/- was for picking, 50/- for transport and 50/- for the cooperative union.

He said due to the situation buyers realised that the cost was high in regard to buying avocado in the district, hence they went away to buy the crop from other areas in the country.

He said many buyers went to Njombe and Songwe regions where purchase conditions were soft.

"We thank the District Commissioner for allowing us to sell our fruits to where we like to, as you know fertilizer's process are up, we also buy avocado seedlings and pay for other services as well, then there someone comes along and impose on us conditions on how to sell our fruits," Isyaka said.

Boniface Mwakabungu, another avocado grower said avocado are fruits that should be harvested soon after ripening as delay cause them to rot within a short time.

Hence, he added, he appealed to the government to announce to buyers to come along to buy the fruits since former conditions have been removed.

Legal aid service providers urged to set up, keep strategic cooperation with key players

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

GEOFFREY Pinda, deputy minister for the Constitutional and Legal Affairs, has urged stakeholders in the legal aid services sector to establish and maintain strategic cooperation with the government as a means of communicating recommendations to the government that are aimed at improving the sector.

Pinda made the call here over the weekend when wrapping up a two-day legal aid symposium

2022 that brought on board around 120 participants from the mainland and Zanzibar. The symposium was meant to deliberate on and evaluate implementation of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 and reflect on legal aid services as a whole.

The deputy minister pointed out that both the government and legal aid services providers are crucial partners in ensuring laws, policies and other instruments guarantee justice for all people.

"I assure you of the ministry's readiness to work with everyone involved in the sector by keeping our doors open to receive feedback, advice and other contributions regarding issues that ordinary citizens face across the country," Pinda said, adding that the government stands ready to work with stakeholders in the sector on a friendly, transparent and equitable basis towards common objective of nation-building.

Pinda also lauded legal aid providers for working hard and help-

ing the underprivileged who may otherwise never have access to legal aid services and solve pressing issues they encounter daily.

"It's imperative for us as the responsible ministry to assess the costs incurred in the provision of legal aid services and strengthen them by increasing the capacity of providers of these services. It is precisely for this reason that we saw it appropriate to remove hurdles such as the annual registration fee initially imposed on paralegals who work on a volun-

tary basis and in doing that help to improve the quality of these services," he said.

He echoed the opinion of the National Coordinator of the Tanzanian Paralegals Network (TAP-ANET) Tolbert Mmassy who reserved credit for the government on this decision.

The Legal Services Facility (LSF) Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said that event examined a number of legal aid issues and agreed on resolutions that a stakeholder task-

force will later produce a report on and submit to the government for implementation of the agreements.

Ng'wanakilala expressed gratitude to the government for its cooperation in ensuring legal aid providers were properly trained so that they are sufficiently equipped to provide quality services to women and children who are often at the receiving end of human rights violation.

Among key symposium's rec-

ommendations included the need for paralegals to be granted formal recognition at every local government levels, the cadre provided office space in public premises to increase access to legal aid services and enhancing collaboration with government authorities; criminal law mechanisms be included in the training curriculum for paralegals; and that the government set aside a fund dedicated to legal aid services in a deliberate bid to aid their sustainability.



Tigo communications manager Woinde Shisael speaks in Dar es Salaam at yesterday's launch of Tecno Spark 8 smartphones organised in partnership with Tecno, which was represented by Joyce Kaswalala (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Establishing regional consultative process on migration key for EAC growth, says Bazivamo

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Christophe Bazivamo, has underscored the importance of establishing the regional consultative process on migration for the region.

Bazivamo was speaking at the over the weekend during the 2nd regional conference on establishment of the EAC-RCP on Migration which took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

In his speech, the EAC DSG said the move would complement the existing forums of ministers responsible for labour and employment and the chiefs of immigration that coordinate migration-related matters.

"Establishment of the RCP will not only create a platform for Partner States to collectively consult on migration governance issues beyond labour but also offer a forum for multisectoral collaboration on migration matters," he noted.

Bazivamo reiterated to the conference the great benefits that the RCP can bring to the region and urged the Partner States to fast-track its establishment so that implementation can commence.

He disclosed to the ministers that the EAC, under the EAC Common Market Protocol, has registered several achievements in facilitating the movement of persons and labour for citizens to enjoy the benefits of integration.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Simon Chelugui committed the government of Kenya's support in establishing an EAC - RCP as an important forum that will present members states an opportunity to share experiences of good labour migration governance practices and strategies to use in collecting labour migration data and information.

"EAC-RCP will not only enhance dialogue, cooperation and complementarity on migration among the EAC Partner States, but also timely exchange of information and Kenya is ready to support its establishment," said Chelugui.

Regional director (East and the Horn of Africa) of International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mohammed Abdiker, said the EAC-RCP once established, will be a critical step for the region towards a common approach in addressing migration in a holistic manner against the backdrop of intensifying regional efforts to reinforce migration-related commitments and relevant implementation frameworks.

"I want to reiterate IOM's commitment to support processes on migration as part of our core work, fully respecting their State-driven nature," reaffirmed the regional director.

Ministers responsible for East African community affairs, labour/home affairs and directorates of immigration from the EAC Partner States have endorsed the establishment of the regional consultative process (EAC-RCP) on migration and to be recommended to the sectoral council of ministers responsible for EAC affairs and planning for approval.

The EAC-RCP will provide a platform for information-sharing and policy dialogue dedicated to deliberate specific migration issues in a comprehensive manner amongst the EAC partner states.

The EAC-RCP is expected to enhance networking relations amongst relevant governments' ministries, departments and agencies with migration-related mandates; establish a platform for stakeholders for setting agenda as well as priorities and niches in migration in the region; enhance linkages and partnerships with the national, other regional, continental and global platforms among others.

'Empower Maasai women to become decision makers'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MAASAI women in Arusha and Manyara regions have been asked to prepare forums to meet and exchange ideas on how best to participate at various levels of decision making bodies.

Maasai Women Development Organisation (MWEDO) executive director, Ndinini Sikar made the call over the weekend when speaking at a two-day symposium that brought together women from Ngorongoro, Monduli, Longido, Simanjiro and Kiteto districts in Arusha and Manyara regions.

It also involved women who are NGOs' representatives and councilors as well as social welfare representatives. They met in Arusha to discuss various issues including property and land ownership.

Ndinini Sikar said that through forum Maasai women will be able to learn from each other and they'll discuss what concerns them and get out of the cubical as most sessions have been involving only men.

She said women in pastoralist communities have no platforms to meet and exchange ideas, "that's is now important for them to come up with a forum to learn from each other and

discuss their issues freely and be able to find ways to get into different decision making levels."

"This is because in most cases many forums are dominated by men," she said, explaining that women in pastoralist communities have been fighting against the traditions and customs that hinder their development so in 2019 they were forced to start a justice and leadership project in Manyara and Arusha regions which aimed to build solidarity, promote understanding but it has also been a safe forum to discuss their issues.

Ndinini further said: "Women in these soci-

eties are considered second class and able to be compared to young children so they do not have the opportunity to make decisions which leads to their continued economic decline."

Deputy Minister for Minerals Dr Stephen Kiruswa pledged to take the forum's recommendations and submit them to the National Assembly for deliberations.

Dr Kiruswa who is the MP for Longido said: "These symposiums should not be monogamous, but should be integrated with male leaders so that the grievances of women against men can reach them directly."

Simanjiro MP, Christopher Ole Sendeka said

women should realize that the humiliation, assault or humiliation of one woman, all women should unite to defend her.

"As men, we've come to support you as we recognize your rights, as even the ruling CCM is built on the foundations of dignity, justice and equality so what you are doing is right and we came to understand that justice need to be demanded as it cannot come in a silver plates," the MP added.

The symposium has been organized by Pastor Women Council (PWC) and MWEDO with the aim of bringing women together from various levels.



Newly appointed Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (R) hands over office documents in Dodoma city at the weekend to George Simbachawene, her successor with respect to her former position as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination). The latter was, until last week's Cabinet mini-reshuffle, Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

350 private primary schools pupils in Dar es Salaam region participate in mathematics exam competition

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 350 pupils from private primary schools in Dar es Salaam Region have participated in a mathematics exam competition, aimed to encourage more children to study through the programme dubbed-Universal Concept Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS).

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, soon after launching the competition, quality assurance director from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Eupharsia Buchuma hailed the program saying that it helps sharpen children's thinking and skills.

He said that it was better to expand the program to public schools. He said in Dar es Salaam region, the program has reached few schools calling on implementers and stakeholders to ensure that the program spreads in all schools so as to build the children's intelligence capacity.

"This program is good because it targets students between the age of five and 13; it enables the student to concentrate in studies all the time in the classroom. It also builds mind and capacity for quick thinking," Buchuma said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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'Make sure education system more responsive to labour market needs'

By Guardian Correspondent

HIGHER learning institutions have been tasked to come up with a curriculum which focuses more on practical learning than theory that enables graduates to be more competitive in the labor market.

Director of productivity promotion at the Prime Minister's Office-Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities, Yohana Madadi made the remarks over the weekend at the graduation ceremony of a short apprenticeship course and awarded 105 certificates to the graduates of the National Tourism College (NCT) in Dar es Salaam.

He said the labour market needs more skilled personnel, and that the government had realized that the only way to develop young people's skills was

through the colleges to study apprenticeship programs offered by the office in 72 colleges in the country.

"A government survey conducted in 2014 found that 79.9 percent of the national workforce is low skilled, 16.6 percent are semi-skilled while 3.6 percent are highly skilled. Employers, stakeholders emphasize skills in order to be productive in delivery services.

He said: "Apprenticeship involves studying by 60 percent practically and the remaining in the classroom. The program is in the transport and transportation, telecommunications, agribusiness, construction, energy and mining, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality sectors."

He noted that through the Five Year National Development Plan (2021/22-2025/26), the office will provide skills development train-

ing to 581,000 young people of whom 231,000 will study apprenticeships.

"Third phase of the national apprenticeship program, the government has funded a fee of 450,000/- per graduate, with 14,440 graduates out of which 216 are from the NCT Arusha and Bustani campuses, he added.

Dr Shogo Mlozi, NCT Chief Executive Officer said the college has been implementing the programs from 2013 in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the private sector, and that since the inception of the training, 267 students have graduated with a certificate level.

"The success of this program has shown that graduates secure jobs even before they graduate. Some of them are employed in four-star, five-star hotels located in the country," she said.



Wakulima Tea Company Ltd
P.O. Box 700
Tukuyu

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. 29th March 2022

Position Title: HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL OFFICER- (1 Post)
Term of contract: Permanent

Responsibilities:

The HSE and Social Officer reports to the Operations Director and is responsible for the environmental and social management of the company by establishing and implementing policies, systems and processes that help the company manage and continuously improve its E&S performance. This includes but is not limited to issues concerning environment, health and safety and community liaison.

To oversee close-out of non-compliances to HSE and Social policy standards within the company and amongst the company's supplier base, including its smallholder suppliers

Key responsibilities

- Implementation and continual improvement of the Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS).
- Implementing and managing the company's ESMS objectives, targets, procedures and programmes as required.
- Monitoring E&S performance.
- Timely resolution of E&S issues if required.
- Demonstrating commitment to the continual improvement of system performance as an example to others.
- Ensure that significant environmental and social risks are identified, correctly managed and communicated to all affected personnel.
- Understanding the legal requirements pertaining to the company and ensuring legal requirements are incorporated into procedures and management plans.
- Ensuring that all supplies, contractors and service provider working with the company are aware of all ESMS procedure.
- Ensuring that all supplies, contractors and service provider working with the company are aware of the relevant E&S legal obligations and other requirements the company is required to comply with for all activities and operations conducted.
- Assisting the HODs with the implementation of ESMS programmes and procedures required to meet E&S objectives and targets;
- Ensuring that all relevant E&S registers, records and other documentation are kept up to date;
- Undertake E&S audits and inspections and report findings to the operations director.
- Manage E&S corrective actions to ensure they are closed out appropriately;
- Measure and monitor E&S performance as required and submit monthly E&S data to the operations Director;
- Ensuring E&S incidents and complaints are suitably addressed;
- Identifying applicable E&S training requirements for all staff and ensuring that training is undertaken;
- To implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Grievance Management mechanism;
- To proactively maintain regular contact with affected communities;
- To be present during formal consultation meetings with Regulatory Bodies, Regional Government and local communities if required; and
- To liaise with the operations Director on any activity or change that will impact key stakeholders.

Key skills and attributes required

- Graduate with at least 3 years' experience working in a related position.
- Strong knowledge and understanding of the Tanzanian environmental and social legal framework.
- Knowledge of the IFC Performance Standards is a strong plus.
- Effective verbal and written communicator and ability to make clear management reports.
- Excellent English and Swahili (both written and oral)
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word.
- Diligent, organised and proactive.
- Personable and with good people skills.

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE.

The closing date for applications is **14th April 2022** and only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Application including a covering letter, curriculum vitae, relevant testimonials, phone and email contact details, and two references should be sent to:-

hseofficerwtc@gmail.com or
Operations Director
Wakulima Tea Company Ltd,
P.O. Box 700 - Tukuyu



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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GRANTS FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF COVID-19-RELEVANT MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany are jointly supporting the "COVID-19-relevant Medical and Pharmaceutical Products" (CMPP) Component.

The CMPP Component is now calling for project proposals from private companies, state-owned companies and institutions (including universities and research centres) located in the SADC region. These project proposals shall increase local production capacity of affordable and innovative COVID-19 relevant medical and pharmaceutical products. Specifically for this call, these project proposals shall focus on any of the following: (i) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccine administration (e.g. syringes, needles, plasters, gloves); (ii) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccination management (e.g. cold chain equipment, dry ice, vaccine carriers, deep freezers, vaccination monitoring tools); and (iii) items relevant for COVID-19 clinical management (antivirals such as molnupiravir, COVID-19 tests, dexamethasone, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flasks, nasal cannula; (iv) items/machinery relevant for COVID-19 vaccine production (e.g. production machinery, adjuvants, stabilisers, preservatives, vials, stoppers, packaging). The CMPP Component will allocate grants ranging from EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 to selected eligible proposals. Eligible companies and institutions are expected to finance at least 25% of the project's total costs and to complete the project within twelve months, which must be reflected in the proposal. The detailed call for proposal, which has a link to the application form, can be found on the SADC website: <https://tinyurl.com/SADCSIPSCall2>. The submission of applications deadline is 25th of April 2022 18:00hrs (Botswana time).

CMPP Component is part of the joint action "Support towards Industrialization and the Productive Sectors in the SADC region (SIPS)." It is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by the SADC Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

World autism and mine awareness days raise sympathy for disabilities

AUTISM is a problem that affects millions of children at birth or soon after, one of those life situations which in earlier epochs or state of culture was taken as a curse, and often such children would not live to adulthood. They were weeded out in any of scores of instances where rituals that were later forbidden by religion were still applicable, and it is among spheres where the colonial period made incalculable contributions to the humanisation of African society. In the period after independence the society has been learning to help such children, not expedite them.

While the day itself is marked on April 2, it is actually spread over a month, the World Autism Month, with this year marking 15 years since the day started being marked around the world. A United Nations chronicle says that throughout the month, activists focus on sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, the goal being to create a world where all people with autism reach their full potential. It is a hard task.

While psychotherapy and tools like Braille for the blind and sign language for the deaf have helped considerably in integrating children with autism to grow up in a manner that reflects their potential, the future lies in artificial intelligence. Plenty of strides are being made in reaching some parts of the brain where functional disabilities are located, plant some microchips and they ignite the sort of nerve messages that failed to be activated at first. We aren't fully there just yet.

While autism activity is a matter of approaching natural disability to see it as limited expression of what can be realized as full potential in life, the World Mine Awareness Day marked on April 4 annually is a different matter. It is an effort to create awareness of forgoing tactical advantages of using anti-personnel mines in times of warfare, as it isn't just a military instrument in the arena of combat but a precautionary device to blow up anything moving across that path. It may be a military vehicle with soldiers and carrying combatants, or peasants just going to their farm.

Asako Okai, the United Nations assistant secretary-general and director for the crisis bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) heads the UN inter-agency coordination group on mine action which it coordinates since 1993. The starting point was Cambodia, where

nearly 40 years after wars ended there, mined bombs were still exploding and killing people. Since then the work has spread to over 40 countries. With backup instruments like the United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions (UN-CCM) most armed groups or national armies no longer use such bomb traps.

This countries such as Albania, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique and Uganda declared themselves free of known mine fields, meeting demining obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. With wars still going on around the world, this is a story of happiness that impacts will not last for decades after the funs fall silent.

Lawyers don't need elaborate plans to be relevant in EACOP, LNG projects drive

AN unfamiliar demand has been raised by lawyers in the East African Community (EAC) zone to raise alarm or concern as to their being sidelined in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) as well as the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project expected to be built in a Dar es Salaam suburb.

The focus though for the regional lawyers' association meeting in Dar es Salaam, shouldered by an association for oil and gas service providers was all the same the thousand kilometer pipeline from Hoima to Tanga now in the course of taking off. They floated their services in things like company registration and the processing of permits. It is complicated?

A preliminary issue arising from the demand that they get an opportunity to serve multinational companies implementing the pipeline project is that most of the relevant agreements have been signed.

That means whatever consultations needing to be done for the work to be conducted had already been carried out, with the remaining work being applications of local supply firms to deliver materials to the construction groups.

The meeting does not appear to have been addressing such groups, and instead focused on the key project partners, whose work is done.

While the issues could be more complicated than non-professionals can make out at the blink of an eyelid, one thing that this appeal reflects is a policy matter that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been battling to solve during the past year.

What this appeal years after

is a complicated process of company registration and issuing of permits, where a whole range of people would benefit. There would also be rules about what sort of law firm can present those papers to the company registration office, that it should be locally registered, and state its fees.

With the current pace of development of artificial intelligence and business resolutions software, what a law firm wishes to do can easily be downloaded from a website, say that of TPDPC for a supplying company to fill it and return by email or mobile application, and it is confirmed on the spot.

The government has permitted a few experts to accompany foreign companies involved in major projects, thus they would have a corporate adviser for the task who would need to hire a local auxiliary for some details. He could be acting on his own, not sign a million dollar contract.

That is why it is advisable that lawyers also start figuring out how they can support sufficiently intensive economic reform so as to generate plenty of work in multiple interactions of local and foreign companies, were some loss making public firms to be put on the stock exchange with large investors to push up the share prices, to start with. Telecommunications has shown what happens when a sector is fully opened to the private sector, even with office telephony slumbering for not being liberalized.

Trying to force parasitic roles on foreign firms will not do; this policy path prevailed in the past, stunting investment flows, but is has ardent followers, still.

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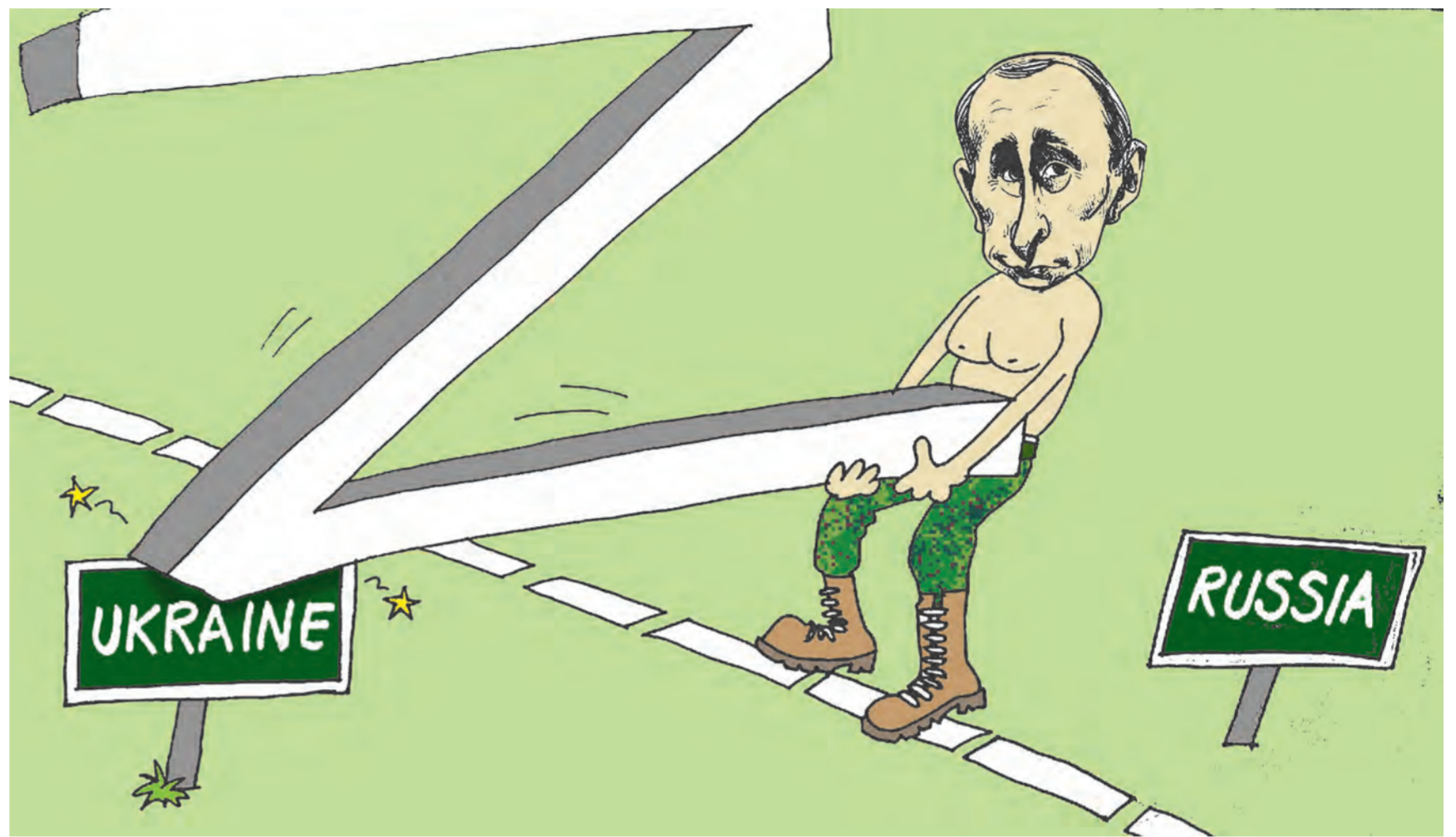
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Supporting tertiary education through increased taxation

By Rahma Oladosu

NO doubt the challenges plaguing Nigeria's tertiary education system are multi-faceted. Addressing them does not appear to be simple. It is taxing, and requires funds indeed. A lot of funds.

The most prominent avenue through which the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) raises funds to prosecute its statutory intervention projects and programmes in Nigerian tertiary institutions is through the Education Tax known as EDT.

The intervention agency's main source of income is the two per cent education tax paid from the assessable profit of companies registered in Nigeria. The Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) collects this tax on behalf of the Fund.

EDT is the magic wand for educational intervention in Nigeria. It is through the instrumentality of the EDT that many Nigerian universities, polytechnics and Colleges of Education (CoEs) are now wearing a new look.

The EDT is deployed to build Senate Buildings, Lecture Theatres, Science Laboratories, Student Hostels, and Staff Offices, among other facilities in several public tertiary institutions.

One will not be exaggerating to also assert that nothing but the EDT is what facilitated the establishment of TETFund's Centre of Excellence, Academic Publishing Centres, and Research Centres in several public universities, polytechnics and CoEs, across the country.

How about the National Research Fund (NRF) for research grants to Nigerian academics, lecturers and researchers? It is certain that the EDT is the enabler.

In short, it is through the aid of the EDT that the lost glory and fortunes of many Nigerian tertiary institutions are either restored or salvaged through robust and aggressive infrastructural development on campuses.

Nevertheless, the failure of registered companies (in the past) in meeting their EDT obligation appears to be constraining TETFund from accessing funds to fulfill their mandate.

A former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Dr Abdullahi Bichi Baffa, sometime in 2016, alleged that over 50 per cent of registered companies in the country are evading the two per cent EDT imposed by the Federal Government, thereby putting the agency in a difficult situation.

Fast forward to 2022, the agency seems to have tackled the age-long crises of inadequate EDT.

It is gratifying to note that the EDT's receipts have risen in recent years. In 2021, for example, the intervention agency received N189 billion as EDT.

This was disclosed at TETFund's '2021 Education Development Tax, EDT, Forum' in Jos. The forum, organised in collaboration with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), aimed at improving EDT in the country.

The event tagged "Improving EDT Collection in the Post Pandemic Era", had participants from various higher institutions of learning and other government organisations.

The Director Strategic Planning and Develop-

ment of TETFund, Dr Irene Erivwo said that the figures generated in the year under review were far lower compared to previous years.

He, however, explained that the advent of COVID-19 pandemic had grossly affected the revenue generation in the nation, hence the need for deeper collaboration towards scaling up the generation of EDT.

"Over the years, TETFund has been recording improvement in the education tax collection. For example, in 2013, the Fund had an EDT of more than N270 billion and since then FIRS has been striving to achieve the annual EDT targets in spite of the obvious challenges.

"In 2021, the fund received an EDT of N189 billion, which was considerably lower than the previous years. COVID-19 pandemic, no doubt affected economic activities globally and this had negative effect in the EDT collection for 2021.

"We are equally aware that economic activities were seriously slowed down and, in some cases, halted from March 2020 when lock-down was imposed and movement within the country restricted.

"This affected the performance of industries and companies which invariably affected the EDT collection for 2021," he said.

The forum availed stakeholders

in education and revenue sectors the opportunity to brainstorm on ways to improve EDT collection. The forum also created an opportunity for the enhancement of the existing working relationship between the stakeholders.

"It has become necessary that the government should look for ways and means to increase drive in EDT collection to enable the Fund meet up with the challenges and its commitment to the development of our tertiary education system.

It is worrisome that the EDT collection for 2021 was far below the target set for the year, hence the need for such a forum to address these issues," Erivwo added.

TETFund had recorded significant impact on infrastructural development, adding that the National Research Fund (NRF) has increased from N5 billion to N7.5 billion in 2020 and N8.5 billion in 2021.

The Fund supported the establishment of centres of excellence each in twelve selected institutions between 2020 and 2021.

It has started a capacity building programme for beneficiary institutions aimed at improving the global competitiveness and visibility of universities, entrepreneurship and skills development for polytech-

nic and pedagogy skills and curriculum development for colleges of education.

Muhammad Nami, the Executive Chairman of FIRS, described the forum as timely, adding that it would foster relationship and create opportunity for exchange of ideas toward the actualisation of their mandates.

Represented by Dr Dick Irri, the Coordinating Director, Compliance Support Group of FIRS, Nami acknowledged that 2021 was indeed a challenging year.

He, however, said that it had put modalities on ground, including the deployment of a home-grown technology and that more taxes would be collected in 2022.

He maintained that the newly developed software known as "Tax-promax", would enable taxpayers file and pay taxes with ease.

The steady increase in the EDT portends good omen for TETFund, and also, hundreds of Nigerian tertiary institutions that are beneficiaries of the intervention agency's 'milk of human kindness'.

No doubt the challenges plaguing Nigeria's tertiary education system are multi-faceted. Addressing them does not appear to be simple. It is taxing, and requires funds indeed. A lot of funds.



START THE WEEK WITH CYNTHIA STACEY

Zanzibar: The paradise that lured tourists despite the pandemic

JAMBO and let's start the week with all things festive which embrace everything Easter regardless of whatever religion or faith you adhere to.

Late last year, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi said that rehabilitation and restoration of properties within the Stone Town (the island's tourist hotspot) was not a matter of choice but necessity.

Tanzania had recorded an increased number of tourists as 1.4 million foreign visitors came into the country in the past few months, thanks to the government's measures to revive the sector, which was hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By ratifying international protocols on controlling the pandemic, Tanzania saw an increase of tourists at a time when the sector spiralled downwards all over the world.

Well, the Indian Ocean island holiday paradise has somehow adapted and stayed open, and whilst other things are still under the shade of a mango tree, a local group plays outside the Zanzibar City band, to a lunchtime crowd of content tourists.

Most of the travellers and tourists who come to this desirable spot of heaven, came on special flights from Russia and other Eastern European countries and hadn't been tested for COVID-19.

That drove Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to alter the entry rules. Now, anyone seeking to enter the country had to first test negative for the virus with a PCR test.

This policy was further tightened following the reported deaths of prominent people connected to the virus. But compared to the rest of the world where COVID-19 protocols were a matter of life and death, in Tanzania things were a bit different.

Apart from the first few months after the disease was reported, things returned to normal and the rules were relatively relaxed. Few people could be seen wearing masks during the pandemic. Meanwhile, many hotels including those on the island reported that they were fully booked.

With tropical temperatures around 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), much of life takes place outdoors: from picnics to strolling around the old town or calling to visit a spice farm.

But the appeal and the pleasures of Zanzibar are relatively simple and accessible unlike the luxuries available in other Indian Ocean islands. But tourists in Zanzibar can buy an ever more interesting collection of beautiful handmade items.

Compared to other tourist hotspots in the world, the Spice Island pulled off what can pass as a miracle amid the pandemic. Impressive!



Zanzibar streets have been teeming with foreign tourists at a time when other hotspots were completely shut owing to COVID-19. File photo

Call for more investment to curb the second leading infectious killer: TB

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

AS Tanzania and the rest of the world reel from the devastating impact of COVID-19, it has emerged that more needs to be done to curb the stubborn Tuberculosis (TB).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), total of 1.5 million people died from TB in 2020 (including 214,000 people with HIV). Worldwide, TB is the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious killer after COVID-19 (above HIV/AIDS). In 2020, an estimated 10 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) worldwide.

Amref Health Africa recently joined other countries to commemorate World's Tuberculosis Day in Tanga Region where a call was made for more investment towards eradicating the disease.

The commemoration theme 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives,' aimed at building up previous efforts by the government on resource investment to ramp up the fight against TB despite the fact that the commemoration came amidst renewed efforts to fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic that has put 'end TB' progress at risk.

Speaking during the occasion, Amref Health Africa Director of Programmes Dr Aisa Musa said although a lot of progress has been made, more needs to be done to curb the disease.

"In 2019, there were an estimated 208,000 TB-related deaths among people living with HIV (PLHIV) globally, accounting for approximately one-third of all HIV-related deaths," she said.

Dr Musa called upon the government and other stakeholders to act towards strategizing TB programmes as the battle against the disease intensifies.

"I urge the government and all other stakeholders to include TB in their strategies, plans and invest more on TB programmes as an important step towards the eradication of the disease by 2035," she said, adding: "We will work closely with the local governments, while engaging all stakeholders in the fight against TB, and collectively work towards achieving the national and international goals of eradicating TB by 2035."

In support of the government's move towards the disease, Amref with other stakeholders have listed three major projects to fight the disease at the national and global perspective by 2035.

"Amref Health Africa in Tanzania joins the Ministry of Health to commemorate the big steps it has made towards ending TB in the country through robust community based approach for vigorous new TB case finding and diagnosis at community level, strengthening referral to TB treatment and tracking TB patients."

The other underlined approach was community health systems strengthening approach to improve new TB case finding. According to her, it's among the most effective approaches, imple-



Cough lasting more than three weeks is often the first symptom of active TB. The disease is the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious killer after COVID-19. Photo courtesy of the internet

mented by Amref within 16 regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar from 2021 to 2023.

The regions include Dodoma, Mara, Simiyu, Tanga, Kagera, Mbeya, Ruvuma, and Shinyanga where the programme is supported by Amref from 2021 to 2023 through Global Fund HIV/TB project in collaboration with the Management and Development for Health (MDH) as a sub-recipient.

In Kigoma, Katavi, Songwe, Rukwa, Mwanza, Geita, Coast and Dar es Salaam and Unguja and Pemba, the project is supported by Amref Health Africa in Tanzania through a five-year (2020-2025) USAID's "Afya Shirikishi" project in collaboration with three other local NGOs namely the Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC), Service Health and Development for People Living Positively with HIV/AIDS (SHDEPHA) Kahama and Mwitikio wa Kudhibiti Kifua Kikuu na Ukimwi Tanzania (MKUTA).

Another approach at hand is the TB/HIV collaborative approach; a robust TB/HIV programme implemented by Amref from 2018 to 2023 supported by US PEPFAR through US Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Tanzania by implementing the

Afya Kamilifu project.

The two projects have been able to train over 2,000 community health workers who conduct community sensitization, systematic TB screening, TB contact tracing, and TB treatment default tracing.

The project also supports TB diagnostic services by supporting over 200 motorcyclists for sputum sample transportation, from community TB screening activities and lower-level health facilities to Gene pert sites. Something that has accelerated 51 percent of TB notified cases contributed from community referrals, 56 percent being bacteriologically confirmed TB cases attained in 2021. Through the Ministry of Health Mobile Van for TB screening, the Global Fund project was able to contribute to 1,676 TB cases out of 8,573 TB cases 20 percent notified through Mobile Van Campaigns.

Amref Health Africa in Tanzania under Global Fund and CDC supported Afya Kamilifu projects which ensure people living with HIV at community and health facilities are routinely evaluated for TB & COVID-19 symptoms and being encouraged to get COVID-19 vaccination.

From October to March 13 this year, 77,900 people living with HIV were fully vaccinated in Tanga, Simiyu, Mara, and Zanzibar while 110,805 received at least one dose. During the same period, a total of 4,403 (76 percent) of healthcare workers in supported facilities were fully vaccinated.

Winding up the commemoration, Dr Musa noted the need to intensify TB case finding using the effective HIV case finding, TB prevention as well as optimize TB/HIV care and treatment.

"We will continue to work closely with the local governments in the Mainland and Zanzibar while engaging all stakeholders in the fight against TB, and collectively work towards achieving the national and international goals of eradicating TB by 2035," she said.

"We urge the government and all other stakeholders to include TB in their strategies and plans, and invest more in TB programmes, as an important step to accelerate eradication of the infectious disease by 2035."

The Oscars' Slapgate - The smack that whacked the world

By Rebecca Davis

If there's one thing we can all surely agree on in these fractured times, it's that the volume and tone of the frenzied international debate that erupted when Will Smith slapped Chris Rock at The Oscars has been laugh-out-loud ridiculous. Personally, I'm in a weak position to criticise others. I freely admit that I have followed Slapgate events with the kind of intense focus I stopped giving the unfolding crisis in Ukraine weeks ago.

I can no longer tell you anything about what's happening with the siege of Mariupol, but I could draw you a detailed timeline from memory of various historical facts relevant to the Rock-Smith beef.

I try not to think of Ukrainians huddled in a Kyiv bunker, watching their TV with open-mouthed shock as CNN panel discussions on The Slap displace footage of Russian military strikes on civilians. Perhaps they wonder if Putin might have a point about the spiritual erosion of the West.

Then again, Putin took time out of his busy schedule of plotting Ukrainian deaths the other day to talk about Harry Potter author JK Rowling, so he's on quite shaky ground himself.

It's all spiralled wildly out of control. But after two years of pandemic-induced fear and sadness, the horrifying events in Ukraine and a myriad other catastrophes closer to home, who can blame some of us for diving headfirst into the diverting spectacle of two overpaid entertainers descending into fisticuffs at a black-tie event?

Of course, what happened at The Oscars matters not one whit in the broader sweep of things, and anyone claiming differently deserves an open-palmed to the face themselves.

Let's pause here to grudgingly acknowledge one of the most tedious responses to Slapgate: that violence is bad. DUH, and also

LZZZZZZ. Obviously it would have been "preferable", in the moral sense of things, if Will Smith had not responded to Chris Rock's joke about Smith's wife Jada Pinkett Smith with an act of public assault. But what would have been even better, in the vengeance sense of things, would have been if it was Jada Pinkett Smith rather than her husband who had marched up to Rock and decked him live on international TV.

Of all the absurd reactions to Smith's smack, though, the gold medal has to go to the people on social media dolefully predicting that Smith's act would have immeasurably harmful consequences for the "normalisation of violence". Pardon?

Have any of those folk turned on the news lately? We live in a world where a gunman live-streamed his Auckland mosque massacre on Facebook, where the former president of the United States bragged about sexually assaulting women and where explicit footage of cops murdering unarmed civilians now barely raises an eyebrow. It's hard to see how violence could be any more normalised.

I myself have been on something of a roller coaster journey as regards my response to Slapgate. My initial sympathies were entirely with Smith, because it struck me as delightfully novel for a man to take visible offence to a sexist insult rather than laughing along with his bro in public and then agreeing with his wife behind closed doors that the remark was out of line.

What altered my views was watching the acceptance speech Smith delivered at the same event a few minutes later after winning the Best Actor Oscar.

Smith gave the impression of being slightly unhinged in his speech, describing himself as being tasked by God with fulfilling the role of being a "vessel of love" during his time on Earth. It takes some balls to call yourself a "vessel of love" mere moments after hitting a man in the face, and if I were God, I'd be questioning Smith's progress in that particular divine mission.

But what really induced a no-no feeling was Smith's assertion that, on the set of his latest film King Richard, he had "protected" his female co-workers in the



Actor Will Smith slaps comedian Chris Rock during the 94th annual Academy Awards ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, US, on 27 March 2022. (Photo: Neilson Barnard / Getty Images)

same manner as he had just "protected" his wife.

Whether these women needed or wanted Smith's "protection" is unknown. But the general effect was to make Smith suddenly seem less like a feminist warrior and more like an old-school paternalist - in addition to someone who might be in urgent need of some kind of psychological treatment.

When I watched the entire Oscars show, however, I ended up back on Team Smith for a

separate reason. In the flurry of thinkpieces on Slapgate, I have yet to read mention of the reality that Rock's job at Pinkett Smith was actually his second sexist joke within two minutes.

Rock also drew attention to the fact that married actor couple Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz were both nominated for Oscars, and then cracked that if Cruz lost out in her category, Bardem "can't win".

Rock meant that if Bardem won an Oscar on

the same night that his wife failed, Cruz would be so consumed by bitterness and resentment that Bardem's life would be made miserable regardless.

The camera panned to Bardem and Cruz for their reactions. Cruz looked exhausted and irritated. Bardem howled with laughter, clapping and nodding. One wonders if Cruz, thinking back on events later, hadn't wished her husband had beaten Smith to the punch. **DM168**

China issues guideline to ensure use of science and technology for good purposes

By Wu Yuehui

To better ensure the use of science and technology for good purposes and standardize scientific and technological innovation activities, China recently issued a guideline on strengthening the governance over ethics in science and technology.

The document, which is the country's first national-level guideline of its kind, made systematic deployment regarding science and technology ethics governance for the first time.

In recent years, China has witnessed rapid development of scientific and technological innovation and achieved major breakthroughs in cutting-edge technologies in such fields as artificial intelligence (AI), gene editing and assisted reproduction.

As new trails are blazed in more and more frontier fields, challenges facing ethics in science and technology have also increased.

The guideline specified the ethical principles that scientific and technological activities should follow, stipulated the requirements for governance over ethics in science and technology, and demonstrated China's stance on and attitude toward strengthening governance over ethics in the field of the science and technology, according to Xiang Libin, vice-minister of science and technology.

It established the country's basic ethics governance system for science and technology and clarified the responsibilities of and specific requirements for the government, innovation entities, science and technology associations and personnel in governance over ethics in the field, Xiang pointed out.

The document also provided top-level design for the construction of the ethics governance system, specifying tasks involving such aspects as norms and standards, regulatory systems, as well as laws and regulations, Xiang noted.



A visitor plays Chinese chess with a humanoid robot at the 2021 World Artificial Intelligence Conference, July 7, 2021. (People's Daily Online/Yang Jianzheng)

Besides, it proposed systematic measures for ethics review and supervision, including strengthening the early warning, prevention and control of ethical risks and strictly investigating and punishing activities that violate the requirements of science and technology ethics in accordance with laws and regulations, Xiang said.

The document stressed that scientific and technological activities should follow five ethical principles, including serving the well-being of humanity, respecting people's right to life, adhering to fairness and justice, controlling risks in an appropriate way, and maintaining openness and transparency.

"These five principles are not only the values and norms that should be followed in scientific and techno-

logical activities in China, but also the basis of a common context for dialogue between China and the international science and technology ethics community," noted Zhai Xiaomei, a member of China's national science and technology ethics committee.

Zhai explained that the guideline made "serving the well-being of humanity" the primary ethical principle in science and technology because it is the prime driving force behind technological advances and the core requirement for the use of science and technology for good purposes.

In human subject research, it is necessary for researchers to follow through the commitment of "respecting people's right to life" to ensure the research is conducted

ethically, respects the subjects' right to privacy, and protects their right to know and choose, Zhai stressed.

When it comes to experiments involving animals, researchers are obliged to treat the animals well and make sure that their scientific research activities meet the requirements of "reduction, replacement, and refinement", Zhai added.

As frontier technologies are developing rapidly, it is necessary to pay attention to the problems caused by people's differences based on ethical concepts besides the risks in technical security, Zhai said, who considers it important to reflect on the functions of frontier technologies comprehensively and prudently, especially those highly controversial technologies that could have a significant impact on humanity.

Highlighting problem-oriented governance over science and technology ethics, the guideline set five requirements for the governance, including "ethics first, compliance with laws and regulations, agile governance, suitability for national conditions, and openness and cooperation".

"Ethics first" requires focusing on ethical risk prevention and control, moving ahead the risk preparedness threshold, and adopting the ethics requirements throughout the whole process of scientific and technological activities and in all fields of scientific and technological innovation," said Feng Chujian, deputy director-general of the Department of Supervision and Scientific Integrity at the

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

Research institutes and researchers shouldn't carry out scientific and technological activities without thinking about ethical standards or generalize the ethics in science and technology; instead, they have to actively assess the ethical risks before conducting research, and investigate in a timely manner scientific and technological activities involving ethical risks and falling into the categories of activities required to go through ethics review, Feng pointed out.

China will also establish specialized and regional ethics review centers, and set up a certification mechanism for the country's ethics review committee to improve its capacity, according to Dai Guoqing, director-general of the Department of Supervision and Scientific Integrity under the MOST.

To facilitate the oversight of research in frontier fields, the guideline proposed making a list of scientific and technological activities involving high risks related to ethics in science and technology and re-checking the results of their ethics review.

The national science and technology ethics committee is drafting such a list, with medicine, life sciences and AI being key fields of relevant activities on the list, Dai noted, adding that great progress has been achieved in making the list, which will be released within the year. **People's Daily**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

ZMAG counsels Zanzibaris to venture into organic farming

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Multi-Stakeholder Horticultural Action Group (ZMAG) has said Isles communities can avoid various diseases if they can venture into the effective use of organic food – which are free from inorganic fertilizer during production.

ZMAG members and various agricultural stakeholders made the advice here over the weekend when speaking during a session to review how the VIUNGO project continues to be implemented and bring about changes in the vegetable, fruit and spice sector to bring productivity in the islands.

VIUNGO project is a project aimed to unlock the potential of the horticulture value chain, increase the value and volume of high quality products to markets, and promote inclusive economic growth in Zanzibar.

The meeting was made possible by the Zanzibar Ministry of Agriculture and brought on board stakeholders from various institutions including government, non-governmental organizations and farmers.

One of the participants, Ali Abdalla said there are a large number of people in the community who still do not understand the importance of using foods produced from natural fertilizer and “that’s why these days most people continue to use foods produced using chemicals which is very dangerous for health and the land too”.

He said various studies have shown that many people get different dis-

eases from the use of food that ate inorganically produced despite the fact that most of them are aware of the consequences.

“It’s high time for people to know how the crop produced before buying in the market,” he suggested.

An expert from the Zanzibar Ministry of Agriculture Omar Abuabakari said many farmers grow their crop using chemical fertilizer for higher productivity as opposed to the use of natural fertilizer.

In that context, he suggested the need for more efforts including the provision of education to the community so that it can realize the importance of using organically produced food.

Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa said as they continue to think about the situation it is important to look at both sides considering that chemical fertilizer as business and it’s relied upon by many and organic food is healthier.

“The most important issue here is that for the community to be educated so that they can understand the effects of using foods produced using chemical fertilizer and be shown the benefits of using natural fertilizer,” she suggested.

Dr Mzuri believes that through the system one will be able to provide in-depth education and let’s people themselves decide what products they need to use in their daily lives.

VIUNGO chief project manager Amina Ussi Khamis said it is to empower farmers in Unguja and Pemba



VIUNGO chief project manager Amina Ussi Khamis makes a presentation at a meeting with members of Zanzibar multi-stakeholder horticultural action group (ZMAG) at the weekend.

through better farming methods, noting that project works to strengthen home food and nutrition security by promoting sustainable crop production, which aims at producing more from small areas of land at home while conserving resources, reducing negative impacts on the environment and enhancing natural capital and the flow of ecosystem services.

VIUNGO project means ‘Zanzibar Value Web, Horticulture, and Income Growth project’, and it also integrates agricultural, gender, financial inclusion and nutritional development efforts to improve smallholder farmers’ productivity and profitability within the horticultural value chain in Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba).

Khamis mentioned that the project is financed by European Union (EU) for a period of four years (from 2020) with a budget of more than euros5 million, and is implemented by Peoples Development Forum (PDF) in collaborations with Community Forest Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar.

The overall objective of the project is to unlock the potential of the horticulture value chain, increase the value

and volume of high quality products to markets, and promote inclusive economic growth in Zanzibar.

Horticulture is one of the fastest growing subsectors in Tanzania and is dominated by smallholder farmers, offering opportunities to bolster the country’s national economy while directly and immediately improving the incomes of a broad segment of the populace.

Zanzibar is a unique zone within this national context and the VIUNGO project is designed to overcome the specific local challenges of this sub region, such as its limited land base, by leveraging its special advantages. The advantages include a long-established spice growing tradition and relative proximity to high-end markets and major seaports.

The project will also focus on improving horticultural product and smallholder farmers’ income. “This will be through introduction of Climate Smart Horticulture and Good agricultural practices to help in increase production and productivity of quality horticultural products,” she said.

It also enhance improvements in food and nutrition se-

curity for smallholder farmers and their families, and that through establishment of permaculture kitchen gardens, and also value addition and local enterprise development with a focus on fair trade partnerships and women’s economic empowerment.

The Project is implemented in nine districts of Zanzibar (four in Pemba and five in Unguja) focusing mainly in vegetable, fruits and spice sub-sectors.

The VIUNGO Project aims at reaching 57,974 direct beneficiaries that comprises with horticulture farmers, processors, agro-dealers, and smallholder horticultural traders, whereas among these beneficiaries at least 55 percent are women, 33 percent youth and 12 percent are men.

African forests ‘emptied of wildlife’ as 10,000 wild meat dishes served daily in restaurants in two cities

By Special Correspondent

AN estimated 10,000 wild meat dishes are sold every day in restaurants in just two central African cities in a trade that is rapidly emptying the continent’s forests of wildlife, researchers say.

Species such as monkeys and porcupines are among the most requested types by customers in Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo, and in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The authors of the new study say the level of poaching of wildlife to supply urban centers “has had significant ecological consequences”, with extinctions now widespread in Congo Basin forests.

And they warn that the wild meat trade poses a risk of zoonotic disease because pathogens are transported to populated cities where the spread and spread of disease “could have disastrous effects”.

The scientists surveyed 326 restaurants in Brazzaville and Kinshasa, the neighboring capitals separated only by the Congo River, which together form an urban agglomeration now considered the largest on the African continent.

Previous studies have shown that most wild meat consumed in major cities is prepared and eaten at home, but almost a quarter of all restaurants in Brazzaville and Kinshasa openly sell illegally caught wild meat.

They ranged from outdoor street stalls with wooden benches to expensive restaurants in international hotels.

After interviews with restaurateurs, chefs and waiters, they estimated that 1,403 wild meat dishes are sold every day in restaurants in Brazzaville and 8,592 in Kinshasa for a total of 9,995.

“Primates are in particular demand in Kinshasa, which is con-

cerning given their vulnerability to overhunting,” the authors wrote. “The amount of illegally purchased wild meat passing through restaurants is significant and its overt sale continues to reinforce the social norm around the consumption of wild meat.”



Primates are in particular demand in Kinshasa, which is concerning given their vulnerability to overhunting



Monkey meat is popular with customers in Kinshasa

UK offers £35m support for Africa free trade initiative

By Amaka Anagor

ANNE-Marie Trevelyan, the United Kingdom (UK) international trade secretary, has announced a new support programme to enable the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) trading bloc.

Through the AfCFTA support programme, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) will provide up to £35 million to enable trade facilitation and trade policy support to the AfCFTA secretariat and member states through TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and other regional partners.

The announcement of the programme comes as Wamkele Mene, AfCFTA Secretariat secretary-general visited London to discuss how the UK can continue its work as a strategic partner to the AfCFTA.

As the world’s largest free trade area, the AfCFTA has the potential to boost Africa’s economic growth by driving industrialisation, generating jobs and delivering prosperity across the continent.

For the UK businesses, the trade bloc will remove market access barriers by creating a single continental market, making it easier and more cost-effective for the UK businesses to export goods and services across the 54 AfCFTA member states.

“As an independent free trading nation, the UK strongly supports the AfCFTA – the largest free trade area in the world. We are keen to see continued momentum on outstanding negotiations, and on practical implementation of the agreement on the ground,” said Anne-Marie Trevelyan, the international trade secretary.

According to her, the new aid programme shows that trade is a force for good, and will lead to increased trade, investment, and prosperity for both Africa and the UK.

Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the AfCFTA Secretariat said: “We are pleased to receive this support from the government of the UK, as it ushers us into a partnership for strengthening cooperation related to customs and trade facilitation and trade policy across the African continent.”

According to Mene, Africa has seen

the re-engineering of its Regional Economic Communities, to take into consideration the aspirations that are embedded in the AfCFTA instruments.

“We have also witnessed during this period the enthusiasm and the energy of our private sector to rise to the occasion and begin to exploit what is provided for in the

Agreement. Our ambition is to see commercially meaningful trading in ‘Made in the AfCFTA’ products taking place, across the length and breadth of our continent, to create jobs and economic opportunities for Africans, especially women and the youth. We want to make trade easier for the Africans, in particular our women and

young Africans who trade across our borders,” Mene explained.

Mene added that the new AfCFTA support programme would help to facilitate the implementation of the AfCFTA, through supporting national implementation committees and regional economic communities.

Vicky Ford, minister for Africa said: “Closer integration between African economies boosts growth across the continent, creates opportunities and helps lift people out of poverty. The UK is a committed partner in this mission. This UK funding will promote long-term partnerships between African countries and support a more prosperous, greener continent.”

Under the UK’s G7 presidency last year, the new British Investment International (BII) group pledged to work with other G7 Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to invest at least \$80 billion in the African private sector by 2027.

Support for projects in Africa from UK Export Finance is also at its highest in decades, backing a range of infrastructure projects in countries from Côte d’Ivoire to Uganda, with more than £2.3 billion of financial support in the past year.

The AfCFTA Support programme also complements the UK’s broader partnership with the African Union as a multilateral institution to promote global values.



Zimbabwe elections rekindle voter apathy concerns

BULAWAYO

ACTIVITY in the streets of Zimbabwe's second city is testimony to a thriving informal sector where thousands of people eke out a living selling all sorts of wares.

From vegetables to soft drinks to television sets, mobile phones and anything in-between, all are peddled here, where being self-employed means putting in more hours to ensure food on the table.

It is here where 41-year-old Gilbert Mabutho works as an itinerant vendor, peddling whatever commodity he can sell. Today he is selling boiled maize (corn) because he says, "maize is in season."

"There are no jobs. This is where my bread comes from," Mabutho told IPS.

Amid the hustle and bustle, Mabutho is among many who have not taken time off their daily grind to register to vote or check their names in the voter's roll ahead of the forthcoming primary elections.

Voter registration opened in January and closed on February 28 ahead of the by-elections. Registration will resume after the by-elections from April 10 to 30.

"I haven't had time to register. I am just too occupied trying to make ends meet," Mabutho said.

By-elections, considered harbinger of the country's 2023 elections, were held earlier this month, and analysts are raising concerns about the low re-

sponse to voter registration and participation.

Yet besides being too busy to make time for voter registration, residents such as unemployed Samson Basvi say they do not see any benefit in voting.

"The country's hardships have been going for years now, showing me no reason to vote," Basvi told IPS.

"If voting truly changed anything, surely the people who are voted into power would improve our lives," he reasoned, expressing a common sentiment here, where the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) (ZANU-PF) has been in power since 1980.

According to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, the country's second-largest city has the lowest number of registered voters.

In the 2018 elections, where President Emmerson Mnangagwa claimed disputed victory, about three-quarters of about 5.5 million registered voters cast their vote - which was considered a high turnout.

"It is not clear yet if voter turnout in the by-elections is an indicator of the 2023 polls," said Piers Pigou, southern Africa analyst at the International Crisis Group.

Analysts note that a lack of trust in electoral processes has led to voter apathy.

"The prime cause for apathy is fears of a possible rigging of elections in favour of the ruling ZANU-PF, a longstanding sentiment among voters," said Stanley Mabuka, an analyst at the



People take time to go to the bank, but not to register to vote. Lower voter turnout and registration are a cause for concern in Zimbabwe. File photo

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 258 00--

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

- 3 Letters: OWL, HAY, TAN, ARK,
- 4. Letters: REST, SAME, RAKE, AYAH, IRAQ, EAST, Q-TIP, SAGA, TIME, AFRO,
- 5 Letters: READY, SCOPE, SNAKE, FROST,
- 6 Letters: ATHENS, LAYER, PAMPAS, SAHARA, RAKISH, ATTACH, TANAPA, MASHER, MASTER
- 7 Letters: CASHIER,

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

FRANCE, R M A G U F U L I
 R R VOICE O E U A L U
 ENDURE N A N E W Z E A L A N D
 S E A G T A A L A D
 HONEYMOON R A N G E S T E W
 S T A G U C E D I T O R
 S T U G Z E N H O M E A I M P
 I E N A M E L Y G M A L I
 A F A R B E L O W C R A B G N
 I Y I N P A W P A G E S
 E T U B E R N I I
 A D O W A A F T E R N O O N

- CLUES:** Across
1. a person who cultivates a land
 5. hire a land
 6. a piece of land surrounded by water
 9. an oil tanker
 10. any person
 13. Interfere
 15. a group with a strong common interest
 17. Estates on which crops are grown
 19. literary form of over
 20. fall behind
 21. indicates that a voice is silent
 22. single
 23. institute a legal proceedings for redress
- Down:**
1. the sixth day of the week
 2. a mass meeting
 3. reveal something
 4. to inquire
 7. an unimportant person
 8. passed away
 11. Muscat is the Capital city
 12. the rubbing and kneading of muscles and joints
 14. identify the existence of
 15. free from dirt
 16. great size
 17. a game of Eastern origin
 18. cereal plants

Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), a government-appointed body tasked with running the country's elections, has also been criticized for what is seen as poor voter education and voter registration campaign, with some residents claiming they have not heard about voter verification or registration.

"A lacklustre approach by the ZEC on registration exercise in remote areas might also accelerate voter apathy among first-timers. Already the registration exercise is running late due to delays imposed by the coronavirus pandemic," Mabuka told IPS.

Zimbabwe has for years witnessed a cycle of disputed election outcomes, with opposition political parties accusing the ruling party of manipulating electoral processes. At the same time, some observer missions raised concerns about the credibility of the 2018 poll results.

"We have not seen the number of people registering rising compared with the number of people qualified to vote even if they meet all the requirements," said Effie Ncube, a political analyst and independent researcher in Bulawayo. "You then have people registered to vote but don't vote because of dependency that elections have not been delivering the kind of lifestyle they desire," Ncube told IPS.

The ruling party says it is targeting 5 million votes in the 2023 elections, while the Citizens for Change Coalition (CCC), led by Nelson Chamisa, says it is targeting 6 million voters. But with the current pace of voter registration and the inspection of the voter's roll expected to pour into 2023, there is little to show that either party will garner such numbers.

By-elections were called to fill vacant municipality and

legislative seats, but some analysts note that by-elections have generally attracted few voters, a phenomenon seen across the continent.

"There is usually less interest in by-elections, but there is also the issue of young people who have turned voting age who are failing to get registration documents that will allow them to vote," said Pigou.

"Low voter participation has been a general trend across the region (southern Africa), and this has been particularly the case with younger people," Pigou told IPS.

More is required to be done if voters are to be convinced of a "possibility of change spearheaded by a democratic opposition," says Stephen Chan, a professor of world politics at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies who has written extensively about Zimbabwe.

"By and large, by-elections attract a low turnout around the world. In Zimbabwe, however, there are added factors of disillusionment with the fragmentation of the opposition and the sense among voters that ZANU-PF is at this point not able to be dislodged from power," Chan told IPS.

IPS.



A lacklustre approach by the ZEC on registration exercise in remote areas might also accelerate voter apathy among first-timers. Already the registration exercise is running late due to delays imposed by the coronavirus pandemic

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:30 AM BRAND TALK 09:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 09:30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM HIZI NAZO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:35 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:40 AM HIZI NAZO 10:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:50 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:05 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:15 AM MIBAVU ZANGU 11:20 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:25 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:35 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:40 AM HIZI NAZO 11:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:50 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:55 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:05 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:15 AM MIBAVU ZANGU 12:20 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:25 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:35 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:40 AM HIZI NAZO 12:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 12:50 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:55 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 01:00 - 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS

GGML donates 50m/- to support CCBRT mission

Absa Bank Tanzania promotes vaccination to country's programmes

By Guardian Reporter

ABSA bank Tanzania has handed over a dummy cheque of 10m/- to Family Health International (FHI360) as part of its efforts in supporting the fight against Covid-19 pandemic as well as promoting vaccination programmes across the country.

Speaking during the handover of the 10m/- dummy cheque in Dar es Salaam during the weekend Absa Bank Tanzania Director of Corporate and Investment Banking, Hugo Chilufya said that the bank has decided to extend its services apart from financial services but also supporting the community in the ongoing fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

He noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way of living for the majority of Tanzanians and affecting businesses of the ordinary people and severely affected supply chains which ended up seeing a number of ordinary Tanzanians lose their daily income. Chilufya underscored that during the climax of the pandemic a number of sectors was severely affected especially the tourism sector as the financial institution they have taken a number of measures including dishing out funds that will support health status to the majority of Tanzanians.

"As we are today partnered with family health international in a matter of sensitizing the communities to take vaccines to ensure that Tanzanians are now doing aware with the pandemic," he explained.

He noted that the bank is striving to ensure that the majority of Tanzanians in the rural and urban areas are vaccinated as part of the efforts in joining the government moves to promote vaccination programs across the country.

FHI 360 Country Director, Waziri

Nyoni said that family health international plans is to have strategic programmes on communication by imparting information and knowledge on covid 19 pandemic to the majority of people across the country.

"We're planning to have a proper strategic communication programs through various channels to ensure that more people are informed about the pandemic and its quickly consequences and what are the proper measures to be taken," he said, adding: "We're delighted to have the support from our partner Absa Bank Tanzania on the fight against Covid-19 and the move to support the vaccination programs because it is a catalyst and we believe that more people will be vaccinated in the near future."

Nyoni said that the organization has started going at the grassroots level by imparting knowledge, information and programs of vaccination to Njombe and Ruvuma to workers at the Tea companies and the response is very positive.

Nyoni added that the response from the ordinary Tanzanians in Njombe and Ruvuma is positive as more people are coming out for the Covid-19 tests and vaccination process.

Absa Bank Tanzania, Citizenship Manager, Hellen Siria explained that the bank will continue to support the government efforts in the fight against covid 19 pandemic as they have been doing that through the Tanzania Ministry of Health.

She retaliated that the bank will not hesitate to support the organization that has shown interest in informing and educating the public about the pandemic and taking all necessary precautions to save the lives of the ordinary people.

By Guardian Reporter

ANGLOGOLD Ashanti - Geita Gold Mining Limited has donated 50m/- to support maternal health initiatives through Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) organization.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the ceremony to hand over the fund, AngloGold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mining Limited-Public Relation & Communications Manager, Stephen Mhando said 50m/- donation complements one of the company's core values.

He said the core value of their company is to ensure we are creating a sustainable future for the communities and societies in Tanzania.

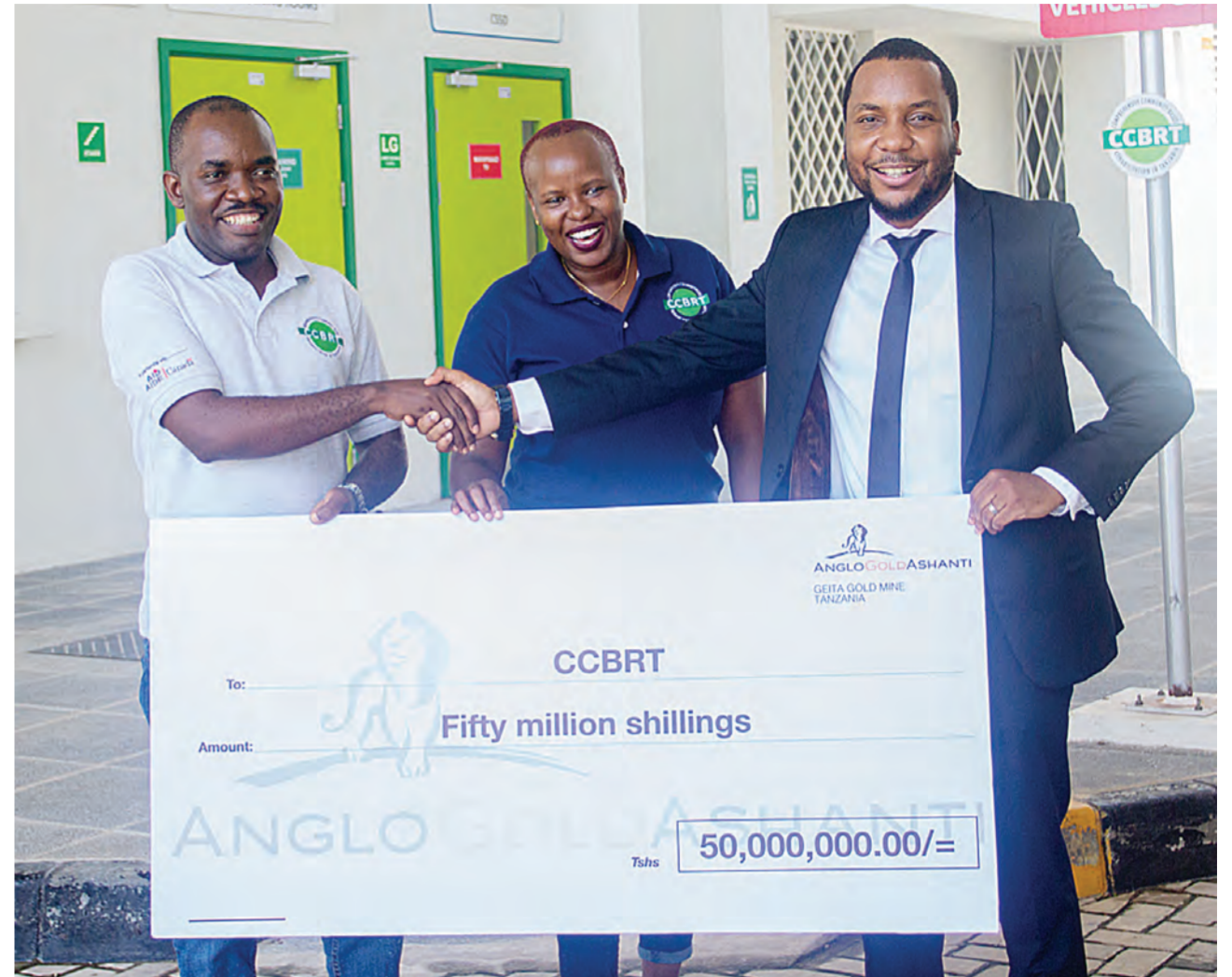
"GGML actively embraces its corporate citizenship responsibilities and has supported good healthcare in the community through a number of projects.

"From our commitment to reducing the incidence of malaria to our lengthy affiliation with the Jubilee Medical Boat, which sails between Lake Victoria's islands delivering a range of primary health care services," he said

He added that CSR funding by Geita Gold Mining Limited last year led to the construction of 7 dispensaries in Geita Town Council, completion of 14 outpatient departments and 3 health centres, provision of medical supplies as well as 3 ambulances in Geita District Council.

"Beyond that our Company has also supported the completion of 5 outpatient departments in Mbogwe District and an additional one in Bukombe. For almost 20 years, Geita Gold Mining in collaboration with Rafiki Surgical Mission from Australia has helped provide free surgery to nearly 2,000 adults and children from various villages in the Geita region that were born with cleft lip and palate.

"Last October, the GGML signed a memorandum of understanding worth \$120,000 to extend support for the first medical boat on Lake Victoria for the next five years until 2026. Since the boat's maiden voyage



AngloGold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mining Limited- Public Relation & Communications Manager, Stephen Mhando (right) presents the cheque to CCBRT Chief of Medical Services, Dr. Cyprian Ntomoka (left) joined by Sophia Shuma Head of Marketing and Customer Care at CCBRT.

in 2015, more than 158,000 patients have been treated," he said.

He thanked CCBRT for being their true partner as they expand their footprint across Tanzania together.

"At AngloGold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mine, we are always partnering with like-minded organizations to improve the day-to-day experiences of more people across Tanzania," he said.

He added GGML will continue to work with the government, the community and all other stakeholders across the country to supporting the realization of Tan-

zania's Development Vision 2025 goals, as well as other long-term strategic development plans and scaling up investment for the country.

"We hope to continue providing similar support to the extent possible in the near future. Thank you CCBRT for being a true partner and thank you all for listening," he said.

Chief of Medical Services, Dr. Cyprian Ntomoka congratulated GGML for supporting their initiative and he said CCBRT exists to support the community.

He said CCBRT are supporting the most vulnerable

people, these funds will be supporting pregnant women with disability.

"Those who have been neglected in other health facilities or system they are going to be supported by CCBRT with disability inclusion kind of environment. We have delivery base that are real specially for people with disability.

"But don't forget around we have women who have obstetric fistula experience and then they happen to be pregnant again, they would wish to real get care that will help them," he said.

He added that they have

people who has had obstetric fistula, some of them who have been pregnant more than twice and lost all their babies.

"Those are the women who will be attended to in this building. So GGML has just set a pace for the rest for the corporates and we hope all corporate will see that we supporting these women but again by supporting these women we are supporting CCBRT to just keep the mission going on because CCBRT exist and still exist to save the poor so everyone should join GGML and CCBRT's mission," he said.

Villagers set to benefit more from Regrow project

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

IT is around 9 am in the Mbuyuni sub-village of Iringa Rural District, Iringa Region when a 55-year-old Veronica Nzota is busy weeding her maize farm.

The sun is not much scorching due to its geographical location, a situation that makes her to continue with work. Faming for Veronica and her family of five is everything—in terms of food security and other basic needs. It's hectic for a single mother, taking into account that her crops—maize, beans, sunflower and others crops are grown at small-scale.

In her two-acre farm, Veronica used traditional agronomic practices—with limited use of fertilizer, mechanization and technical-knowhow. The trend hadn't improved her livelihoods, making her to continue living in the vicious cycle of poverty.

But, in just two years, Veronica started seeing the light at the end of the tunnel after undergoing several entrepreneurs' training and becomes an active member Community Conservation Banking (COCOBA)—a microfinance initiative designed to teach members to open small, environmentally-friendly businesses.

All these initiatives have been possible through the

World Bank-funded Resilient Natural Resources for Growth Project (REGROW)—a six-year project involves the development of community-based tourist projects to empower local communities in taking part in tourism activities. It mostly targets development of tourism programmes for local communities living neighbours to Ruaha, Udzungwa, Nyerere and Mikumi national parks in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania where tourism and tourist businesses are far less developed.

Apart from being equipped with commercial farming skills, the project empowers villagers with start-up capital, that will make women like Veronica to venture into agri-business and profitable small-scale businesses.

According to Veronica who is a single mother, through REGROW start-up capital will help her to expand farm from two-acres to five-acres using modern agronomic practices.

"I hope this will help me and my family to step out of poverty that we're experiencing now," Veronica says, adding that the initiative will make her to be one of big entrepreneurs in the area and the region at large.

This good hope is not from Veronica alone. Hawa Ngamilo of Tungamalenga Village in Idodi Ward also shares similar hope



Tourists at Nyerere National Park plaque

on the matter, saying through REGROW project, there're lots of untapped opportunities.

One of them is the establishment of COCOBA that in turns will uplift their economic status rather than relying entirely on subsistence farming and illegal plundering of national parks' natural resources.

"We'll get all the capital in our businesses that will make us make a living by doing more trade. It's where I'm asking myself as why our natural resources aren't protected. We need to be serious on wildlife poachers and timbers harvesters," she

says, recognizing REGROW project as a redeemer to people's livelihoods.

Hawa pledges to reinforce wildlife security and come up with friendly ways of chasing away crop destructive animals like elephants rather than killing them.

Zahanati sub-village resident, Basista Kinombo says the project will offer them a number of opportunities that will enable them to create well-crafted natural products such as baskets, necklaces, natural fabrics, batik and neckless, which in turn they'll sell to tourists, thus earning foreign exchange and also

promoting conservation in the area.

In Udzungwa National Park, the project involves the villages of Mang'ula A and Msufini in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region and Msosa, Kilolo District, Iringa Region.

One of the Mang'ula B villagers, Tausi Mlipuka says the training she received will be used to encourage local residents to visit the reserve so that they too can contribute to boosting tourism output.

"Currently, we've a beekeeping group with 106 hives, which enable us to harvest 400 liters of honey

per year. If REGROW enables us, we'll set up another 400 hives and produce 2,000 to 3,000 liters of honey and at that level we'll get rich," Kilombero-based Usia wa Baba's Beekeeping Group chairman says Godfrey Hollo says, adding: "Why not increase the number of trees by planting 10,000 trees to protect our reserve environment?"

In the Nyerere National Park, five villages involved in the project include Dakawa, Kisaki, Magogoni, Nyange and Msolwa Station.

"We'll protect the park and its contents as our parents did. We will not allow a

person or group of people to disturb the natural resources as it benefit our lives," says Jamila Bomezwa, Kisaki village facilitator and villager.

Magona Village chairperson, Sultan Gumo says due to the involvement in the project, he will ensure that every public meeting will seriously discuss the agenda of local tourism and participatory protection of protected natural resources.

In Mikumi National Park, residents in two villages in Kilosa and Mvomero districts who're to benefit from the REGROW project, which outlined how they will be able to better utilize their income-generating funds and establish cultural tourism including selling traditional foods to attract visitors.

Makene Ngoloma of the Cultural and Ecological Group in Mikumi village says they will set up traditional dance group projects as well as sell traditional foods to benefit tourism.

The Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) technical coordinator, Betrita James says the REGROW project to improve infrastructure plans to build a 2,051-kilometer road gravel road that will soon be built in the four parks.

Betrita says in the network at the Ruaha National Park a road with a length of 1,055 km is planned to be built; Nyerere about 792 km; Udzungwa 24 km, and

Mikumi 157km.

"We have purchased 16 plants worth more than 10bn/-, we will build rooms for guests in four parks, soldiers' equipment to help patrol, increase the number of entrances to the park," she says, noting that they have purchased 35 vehicles worth more than 3bn/- to facilitate all activities to strengthen natural resource management and improve tourism in the reserve as well as to facilitate the implementation of the project.

Betrita says REGROW is also in the process of digging special water reservoirs to save wildlife during droughts, build bridges and rehabilitate existing ones as well as rehabilitates 14 airports to help tourism make it easier to boost tourism and revenue.

"During the rainy season some of the park's bridges have been weakened and therefore washed away by water and other parts that do not withstand rain and water, we will rebuild it to ensure tourism takes place throughout the rainy season," she says.

She says the project is in various stages of implementation, training for group members has already started with the Ruaha National Park and that in another reserve it will start earlier this year and the second phase will continue as planned.

Tigo awards 80m/- to winners of the 'Mwaa Mwii promotion'

By Guardian Reporter

TIGO Tanzania has rewarded the second batch of 20 Tigo Pesa customers with 40m/- as part of the ongoing Mwaa Mwii promotion.

These winners were picked from a random sample of lucky Tigo Pesa customers who conducted different transactions such as Lipa

Kwa Simu, Bill Pay, On net P2P, IOP receiving during the week ending March 27th, 2022.

Speaking during the handover, the Tigo Pesa High Value Customers Segment Manager, Mary Rutta said: "We're proud to reward our second batch of 20 winners with 2m/- each, to date we have awarded over 80m/-, and mathematically from the total amount of 325m/, 245m/- is still

up for grabs, therefore we urge customers to continue transacting via Tigo Pesa."

"This six-week promotion is exclusively for Tigo Pesa customers, where so far we have already seen 40 winners winning 2m/- for the first 2 weeks, 10 winners to get the grand prize of 10m/- end of promotion and 1 overall winner getting 25m/- . Customers get to do as many

transactions as possible from the services mentioned above to stand a chance to win," said Rutta.

One of the fish mongers in Kigamboni ares in Dar es Salaam was in a jovial mood saying: "I can only thank God for this money which will help me to buy a new freezer, I overheard once on the radio about this promotion, but never in my wildest dreams did I know that I would be amongst

this week's winners, I use Tigo Pesa daily, so you never know, with luck I could also emerge the 25m/- winner".

All a customer needs to do is to transact as many times as he can through the Tigo Pesa services (Lipa Kwa Simu, Bill Pay, On net P2P, IOP receiving) available to stand a chance to win the cash prizes on offer.

How can Tanzanian small-scale fisheries become financially self-sufficient?

THE supportive business environment facilitated by the sixth phase government has clearly shown the support on blue economy strategy both in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to attain sustainable development goals. Our Correspondent GERALD KITABU interviewed head of Consulting, Dar es Salaam Merchant Group Dr Kassim Mussa Mhina on how Tanzania can encourage small-scale fisheries become financially self-sufficient: Excerpt:

Question: The 6th phase government has made tremendous efforts to attract both government and private investors. You are in the private sector and blue economy is one of your areas, how is the situation?

Answer: From our research, I understand that the 6th phase government has done tremendous efforts to transform the fishing sector. The current efforts are expected to attract 30m/- as compared to the current 4.5m/- jobs available in the fishing sector. For instance, the France visit has resulted into signing of 2.6 Billion Euros to TADB, which is directed towards fisheries improvement.

Tanzania has an average fish catch of 364,351 tons per year, with official data indicating that small-scale artisanal fisheries account for 95 percent of these catches. It is this line of argument that the sixth phase of the national government has decided to build the fish port at the coastal area in which 50.7 Billion Shillings has been allocated for initial investment.

Q: Now how can Tanzania small scale fisheries become financially self sufficient?

A: The current funding landscape and the challenges to financing ll-scale fishers in Tanzania need more attention than anyone would think. As previously stated, small-scale fishers produce a lot of value in the economy. This is to say that any decisions made to influence small fishers have a direct impact on the sustainability of the environment and the livelihood of the community as a whole.

In the fisheries sector, a variety of funding options are available at grassroots, ranging from microfinance (NMB) to investment banking systems such as Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB). Nonetheless, none of these sources has had a significant impact on small fishers in Tanzania, as evidenced by stable annual fish catch statistics from 1990 to 2018, which show that annual catch ranges from 350,000 to 385,000 M tones.

Our small-scale fishers are barred from obtaining the funding that would make the great difference. As a result, we thought it would be worthwhile to examine the current funding environment for small-scale fishers, as well as the challenges associated with financing small-scale fishers, and come up with practical solutions to improve the sector's



Head of Consulting at Dar es Salaam Merchant Group Dr Kassim Mussa Mhina

performance.

Q: Small-scale fishers face major challenges due to a lack of management knowledge and cultural norms as an expert what is your comment?

A: It is true, I personally interviewed a small fisherman in Kilwa about traditional fishing, and his response was that "God brings the fish near the shore as he wishes, so there is no need to go to the high seas". To him, having a better vessel makes no difference. Transparency in the fisher's fiscal and financial situation is another impediment. Furthermore, fishers do not have collateral to leverage the loan.

Small-scale fishers were previously difficult to identify due to their frequent migration and dependability on their fishing activities. The government has worked to formalize small-scale fishers along the Indian Ocean. Fishers are extremely well organized in their Beach Management Units (BMU), collaborative Fishery Management Areas (CFMAs) and even the village liaison committees. With the ongoing postcode exercise, we should have no trouble identifying the small fishers.

Q: Fishers in these informal situations are vulnerable to the volatility of fish markets, making it difficult for them to plan their cash flow. Again, what is the problem?

A: It is true that despite the fact that annual fish demand is 700,000 tons and total catch reported is 385,000 metric tons, fish market volatility still makes reliable market supply difficult. In land sites, fish sales are typically conducted via auction, with verbal agreements between sellers and buyers for bulk fish consignments. Fishers' ability to become investment ready is further hampered by a lack of formal purchase orders and established market relationships. Another significant impediment is the ability to establish formal market relations, particularly in high-value fisheries, which would demonstrate the potential capital flow needed to attract funding members of fishing organizations frequently associate solely for social reasons, failing to recognize the additional economic benefits of cooperative and aggregation models. Most fishermen lack financial education and business acumen, and they are frequently disconnected from supply chain and market information, which could enable them to create new lines of business and increase their access to finance.

Q: So, what is the solution?

A: Collaboration among financial institutions could help to reduce risk and provide additional support, such as financial education or capacity building, to supplement and ensure the viability of their investments. If small-scale fishers are not organized, data on catch quantity and value cannot

be deduced, making it difficult to understand fishers' needs. As a result, there is a mismatch between the sizes and types of capital offered to and demanded by the sector, and it is possible to overlook the capacity building and technical assistance grants required for progress and sustainability through the successful implementation of fishery projects. These few mentioned barriers that small-scale fishers face make financing small-scale fishers' projects difficult.

The scientific literature for Tanzania's fishery sector does not really provide business solutions to increase the industry's contribution from its current 1.75 percent GDP contribution to even around 10 percent let alone the abundance of fishery resources, which is the song we usually sing.

There is an urgent need to bridge the gap between the fishing industry and financial institutions. To do so, we must first identify who the small-scale fisher, the owners of the boats or the person fishing and then connect the actual fishermen with the financial institutions. If we want to reach the actual fishermen, the most effective strategy is needed to attract private companies that can build and repair fishing vessels to replace inefficient wooden vessels. The private companies can train local fishermen to operate and manage modern vessels with the assistance of financial institutions in order to achieve the maximum catch relative to vessel capacity. The company can then guarantee off take with efficient cold storage facilities.

Despite the fact that an estimated fish demand gap of 365,000 to 400,000 metric tones has been established, there is still Point of Sale (PoS) missing information on the domestic fish market. The market is quite unstructured, and even the definition adopted in 2009 fishery regulations as simply a place where fish are sold does not guarantee the development of the fish market.

Q: How can the private sector supplement government efforts to improve the fishing standard of small scale fisheries?

A: The private sector must supplement the government efforts to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) No. 14. For instance, integrating ship building with fishing to replace inefficient boats so that at least small fishers can go at least 12 nautical miles from the seashore. Private companies involved in fish market research and trade can develop local and international fish markets so that all additional catch resulting from vessel improvement could reach the customers. Furthermore, they are encouraged to conduct extensive fish market research to accommodate both off-shore and territorial catch that will be realized with blue economy plans that our country intends to implement in the near future bearing in mind the linkage between the small-scale fishers and the fish harbor the government is intending to build.

Gender inclusivity to enhance energy access and transition to economic progress

By Anael Samuel

ACCESS to clean and affordable energy is vital for health, well-being, and socio-economic development. This critical service remains unrealized in many African countries. Women's empowerment is known to promote healthcare service use, child nutrition, and agricultural productivity. In Africa, however, little is known about the relationship between women's empowerment and energy transition. Energy transition has been defined as the global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption – including oil, natural gas, and coal – to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, as well as energy storage technologies.

Tanzania has a target to achieve access to clean cooking for more than 75 percent of the households by 2030. But, currently, about 89 percent of the households are still using charcoal and firewood for cooking. This relatively matches its peers like Kenya where biofuels make up over 70 percent of energy sources in households.

To make the energy transition a reality, women need to be included across the value chain to contribute to these conversations effectively. Barriers to the full participation of women are not only an infringement of human rights but also a limit to women's right to full and equal participation in the life of their communities. All stakeholders including policymakers, have a duty to eliminate discrimination against women and establish frameworks to help empower them and enable their advancement and participation in issues that affect them.

In 2020, women represented around 39 percent of the formal global workforce. However, they are still underrepresented in key fields including in the energy sector and more specifically, the renewable energy side which is vital for the energy transition. In 2019, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) revealed in a report that women represented 32 percent of employees in the renewable energy sector. This is a substantially higher number than the 22 percent average in the global oil and gas industry. While this is an improvement, there are still large opportunities for women's participation, in particular when it comes to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Despite the magnitude of the challenge, it is possible to include women in energy transition and simultaneously drive diversity and mitigate climate change. The first ingredient feeds and reinforces the second and, together, they will allow us to develop the innovative and inclusive solutions we need to address the transition to cleaner and more technologically advanced energy systems.

It is also worth noting that the under-representation of women deprives the energy transition process of diverse talent, and impedes the transformational change required to achieve global climate targets and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Conversely, the equal participation of women in the workforce is good for business, the economy, social development, and the environment as proven by data.

Beyond clean cooking, access to clean energy can also open up new economic opportunities for women by supporting livelihoods and generating new sources of income. Access to clean energy, especially when it supports the productive uses of energy, is a powerful means to advance socio-economic development in a way that reduces inequalities and increases women's resilience. When this gender perspective is included in clean energy projects and policies, these become transformational for the entire community.

My call to action, therefore, is that we implement a wide variety of policies to make energy access and the transition to renewables in Africa more inclusive. To be effective, the energy transition must address women's needs as agents of change not only as beneficiaries.

Anael Samuel (pictured) is the Songas Tanzania Limited managing director



Women of Lesotho's garment industry lose jobs, hope in Covid-19

By Majirata Latela and Ryan Lenora Brown

VEKILE Sesha stood outside the rusted gates of a garment factory in the industrial district of Lesotho's capital, Maseru, willing her luck to change. Four months earlier, the blue jeans factory where she worked nearby abruptly shut, blaming plummeting demand from the Western brands it supplied amid the pandemic.

She had loved the job fiercely. "I was talented, and I was doing something that was needed by the world." Her monthly paycheck of 2,400 loti (about \$150) supported a constellation of family members in her rural village. "Because of me, they never slept on an empty stomach," she said.

Every day since, Sesha, 32, has been fighting to get that life back. On this morning, with a furious sun overhead, she joined a line of about 100 job-seekers outside the blue aluminum shell of a factory that supplies pants and athletic shirts to American chain stores.

As gates swung open, Sesha and the other women surged forward. A manager called out skills he needed: "Cutting, Sewing, Marking." But a few minutes later, the gates slammed shut and Sesha fell back – she did not get one of the temporary jobs.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the world two years ago, the global fashion industry crumpled. Faced with collapsing demand, brands canceled orders worth billions of dollars and factories across Africa and Asia went belly up. Few felt the effects as harshly as the tens of millions of workers, most of them women, who stitched the world's clothes.

In Lesotho, a mountainous speck of a country nestled entirely inside South Africa, the pain was especially widespread. Although small in comparison with global garment-making giants such as Bangladesh and China, Lesotho's clothing industry is the country's largest private employer, and more than 80% of its workers are women, according to government officials. Most, like Sesha, are the first women in their families to earn a paycheck, a quiet gender revolution built on T-shirts and tracksuits.

"This industry made the women of our country much less vulnerable," said Sam Mokhele, the general secretary of the National Union of Clothing and Textile Allied Workers Union, which represents garment workers in Lesotho. "But the pandemic devastated that."

More than 11,000 of Lesotho's 50,000 garment workers have lost their jobs since March 2020, according to government figures. The job losses were catastrophic in one of the world's least developed countries, with 2.1 million people and few formal employers.

The cutbacks highlighted the precarious nature of the gains made by the country's women factory workers and the industry's reliance on the whims of consumers on the other side of the world, where clothing is bought and disposed of at a blistering pace.

Mabuta Irene Kheoane still works in a Lesotho factory, and she knows jobs like hers have become increasingly rare. Each morning, she eyes the crowds of women outside seeking employment. The line that separates her from them is razor-thin.

"I know those ladies are hungry, I know they have kids," she said. "What if maybe my factory will close, too?"

Like most of the women in jobs like hers, Kheoane grew up at a time when Lesotho had a different export: the labor of its men. For decades, they left the country by the tens of thousands to work in the gold, diamond and platinum mines of South Africa. The paychecks they sent to their families back home were Lesotho's largest source of foreign income.

Kheoane's father left each January for the mines near the South African city of Rustenburg, where nearly three-quarters of the world's platinum is mined. Often, the family didn't see him again until December. After a while, he stopped coming home at all. Then, he stopped sending money.

News filtered back – he'd started another family. Kheoane said she learned to never rely on a man.

By the time Kheoane turned 18 and went looking for work in Maseru's factories, many of South Africa's mines were empty or had cut their operations, as mineral deposits became more expensive to extract. Women like Kheoane were on their way to becoming key to her country's economy.

In 2001, Lesotho signed on to an American trade deal: the African Growth and Opportunities Act, which guaranteed it duty-free imports to the U.S. of clothing manufactured in the country. Chinese and Taiwanese companies built sprawling factories on the industrial edges of Maseru. Today, textile products account for nearly half of Lesotho's exports, about \$415 million annually, mostly bound for the United States. The rapid industrial growth had a



profound ripple effect across the city's economy. Tin shacks sprouted like weeds outside the factory gates, selling garment workers everything from apples and beers to mobile phone airtime and secondhand clothing. Every morning, taxi vans full of commuters wheezed in from the city's fringes. Landlords built rows of simple cinderblock rooms with outdoor toilets on the edges of the industrial districts, where the city slackened into farmland and herders grazed their sheep beside tiny corner stores and informal taverns.

"When you speak about this industry being devastated by the pandemic, it isn't just the workers themselves," said Mokhele, the union leader. "It's everyone around them, too."

In Lesotho's factories, the first whispers of the global crisis that became the pandemic came early in 2020, when the Chinese companies that supply most of the fabric here abruptly canceled deliveries.

In early March, the first coronavirus cases were confirmed in neighboring South Africa. Soon after, Lesotho went into hard lockdown.

For two months, its entire garment industry shut down, save a few factories that pivoted to producing masks and other protective gear. To stave off total crisis, the government issued emergency payments of 800 loti (\$52) a month to permanently employed garment workers. But it was barely enough to pay rent. And employees on temporary contracts, such as Kheoane at the time, didn't receive anything.

In May 2020 the factories reopened, but the crisis continued. Nien Hsing, a Taiwanese company that employed more than 10,000 people to stitch jeans for American brands such as Levi's and Wrangler, began shedding workers by the thousands and closing factories. Others followed suit.

By the following year, workers were desperate. In May 2021, local unions organized a strike to try to raise the garment sector's monthly minimum wage – then 2,100 loti (about \$140). The demonstrations turned violent, with security forces fatally shooting a garment worker.

Factories eventually agreed to raise wages by 14% but complained the results would devastate their businesses. They warned that factory closures would follow.

One August morning, Sesha arrived at work to an announcement that the factory was shutting down. She was stunned. Factory work had been a ticket to a life far more independent than any her mother or grandmother could have imagined. She spent some of her last few dollars buying sleeping pills to quiet the thoughts that raced through her head late into the night: Would her son have to drop out of school? How would she cover rent?

"I didn't know where to start, thinking about my future," she said.

Kheoane clung to her own job, trying to work harder and faster to avoid being the next worker let go. Each day, as she marked T-shirt seams thousands of times, she thought of her family at home in Ha Ramokhele, a mountain village a two-hour drive from the city.

It was the kind of place she and childhood friends had scrambled up steep mountainsides to pick wild watermelons. Life's soundtrack was the tinkling of bells on cows herded by local shepherds. The only way to town was a four-hour hike.

As Kheoane worked, her son, Bokang, stayed in Ha Ramokhele with her mother. At 11, he'd spent months out of school during the pandemic, and Kheoane worried he'd fall behind.

Her biggest wish for Bokang: "I don't want him to work in a factory," she said. "No one wants their kids to have the life they had."

Experts are uncertain about the garment industry's future – both in Lesotho and globally. It's unclear whether the industry will find ways to better cushion workers or will continue its race to the cheapest possible production.

Amid the uncertainty, Kheoane is grateful for the work. On her monthly payday in February, she walked out of the factory gates with a crisp stack of bills in her pocket. A man fried pink rounds of baloney in a vat of oil outside, tempting the throngs of workers. Kheoane bought two chicken necks from another

vendor and headed into town. Kheoane learned long ago that wherever there is money in Lesotho, many hands reach out to claim it. Each garment worker's salary supports half a dozen people, according to development experts. For this paycheck, Kheoane's son needed new school shoes, and her mother

had asked for groceries. Kheoane visited two stores for the purchases, using the calculator on her cracked smartphone to tally food items. Around her, downtown Maseru was alive with the energy of factory money. Lines stretched at banks and ATMs. Couples emerged from corner bars clutching quarts of beer.

Grocery stores set up loudspeakers outside their doors, bleating payday specials.

On the other side of town, Sesha was home doing laundry. She didn't have a paycheck to spend anymore. In a few days, rent would be due, and she still wasn't sure how she'd pay. Lately, her boyfriend had been chipping in to pay expenses, and she was beginning to feel beholden to him.

"I hate it," she said, plainly.

So on Monday morning, she would wake early, and put on the jeans and Converse high-tops she bought at the mall back when her salary allowed such luxuries. She'd be in position at 7 a.m., when a horn wails from inside the factory gate, signaling the start of the workday.

And as the regular employees disappeared inside, Sesha would wait, holding an umbrella to block the sun. And she'll wait every day, in hopes of work.

"It doesn't seem like a job is coming for us, but we have to stay optimistic," she said. "If not this week, maybe the one after. Or the one after that."

UZALO

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>ITV</p> <p>MONDAY 4 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top Ten 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Usafiri wako rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:15 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 DWTV: Kesho leo 18:50 Kipindi Maalum: Women Mean Business 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW 22:15 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 5 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afiya ya Jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru</p>	<p>16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:00 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 6 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Uchumi wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake 12:55 Habari za 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<p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Usafiri wako 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt 13:30 Chetu ni Chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni Chetu rpt 14:15 Igizo: Rebecca rpt 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kisiam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean: Jumong rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 9 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Korean: Jumong rpt</p>	<p>13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:15 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The Décor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Ithohan 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 05 April</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle 08:00 Al Jazeera 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p>	<p>16:00 Series rpt: Ithohan 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Our Earth 20:00 Series: Ithohan 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 EcoAfrica 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Wed 06 April</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Deutsche Welle 09:00 Al Jazeera 12:00 O Our Earth Rpt 12:30 Innovation Rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Ithohan 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Ithohan 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Thurs 07 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WORLD

Kremlin: US-funded labs around Russia developing bio-weapons

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has information that an array of biological laboratories have been founded around Russia, which are engaged in developing bio-weapons, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Saturday.

"Within the framework of a program funded by

the Pentagon, a whole network of biolabs have been created around Russia and Belarus, which not only deal with extremely dangerous pathogens, microbes, viruses, but also work on projects to invent new types of biological weapons," Peskov said in an interview with Belarus-24 TV channel.

"The Americans are now trying to divert atten-

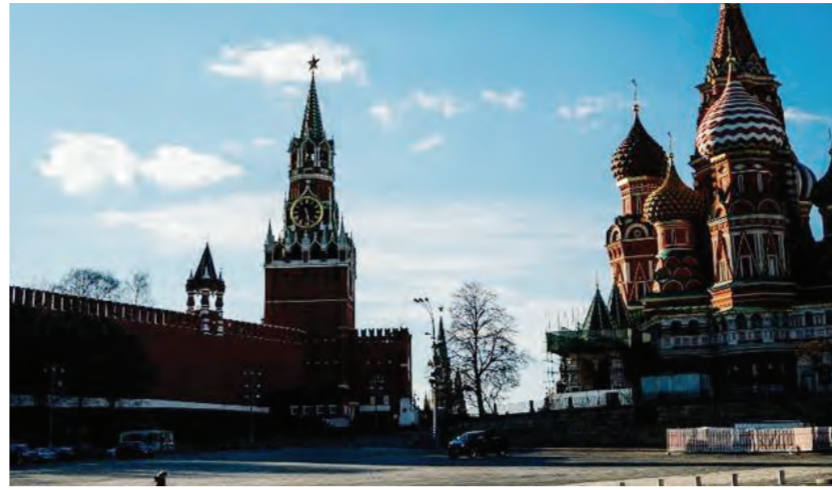
tion from the issue of biological laboratories, but facts speak for themselves. The issue concerns Russia and many other countries," he said.

During Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the dangerous biological activities of the United States had been revealed, Irina Yarovaya,

deputy chairperson of the State Duma or the lower house of Russia's parliament, said earlier this week.

Russian lawmakers have formed a commission to investigate US-controlled biological laboratories in Ukraine.

Xinhua



near the Kremlin in downtown Moscow on April 12, 2020. File photo

US House passes bill to federally decriminalise marijuana with partisan divide

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation on Friday to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level, with a partisan divide.

The bill was approved largely along party lines, 220-204, with three Republicans joining all but two Democrats in support.

The legislation would eliminate criminal penalties for anyone who manufactures, distributes, or possesses marijuana, and formally remove it from the federal list of controlled substances.

It would also establish procedures for expunging previous convictions from people's records while proposing a tax on the sales of cannabis products. Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said on the House floor that the bill is "long overdue" but would not "undermine the ability of states to apply their criminal laws to marijuana or to legalize and regulate it, as they see fit."

"For far too long, we have treated marijuana as a criminal justice problem instead of as a matter of personal choice and public health," argued the New York Democrat.

Jim Jordan, the top Republican on the House panel, accused Democrats of "legalizing drugs and using American tax dollars to kick start and prop up the marijuana industry."

The measure now goes to the Senate, where Democrats are reportedly working to introduce a marijuana legalization bill as soon as this spring. However, the House legislation is unlikely to secure 60 votes to clear the evenly-split upper chamber.

At least 37 states, four territories, and Washington, D.C. allow the use of marijuana for medical use, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures. About half that number -- 18 states, two territories, and the nation's capital -- have enacted measures to regulate cannabis for adult non-medical use.

Democrats have also sought to frame their measure as a way to reverse the disproportionate impact of criminalizing marijuana on racial minorities. Despite roughly equal usage rates, African Americans are 3.73 times more likely than whites to be arrested for marijuana, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Marijuana -- which can also be called cannabis, weed, pot, or dope -- refers to the dried flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds of the cannabis plant, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

The cannabis plant contains more than 100 compounds, including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is impairing or mind-altering.

Marijuana, the CDC revealed, is the most commonly used federally illegal drug in the United States, with an estimated 48.2 million people using it in 2019, and its use may have a wide range of health effects on the body and brain.

Nepali, Indian PMs discuss border issues

NEW DELHI

VISITING Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Saturday urged his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to establish a bilateral mechanism to resolve boundary issues.

Deuba said in a statement that the boundary issue was discussed during the talks between the two sides, and that he urged the Indian prime minister to resolve it through the establishment of a bilateral mechanism.

India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told reporters that there was a general understanding that the issue needed to be addressed in a responsible manner through dialogue, and its "politicization" should be avoided.

Deuba arrived in New Delhi on Friday. "We discussed the boundary issues and I urged Modi to resolve it through the establishment of bilateral mechanism," Deuba said after the talks.

On his part, Modi said it was discussed that the open borders between India and Nepal are not misused by undesirable elements.

"We emphasized on deepening of cooperation between our defence and security authorities. I am confident that our talks today will be able to attain the objective of achieving the ambitious targets of the India-Nepal ties," he added.

India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told reporters that there was a general understanding that the issue needed to be addressed in a responsible manner through dialogue

Xi calls on China, EU to add stabilising factors to turbulent world

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met via video link with President Charles Michel of the European Council and President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission in Beijing on the evening of April 1.

President Xi recalled that he made a suggestion eight years ago for China and Europe to foster a China-EU partnership for peace, growth, reform and civilization. China's vision remains unchanged.

If anything, it has become more relevant under the current circumstances. China and the EU share extensive common interests and a solid foundation for cooperation.

Noting the consistency and continuity of China's EU policy, President Xi called on the EU to form its own perception of China, adopt an independent China policy, and work with China to promote the steady and sustained growth of China-EU relations and to add stabilizing factors to a turbulent world.

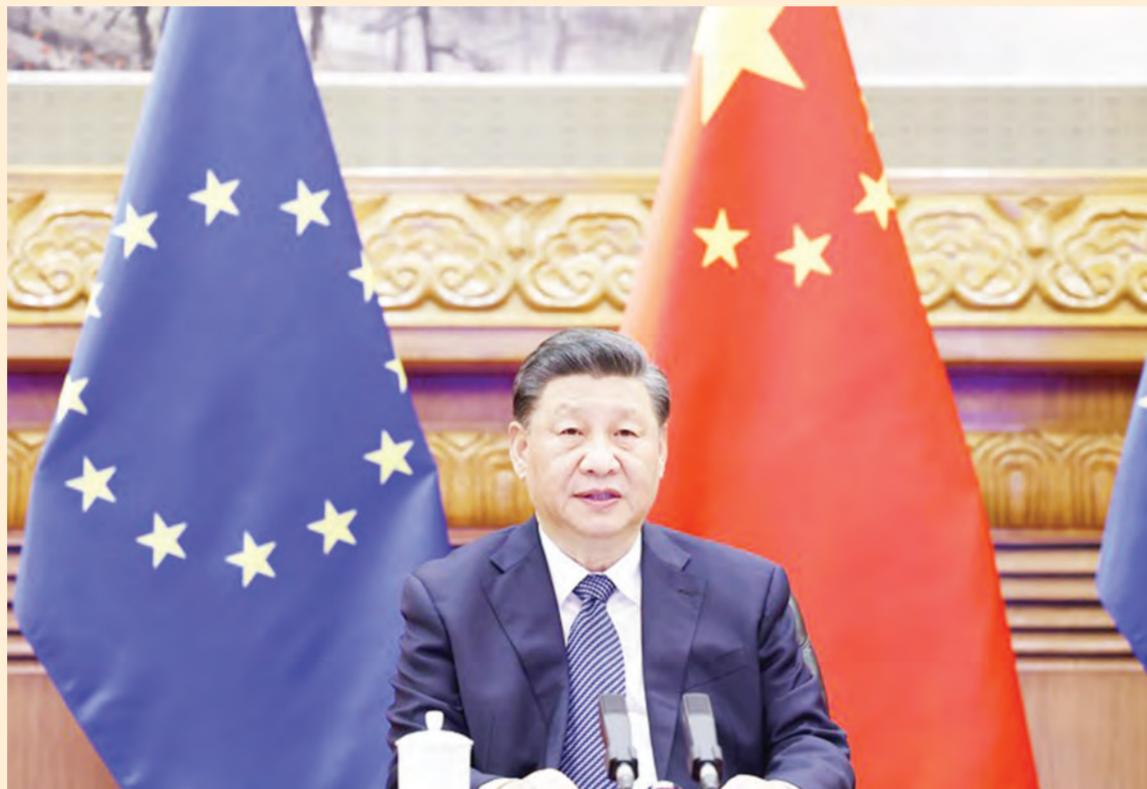
President Xi stressed that China and the EU should act as two major forces upholding world peace, and offset uncertainties in the international landscape with the stability of China-EU relations.

The two sides need to take the lead in defending the international system with the UN at its core, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and jointly reject the resurrection of rival-bloc mentality and oppose attempts at a new Cold War, with a view to maintaining world peace and stability.

President Xi pointed out that China and the EU should act as two big markets promoting shared development, and deepen economic globalization through open cooperation.

China will stay committed to deepening reform and further opening up. China welcomes European business investment and expects the EU to provide a fair, transparent and nondiscriminatory environment for Chinese business investment and development in Europe.

The two sides need to seek greater synergy between their development strategies and explore



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen via video link in Beijing, capital of China, April 1, 2022. Xinhua

more complementarity between China's new development philosophy and paradigm and the EU's trade policy for open strategic autonomy.

President Xi underscored that China and the EU should act as two great civilizations promoting human progress, and meet global challenges through solidarity and collaboration.

The two sides need to follow true multilateralism, advocate a vision of global governance featuring the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, continue to spearhead international cooperation on climate change and biodiversity, and work together to defeat COVID-19. China welcomes the EU's support for and participation in the Global Development Initiative.

President Michel and President von der Leyen said that China is an important force in the world.

The EU attaches great importance to China's international standing and role, and to developing relations with China. China and the EU enjoy a longstanding relationship of mutual benefit.

Both sides are committed to defending peace and multilateralism. Under the current international situation, it is vital for the EU and China to increase dialogue and cooperation. The EU side reaffirmed its commitment

to the one-China principle and expressed its desire for candid exchanges with China to sustain the good momentum of EU-China relations.

It also expressed readiness to keep deepening cooperation with China in such fields as economy, trade, investment, energy and green development, to jointly confront global challenges like COVID-19, climate change, and protection of biodiversity and promote world peace, economic growth and common prosperity. The EU will provide support and cooperation for the success of the second part of COP15 in China.

The two sides exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine. The EU leaders shared their views and propositions on the Ukraine crisis.

President Xi emphasized that China finds it deeply regrettable that the situation in Ukraine has come to where it is today. China's position on the Ukraine issue is consistent and clear-cut.

China always stands on the side of peace and draws its conclusion independently based on the merits of each matter. China calls for upholding international law and universally recognized norms governing international relations, acts in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and advocates the vision of common, comprehensive, co-

operative and sustainable security.

President Xi shared his views on how to settle the Ukraine crisis under the current circumstances:

First, promoting peace talks. China supports the EU's efforts toward a political settlement of the Ukraine issue, and has been encouraging peace talks in its own way. Peace talks are the only viable way to prevent an escalation of tensions.

The international community should keep creating favorable conditions and environment for the negotiations between Russia and Ukraine and make room for political settlement, rather than add fuel to the fire and heighten tensions.

Second, preventing a humanitarian crisis on a bigger scale. China has put forward a six-point initiative on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, provided multiple batches of emergency humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and sent supplies to European countries receiving large numbers of refugees. China will stay in touch with the EU to prevent a bigger humanitarian crisis.

Third, fostering lasting peace in Europe and the Eurasian continent. The root cause of the Ukraine crisis is the regional security tensions in Europe that have built up over the years. A fundamental solution is to accommodate the legitimate security concerns of all relevant parties.

Xinhua

Consultation platforms near people's homes help bring prompt solutions to Chinese people's needs

ON a sunny spring afternoon, Yang Xiaoyan, a 69-year-old resident in Huocun village, Xingtang county, Shijiazhuang city, north China's Hebei province, was playing Chinese chess with his old fellows at a newly built leisure square, or the activity center for senior residents.

The leisure square covers an area of more than 1,000 square meters and is equipped with various kinds of exercise and leisure facilities, including a ping-pong table, a table for chess and card games, stage for performance of traditional Chinese opera, a rest pavilion, and a cultural corridor designed to promote traditional virtues among the Chinese nation, such as filial piety and righteousness.

Just a few months ago, senior residents of Huocun village were upset that they couldn't find a suitable place to take physical exercise and enjoy leisure activities. Things started to change in September 2021, when the Xingtang county committee of China's top political advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), held a "mobile consultative meeting" in Huocun village to hear villagers' voices and suggestions.

"Now that we can eat well and dress well, the only one more thing we would like to have is a place for leisure activities," said senior residents of the village at the meeting.

After the meeting, the CPPCC committee of Xingtang county immedi-

ately carried out discussions on the issue with the housing and urban-rural development bureau of the county and the government of Zhili township, and they eventually decided to build an activity center for senior residents on a tract of idle residential land in the village. The construction of the activity center was completed in merely three months.

The "mobile consultative meeting" is one of the mobile consultation platforms launched by the CPPCC Xingtang county committee.

To facilitate the work of the CPPCC committee at the community level and strengthen the communication between political advisors and local people so as to further tap into the

strengths of the CPPCC committee as a dedicated consultative body, the CPPCC Xingtang county committee has carried out "mobile consultative meeting" near people's homes to better engage local people in discussions on matters involving them since August 2021.

"By holding consultative meetings near people's homes, we mean to encourage more people to take part in discussions on local affairs," said Zhang Shengli, chairman of the CPPCC Xingtang county committee.

Although the matters discussed during consultations directly related to the interests of the people, they used to be unable to take part in these consultations due to various reasons, said

Zhang, adding that participants in consultations organized by the CPPCC Xingtang county committee in the past were mainly officials and experts.

"Since it's inconvenient for the people to come and attend the consultations, we decided to bring consultative meeting to their homes," Zhang said.

The mobile consultation platforms launched by the CPPCC Xingtang county committee lay emphasis on both determining matters to be discussed during consultative meetings and finding and identifying problems through such meetings.

Teams led by officials with the CPPCC Xingtang county committee often organize consultative meetings at

communities, villages, and factories to engage local people in the discussions of matters involving them. Once problems are identified at these meetings, political advisors immediately hold consultations with officials of local government and later invite relevant authorities to the spots where the problems occur to discuss solutions.

Such mobile consultative meetings not only offer the people an opportunity to speak out freely, but also involve various local authorities and government departments in the discussions on and settlement of problems and help CPPCC members better fulfill their duties, thus benefiting multiple parties, according to Zhang.

People's Daily

Indonesia greets Ramadan with mass prayer as virus curbs ease

JAKARTA / YANGON / NEW DELHI

THE world's largest Muslim-majority nation of Indonesia welcomed the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan with a mass prayer at Jakarta's grand mosque on Saturday, with plateauing coronavirus cases allowing for eased restrictions this year.

Thousands gathered after dusk at Istiqlal mosque in the Indonesian capital to join the Tarawih prayer, special prayers performed only during t

For the past two years Indonesia has grappled with one of the highest rates of COVID-19 in Asia, but this Ramadan, traditionally a time of community, reflection and prayer, cases have eased enough to allow for mass gatherings.

"I feel grateful that we are finally able to gather for the Tarawih prayer, and there are no strict restrictions this time like before," said Tri Haryono, 28.

"I'm very grateful that we can finally pray here together."

Amid the worst spikes in the coronavirus pandemic, Indonesian Muslims have been prohibited from praying at the mosque, and joining the annual mudik or exodus tradition, when millions travel to visit their families across the sprawling archipelago.

President Joko Widodo announced last week that mudik would be permitted this year after pandemic-related travel bans have prevented the

practise for the past two years.

"The improving COVID situation has brought optimism as the Ramadan holy month is upon us," he told a news conference.

The start of Ramadan, during which observers abstain from food and drink from dawn until sunset, can fall on different dates due to differences in sightings of the new moon.

This year fasting month began earlier in much of the Middle East and South Asia than in Southeast Asia, which started fasting on Sunday.

India

India's COVID-19 tally rose to 43,028,131 on Sunday, as 1,096 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Besides, as many as 81 deaths due to the pandemic were reported since Saturday morning, taking the total death toll to 521,345.

There are still 13,013 active COVID-19 cases in the country as there was a fall of 432 active cases during the past 24 hours. This was the 68th consecutive day when the number of active cases declined in the country.

So far 42,493,773 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, out of which 1,447 were discharged during the past 24 hours.

Kenya's coastal biodiversity hotspot providing alternative livelihood to local farmers

NAIROBI

WHILE growing up in a village adjacent to Arabuko Sokoke forest, a biodiversity hotspot located in Kenyan coastal county of Kilifi, Jonathan Charo used to marvel at its imposing green canopy and splendor.

The 45-year-old father of five learned at an early age that the largest indigenous coastal forest in East Africa had a special place in the history, culture and heritage of his community and preserving it for future generations was like a calling. Charo is among more than 1,000 small-holder farmers embedded in Arabuko Sokoke's butterfly rearing project that seeks to provide them with alternative livelihood and enhance their contribution in protecting the unique ecosystem.

Started in 1993 with funding from the government and overseas donors, the Kipepeo (Swahili for butterfly) farming project has revolutionized conservation of the 420-kilometer square indigenous forest through provision of alternative sources of revenue to nearby farmers and dissuaded them from encroaching on it.

According to Charo, since he start-

ed butterfly farming more than two decades ago and accrued financial rewards, he felt motivated to protect a biodiversity hotspot that is home to 20 percent of Kenya's bird species, 30 percent of butterfly species and about 24 rare and endemic birds and mammal species.

"What attracted me to butterfly farming was the realization it was intended to uplift our living standards while pulling us away from practices that could harm Arabuko Sokoke forest," Charo told Xinhua, adding that he has been able to earn reasonable monthly income besides acquiring skills and exposure to the wider world.

His day job involves venturing into the innermost sections of Arabuko Sokoke forest where he traps male and female butterflies and confines them to a cage in his homestead to allow for the hatching of eggs.

Charo and his peers sell pupae that develop from the eggs to a collection center domiciled within Arabuko Sokoke forest in readiness for export to overseas markets where they are used for research and ornamental purposes upon becoming adult butterflies.

On a good month according to Charo, he earns 30,000 shillings (261 U.S. dol-

lars) from selling pupae, despite minimal overheads, hence enabling him to meet basic needs of his immediate household.

"This has motivated me to sacrifice my time and energy towards conservation of Arabuko-Sokoke forest since it is very crucial to my livelihood if left intact," he added.

Charo Kenga, a 28-year-old butterfly farmer, said that the insects besides providing him an alternative livelihood as opposed to felling trees to earn daily bread, have also taught him the need to value natural habitats in his backyard.

"At least I cannot involve myself in cutting down trees at the Arabuko Sokoke forest, being aware they sustain a butterfly's life cycle," said Kenga. "I have been telling my friends to protect this forest and avoid disrupting the breeding of butterflies that are currently an important source of income to many farmers," he added.

Msanzu Karisa, a middle-aged former cobbler who has engaged in butterfly farming for the last sixteen years, hailed their positive contribution to the livelihoods of his peers in the semi-arid sections of Kilifi county.

He said that butterfly farming continues to resonate with small-holder farmers whose income had previously declined amid low crop yield and lack of ready market for their produce.

He disclosed that he was able to break even six months after venturing into butterfly farming, and has since been able to cater for household bills including rent, food and school fees with ease.

Karisa added that despite market volatility occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic, butterfly farming as an enterprise was on a recovery trajectory, as demand for the insects in new export destinations grew. Chemuku Wekesa, the assistant director for the Coast region at Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) noted that novel ways of conserving Arabuko Sokoke and other pristine coastal ecosystems have benefited local communities.

Wekesa said that assisting communities to engage in beekeeping and butterfly farming has motivated them to protect the expansive indigenous forest, home to iconic land mammals like elephants and African buffalo.

He added that climate change, wildfires, sporadic incidents of illegal logging and rampant poverty among adjacent communities were some of the threats facing the Arabuko Sokoke forest block.



Muslim devotees offer prayers marking the start of Islam's holy month of Ramadan at Al Akbar Mosque in Surabaya on Saturday. AFP



Sudan to face significant wheat supply shortage, says official

KHARTOUM,

ABDUI-MAJEED Mohamed Al-Tayeb, acting undersecretary of Sudan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, said in a statement on Saturday that the wheat production in the country can only feed less than 30 percent of its consumption. "The annual wheat consumption is about 2.4 million tons, while the local production does not exceed 700,000 tons," he said. The United Nations has already warned that Sudan could face a serious shortage of cereals this year amid an ongoing economic crisis in the country.

"Sudan is expected to face a significant cereal supply gap in 2022. The estimated 5.1 million tons of cereal harvested in the 2021/2022 season will cover about 65 percent of the estimated 7.6 million tons of cereal Sudan typically requires," said the annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission report published in March.

Cereal retail prices have increased by 20 percent to 30 percent in most major production and consumption markets between February and March, which are now 110 percent to 120 percent higher than in March 2021, and 500 percent to 700 percent higher than the five-year average, according to the report. The report expected Sudan to import around 2.5 million tons of food in total this year, primarily wheat and sorghum, up almost 24 percent from last year and 35 percent higher than the five-year average.

The report attributed the cereal supply shortage in Sudan to deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, reduced government ability to import good and staple foods, and the high prices of staple and non-staple food items, along with the impact of continued conflict, displacement, and political instability.

Earlier the World Food Programme (WFP) said in a press release that half of Sudan's population would face acute hunger this year. According to the WFP, about 20 million people would likely be affected by emergency or crisis levels of acute food insecurity, doubling the figure in 2021.

Sudan has been facing an economic crisis since the United States and international agencies suspended aid after Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, the general commander of the Sudanese armed forces, declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2021 and dissolved the Sovereign Council.

The United States has suspended 700 million dollars in economic aid to Sudan, while the World Bank failed to offer Sudan the 500 million dollars due in November 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also halted 150 million dollars in special drawing rights for Sudan. Sudan's debt relief process under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of the IMF has also been suspended. Sudan has been plagued by an economic crisis since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, which costs Sudan 75 percent of its oil revenues.



Earlier the World Food Programme (WFP) said in a press release that half of Sudan's population would face acute hunger this year

China stands unswervingly on the right side of history

IN a turbulent and volatile world, only by standing on the right side of history and acting with wisdom, courage and sense of responsibility can countries make the right choice.

Profound global changes and the COVID-19 pandemic, both unseen in a century, have plunged the world into a phase of fluidity and transformation. The outbreak of the Ukraine crisis has further complicated the international situation which has already been full of uncertainties.

The evolution of the Ukraine crisis is something all peace-loving countries and people don't want to see. The deteriorating situation has once again shown that state-to-state relations cannot advance to the stage of confrontation, and conflicts and confrontations are not in the interests of anyone. Peace and security are what the international community should treasure the most.

At such a critical moment, certain Western countries, driven by their own selfish interests, have added fuel to the fire to escalate the Ukraine crisis while criticizing the just position of other countries that urge the settlement of the crisis through dialogue and negotiation. They even claimed that every country should think about what side of history they want to be on over the

Ukraine issue. It was like "if you don't listen to me, then you are on the wrong side of history".

While exposing the hegemonic mindset of certain Western countries, such remarks and acts of openly asking other countries to take sides are evidence of these countries' failing to grasp the trend of history and standing on the right side of history.

Countries that stand on the right side of history must support peace talks between Russia and Ukraine. Whether they have promoted peace talks or incited confrontation, doused the fire or fanned the flames of war, pursued common interests or selfish gains, history will record justly the merits and demerits of countries' choices regarding the Ukraine crisis.

China maintains that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter must be fully observed, the legitimate security concerns of all countries must be taken seriously, and all efforts that are conducive to the peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis must be supported.

This is a judgment made independently based on the merits of the matter and the right choice based on a long-term perspective and the intention of safeguarding

world peace.

To resolve the Ukraine crisis, all sides need to jointly support Russia and Ukraine in having dialogue and negotiation that will produce results and lead to peace. The U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) should also hold dialogue with Russia to solve the crux of the crisis.

China's proposition, while helps avoid escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia, embodies the philosophy "harmony is the most valuable", which has been valued by the Chinese nation since ancient times, and demonstrates China's strong sense of responsibility as a major country.

Countries that stand on the right side of history must promote global peace and development.

Peace, development, cooperation, and win-win results are the irresistible trend of the times. Peoples of all countries long for peace and development. China stands for peace and opposes war, which is embedded in the country's history and culture.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a responsible major country, China has always faithfully fulfilled its international obligations and played a constructive role in safeguarding world peace and stability.

China has the best record

as a major country when it comes to peace and security. It has never invaded other countries, launched proxy wars, sought spheres of influence or engaged in any military bloc confrontation.

To resolve the Ukraine crisis, it is absolutely imperative to promote dialogue and negotiation between Russia and Ukraine, avoid civilian casualties, prevent a humanitarian crisis, and cease hostilities as soon as possible.

China has been doing its best for world peace, and will continue to play a constructive role in this regard.

Countries that stand on the right side of history must safeguard equity and justice. The prevailing trends toward a multi-polar world, economic globalization, and the democratization of international relations remain unchanged. Increasingly, international affairs need to be jointly handled by all countries through extensive consultation, while establishing international mechanism, abiding by international rules, and pursuing international justice have become a consensus among the majority of countries.

China advocates upholding international law and universally recognized norms governing international relations, adheres to the UN Charter and promotes the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

China has the best record

Ukraine's sovereignty and security should be safeguarded; Russia's legitimate security concerns should also be respected. Europe's peace and stability should be defended, so should the peace and stability of other countries.

Major countries in the world should respect each other, reject Cold War mentality, refrain from bloc confrontation, and gradually build balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture for their regions and for the world, which is the long-term solution to the Ukraine crisis.

China will be pleased to see equal-footed dialogue among the EU, Russia, the U.S. and NATO.

What makes a major country a truly respected one is its responsibility and capability to advance and safeguard global peace.

In this volatile and changing world, China has always upheld and practiced true multilateralism, and stood on the right side of history, the side of peace, cooperation, fairness, and justice, as well as the side of human progress.

Time will prove that China's proposition represents the right path toward realizing the lasting and peaceful development of the world and creating a more beautiful future for mankind.

People's Daily



Idd Kipagwile

Kipagwile ready to return to Azam FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FOOTBALL fans in Tanzania are familiar with him by the nickname 'Mtoto Idd', referring to a vicious song by Bongo Flava singer, Juma Kassim, alias 'Sir Juma Nature', carrying a similar title, which was a hit song in the country several years back.

The footballer's full name is Idd Kipagwile, a pacy and skilful winger who plays for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on loan from Azam FC.

Before joining Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, he had played for Majimaji FC, Namungo FC, and Azam FC, with his performance at times improving and waning.

The winger disclosed several issues including his ever-shifting lifestyle, claiming he can play for any outfit.

Kipagwile noted he started his football journey at Simba SC's youth team but his skills attracted Majimaji FC.

The Ruvuma-based side signed him to serve the club before Azam FC roped him in to serve them for the 2016/17 season.

The winger said: "I believe in working hard and being patient because achievements may come, when I get a chance I will make sure I use it well."

He disclosed that former Azam FC head coach, Romanian Aristica Cioaba, was the one who suggested he should be signed by the outfit and making the deal a success gave him light in his life.

"It was like a dream to me because until you see a famous team like Azam FC seeks your services you must feel happy because it is the goal of every player to serve a team like it in the country," the performer stated.

There is a lot of awareness shown by players right now to aspire to scale great heights in life.

Kipagwile shares the same view, as, according to him, Azam has helped him make headway, considering the footballer was able to build a house in Songea.

"When Azam FC handed me the transfer fee I decided to build a house in Songea, this is a meaningful endeavour because you do not know your future and that is why I decided to start there and I'm here, I believe other good things will come."

Before joining Azam FC, Kipagwile disclosed that Simba wanted to resign him but a close person advised him to go to Azam FC as he was promised to get everything on time.

"I needed to play for a big team and

offers came at that time but my brother who advises me a lot told me to go to Azam FC and when I arrived I got everything on time."

He added that after Azam FC had beat Simba in the Mapinduzi Cup final in 2018, he was again linked with a move to Simba, although none of Simba's officials communicated with him.

"No Simba leader followed me, only rumours were circulating and heard as other people heard, they probably did not come because I had a long-term contract," he revealed.

He disclosed that when he joined Namungo FC in 2020, his knee injury wanted to endanger his footballing career but he thanks God he is back and continues to work hard.

"I was out of action for six months, it was the worst moment of my life, but God is good as I have recovered and I continue to show my talent," he revealed.

One of his biggest goals is to one day win the Mainland Premier League silverware because he has won other trophies like Kagame Cup and Mapinduzi Cup with Azam FC.

The footballer stressed: "I have already worn some medals, I want to wear the Premier League medal, if I wear it with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC it is the same or elsewhere but my dream is to wear that medal."

The performer stated that in his footballing journey he will never forget former Yanga player, Kalimangonga Ongala, who also served as Azam FC and Majimaji coach.

Kipagwile revealed Ongala helped him improve his talent due to the foundation the gaffer was giving him.

"I have been coached by many coaches up to this point but Ongala made me feel brave and not give up, he will surely remain in my memory," he revealed.

Kipagwile also dreams of playing football abroad. The player said: "Plans are in place and anything can happen, there were many offers but the COVID-19 disease stopped the plans, I'm targeting to make sure I move further and when the time comes everything will be known," he stated.

He noted his contract with his parent club, Azam FC, expires at the end of this season, and if the outfit's officials see fit to bring him back he is ready to return.

"I'm ready to come back if they need me because football is my job but if there will be no contract renewal talks, I'll look for another green pasture that I think will suit me."

Local footballers now should have trademarks to attract endorsement

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RELIANTS Lusajo, a Namungo FC forward, scored his 10th goal in this season's NBC Premier League last month.

Yanga's Fiston Mayele has scored the same number of goals this month, netting his 10th in a match against Geita Gold FC.

It took Mayele some time to draw level with Lusajo, but it was something the Yanga goal-getter had what it takes to fulfil.

There is a difference between Mayele and Lusajo. I do not want to talk about their differences on the pitch, they are largely identical.

They both score and launch attacks. They help their fellow players score.

But off the pitch, they may be a little different. For example, the way Mayele has become popular in Tanzania would make a soccer follower think he was the best scorer ahead of Lusajo and Geita Gold FC's George Mpole.

There are two reasons why Mayele is so popular. The first is that the Congolese forward plays for a popular team, namely Yanga. It has a lot of fans.

Even Lusajo knows that if he scored the goals for either Simba or Yanga he would be more popular. Sadly, he scored for a team from Ruangwa District in Lindi.

I will not be surprised to see Lusajo long to go to either Yanga or Simba at the end of the season.

It is a common occurrence for dangerous strikers who play for a team akin to the one he plays for.

I know that even Harry Kane wants to leave England's Tottenham Hotspur and move on to extremely popular clubs.

But there is something wrong with players including Lusajo. When a football follower hears the names of Mayele, Stephen Sey, Heritier Makambo, and Meddie Kagere two things come to the fanatic's mind.

First and foremost they are foreign players, second, they



Geita Gold FC players, fullback Amos Charles (R) and midfielder Kelvin Nashon (L) keep Mtbwa Sugar's attacker, Jaffary Salum, in check when the clubs met in this season's NBC Premier League match which took place in Geita last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

are talented goal scorers.

Some of the foreign performers have left the country's football supporters with unique celebration styles the footballers used once they score goals.

The British people call these styles trademarks. Kagere closes one of his eyes with the palm of his hand, Makambo claps his hands, and Sey waves to the opponents' fans, implying the footballer is bidding the fans farewell.

Mayele has his celebration style which is lately popular. His has become a household style although it has won many football lovers' hearts largely due to the status of the team he scores goals for.

The foreign footballers are smarter than their local counterparts. The foreign players value the goals they score more than soccer fanatics value them.

Perhaps domestic players consider scoring goals a normal thing. Soccer fanatics do not know what celebration style such performers like Lusajo have.

The Namungo FC striker is not the only local football player whose celebration style is not known.

His brothers Mbwana Samatta, John Bocco, and

Thomas Ulimwengu have also never left domestic soccer lovers with celebration styles.

At least former Yanga striker Simon Msuva goes for a backflip on the sidelines once the performer scores a goal.

What does it mean? Mayele's style adds to his popularity just as much as Sey's.

It is easier for people, who do not love soccer, to recognize Mayele more easily than Lusajo even if the latter emerges as the top-flight top scorer at the end of the season.

By then Mayele's name would be popular among football fans and people who do not love soccer because something would be more recognizable to him.

In the capitalist world, Mayele will already have another advantage in hand besides playing football.

It has also become commercially viable abroad. For example, Mayele can sell T-shirts with a photo of the footballer performing his celebration style appearing in front of the T-shirts.

They will be beautiful T-shirts that have pictures showcasing Mayele hitting his hand. He will sell plenty of them.

But for various reasons companies may be more attracted to Mayele and make adverts containing his celebration style than the companies can be to either Lusajo or other domestic football players who do not have celebration styles.

That is the way it is. This game also requires a little bit of flexibility.

It is easy for Mayele to get commercial deals from telecoms companies, banks, spirits, and soft drinks supplying companies because the companies can use his style to advertise their products.

As for Lusajo even though he is the best scorer his popularity will not match Mayele's.

In the past football game was not quite enterprising, but nowadays it has Hollywood flavours.

It is not surprising to see many people believe that Lionel Messi is better than Cristiano Ronaldo on the pitch, but off the field, Ronaldo has been better than Messi.

The reason is simple. Starting on the pitch Ronaldo has a celebration style that the whole world understands.

Ronaldo has off the pitch

been active. His hairstyle and so on make him more sought after.

It is not surprising that Ronaldo is the most popular person on Instagram.

He is not only popular because of his goals but there are many people, especially girls, who have become his followers because of his attitude and the way he chose to live.

Wayne Rooney may have been a better player than David Beckham when both were in their prime, but the latter made a lot more money than the former due to the lifestyle he decided to choose.

Sometimes local players have to find their styles on and off the pitch.

It is a little strange when clubs' spokespersons and writers have more followers online than popular and less popular clubs' players in the country.

Mohamed Hussein is a player with the most fans among local players.

He made one million followers last month and it is not surprising to see him get business deals outside the pitch.

Hussein boasts of more online followers than his colleagues. Bocco is the one who should have been the most followed local footballer.

Attackers are the most-watched. Even overseas attackers become stars. But online Hussein is more of a celebrity than Bocco.

This is the modern world in which Europe-based players live right now. Local footballers have completely stopped living in this world.

They want to be on the pitch and then get on the bus. There is a world of luxury that also gives popular Bongo Flava singer 'Diamond Platinumz' a lot of money.

Local soccer performers do not want to live such a kind of life. A player like Lusajo should give local football lovers more reasons to know him on and off the pitch than his goals.



Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park's women football squad's players take part in training at the center's venue in Dares Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Politically charged US-Iran in first Middle East World Cup

DOHA, Qatar

A WORLD Cup buildup laced in controversy and geopolitical undertones has conjured up the most politically charged of matchups on the field in Qatar.

Just like at the FIFA showpiece in 1998, the United States will play Iran with diplomatic relations yet to be restored between the nations since being severed in 1980.

The Mother of All Games Part II.

"(A) political group, but I'm not political," Iran's Croatian coach, Dragan Skocic, said. "I focus on football. I think this is the best way in sport and also we should give people the chance to make the situation better."

The hope will be for a repeat of the tranquility around the 1998 encounter in France where the Iranians brought white roses for their American opponents before winning 2-1.

"It's 24 years later from 1998 and further removed from the 70s and both nations have evolved tremendously since then," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "For us, it's a soccer game."

But if Group B needed any more intrigue it was provided in Friday's draw in Doha by the headline participant being Euro 2020 runner-up England, whose government has endured tense relations with Tehran.

And the ramifications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which spilled into the Doha convention center, were evident in the final team drawn in the group. Ukraine's ability to qualify for Qatar has been delayed by the war halting football in the country. But if they beat Scotland and then Wales in the playoffs in June, the Ukrainians will contest a World Cup for the first time since 2006.

"Ukraine is (a team) everyone's pulling for in a way because of everything they are going through," Berhalter said.

The focus on Group B overshadowed other notable draws.

Qatar qualified as the host of the first World Cup in the Middle East, and will make its tournament debut on the opening night on Nov. 21 against Ecuador. They will later face the teams who open the tournament earlier in the day: African champion Senegal and the Netherlands, whose coach Louis van Gaal said last week it was a "ridiculous" decision to award the World Cup to this tiny nation.

That FIFA vote in 2010 sparked years of corruption investigations into not only Qatar's bid but widespread bribery of world football officials.

Come the kickoff in November, Qatar will hope the focus is on the quality of the games.

There's a thrilling matchup in Group E between 2010 champion Spain and 2014 winner Germany.

Group C could see a meeting of the most recent FIFA Best winners with Lionel Messi's Argentina drawn to play Robert Lewandowski's Poland. The biggest traveling support could also be witnessed in the group, as Saudis can drive across the border into Qatar. Their final first-round game is against Mexico.

There is a seemingly lowkey start for Portugal at what could be Cristiano Ronaldo's fifth straight World Cup finals as their Group H includes Ghana, South Korea and Uruguay.

South America nations discovered before the draw that a \$10 million bonus awaits from their confederation for being the first world champion from CONMEBOL since Brazil in 2002. Brazil first has to get past Switzerland, Serbia and Cameroon to win a record-extending sixth world title and also bank \$42 million from FIFA.

The world champion will be crowned in December for the first time, on what will be Qatar National Day on the 18th. The finals were moved from their usual July slot to avoid Qatar's fierce summer heat.

The implausibility of Qatar staging such a mammoth event in eight stadiums within the congested confines of Doha was clear in the desert imagery that flashed on the screens around the draw venue on Friday. Images of skyscrapers sprouting from the sand served as a reminder of the vast projects required to develop this gas-rich nation in recent decades.

"The world can see Qatar as promised," the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, told the audience.

The suffering of low-paid migrant workers went unmentioned.

There was an oblique reference before the draw by FIFA President Gianni Infantino to the war on Ukraine launched in February by 2018 host Russia.

"Our world is divided, our world is aggressive," Infantino said, "and we need occasions to bring people together."

There was a plea for peace.

"To all the leaders and all the people of the world," Infantino added, "stop the conflicts and the wars. Please engage in dialogue. Please engage in peace. We want this to be a World Cup of unity and the World Cup of peace."

The day began with a protest outside FIFA headquarters in Zurich. German artist Volker-Johannes Trieb used balls filled with sand to protest against the suffering of migrant workers in Qatar who have worked on the infrastructure related to the World Cup.

AP

Man United's season drifting to tepid conclusion

MANCHESTER, England

IF Erik ten Hag or Mauricio Pochettino wants to know how big a job it will be to turn Manchester United around, they need only watch a replay of the 1-1 draw with Leicester City.

For the Old Trafford club, this has become a season drifting toward the Europa League -- or worse -- and which is being played out by a squad of players seemingly devoid of confidence and belief. Good luck to whoever takes over from Ralf Rangnick in the summer; you have got your work cut out.

The new manager will probably not have to concern himself with the Champions League for at least a year after another result that sees United slip further away from the Premier League's top four. Indeed, it would have been worse without David De Gea's wonder save to deny Wesley Fofana and VAR ruling out a late James Maddison goal.

It was, nevertheless, a disastrous afternoon for the home side. Maddison, who was the game's standout player and head and shoulders above anyone wearing red, said afterward that Leicester were "disap-

pointed" to leave with just a point, and it was hard to argue.

United's day was summed up in the third minute of second-half stoppage time when a good chance fell to Jadon Sancho at the back post, but he could only scuff a shot against his own leg and out for a goal kick. Soon after, Anthony Elanga and Marcus Rashford got in each other's way and another chance went begging.

There was nothing to suggest Rangnick's team is capable of clawing its way into fourth over the final eight games, particularly with games against Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea to come. Arsenal are three points clear with two games in hand and West Ham, in eighth, are only three points behind United.

"As long as it's mathematically possible, we'll try to win as many games as possible," said Rangnick. "Obviously, after dropping two points, our position isn't better after this result. It's our obligation to finish the season on the best possible note.

"The second half was the better one; we were struggling to find the rhythm in the first half possibly because of the international



Manchester United's manager Ralf Rangnick leave the field at the end of the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Leicester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, Saturday, April 2, 2022. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. (AP Photo)

break," the interim manager added. "If I look at the whole game, I think the draw is OK. We had opportunities to score the win-

ning goal, but so did they." Speaking at his news conference on Friday, Rangnick insisted his players are suitably motivated

to finish the season well, but there was little evidence here to back it up, particularly in the opening 45 minutes. Without Cristiano Ronaldo or Edinson Cavani, Bruno Fernandes played as a makeshift No. 9 and, barring his shot that Kasper Schmeichel saved with his legs, United offered nothing before half-time.

Leicester deserved their lead when Kelechi Iheanacho headed in Maddison's cross after 63 minutes and were unlucky when United equalised three minutes later; Fernandes' shot came back off Schmeichel and fell to Fred, eight yards out.

Thereafter, Schmeichel did not have another save to make and Leicester looked more likely to score a winner. United have won just three of their past 11 games in all competitions and have not won any of their past five against Brendan Rodgers' team.

"It was a good performance away here, disappointed to not win and that is always a good sign," the Leicester boss said. "The football was very good but we passed it well a lot of the time and got into some good areas. I thought we were very good in large spells of the game."

When Leicester dropped out of the Europa League and into the Europa Conference League in December, Rodgers admitted he did not know what the competition was. It might be time for United fans to familiarise themselves because, on current form, they will be fortunate to finish fifth.

The bigger danger, however, is that the malaise drags over into next season. Echoing his pregame comments, Rangnick's programme notes urged his players to "build momentum to feel the benefits when August comes," but the German's rallying cries are not having the desired effect.

Instead, he got more of the same, and for large parts the game mirrored a dire 0-0 draw with Watford at the end of February. It was hard to believe United had been preparing for the 18 days since their last fixture and, while they have a week to get ready for a trip to Everton, each passing game means less.

There is faint hope that qualifying for the Champions League remains possible, if not probable. As a miserable season limps toward its conclusion, it is all they have left.

ESPN

Chelsea's season in doubt on and off the field as Brentford find historic win

LONDON, England

IN the space of 10 minutes, Chelsea went from being in the familiar position of a goal to the good at home, to wondering if their season is going to unravel.

Antonio Rudiger's wondergoal at the start of the second half brought relief at Stamford Bridge, but it was only a momentary respite from the off-field ownership battle and now on-field uncertainty engulfing the club. What followed was a brutal exposure of the hosts' fragile state as Christian Eriksen, Mads Roerslev and Bryan Mbuemo orchestrated a historic 4-1 win for Brentford.

Three times Brentford hit Chelsea on the counter-attack from the 50th to the 60th minute with Vitaly Janelt striking twice either side of Eriksen's first Premier League goal for the Bees. Yoane Wissa grabbed a fourth in the dying embers of the game to guide them to their first win since 1939 over their London neighbours -- just 5.5 miles lie between Stamford Bridge and Brentford's ground.

In their first season in the Premier League, this was Brentford's biggest win of the campaign, and one of the most impressive in the club's history. It was orchestrated through hustling, high pressing and being brilliant nuisances to Chelsea. There was scant respect for their traditional bigger brothers. Instead Thomas Frank's side got their tactics spotted on as Chelsea struggled to break the high press, leaving Brentford poised to counter-attack whenever Chelsea's desperation left them exposed at the back.

Mbuemo was the one out-ball for Brentford, but it all went through that midfield maestro Eriksen. In his four starts for the club they have won three -- no wonder Frank is desperate to keep the Danish midfielder beyond the end



Chelsea's stunning loss to Brentford -- their first since 1939 -- left manager Thomas Tuchel at a loss for explanations on Saturday. (Agencies)

of this season.

"Christian is a top player," Frank said Saturday. "He's an ongoing fairytale and I'm very pleased for that. He's calm on the ball, he finds a solution, and he provides goals and assists."

The win for Brentford puts them 11 points above the relegation zone, and while they can start to plan for next season, Chelsea's immediate and distant future remain uncertain. With the club up for sale, four bids remain ahead of the April 11 deadline.

"We gave away three goals in 10 minutes, which is untypical. I don't know why we did it," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said afterward. "We didn't defend mature enough and it was very strange for us. We got punished. It's a summary of strange events. It was a tough start for us -- we felt a bit leggy, which is normal. Normally the goal is exactly what we wanted to open up new spaces but the opposite happened, and I don't know why."

The build up to the match was dominated by talk of who their potential owners will be and the controversy caused by the Ricketts family bid to buy the club. Earlier on Saturday the Chelsea Supporters' Trust declared its membership "neither supports nor has

confidence in the Ricketts' family bid for the club." In a CST survey, they said 77% of its members did not back the Ricketts' bid.

This was in response to comments made by patriarch Joe Ricketts in a leaked email exchange several years ago that "Muslims are naturally our enemy." It has been three years since Joe Ricketts apologised after online media outlet Splinter News published emails featuring him making anti-Islamic comments, such as Islam is "a cult and not a religion."

On Saturday, the Ricketts family issued a statement saying "diversity and inclu-

sion" were at the heart of their bid for the club, but judging by the 100 or so group of fans outside the stadium protesting their bid (several banners reading "No to Ricketts") and the CST statement, they're a way off convincing the Stamford Bridge faithful of being the right custodians of the club.

Tuchel asked pre-match for supporters to make their feelings clear outside the ground, and not during the match so as not to "distract" the team. He said prematch the team "were not affected" by the protests, but still it was a little eerie outside the stadium with the giant merchandise shop shut, and souvenir vans lying empty.

Although the protests remained outside the stadium, Chelsea looked rattled early on -- Brentford could have had two in the first 10 minutes with Ivan Toney causing all sorts of bother -- and though Chelsea rallied to pepper David Raya's goal with some well-struck efforts, it needed Rudiger's thunderbolt of a drive (conservative estimates put it at about 35 yards) to break the deadlock.

Lesser teams would have buckled having gone behind, but Brentford used it as the fillip to go up another gear and Janelt struck

the equaliser just two minutes later. Mbuemo then picked out Eriksen to finish from close range for their second, and Janelt chipped in a third over Mendy -- who had struggled with a knee injury throughout the match -- to make it 3-1.

"We timed it perfectly to score the four goals in front of our fans," Frank said. "In football you work so hard, so many hours, every day, every week. Sometimes you don't get what you deserve, but today everything clicked. Winning here at Stamford Bridge against the European champions, that was almost a complete performance. What I like is that we were brave, pressed high -- it was a big moment for the club."

As quiet as the Chelsea fans were, the Brentford supporters were lapping it up in their corner of the stadium. They went through their full repertoire of songs, and the third brought the first rendition of "We're just a bus stop in Hounslow" -- a self-deprecating song referring to previous bating from Queens Park Rangers fans.

Then Brentford added the wonderfully-struck fourth in the 87th minute through substitute Wissa. They're on the map now, but keeping Eriksen is key to developing this team.

Chelsea, meanwhile, are

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man United's season drifting to tepid conclusion

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Coach Mgunda faces tricky second stint at Coastal Union

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WITH four days gone since Coastal Union's leadership announced that the outfit's technical bench director, Juma Mgunda, will be the team's head coach to replace American Melis Medo, who terminated his contract, the move has puzzled the outfit's supporters.

The followers, though, have remained patient, waiting for what would come out of the resolution.

The upcoming tough and competitive matches that Coastal Union will take part in, in which the club will confront Simba SC and Kagera Sugar, will be Mgunda's test.

Coastal Union will entertain Simba SC in NBC Premier League's 19th round duel that will be played at Mkwakwani Stadium on April 7.

In another match, Coastal Union will host Kagera Sugar in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinal match at the same venue.

NBC Premier League's first phase match between Coastal Union and Simba SC played in Dar es Salaam, in which the former was under Medo's tutelage, culminated in a 0-0 draw.

The top-flight match between Coastal Union and Kagera Sugar played at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera, saw the latter cruise to a 2-1 victory.

Most of the brainstorming questions were about how Mgunda fared at Coastal Union in the 2020/21 season.

The club's fanatics disclosed that when the team was under his tutelage it came close to facing relegation.

Coastal Union and Mtwara Sugar participated in the league's promotion/relegation play-offs against the then First Division League outfits, Pamba FC of Mwanza, and Dar es Salaam's Transit Camp FC.

Coastal Union's Chairman Steven Mnguto outlined three reasons for the team's executive committee, leadership committee, and competition committee to appoint Mgunda as the team's head coach.

Mnguto said last season two reasons affected the coach's performance, first, the squad lacked good players, and second, the team was not financially stable.

The leader pointed out that after Medo's contract termination the team's leadership had struggled to search for a new head coach with vast experience and a tactician who is familiar with the side's philosophy.

Mnguto revealed: "Mgunda is a good and experienced coach who knows the team's philosophy, so there's no doubt about his appointment."

"About performance, the team was not in a good position financially, and the squad wasn't better last season," he said.

Medo declared to part ways with Coastal Union during the 15th round after the club had confronted Geita Gold FC in Geita, losing to the latter.

Soon after the duel's final whistle, Medo posted on his Instagram account explaining there was uncertainty in the club, he went as far as bidding the side's followers farewell.

The message meant he terminated his contract with the club, later on, the team's management proved there had been mutual contract termination.

In records, Medo stayed with the team for 15 matches in the first phase of the NBC Premier League, steering the outfit to four wins, five defeats, and six draws.

In the second phase of the NBC Premier League, Coastal Union was silently in search of a new head coach.

The club negotiated with former Yanga and Coastal Union striker, Kenyan Bernard Mwalala, to lead the side's technical bench.

Unfortunately, the deal fell apart while the outfit was under assistant coach, Joseph Lazaro, who had coached the team for three matches.

Lazaro led the team for one month from March to April, guiding the outfit in 16th round and 18th round ties, in which Coastal Union faced Azam FC, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, and Ruvo Shooting FC.

Coastal Union won one match, notched a draw in one, and lost one match against Ruvo Shooting at the former's backyard, Mkwakwani Stadium.

On March 31, Coastal Union Information and Communication Department issued a press release, saying Mgunda would be the team's head coach until the end of the NBC Premier League.

Prisons, Dodoma Jiji FC out to ease relegation fears



Dodoma Jiji FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DODOMA JIJI FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

PRISONS and Dodoma Jiji FC meet in the NBC Premier League game this afternoon, with both teams on the hunt for points after posting different results in their final fixtures before pausing for the March international break.

Masoud Djuma will be looking to secure his second victory as Dodoma Jiji FC head coach.

A comfortable 2-0 home

victory over fellow relegation-battlers Mbeya Kwanza FC ended a run of seven games without a win for Dodoma on March 13.

Dodoma Jiji FC is out of the drop zone but is still

mathematically at risk because of the crowded table with only two points separating them from Biashara United and Mtwara Sugar who occupy the relegation playoff spots.

Looking to stop their

fun will be bottom-placed Prisons. Prisons signed off for international duty with a 2-1 away loss to Biashara United to stretch their winless run to seven games. They are yet to win this year.

However, head coach Patrick Odhiambo who is yet to register victory since he took charge of Prisons and his position is under increasing threat.

Odhiambo is optimistic they will turn things around beginning with the Dodoma Jiji FC game.

The Kenyan gaffer who began the season with Biashara United replaced Salum Mayanga in January and has overseen five losses to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, Azam FC, Simba, Ruvo Shooting, and Biashara United, and draws with Mtwara Sugar and Mbeya City FC.

His assistant Shaban Kazumba was dismissed last week pointing to a re-organization of the technical bench.

Odhiambo revealed: "We are working on our weaknesses, trying to correct the

mistakes that we have identified. We are working hard as a team to improve on areas that have exposed us in the past few games."

"We are doing this as a unit, more so in areas that exposed us in our previous game against Biashara United."

"It has been a difficult season for Prisons but we will overcome our current situation. We hope and have a belief that we will work things around and change everything."

The reverse fixture at Jamhuri Stadium earlier in the season finished as a 2-1 win in Dodoma Jiji FC's favour.

The outcome was secured by a second-half strike by Emmanuel Martin after Khamis Mcha had canceled Prisons' opener by forwarding Jeremiah Juma in the first half.

Juma, Nurdin Chona, and Salum Kimanya will be vital for the Prisons while Dodoma Jiji FC will count on the legs of Anuary Jabir who has four goals, and Waziri Junior who has two goals.



Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park basketball squad's player, Paul William, slots in a point when the outfit took part in training at the center's court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

There is one African team that can win 2022 World Cup- Oliseh

JOHANNESBURG

NIGERIA soccer legend Sunday Oliseh believes African football is yet to reach its full potential but says there is one side on the continent that could win the FIFA World Cup in Qatar later this year.

Oliseh was a star of the Super Eagles team that excelled at the 1994 World Cup in the United States and won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta

two years later.

So he is well placed to speak about Africa's potential and why we have yet to fulfil Pele's prophecy that a team from the continent would win the World Cup by the year 2000.

"There is one team that can win it in Africa and that is Senegal," Oliseh told The COSAFA Show. "I have been following them for the past few years and watching the players in Europe, and the importance

that they bring to their clubs.

"Senegal currently has the best goalkeeper in the world [Edouard Mendy], he makes saves, he is calm, and has height.

"They also have one of the best central defenders in the world in Kalidou Koulibaly. I am amazed he is still at Napoli! He is solid on the ball, solid on the man, he can even move from the defense to the defensive midfield role.

"And then they have Sadio Mane, and

I don't need to say any more about him. They also have an African coach [Aliou Cisse] that has been there for eight years now.

"So they have continuity, they have the talent and the exposure, all that is lacking in this team, in my opinion, is that high-level organization. They need to go there with the view that they can win it."

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

