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Dodoma 'invites' local, international investors



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Kabudi to open Nanenane fair in Morogoro



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Mbarali council buys 20 houses for staff



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JPM demands civility in election campaigns

"I am going to work on this because there is no way we can have a minister, a deputy minister, a permanent secretary and a Tanroads CEO then we have a road like this one," he insisted

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday made an impassioned appeal to politicians set to take part in late October's General Election to conduct peaceful campaigns based on issues and desist from using the opportunity to speak ill of others.

He made the call when addressing residents of Somanga in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, while on his way back from Lupaso village in Masasi District, Mtwara Region, where he officiated at the burial of former president Benjamin William Mkapa on Wednesday.

The president told the gathering that all was set for the upcoming General Election, adding: "Let me call upon politicians to sell their manifestos and not otherwise. Let me assure you that the government machinery is operating, and we will continue with development activities as usual."

He called upon the residents to get ready, reminding them that campaigns were set to begin soon and asking them to pray for the whole of the electoral process so that the campaigns and the poll are peaceful.

Dr Magufuli meanwhile declared that he was dissatisfied with the way the Works, Transport and Communications ministry was operating, wondering why the road from Somanga to Dar es Salaam was rough.

He said that the Tanzania National Roads Authority (Tanroads) and the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) receive 100 per cent of the road



President John Magufuli stops to have a view of Mkapa Bridge on Rufiji River in Coast Region yesterday while on his way to Dar es Salaam from Lupaso village in Masasi District, Mtwara Region, where attended former president Benjamin William Mkapa's burial on Wednesday. Photo: State House

Boom after visitors throng Masasi for Mkapa's burial

By Songwa wa Songwa, Masasi

THE ordinarily sleepy town of Masasi has been a beehive of activity in the past week as people from various corners of Mtwara and other regions arrived for the funeral of former president Benjamin Mkapa (pictured).

Since the announcement of the death of the statesman last Friday, his hometown started receiving an

unprecedented number of visitors, a blessing to businesses here.

Hotel owners, bar operators, restaurateurs and street food vendors did business they say they have never seen before.

Also happy were taxi drivers and bodaboda riders.

By Wednesday when Mkapa was laid to rest at his home village of Lupaso—some 30 kilometres from Masasi town—accommodation fa-



ILITIES were at full capacity.

This writer and a photographer colleague almost spent Tuesday night in the streets of Masasi town despite having booked and paid for accommodation three days before.

"Sorry but I have to refund you. Some people who can't miss accommodation have taken your rooms," said the lady at the reception counter.

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Tanapa lowers park entry fees, expects more visitors

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS the global travel and tourism industry starts recovering from the Covid-19 driven slump, a revision is being made on entry charges to a number of game parks, along with lengthening the duration of visitors' permits.

Paschal Shelutete, a senior official

of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), said yesterday that the new entry fees and permit arrangements are meant to accommodate more visitors, and are expected to take effect tomorrow.

Efforts have for a while been apace to attract more visitors, especially domestic tourists, thus TANAPA has scaled back charges for 'canopy walking' mode of game view-

ing at Lake Manyara National Park, from 15,000/- to 10,000/- for visitors from East African Community (EAC) member states.

While East Africans will be charged 10,000/- at Lake Manyara, overseas visitors need \$20 instead of \$60 charged earlier, "to enjoy the country's only vantage point game viewing on exhilarating canopy walking bush gang planks."

The 10,000/- entry fee for East African residents also applies to Serengeti; Kilimanjaro; Tarangire and Arusha national parks, where children of up to 15 years of age pay 2000/-, he said.

At the moment, the legendary Serengeti migration has started, moving south to the Serengeti from Kenya's Maasai Mara. This year's

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Dar police shoot down three robbery suspects

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in the Dar es Salaam have killed three suspected armed robbers during a gun exchange at Mbagala Chamazi, Temeke District. The Special Police Zone Commander, Lazaro Mambosasa (pictured) told a news conference yesterday that the suspected bandits were gunned down last Sunday.

Mambosasa called upon the residents to take precautions

as one of the killed suspected armed robbers was in police uniforms.

"After being informed by law-abiding citizens that there was a group of suspected bandits plotting to invade a fuel station, the police force launched an operation to find the bandits. But before arresting them, they started firing against the police officers who responded immediately and killed three of the four bandits," said the com-

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Zanzibar Electoral Commission's Chairman, former Zanzibar Chief Justice Hamid Mahmoud Hamid (L), flags off activities in the Isles relating to the October 28 General Election. Looking on (R) is ZEC director Thabit Idarous Faina. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Tanapa lowers park entry fees, it now expects more visitors

FROM PAGE 1

event is said to be more spectacular due to an increased number of ungulates, the corporate communications executive noted.

TANAPA has also revised entry charges to six new national parks, namely Kigosi, Nyerere, Rubanda, Burigi-Chato and Ugalla River, also requiring 10,000/- for regional and local visitors of above 16 years of age.

Adjustments have been made to multiple entry permits in national parks and now the daily authorization (12 hours permits) validity, will be peaking at 6.00 pm (18.00hrs), regardless of when the permit was issued, for visitors who stay outside parks.

The daily permits allows people to move in and out of the parks throughout the day, an arrangement designed to enable those living close to national parks to effectively conduct trade in traditional curios and cultural artifacts unhampered.

"We target to encourage and essentially boost cultural tourism," explained Shelutete, seeking optimal visitations at the total of 21 game parks across the country.

Police in Dar shoot down three armed robbery suspects

FROM PAGE 1

mander. One of them managed to disappear to an unknown destination, he elaborated.

The suspected armed robbers were in a Nissan X-trail four wheel drive with registration number T 855 ATE, he stated, noting that the four were going to conduct robbery at a nearby fuel station.

"Police managed to reach the area shortly after being tipped off, preventing the suspected robbers from executing their plans," he specified.

After having recognized that they were being followed by the police, the suspected robbers started to shoot and the police responded by attacking the bandits' car thus gunning down three bandits, he said.

After searching their vehicle, police found one pair of police uniforms, a radio call as well as two pistols and a shotgun, he further noted.

They also found a plate number registered T 822 DCW, the real plate number of the car they were using, he stated.

Commander Mambosasa said preliminary investigations have shown that the suspected bandits have been engaging in crime acts in Coast Region.

He urged the public to demand an identification card (ID) from any police officer who would go to their area or purport to arrest anyone in the vicinity.

"Not everyone who wears police uniforms is a police officer. The public should be careful because real police officers would not come to arrest citizens without showing their IDs," he asserted.

Last Saturday the same bandits abducted and robbed 19.6m/- from trader Salehe Masoud, an agent for telecommunication cash transfers.

Speaking at the scene on Sunday, Masoud identified one of the killed robbers as having been involved in his recent abduction.

"I remember that while in police uniforms, the bandits blocked the commuter bus in which I was travelling and instructed me to move out of the car. They claimed that there were criminal allegations facing me and thus I had to go for interrogation at the Mkuranga Police Station," he narrated.

"On the way, near the Rhino Cement factory they tied me with plaster on my eyes and started transacting all the money in my phone before they dumped me in a forest along Kisarawe road," Masoud lamented. Commander Mambosasa assured the public that the police force was determined to ensure peaceful Eid al-Adha celebrations.

JPM demands civility in election campaigns

FROM PAGE 1

fund, "so it is sad that the highway is in such a condition".

"I was depressed following the passing of our former president (Benjamin Mkapa) and now the Works ministry is adding salt to the wound by remaining silent over this kind of a road," he told the gathering.

He took time to explain how the Lindi-Dar es Salaam road appears, saying it did not look like it was being overseen by a ministry with all officials

including the minister, deputy minister and permanent secretary.

He however assured the residents that the government has paid all the cashew nuts debts which it owed farmers in the southern regions.

President Magufuli donated 4.9m/- for the renovation of Somanga Primary School after hearing complaints from a pupil who told him that the pupils sit on the ground.

He still took a swipe at the ministry's officials for not bothering to address the state of the par-

ticular road, saying: "I will work on this matter because there is no way we can have a minister, a deputy minister, a permanent secretary and a Tanroads CEO and then we still have a road like this one."

While at Kibiti in Coast Region, the president issued a seven-day ultimatum to the district commissioner and the district executive director there to ensure the availability of toilets at the district's main market - or make the toilets at their (officials) residences are accessible for public use.

The president wondered why the district authorities had failed to build a toilet facility when they collect a whopping 1.9bn/- from the market each year. He also tasked the authorities to stop collecting revenue from traders at the market until the toilet facility is built.

He also wondered why top leaders including the Rufiji district commissioner have no cars, this after he was notified that the vehicle for the DC's use is in a garage, needing 28m/- for repairs and spares to get back to the road.



Members of Napona women's group from the predominantly pastoralist Maasai community tour their newly established modern beekeeping project at Makuyuni in Monduli District, Arusha Region, yesterday. The initiative is implemented with funding from World Vision. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Boom after visitors throng Masasi for Mkapa's burial

FROM PAGE 1

"That's impossible. I know my rights," I retorted.

Without saying a word, the lady pulled the drawer and handed me the refund.

I refused to take it. I rang our correspondent in Masasi who made the booking and explained our predicament.

"You are not alone: even other fellows I booked for somewhere else have faced

the same challenge. I have inquired and learnt that those people can't be removed from the rooms. I suggest you take the money," he said.

Our colleague made several calls to hotels and guest houses in the town but the answer was the same: full.

As we protested outside the facility, not knowing where to go, outgoing area councillor, Juma Polle who was passing by

came along to hear us.

We explained to him what happened and sought his intervention as a leader.

After having a word with the receptionist, he came back to us.

"Forget about those rooms. Let's look for other ways out. Come with me," he said.

Through Polle's contacts, we ended up at an old, modest and disused guest house that

was being cleaned by the time we arrived because of huge demand.

"There are only two rooms rems..." a man who was dusting the window said.

"How much? I cut him short and handed him the money. Back to happy traders: Joyce Badi, who owns a restaurant in the town, said that she sold the equivalent of her monthly turnover on Tuesday alone.

"I ordered supplies thrice in a single day. It has never happened before," she said with a broad smile.

Peter Mchopa, who operates a taxi in the town, said that the past week was his best in the business.

"I won't tell you how much but it is a neat amount," he said.

Ferrying people from the town's main bus stand to vari-

ous accommodation facilities and to Lupaso, Mchopa hopes that more people would keep coming to the town and late Mkapa's home village.

"The government should consider putting up something in memory of Mkapa that can continue attracting people to this place; something like a museum," he said.

Mkapa, who died of cardiac arrest in Dar es Salaam, was

buried at his home village in a ceremony attended by thousands of mourners.

President John Magufuli, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa were among the top government officials present.

Former presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Jakaya Kikwete similarly made the trip to Lupaso.

Speakers showered the departed leaders with praise for turning around Tanzania's ailing economy after winning the first multiparty election in 1995.

His ten years in office saw economic growth take an upward turn up to 6.3 per cent by the time he retired.

Mkapa who was 81 is survived by his widow Anna and two sons.

Dodoma residents urged to join improved CHF

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA city residents have been urged to join the improved Community Health Fund (CHF) to help meet health expenses at as low as 30,000/- for six family members in a year.

The call was made by the Dodoma City CHF Coordinator,

Patrick Sebiga here at Nyerere Square in the city when a team of the fund registrars were distributing cards to registered members.

He said the improved CHF is a voluntary programme established to enable households, family, groups or individuals contribute small fee that help

them get health treatment in case they fall sick.

"This is one of the cheapest ways to get health services since registered members pay only 30,000/- per year and get services at dispensary, health centre, district hospital throughout the country," he said, adding that minor operations services are

also covered in the healthcare.

Last week, the Regional CHF Coordinator, Francis Lutalala said the government has increased health funding leading to availability of equipment, improved facilities like dispensaries, health centres and hospitals. "The government has also employed more health workers

and experts, improving provision of health services and public health," he said, adding that construction of new hospitals and other facilities is a good gesture. Lutalala said the improved community health fund has helped reduce the burden on treatment to the residents, most of who can hardly afford cash payment

when seeking health services.

He said since introduction of CHF and later improved CHF, the public contribution on health services has increased greatly from just getting services only in village health facilities where they registered to getting services at any facility in the region.

He added that the aim of the

fund was to help save residents from travelling too far to seek treatment. The region is geared to achieve 100 percent availability of essential medicine, thanks to the regional Prime Vendor System (PVS) which has seen the services improve in the last three years, the regional authority has observed.



Goats on sale at Dar es Salaam's popular abattoir-cum-auction at Vingunguti yesterday, with most customers making purchases in preparation for the commemoration of Eid el-Hajj celebrations today. The going price was in the 120,000/- to 180,000/- range, largely depending on size. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

PCCB in Mbeya Region recovers over 400m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mbeya Region has recovered over 400m/- which were embezzled by some leaders from various areas including cooperative unions, district councils and institutions as well as from savings groups.

The acting head of PCCB in the region, Abdaudi Mbura said this at the meeting here while presenting a quarterly report of the period ended in June, this year.

According to him, the bureau managed to save a total of 406.6m/- from people and institutions after conducting investigation over the loss of the funds.

"Among the total funds, 205.3m/- were recovered from employees who were tasked with collecting government revenues using electronic machines (POS). After collecting, the staff put the funds in their pockets," he said.

He said 10m/- was saved from an outgoing ward councillor in Chunya District saying that the official embezzled the funds which were meant for the construction of teachers' houses and classrooms at Amos Makalla secondary school.

He further said that 177.1m/- ended up in the

wrong hands of leaders from cooperative unions.

"We rescued the funds after an investigation, some of the leaders pocketed the funds and others took loans and failed to repay them," he added.

The bureau also rescued 6.8m/- from savings groups which took loans from district authorities and failed to repay them. We also recovered 6.1m/- from the construction sector, wards councils, land and individuals, Mura added.

Meanwhile, Mbura said that in the three-month period, the bureau received a total of 137 corruption based information whereby 29 claims were about

various district councils, 19 were about traders, land department (12 claims), cooperative unions (12 claims) and nine claims were about the natural resources department.

"The corrupt allegations also touched the education sector, immigration department, minerals, elections, employees associations, health sector and social security funds."

Mbura also said that during the quarterly period, the bureau won four cases in court and others are still ongoing.

The officials also said that the bureau will continue educating the public on various issues concerning corruption.

Dodoma city authorities 'invite' local and international investors

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA city authorities has called on both local and international investors to think of investing in the city, saying it is well planned and ready to accommodate both big and small investments.

This was said here by the city's executive director, Godwin Kunambi, noting that unlike other cities in the country, the capital city is free from congestions like traffic jam among others.

"Dodoma is one of the cities in the country that are well planned with well designed infrastructure and this has helped reduce congestion," he said, adding that it is the best place to invest.

Speaking during an exclusive interview with this paper, Kunambi stated that roads leading into and out of the city are free from traffic jam and even the internal roads are well maintained.

He cited some of the well tarmac internal roads as Martin Luther-Swaswa, Wajenzi-Chang'ombe, Meriwa-Swaswa, Emmaus -African Dreams, Ipagala-Ilazo, Kisasa-Njedengwa, among others.

Kunambi also said there are open recreation places at different parts of the city, naming them as Nyerere Square which is right in the middle of the city, Chinangali Park, about a kilometer from the central business district and others spread at different places.

According to the city boss, the cost of owning a plot of land in the city is much lower than any willing person can afford. He noted that the process is very transparent compared to the bureaucratic process in other cities elsewhere.

He added that approval of building plans also takes shorter time and with considerations to the client's needs for development or investments in the plots of land.

Kunambi named areas with investment plots as Njedengwa with 580 hectares having 141 plots measuring at least

two to 26 hectares each depending on the investor's needs.

"Specific buildings in the area should be storey residential apartments, business premises and social service areas," he said.

He explained that out of the above mentioned, 46 plots are for institutions, 20 for businesses while other 75 are residential ones, all situated in a well tarmac roads connection.

Another area is Iyumbu new city with 252 hectares holding 242 plots whereby ten plots are for businesses, two for small industries, 173 for commercial and residential as 57 others are for 'special residential'.

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PCCB in Arusha reclaims 1.76bn/- during the April-June 2020 period

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Arusha region reclaimed more 1.7bn/- in government taxes including money belonging to cooperative unions that has been rescued in various operations by the Bureau from April to June this year.

In addition, PCCB also reclaimed 190,163,850/- that belonged to six Arusha entrepreneurs that had been conned by the Kijenge Animal Products Ltd.

Ag. PCCB Head for Arusha Region James Ruge told reporters here mid this week that the Bureau conducted various operations that rescued government unpaid government taxes by a hunting firm, Eshkesh Safari, including money belonging to Arusha Cooperative Union (ACU) that was still unpaid to the Union after sale of cooperative assets worth 1,764,808,176/-.

"The entrepreneurs' money was

from sale of their crops to the factory since January 2020 and the PCCB in Arusha continues with investigations on the remaining 99,097,45/-.

He said about 1.484bn/- was in respect of various government taxes owed by the Arusha based Eshkeshi Safaris.

Meanwhile, the PCCB has returned to Advera Kyaruzi, a businessman 5,480,00/- being part of 15m/- that had been conned by fellow businessmen Gervas Andera Mollel and Joseph Christopher Mollel since 2018.

Ruge said the Bureau in Arusha Region have put up strategies in the fight against corruption especially at this time the country is gearing for elections in October this year.

He also called upon political parties intending to field candidates in the elections to ensure they have required qualifications to enable voters elect the representatives of their preference, without resorting to bribery in order to be voted.



The entrepreneurs' money was from sale of their crops to the factory since January 2020 and the PCCB in Arusha continues with investigations on the remaining 99,097,45



James Ruge (L), the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau's acting head in Arusha Region, hands over 235m/- to Arusha Cooperative Union chairman Shadrack Isanja yesterday. The bureau recovered the amount from people found to have bought the union's property but without effecting payments. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Go for marketable degrees, RC tells university students

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has urged students to choose their university courses wisely so that they won't end up jobless.

RC Chalamila made the call yesterday when opening a one-

day training seminar on how to apply for loans to the Higher Education Students Loan Board (HESLB) for students preparing to join the country's universities this year.

He said: "It is the students' responsibility to think of their future by choosing the right courses.

Students should ensure that the course of study they undertake would enable them to find employment," he said, adding:

"There is a notion that many students prefer the teaching field as that is where they are certain to get employment, something, which isn't correct

at this time."

"I advise you to take academic fields that you like so that you study with one heart so as to prevail in the job market," said RC Chalamila.

He said jobs are available in the government and are given to only those with the required

qualifications.

"In the streets there are so many graduates, but when the government advertises vacancies for professional, you start looking for those with the advertised qualifications, and there are so few," he said.

HELSB officials said they have

decided to provide education to loan applicants so that they understand on how best to apply for the loans.

HELSB Communication Manager Omega Ngole said many youths fail to get loans because they fail to fill application forms correctly, and added that they

do not like that to happen again this year.

"Each year criteria and conditions for loans application change in accordance to guidelines given by the HELSB, hence it was important for the applicants to abide by the guidelines," Ngole said.



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Agriculture ministry permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya test-rides one of 18 motorcycles in Dodoma yesterday shortly after presenting them to the executive directors of mainland Tanzania councils, to whom they have been issued through the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination project in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Augusta Njoi

Government resolves to fight aflatoxins menace

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has resolved to fight the aflatoxins menace affecting farmers' crops by dishing out USD 35.5 towards the effort.

This was revealed here yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya when handing out motorcycles to 18 local council directors in Tanzania Main-

land through Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC). Kusaya said researches show that groundnuts and maize crops are the mostly affected by aflatoxins in the country.

He said aflatoxins are contributed by farmers not taking the right steps in the acquisition, planting, weeding, harvesting and storage of their crops.

"In order to ensure this we have

planned to construct a laboratory that will be examining the quality of crops produced in the country to strengthen safety thereof as well as protecting the country's economy," Kusaya said.

He said the government's strategies on the issue also include the construction a quality centre in Kongwa District that will be providing various farming techniques.

He said through the TANIPAC pro-

ject, warehouses will be built in 12 local councils in the mainland and two in Zanzibar to assist farmers to store their crops.

A representative of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State, (Regional Administration and local Government) Leo Martin said local council directors have been handed the motorcycles as working tools to reach the people in their areas.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation director Rosalynn Mworia (2nd-L) pictured yesterday presenting an incubator to Bunda district commissioner Lydia Bupilipili (3rd-R) in support of the ward for premature babies at the district's Kibara-based St Mary's Hospital. Looking on are Archbishop Renatus Nkwande (2nd-R) of the Catholic Church Archdiocese of Mwanza and the hospital's Medical Officer In-Charge, Dr Samuel Paul. The occasion saw the foundation donate to the hospital medical supplies and equipment worth more than 57m/- in total. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government cancels leaders' burial site plans for Dodoma

By Marc Nkwame

in 1995.

PLANS to establish the proposed special burial site for top Tanzanian leaders in the country's capital of Dodoma have been shelved, following the decision by the former Head of State, Benjamin Mkapa, to choose his home village as his final resting place.

According to President John Pombe Magufuli, the late Mkapa had told him that, when he dies, his body should be laid to rest in Lupaso, a site where the government buried the third phase government leader, on Wednesday, the 29th of July 2020.

Speaking at Lupaso Village, in Masasi District of Mtwara Region, during the burial ceremony to see off the late president Mkapa, president Magufuli revealed that when he asked the immediate former President, Jakaya Kikwete where he would like to be buried, he also replied that his Msoga Village in the coastal region is where he preferred to be laid to rest.

Thousands of people, including former presidents, Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Jakaya Kikwete attended the burial at Lupaso Village of Masasi, in Mtwara.

Benjamin William Mkapa died aged 81 on the 24th of July 2020 in Dar-es-salaam.

"Mkapa transformed the country's economy for the better," stated former president of the second phase government, Ali Hassan Mwinyi who was succeeded by Mkapa

But according to President Magufuli, he has not yet asked Mwinyi where the latter, who is the oldest former president, would like to be buried. But the head of state himself also likes to be taken home.

"Even me, when my day comes, I would like to be buried in their respective villages, not anywhere else," insisted President Magufuli, adding that, since all former leaders prefer to be buried in their respective villages, he saw no need to continue with the project to establish leaders' cemetery in the country's capital.

The first president of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere who died in October 1999 was buried at his home village of Butiama, in Musoma District of Mara Region.

Former Prime Minister, Edward Moringe Sokoine, who died in a car accident back in April 1984 was also buried at his Monduli-Juu village of Monduli District, in Arusha Region.



Mkapa transformed the country's economy for the better," stated former president of the second phase government, Ali Hassan Mwinyi who was succeeded by Mkapa

Prof Kabudi to officiate farmers' trade fair in Morogoro tomorrow

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

FOREIGN Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi is tomorrow expected to officiate this year's Nane Nane national agricultural exhibition show in eastern zone which will be held in Morogoro Municipality.

Loata Ole Sanare, the Moro-

goro Regional Commissioner and chairman of the exhibition's preparatory committee said that preparations of the annual event are almost complete.

He called on Tanzanians to attend in large numbers to learn various technologies on modern farming and livestock keeping methods from various agricultural research institutes.

Ilonga Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute

(TARI-Ilonga) that incorporates the eastern Zone, Dr Joel Meriyo said in this year's exhibition they have come up with new technologies on crops seeds that can withstand plant diseases and destructive pests on crops as well as increasing yield thereof.

Meriyo said the seedlings in their pavilion this year aim to transform a farmer from traditional production of crops

to profitable commercial production by using quality seeds that withstand plant diseases and destructive pests including army worms.

He mentioned the seedlings to be found at TARI-Ilonga pavilion as including those for cereals crops - maize, millet, rice, sorghum, oil based plants such as sunflower, coconut and sesame.

He also mentioned seedlings

for leguminous crops such as beans, grams, chicken peas, and others for sugar cane, cotton, cassava, potatoes and various vegetables.

He said TARI has mobilised themselves to provide education to all farmers who will be visiting their pavilion.

The manager of TARI-Kibaha Centre that deals with the sugar cane crop, Dr Hildeletha Msita said at the exhibition they have

come up with new technology seeds for sugar production in the country and called upon farmers to come in big numbers to learn.

The TARI-Dakawa Centre Manager that deals in rice farming, Jarome Mgase said they have done research and have

come up with many rice seeds that grow in various areas of the country, including those for irrigation farming, in arid areas,

valleys, salty water including hilly areas where the yields reach four tonnes per hectare, and which can withstand various rice diseases.

TARI Coordinator of Research for Eastern Zone Meshack Makenge said apart from displaying the new modern technology seeds, they will also educate farmers and livestock keepers on how to utilise a small area of land for increased yields.

Water blues in parts of Mwanza Region will end soon, Mwauwasa director says

By Correspondent Wilhelm

Mulinda, Mwanza

THE years of the water blues residents of various parts of Mwanza Region have experienced will soon become a thing of the past following the construction of a new and big water intake at Butimba area with capacity to produce 50 million litres per day.

Implemented by the Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA), the two-year project is scheduled for completion by mid next year.

Speaking yesterday here, the MWAUWASA executive director, Eng Leonard Msenyele said that the project is being carried by a contractor named Sogea Satom Company from France.

Eng Msenyele said the project is aimed to supply water in central and south areas that are currently facing acute shortage of water and the current water intake based at Capri-point will now serve central and north areas of the city.

"Currently, MWAUWASA is producing 90 million litres of water per day while the actual needs are estimated at 148 million litres therefore the new intake will significantly help to solve shortage of the essential liquid in the area," he said.

He pointed out that the current intake is quite unable to supply water adequately in the city owing to the increased population.

Eng Msenyele said that with the construction of new intake MWAUWASA will now be able to produce 140 million litres of water per day to the city dwellers and remain with a deficit of 8,000 million litres

only a problem that the government is also working on to resolve.

"Indeed, credit should be given to President John Magufuli for seeing the importance of solving water problems in the country, we thank the government for valuing Mwanza city," he added.

He noted that the intention of the government is to ensure that people have access

to water services in their local areas and thus bring relief to the residents especially women who have been walking miles away to search for water.

The director further appealed to people in the area to make sure that they protect water infrastructure for them to last long and benefit the majority.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(ASM) Tanzania announces a request for proposal (RFP) for construction and renovation of animal and health laboratories.

Qualified companies may contact

intprocure@asmusa.org by

August 7, 2020 for a copy of the RFP.



P.O. BOX 76890
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E-mail info@tiarb.or.tz

Phone: 0222127369
0753989737

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators will be held both physically, at Luther House and virtually, on 14th August 2020 from 10:00 am. Meeting link to be sent to Members.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows: -

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 10th AGM and matters arising thereof;
4. President's Report;
5. Adoption of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2019;
6. Appointment of Auditors;
7. Status of defaulting Members;
8. Any Other Business - It must be tendered to the Honorary Secretary within fourteen (14) clear days prior to the AGM;
9. Closing of the meeting.

Issued on 31st July 2020 for and on behalf of
the Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators (TI Arb) by

D. Nyambiji
Executive Secretary



Khadija Omari Kayanda (L), founder of Pink Hijab Initiative Tanzania, addresses a just-ended interfaith meeting in Moshi municipality attended by religious leaders from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kigoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Morogoro regions. The thrust was on the need to ensure peace prevails during the countdown to the upcoming General Election and thereafter. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Two Dar business-people facing tax evasion, money laundering charges

By Guardian Reporter

TWO businessmen were yesterday arraigned at the Kisumu Resident Magistrates Court facing seven charges including tax evasion and money laundering worth about 5.5bn/-.

The two accused, Ike Godfrey (30) also known as Maliki a resident of Tabata Segerea and Abdi Mussa appeared before resident magistrate Thomas Simba at the Kisumu Resident Magistrates Court.

Senior State Attorney Wankyo Simon assisted by State Attorney Sylvia Mitanto claimed before magistrate Simba that the accused had on July 13, 2019 and April, 16 2020 in various places of the city of Dar es Salaam conspired to evade tax.

Wankyo continued to say on May 5, one of the accused, Maliki forged Mahamood Warsame's signature with an aim of showing that it was a true signature while knowing that it was not true.

He further claimed that on the same date, Maliki having the plan of forging, introduced himself to Faustina Seki saying he was Warsame which was not true.

In the fourth count, Simon claimed that on July 13, 2019 and April 16, 2020 in various places within Dar es Salaam, using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFD) that have not been registered in his names with an aim of evading tax, the accused managed to evade tax amounting to 136,947,481/- which was supposed to be paid to the Tanzania Revenue

Authority (TRA).

The State Attorney continued to allege that on the same mentioned dates Mussa failed to pay taxes amounting to 5,397,431,501/- and on the sixth count, the accused Mussa using an EFD machine that was not registered in his name caused a loss amounting to 5,571,205,189/-.

The suspects were not required to answer anything because the court has no jurisdiction to hear economic sabotage cases.

The prosecuting side claimed that investigations into the case was not complete hence requested for another date for the case to be mentioned.

The accused were all taken back to remand until 12, August when the case will be mentioned again.



Senior State Attorney Wankyo Simon assisted by State Attorney Sylvia Mitanto claimed before magistrate Simba that the accused had on July 13, 2019 and April, 16 2020 in various places of

ATU convenes Third African Preparatory Meeting to examine development on ICT

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Telecommunications Union (ATU) has convened the Third African Preparatory Meeting to examine Africa's ICT development ahead of the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly.

Due to the disruptions brought about by Covid-19, the upcoming WTSA-20 is likely to be postponed to February 2021 and will take place in Hyderabad, India

preceded by Global Standards Symposium (GSS) at the same venue.

Officiating the meeting in Accra Ghana, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Ghana's Minister of Communications commended the stakeholders for coming together to develop a common voice on standardisation matters that face the continent particularly during this Covid-19 era.

"We are moving towards the realisation that the digi-

tal world is indispensable and just as important as the physical world," she said.

The minister proposed the need for Africa to work together to bridge the digital divide and put in place the right mechanisms to ensure that its people are not left behind.

The Ghanaian minister, who opened the forum that is set to run up to 30 July 2020, further expressed her delight on how the ICT industry in the continent is

centrally involved in guiding the development of the industry.

APM20-3 for WTSA-20 is the third in a series of African preparatory meetings for the world assembly and is convened by the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and the National Communications Authority (NCA) in Ghana. Among those taking part in the forum include African Governments through ICT ministries, regulators, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Telecommunications Standardisation Bureau

(TSB) of International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Regional Telecommunications Organisations, private sector players, academia, and telecommunication experts.

Stakeholders convened to discuss and develop African Common Positions (AFCPs) to the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly (WTSA 20) as well as examine Africa's ICT development.

The stakeholders will also strategise on Africa's ICT growth for the next four years in regards to the needed telecommunication standardisation work aimed at matching

the speed of the rapidly evolving communications sector. Additionally, they will discuss and agree on how Africa can be included in the leadership structure of the highest decision-making body of the ITU Telecommunication Standardisation Sector (ITU-T).

"Growth of ICT plays a crucial role in improving lives and is critical to the development of all aspects of Africa's economy.

According to a study conducted by ITU on Economic contribution of broadband, digitization and ICT regulation in Africa, majority of

countries in the Africa region confirmed that an increase of 10 per cent in mobile broadband penetration in Africa would yield an increase in 2.5 per cent in GDP per capita."

ATU Secretary General John OMO reiterated the importance of developing African solutions to African problems. "Effective harmonized standards in the continent guarantees the quality of services and products for Africans and influences Africa's participation in the global ICT markets and industry," he said.

Kagera entrepreneurs sensitised on use of standard marks to be able to tap into foreign markets

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

Bukoba

ENTREPRENEURS in Kagera Region have been called upon to improve standards of their businesses through the use of standard marks to be able to effectively compete in local and foreign markets.

The call was made by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Research Manager, Khamis Sudi when addressing participants of a one day workshop on quality control of products and standardisation held on Monday this week.

Sudi said that TBS has been educating entrepreneurs across the country on various issues related to quality control as well as standardisation of their products. He said the aim is to enable locally made goods to compete at international markets. "We are striving to make sure that all the entrepreneurs have standard marks in accordance with the provisions of the country's Standard Act. Having standard marks satisfy users and accredit the products," said Sudi.

He explained that manufacturers who take their products to the markets without standard marks end up complaining of poor response from buyers.

Edward Matungwa, Manager with Nyaka Food in Bukoba municipal ap-

pealed to TBS to only grant standard marks to entrepreneurs who meet the set production standards. He raised concerns that bureaucracy in issuance of standard marks denies entrepreneurs an opportunity for doing businesses.

In his opening speech, Bukoba District Commissioner, Deodatus Kinawiro applauded TBS for visiting and providing training to local manufacturers. He said such visits help the standard watchdog to learn the challenges that entrepreneurs face in their daily operations.

"Entrepreneurs are key players in the national economy, TBS should ensure regular training as well as effective information sharing to uplift their goods' standards," he noted.

The District Commissioner appealed to the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and TBS to help local manufacturers to access quality packaging materials. According to Kinawiro, quality packaging of goods apart from promoting hygienic conditions also attract buyers.

Kagera Region in the Lake Zone borders four countries—Uganda, Rwanda Burundi and Kenya, with whom they share a border in Lake Victoria. It is also easy to reach South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from Kagera.



Eliasenya Nnko (R), a Shinyanga-based official with the Tanzania Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment, presents a review on challenges and other issues relating to the welfare of elderly citizens. This was at a meeting for stakeholders held on Wednesday and attended by district commissioners and police heads from Busega, Magu, Bukombe and Shinyanga districts. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Avoid mycotoxins-contaminated food Handeni, Kilindi residents challenged

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

VILLAGERS in Handeni and Kilindi districts in Tanga region have been challenged to avoid consuming food contaminated by mycotoxins which is dangerous to their health and welfare of society.

Principal Food Safety officer at Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Dr Candida Shirima made the call yesterday when speaking during an awareness campaign conducted in the two districts.

TBS embarked on a campaign to build capacity of the said residents regarding mycotoxins, its effects and ways to avoid it.

Dr Shirima said that the campaign was conducted in the area because of its geographical situation which poses risks of producing mycotoxin fungus in crops particularly maize and groundnuts so it was important for residents to understand ways of controlling it.

She said TBS has been implementing various strategies

to fight the fungus challenge to protect health of consumers and enable them to conduct food trade.

She explained that the bureau has taken such step of educating the public particularly in this harvest season to enable them to follow all regulations needed in the value chain of production. According to her, mycotoxins is a toxic that is produced by fungus in cereal mostly affected are maize and groundnuts.

Mycotoxin can be produced

in crops at different stages from farms and after harvest in case they are not properly stored or during transportation, processing or preservation.

Experts from TBS conducted awareness education on mycotoxins to students in primary and secondary schools and the community in Kilindi and Handeni districts.

The campaign was conducted in schools, markets, auction marts, village meetings, clinics and other business premises.

She called for potential mitigation measures to control food contamination from mycotoxin since the poison has so far affected the health and lives.

World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics show that approximately 600 million people worldwide, as well as 1 out of 10 people suffer every year from eating unsafe food.

Of the number, 420,000 people die and between them, 125,000 are children under five years.

"Unsafe food can cause health effects such as diseases and even death if the patient does not get proper and timely treatment.

Many diseases arising from unsafe food are largely affected by low awareness of the community about food safety issues and therefore not taking into account the principles of access to safe food," said Dr Shirima.

It is estimated that 208 million people in Africa depend on maize as a source of food. Out of 22 countries in the world, where

maize forms the highest percentage of calorie intake, 16 are in Africa.

"The symptoms for people who have eaten contaminated food and a large amount of sulfur include, abdominal pain, vomiting, swelling of the stomach, fever, diarrhea and convulsions which can lead to death.

Dr Shirima called upon stakeholders in the food value chain to consider safety of food products at all the stages.

Speaking, some residents in



Kiria Laizer (3rd-L), a member of CCM political committee in Simanjira District, symbolically presents 1,500 concrete bricks on Wednesday to the party's Mirerani ward chairman, Adam Wambura, in support of the construction of a building for CCM's Songambele Sokoni branch in Mirerani township, Manyara Region. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Health volunteer workers have limits in work performance - PS

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Zanzibar Ministry of State (Regional Administration and Local Government) and Zanzibar Special Departments Khalid Abdallah Omar has appealed to health experts to work together and supervise health volunteers to perform their duties as required.

Speaking here yesterday at a function for the presentation of Zanzibar Community Health Strategies, Omar said health workers who have volunteered have their boundaries in the performance of their duties hence it was better to supervise them closely. He said they should not be allowed

to perform duties that do not concern them to avoid adverse effects to the community.

"If we use them well we will have closely reached the community and ensure better health services to all Zanzibaris," Omar said.

Director of prevention from Zanzibar MnaziMmoja Hospital Fadhil Mohamed Abdalla stressed upon the health workers to abide by the laws and regulations laid down by the strategies in order to improve the provision of health services to the community.

Health workers in attendance at the function praised the launching of the strategies and promised to work hard by providing better services to the community.



If we use them well we will have closely reached the community and ensure better health services to all Zanzibaris

Mbarali council acquires a total 20 houses from NHC for its staff

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

MBARALI District Council in Mbeya Region has purchased for its workers 20 houses valued at 990m/- from the National Housing Corporation (NHC) located in Lugelele Ward.

Speaking early this week during the handing over function, Mbarali District Commissioner Reuben Mfune said the houses will enable council workers live in peace to perform their duties as required.

He said the council agreed to enter into agreement with NHC to pay for the houses starting 2015 to 2020 and that within a week from now all council staff eligible to occupy the houses should do so as quickly as possible.

He said in the houses allocation the first priority are health staff working at the new district hospital on reason that it is 1.5km from the housing estate, and the remainders will be allocated to other council staff.

The Council's Planning Officer, Emmanuel Kishimbo said the council bought the houses for 990m/- and so far they have 100m/- and plan to pay another 590m/- from the council's internal income for FY 2019/2020 and that for FY 2020/2021 it has allocated 150m/- for the houses.

NHC manager for Mbeya Region Said Bungala said they built the houses in implementing their duty in ensuring Tanzanians get housing for accommodation and business.

He said in Igawa area in the District NHC has built 20 houses each costing 49.5m/-.

NBS to start using modern tech in agriculture, livestock census

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said it will start using modern technology in the collection and processing of agricultural and livestock data during the two-month census to be carried out in the country beginning August 3 this year.

This was revealed early this week in Mbeya Region by NBS Senior Statistician, from the headquarters Festo Mwendisi when opening training for census enumerators for agriculture, livestock and fisheries for 2019/2020 agricultural year involving four regions - Mbeya, Songwe, Ruvuma and Rukwa.

He said the technology that will incorporate the use of tablets instead of paper will assist in the reduction of operation costs from 10bn/- down to 6bn/-.

Mwendisi said the tablets will have questionnaires and reports on agriculture and livestock that will be stored therein and the technology will simplify data collection in a short time.

"The use of the new technology is in implementation of the resolution of the International Statisticians Conference held in New York, USA, in 2017 that said we must take precautions for reducing data collection costs by using modern technology,"


he said. He called upon all Tanzanians to cooperate with enumerators by providing correct data to enable the government plan its sustainable development plans in the agricultural and livestock sectors, and added that 322 enumerators will benefit from the training.

Closing the training on behalf of Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Mbeya district Commissioner William Ntinka said the census is important for the nation as it will help in understanding the true situation in the farming, livestock and fisheries sectors.

He said the data to be collected will assist the government to formulate policies, plans and various programmes for the country's economic growth and improve living standards of the people.

He said farming and livestock sectors are essential for the country's economic development, claiming that in 2019 the agricultural sector contributed 26.6 percent to the GDP and 24.3 percent of the country foreign exchange earnings were from agricultural exports.

Mbeya Regional Assistant Administrative Secretary for Economy and Production Said Madito called on the enumerators to be careful when collecting data, saying that in the farming and livestock sectors there was always the problem of being provided with incorrect data.



China Commercial Bank
中國商業銀行

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th JUNE, 2020			CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30th JUNE, 2020					CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER/ YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 2020				
(Amounts in million shillings)			(Amounts in million shillings)					(Amounts in million shillings)				
	Current Quarter 30.06.2020	Current Quarter 31.03.2020	Current Quarter 30/06/2020	Comparative Quarter (Previous Year) 30/06/2019	Current Year Cumulative 30/06/2020	Comparative Year (Previous Year) Cumulative 30/06/2019	Current Quarter 30-Jun-20	Previous Quarter 31/03/2020	Current Year Cumulative 30-Jun-20	Comparative Year (Previous Year) Cumulative 30-Jun-19		
A. ASSETS			1 Interest Income					I. Cash flow from operating activities:				
1 Cash	525	194	71	54	163	168	(466)	(170)	(636)	(488)		
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	4,139	2,987	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-		
3 Investments in Government securities	6	1,300	71	54	163	168	-	-	-	-		
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	76	1,084	4	0	0	0	-	-	-	-		
5 Cheques and items for clearing	(11)	(29)	(0)	(97)	(0)	(201)	-	-	-	-		
6 Inter branch float items	-	-	186	142	290	282	-	-	-	-		
7 Bills negotiated	-	-	6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	5	(3)	16	9	-	-	-		
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	-	-	6.2 Fees and Commissions	181	145	271	267	-	-	-		
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	609	609	6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
10 Investments in other securities	-	-	6.4 Other Operating Income	0	1	3	7	-	-	-		
11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	1,252	900	7 Non Interest Expenses:	722	(585)	1,114	(1,292)	-	-	-		
12 Other assets	414	637	7.1 Salaries and Benefits	163	160	323	337	-	-	-		
13 Equity Investments	-	-	7.2 Fees and Commission	11	-	-	83	-	-	-		
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-	7.3 Other Operating Expenses	559	414	792	901	-	-	-		
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	465	394	8 Operating Income/(Loss)	(466)	(486)	(641)	(1,043)	-	-	-		
16 TOTAL ASSETS	7,461	8,467	9 Income Tax Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B. LIABILITIES			10 Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax					II. Cash flow from investing activities:				
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	-	-	11 Other Comprehensive Income (Items)	-	0	-	-	-	-	-		
18 Customer deposits	8	2,148	12 Total comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year	(466)	(486)	(641)	(1,043)	-	-	-		
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-	13 Number of Employees	17	17	17	17	-	-	-		
20 Special deposits	-	-	14 Basic Earnings Per Share	(466)	(486)	(641)	(1,043)	-	-	-		
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	-	-	15 Number of Branches	1	1	1	1	-	-	-		
22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	-	-	Selected Performance Indicators			III. Cash flow from financing activities:						
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	184	137	(i) Return on Average Total Assets	-1%	-2%	-2%	-3%	-	-	-		
24 Acceptances outstanding	-	-	(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Fund	-6%	-2%	-10%	-4%	-	-	-		
25 Interbranch float items	-	-	(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	-216%	-227%	-209%	-287%	-	-	-		
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	32	81	(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	3%	0%	7%	1%	-	-	-		
27 Other liabilities	675	849	Average figures shall be computed by summing up the end balances for respective months in the period divided by number of months in the period.						IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:			
28 Borrowings	2,485	3,196	CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30th JUNE, 2020						SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES			
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,776	5,271	(Amounts in million shillings)						FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31st JUNE, 2020			
30 NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES/(6 minus 29)	-	-	Share Capital, Share Premium, Retained Earnings, Regulatory Reserve, General Provision Reserve, Others, Total						In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements (if there were changes during the quarter, the changes be explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8)			
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			Current Quarter Balance as at the beginning of the Current Quarter						Name			
31 Paid-up share capital	20,881	20,881	20,881	(15,633)	19	-	5,267	Title				
32 General Provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Signature				
33 Retained earnings	(15,463)	(15,463)	-	(466)	-	-	(466)	Date				
34 Profit/(Loss) account	(681)	(170)	-	-	-	-	-	Xiong Zhenglin, Chief Executive Officer, 29.07.2020				
35 Other capital accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Raymond Maola, Finance Manager, 29.07.2020				
36 Minority Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Victoria Edward, Head of Internal Audit, 29.07.2020				
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	4,776	5,271	-	-	-	-	-	We the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us, and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in accordance with international Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2016 and they present a true and fair view.				
38 Contingent liabilities	1,272	1,272	20,881	(16,124)	19	-	4,776	Name				
39 Non performing loans & advances	86	86	-	-	-	-	-	Title				
40 Allowances for probable losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Signature				
41 Other non performing assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date				
B. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS			Previous Quarter Balance as at the beginning of the Quarter						Liu Lin, Chair Person, 29.07.2020			
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets	64%	62%	20,881	(15,463)	23	-	5,441	Chao Jiang, Board Member, 29.07.2020				
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	7%	10%	-	-	-	-	-					
(iii) Gross loans and advances to total deposits	70%	42%	-	-	-	-	-					
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets	17%	11%	-	-	-	-	-					
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	25%	35%	-	-	-	-	-					
(vi) Deposits Growth	10%	10%	-	-	-	-	-					
(vii) Assets growth	-2%	-2%	20,881	(15,633)	23	-	5,271					

The Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014 MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF CHARGES AND FEES (Made under Regulation 11)

No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	TZS	USD			
1 Current Accounts	(a) Required minimum opening balance						
	Personal Current Account	TZS	100,000.00	\$ 100.00			
	Business Account	TZS	200,000.00	\$ 200.00			
	Imperial Business Account	TZS	5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000.00			
	Community Account	TZS	200,000.00	\$ 200.00			
	Call Account	TZS	10,000,000.00	\$ 10,000.00			
	(b) Monthly service fee (break down per customer type)	Personal Current Account	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98		
		Business Account	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98		
		Imperial Business Account	TZS	25,960.00	\$ 25.96		
		Community Account	Free	Free	Free		
		Call Account	Free	Free	Free		
	(c) Cheque withdrawal over the counter	Personal Current Account	TZS	1,947.00	\$ 1.947		
		Business Account	TZS	1,947.00	\$ 1.947		
		Imperial Business Account	TZS	1,947.00	\$ 1.947		
		Community Account	Free	Free	Free		
		Call Account	Free	Free	Free		
	(d) Fees per ATM Withdrawal	Personal Savings (5 free withdrawals per month)	TZS	1,300.00	\$ -		
		Imperial Savings (5 free withdrawals per month)	TZS	1,300.00	\$ -		
		Student Boom Account	TZS	-	\$ -		
		Junior Savings Account	TZS	-	\$ -		
Senior Savings Account (3 free withdrawals per month)		TZS	1,300.00	\$ -			
(e) ATM mini statement	Personal Current Account	TZS	1,300.00	\$ -			
	Business Account	TZS	300.00	\$ -			
	Imperial Business Account	TZS	3,894.00	\$ 2.60			
	Community Account	Free	Free	Free			
	Call Account	Free	Free	Free			
(f) Periodic scheduled statement	Cheque book (per leaf)	TZS	519.20	\$ 0.52			
	Inward Unpaid Cheque	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98			
	Outward Unpaid Cheque	TZS	38,940.00	\$ 38.94			
	Special clearance	Free	Free	Free			
	Personal Accounts	TZS	51,920.00	\$ 51.92			
(g) Counter cheque (per leaf)	Business Accounts	TZS	64,900.00	\$ 64.90			
	Stop payment (per leaf)	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98			
	Standing order	Free	Free	Free			
	Internal	Free	Free	Free			
	External	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98			
(h) Balance enquiry	Unpaid	TZS	6,490.00	\$ 6.49			
	New ATM card issuance	Free	Free	Free			
	ATM card renewal or replacement	TZS	12,980.00	\$ -			
	Overdrawn Account interest charge	10% above the Banks Base Lending Rate					
	Unarranged overdraft	10% above the Banks Base Lending Rate					
(i) Interbank transfer	Interbank transfer	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98			
	Bill payments through ATM	TZS	713.90	\$ -			
	Deposit fee	Free	Free	Free			
	Other (Please specify)	TZS	400,000.00	\$ -			
	ATM withdrawal limit per transaction	TZS	1,000,000.00	\$ -			
ATM withdrawal daily limit	TZS	1,000,000.00	\$ -				
2 Savings Accounts	(a) Required minimum opening balance						
	Personal Savings Account	TZS	50,000.00	\$ 50.00			
	Student Boom	TZS	20,000.00	\$ 20.00			
	Joint Savings Account	TZS	50,000.00	\$ 50.00			
	Imperial Savings Account	TZS	2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000.00			
	Junior Savings Account	TZS	10,000.00	\$ 10.00			
	(b) Monthly service fee	Personal Savings Account	TZS	9,086.00	\$ 9.09		
		Student Boom	Free	Free	Free		
		Senior Savings Account	TZS	9,086.00	\$ 9.086		
		Joint Savings Account	TZS	9,086.00	\$ 9.086		
		Imperial Savings Account	TZS	19,470.00	\$ 19.47		
	(c) Deposit rate (Personal savings accounts)	Imperial Savings Account	TZS	-	\$ -		
		Junior Savings Account	TZS	-	\$ -		
		Senior Savings Account	TZS	-	\$ -		
		Personal Savings Account	TZS	2.5%	\$ 0.01		
Student Boom		Free	Free	Free			
3 Electronic Banking	(a) Internet Banking monthly fee	Free	Free	Free			
	(b) Internet transfers	Free	Free	Free			
	(c) JSMS Banking	NA	NA	NA			
	(d) Other	Free	Free	Free			
	E-Banking Statement request (Self downloaded)	Free	Free	Free			
4 Foreign Exchange Transaction	(a) Purchase/sale of TCS transactions over the counter	-	-	-			
	(b) Purchase of foreign cheque	-	-	-			
	(c) Sale/Purchase of cash passport	-	-	-			
	(d) Telegraphic Transfer (TTSS/RTGS)	-	-	-			
	(e) Inward TT	TZS	12,980.00	\$ 12.98			
5 Loans	(a) Processing/Arrangement/Appraisal fee	-	-	-			
	(b) Personal loans	2%	2%	2%			
	(c) Overdrafts	2%	2%	2%			
	(d) Mortgage finance	2%	2%	2%			
	(e) Asset finance	2%	2%	2%			
We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.	(f) Unpaid loan instalment	10%	10%	10%			
	(g) Early repayment	3%	3%	3%			
	(h) Valuation fees	As per service provider rates					
	(i) Legal Fees	As per service provider rates					
	(j) Base Lending Rates	21%	21%	21%			
(k) Maximum Spread Above the Base Lending Rate (BLR)	5%	5%	5%				
				Name	Signature	Designation	Date
				1	Xiong Zhenglin	Chief Executive Officer	29.07.2020
				2	Michael Mwambage	Ag. Head of Business & Operations	29.07.2020

Revisiting structure of regional agencies would come in handy

HERE is talk of plans for a re-organisation of operations at the "second-phase" East African Community following challenges related to how the regional bloc has been running for the 21 years it has been in existence.

The EAC secretariat re-opened its doors in 1999 - three years after Benjamin Mkapa assumed office (in late 1995) as Tanzania's President had toured neighbouring Kenya and Uganda in early 1996.

Both Mkapa and Jakaya Kikwete, his then Foreign minister and later successor, were doubtless pan-Africanists. Both had East African integration at heart and worked to bring it about, even if other steps have been hard to accomplish.

Mid-June 2020 saw it come out loud and clear that things were not well at the EAC secretariat after the bloc's Council of Ministers failed to table a budget for the next financial year to the East African Legislative Assembly.

A spokesman for the council conducted a multiplex meeting with EALA members and the secretariat to ask them to approve U \$24.9 million for the first three months for operations of EAC institutions, without indicating when the proper Budget will be ready; EALA members refused to approve it. A crisis was set in motion.

The council's defaulting on preparations for a budget wasn't something that came about all of a sudden. EALA members are understood to have charged that the ministers had failed to live up to the spirit of the EAC articles of agreement or memorandum of association, as articulated in the charter.

The problem was taking shape over a long period, as integration on the basis of a commonly agreed framework has been problematic. This is especially since the protocols concerning the customs union and the common market, common currency and free movement of persons all envisage a free market

background. Not everyone was uniformly happy with that focus, understandably.

Over the past decade, EAC member countries have been torn in different directions that are increasingly taking shape as international organisations and, to an extent, as rival models of regional integration.

The most significant of these rivals is the north easterly regional group IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in full), whose three member-countries also belong to the EAC.

The IGAD membership lists Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda, with the group boasting a more effective organisational presence in member states than the "leaner" EAC.

Tanzania has by contrast been for years an active and understandably avid member of a southerly integration group, the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

SADC set out a vision that was in various ways a duplicate of that of the EAC but it lacks an explicit common market protocol and isn't operating an effective customs union as it has another customs union within it, grouping a number of countries whose economies are in a way built around the regional giant South Africa.

That latter customs union is harmonised with the much less vibrant Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), a trading and capital movement group to which Tanzania once belonged but quit early in the past decade. SADC, much like the EAC, hasn't met some of its objectives - this including the formation of a currency area expected since as long ago as the past year or so.

Given the crippling resource constraints due to the Covid-19 trade downturn, plenty must be re-examined for the existence and presence of any of these blocs to make sense. The sooner this is done, the better for all concerned.

Global trafficking in humans lives on; it demands enhanced global vigilance

TRAFFICKING in human beings is a serious global problem that has always confronted governments and communities, and has at times led to discord between nations, or under-class communities arising from illegal migration.

To generate international concern and action among various groups worldwide, the United Nations General Assembly in July 2011 designated July 30 as World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Each year, activists and other stakeholders commonly spend the Day taking stock of ever will have been done to improve the situation resulting from the criminal activity.

There is a relationship between marking the Day and doing so in respect of another international observance day that is also slotted on July 30 - namely, the International Day of Friendship.

Friendship underlines a situation where one person is concerned about the welfare of another, even if that doesn't mean that someone is responsible or is ready to be responsible for it, but definitely he or she will do nothing that interferes unfairly with such welfare as regards a targeted person.

What this means is that a basic ethos of friendship around the world would be a corrective against the trafficking of persons, for that arises from insufficient friendship and care within a country.

When such a situation prevails, many of those who feel a kind of disaffection may easily fall prey to smooth talkers promising fraudulently them jobs and decent amounts of money, whereas the lured individuals descend into a hell of illegitimate presence, fear of prosecution and proto-slavery to earn a living.

The UN says that this year activists will focus on the first responders to human trafficking. These are people working in different sectors - identifying, supporting,

counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking, and challenging the impunity of the traffickers.

It says further that during the Covid-19 crisis, the essential role of first responders has become all the more important, particularly as the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have made their work even more difficult. It means people are trafficked, even with the disease.

There are civil society organisations even at the local level which are doing what they can to stop the trafficking in persons, and over the past decade plenty of information, events, documentation etc were taken up.

There was a lapse in some of these activities as public resources were being directed from meetings and seminars, but there is also greater access between potential victims of trafficking and next of kin or friend, anyone who can do something, by telecommunication. At times, such appeals can be made at a public forum or in the form of cases of abuse of trafficked persons being caught on camera and put online.

As Tanzania is already in a General Election atmosphere, it is appropriate to raise a point with political parties to see if they have a contribution to make in that direction, at least to find out how much the problem is still prevalent in the country and what to do to improve the situation.

The news we hear more often is about trafficked persons sometimes abandoned by those who were conveying them to particular destinations, some of which are now plagued by Covid-19 - in which case, the temptation may have drastically fallen.

Be that as it may, trafficking in humans remains a serious global problem - and combating it must continue. Marking the Day cannot be complete without planning how to do so all the more effectively.

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In Africa, wildlife raises the risk of deadly diseases. It doesn't have to

By Robert Mwinjyihali

THE story from our colleague was familiar: he watched as Makaite, Tefu and the other men of the Andilukbo clan of Efe bow hunters returned empty-handed.

It was the third day in a row that they had gone hunting for forest antelope and not caught anything. A leaf bag filled with mushrooms and two giant tree snails was all that seven men had to show for over 200 person-hours of gruelling work.

In the dense tropical forest near Wamba in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Makaite has watched as outsiders strip his traditional lands of wildlife to supply a long-distance market for bushmeat that sees it transported 250 miles by road to Kisangani and, at times, a further 950 miles downriver to the capital - Kinshasa.

For Makaite and his ancestors, wildlife has for millennia provided an essential source of food and, at times of need, cash. Hunting and eating wildlife are also the foundation of the Efe Indigenous Peoples cultural identity.

Today, their food security and way of life are being threatened by unsustainable trade in wildlife for consumption by people living in urban centers far from Makaite's traditional forest lands.

Most city dwellers can no more imagine the impact they are having on the food security and health of Makaite and his relatives than Makaite can imagine the global disease risk posed by rural-to-urban trade in wild antelope, primates, pigs, rodents, crocodiles, bats and pangolins.

We have seen first-hand the devastation that can be caused by diseases that spill over from wildlife to humans. Nineteen outbreaks of Ebola have erupted across Central Africa since 1976. In the DRC alone there have been eight outbreaks in the past 13 years, with three coming since 2018.

While scientists have not traced most Ebola outbreaks to specific animal-to-human transmissions, the European Centre for Disease Control notes: "Ebola outbreaks in the DRC are recurrent as the virus is present in an animal reservoir in many parts of the country."

"Continuing response measures, a high level of surveillance,



and follow-up of survivors is essential to detect and interrupt transmission early on. Response measures might be challenging amid the other outbreaks in the country."

We cannot know with certainty what public health and economic havoc Covid-19 will ultimately cause in our countries, but we fear the worst.

What we do know is that healthy food and healthy families are an integral part of what makes us Congolese and Gabonese. Eating a traditional meal with our families and friends is important and, in many ways, defines us.

However, for urban families like ours, eating wildlife is not essential to our diets. It may have social and cultural value, but it is definitely not a food-security issue, as it is for rural families.

We also know that butchering and handling raw wildlife could expose us to potential diseases - which, when transmitted from person-to-person, can spread faster than our public health systems can respond. Ebola - which, as the WHO explains, "is transmitted to people from wild animals (such as fruit bats, porcupines and non-human primates) and then spreads in the human population" - has taught us that if we want to ensure the health of our families and relatives living in cities, provincial towns and rural villages, our countries must take sensible steps to minimize the risk of future disease spillovers from wildlife to people.

To offer guidance to government decision makers and official overseas assistance providers, we as leaders of the Wildlife

Conservation Society Central Africa Program have identified key, multi-sectoral steps needed to decrease the risk of future wildlife disease spillovers to humans and to prevent their spread through secondary transmission from person to person.

Our governments, with assistance from the international community, must play a leadership role in preventing the degradation and fragmentation of our immense, intact forests.

Doing so will help minimise the wildlife-human interface, reducing our exposure to potential wildlife diseases; protect the traditional lands of all Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) of Central Africa; and halt the massive loss of biodiversity and disruption of ecosystem function caused by the unsustainable commercial bushmeat trade.

We must formally recognise and secure the traditional territorial rights of forest dependent IPLCs. We must prevent others from poaching wildlife within the lands of IPLCs, jeopardizing their food security and food sovereignty. We should substantially expand already successful wildlife disease surveillance and public health awareness efforts in rural areas. To cite just a few examples, a project called PREDICT, in the Republic of Congo, successfully identified herpes viruses circulating in bats.

Researchers partnered with that country's Health ministry to conduct community outreach and encourage reporting of dead wildlife, which the researchers then tested for Ebola.

In another study, researchers tested 3,561 wild animals in the

Congo basin and, focusing their efforts on bats, rodents and primates, found multiple strains of coronaviruses circulating among them, some similar to known coronaviruses and others possibly signifying new ones.

These kinds of efforts are essential components of early zoonotic (animal-to-human) disease outbreak detection and reporting and do a great deal to protect the health of indigenous hunters and rural families. They can also be scaled up in other places besides Central Africa.

Important work in this regard has already begun in Asia, but rolling out these kinds of programmes in Latin America deserves some urgent focus.

In Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo, we see that urban families are keen to retain the healthy food and healthy family customs that makes us all Central African. But we can still do so without buying and eating bushmeat.

Expanding this new custom of avoiding bushmeat across all major cities in Central Africa will have hugely positive impacts on public health, rural families' food security, and biodiversity.

For families living in growing provincial towns located close to sources of wildlife where the availability of bushmeat remains a food security issue, we need to vastly increase investment in peri-urban, sustainable production of poultry and farmed fish.

In Tanzania and Nigeria, efforts by the World Poultry Foundation have shown that backyard production of chickens using improved breeds and vaccination against viral diseases dramatically increases productivity, provides a sustainable supply of high-quality meat and eggs, raises household income, and empowers women. This is the approach that makes most sense for our countries.

Lastly, we urge substantial investment in the public health sectors within our countries to prepare for future disease spillover from wildlife, and to be capable of responding swiftly and effectively to prevent the spread of future zoonotic disease outbreaks.

Authors of a recent paper published in the journal Science estimated that "prevention costs for ten years to be only about 2 per cent of the costs" of the pandemic itself. For Central Africa, a good place to start might be planning to calculate 2 per cent of the economic losses suffered as a result of Covid-19 and spend that much on prevention.

Ebola and Covid-19 have taught us that we cannot continue with "business as usual". We must change our eating habits and scale down the trade in bushmeat as much as we can.

To do that, we need support from the global community to protect the health of all people in Central Africa now and in the future.

Youth to remain a focus on UN Security Council

BY MUNEINAZVO KUJEKE, GUSTAVO DE CARVALHO AND PRIYAL SINGH

ON 14 July the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted its third resolution on youth, peace and security. This was a welcome step in overcoming historical disagreement among members on the scope and nature of the youth agenda on the council.

The negotiations were led by the Dominican Republic and France, bringing together for the first time an elected and a permanent member as penholders and champions of the discussions around youth. Their efforts achieved acceptable compromise by member states, particularly Russia and China, which have in the past opposed the inclusion of youth issues in council deliberations.

Resolution 2535 will be remembered for its most important victory - being able to confirm youth matters as a regular item on the council's agenda. Previously the UNSC requested the secretary-general to report on youth issues on a case-by-case basis, leading to irregular discussions and limited ongoing political support.

The resolution establishes, for the first time, a more regular and predictable reporting system by the secretary-general - every two years - on the implementation of previous council resolutions relating to youth.

Russia and China have in the past opposed the inclusion of youth issues in UNSC deliberations.

Through a surprisingly unanimous vote, the resolution allows the council to deal with youth in a more coherent and consistent manner. The youth demographic is often seen as a driver of instability. A focus on the issue will highlight the role young people can play in building and sustaining peace. It also shows the value of adopting inclusive, and ultimately effective, decisions.

Youth is a relatively recent agenda item which hasn't received the same level of



In an important victory, youth issues will now be a regular item on the council's agenda. File photo

attention as some other thematic issues. For example the council has already adopted 10 resolutions on women, peace and security since 2000 - two in 2019 alone.

There have been only two previous resolutions on youth - resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018). The former calls for a recognition of young people's role in preventing and resolving conflicts and sustaining peace. The latter reaffirms these sentiments, and appeals for youth to be included in negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements.

Two years ago, during talks that led to resolution 2419, some council members, including China and Russia, argued that the matter should be dealt with by other parts of the UN system, and that it wasn't directly relevant to the council's agenda.

The dynamics of the youth agenda on

the UNSC are particularly relevant to African member states.

Russia in particular said it was wrong to create an illusion that bringing youth-related challenges to the council would lead to a breakthrough and enable the UN to resolve them more effectively. Such divisions among member states were similarly apparent in the negotiation process leading up to resolution 2535.

Lesley Connolly, global peacebuilding policy adviser at the Life & Peace Institute in New York, told ISS Today that 'beyond its focus on procedures and reporting, the resolution is actually quite strong substantively.'

Member states were able to agree on amplifying the need for more meaningful participation of the youth in global peace and security efforts, she said. In particular, the resolution commendably

calls member states to ensure that young people working towards peace and security are protected and encouraged in their efforts.

The dynamics of the youth agenda on the UNSC are particularly relevant to African member states. In recent years, the African Union (AU) has also increasingly advanced this approach as an integral part of its responses to peace and security, which was in turn influenced by developments at the UNSC.

Since joining the UNSC, South Africa has pushed for greater discussion on a global youth agenda.

The AU's Peace and Security Council (PSC) has recently reported progress on its continent-wide youth agenda, with its own milestones. An AU study on the roles and contributions of youth was endorsed by the PSC, and a Framework on Youth, Peace and Security was adopted. Both the study and the framework are important steps for the AU to include youth in its responses to conflict.

Such developments at the AU level show that the role played by the three African UNSC members, the A3, is essential. Niger, Tunisia and South Africa comprise the A3 this year, and South Africa will be replaced by Kenya, a potential champion

of youth issues, in 2021.

The A3 can provide input on how the agenda should be pursued at the UN, and share common challenges and opportunities faced by the AU. This will help foster a permanent youth focus and dialogue between the UN and AU.

Some progress has already been seen in this regard. South Africa, which chairs the AU this year, has since joining the UNSC in 2019 pushed for greater discussion on a global youth agenda particularly in Africa. In October 2019 South Africa convened a meeting on youth and silencing the guns at the UNSC with numerous African youth activists.

The fact that youth issues have been kept on the council agenda should be celebrated by the UN and the AU. To reap results however, more will be required than simply maintaining regular thematic discussions. Practical, inclusive and effective decisions are needed that enable young people to play their role in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace in Africa.

Agencies

After COVID-19, will Africa catch up, stand still or fall further behind?

By Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka in Abidjan

AT one time or another, nations and individuals confront crisis points - moments of existential challenge that also open up new possibilities.

African countries, at just such a crisis point as a result of the novel coronavirus, face three possible outcomes post-pandemic: play catch-up, stand still or fall even further behind the industrialised world.

This theory was mooted in a 1986 paper by Moses Abramovitz, who posited that countries with lagging productivity could grow rapidly and catch up with the leading economies by realising their potential.

With this crisis comes an economic disruption of unprecedented proportion. To avoid falling further behind, we Africans must narrow the scientific and technology gap and leverage our comparative advantages.

It is high time Africa adopted radical technological and policy innovations. The global economy is increasingly driven by science-based and patent-intensive systems.

Through investments in molecular technology, AI (artificial intelligence) and other technologies which the 4th Industrial Revolution is ushering in, they can overcome existing barriers to entry.

Catching Up

India offers an example of how to catch up. There, two key developments in the 1960s and 1970s sharply altered the country's trajectory.

In 1965, following past famines crises, India imported 250 tonnes of high-yielding Mexican dwarf wheat seed varieties for wide-scale testing on farms.

Early positive results led to the importation of a further 18,000 tonnes. Along with the use of irrigation and other innovations adopted by farmers, Indian agriculture was transformed. Within five years, India produced enough grains to support its population and, even following a drought in 1979, had no need to import grain.

Overall, the country's wheat and rice production tripled between 1961 and 1980. Radical policy response to famine-induced crisis birthed the Green Revolution.

India's pharmaceutical sector also experienced a crisis-inflection point in 1972, when the government passed the Patents Act - which enabled domestic firms to replicate drugs that had been patented by multinational corporations.

Local (Indian) companies have since dominated the global market through reverse-engineering leading to generic medicines that are far more affordable than patented ones. Radical policy response to crisis-induced shortage of medicines transformed Indian Pharma.

Falling Behind

Africa processes a very small proportion of its agricultural produce. We continue to export raw commodities like cocoa, timber and cotton that others process and re-sell to the continent at a much higher valuation.

Meanwhile, our continent also has sufficient sunlight, wind and hydropower, technologies that can power Africa sustainably, and other regions besides.

Critically, Africa also has a median age of 19, far younger than that of any other continent, a potential demographic dividend of young innovation-driven workers and a rela-

tively small proportion of elderly workers. This human capital will foster Africa's forging ahead.

If we fail to harness new technologies and leverage our strengths to create abundant high-paying manufacturing and service jobs to compete within global supply chains, we risk falling even farther behind on socio-economic terms.

Forging ahead

To forge ahead, Africa will first have to return swiftly to economic growth. Beyond that, diversifying our economies will be critical, particularly for countries dependent on one or two mineral resources or commodities.

Above all, African companies must deepen capacities for competitive advantage to master new technologies in emerging sectors.

African innovators need a robust innovation framework and a better enabling environment to master the so-called industrial biology embedded in the 4th Industrial Revolution. For instance, firms in Morocco, Senegal, Nigeria and some other African countries have developed Covid-19 test kits but face a difficult path to commercialisation.

China's response to the Covid-19 pandemic is once more illustrative of a dynamic industrial policy. It is targeting ambitious increases in domestic firms' share of the global medical supplies market.

The Chinese government has provided cheap land for factories and has subsidized loans which help them to secure a supply chain of raw materials and to stimulate domestic demand by incentivising hospitals and companies to use their products.

And there are powerful examples right here on the continent. South Africa successfully financed the production of The National Ventilator Project to address Covid-19, developing prototypes, and securing component supply chains and a manufacturing facility.

The project owes its success in part to strong government support and broad coordination among economic and technological agencies. As with South Africa, the rest of the continent would benefit from strong innovation systems that are part of national budgeting and planning frameworks. African businesses have a critical role to play, but so do African leaders, who must strike a delicate balance between state intervention and open markets.

African governments are best placed to identify market failures and opportunities as well as devise policies and regulations benefitting the continent's private sector and people.

Professor Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Senior Special Adviser on Industrialisation to the African Development Bank (AfDB) President, is a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering and Professorial Fellow at the United Nations University.



Cassava seed development project steering committee gets new chair

By Guardian Correspondent

PAUL Ilona, a country manager with HarvestPlus, has been selected as the Chair of the Steering/Advisory Committee of Phase 2 of the Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System (BASICS-II).

BASICS II is meant to transform the cassava seed sector by catalysing the dissemination of improved varieties, thereby creating a community of commercial seed entrepreneurs across the cassava value chain.

The project, which is being led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), will focus on Tanzania and Nigeria with a spin-over effect on other African countries.

Ilona, who was unanimously selected for the chairmanship, had worked with IITA before joining HarvestPlus. During his stint with IITA he worked with breeders, particularly Dr Alfred Dixon, in developing hundreds of improved cassava varieties in several African countries.

His work on cassava breeding and improvement earned him national honour in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2013, where one of the best varieties released in that country was named after him.

The "ILONA" cassava variety (MV2007/126) yields 21-47 tonnes of the crop per hectare with resistance to cassava mosaic disease (CMD), and a good level of tolerance to cassava brown streak disease (CBSD).

Ilona worked with farmers in participatory variety selection and fast-tracked cassava recovery in the DR Congo after the CMD invasion. He was instrumental in boosting cassava breeding, looking at the bigger picture of value chains, and generally linking farmers to processors.

At HarvestPlus, he has championed the dissemination of pro-Vitamin A cassava (popularly called yellow cassava) to millions of farmers in Nigeria. His efforts have led to the acceptance and consumption of yellow cassava in the West African country.

In his acceptance speech, Ilona thanked the steering/advisory committee for the confidence reposed in him and promised to work and support the BASICS-II project towards reaching its goal of creating a sustainable cassava seed system in Africa.



Dame Jane Goodall marks 60 years of dedicated work on animal welfare and children's advocacy

By Clive Phillips

THIS month marks 60 years since Dame Jane Goodall first ventured into the wilds of Gombe, Tanzania, at the tender age of 26 to study the behaviour of chimpanzees. She has devoted her life to species conservation and campaigned tirelessly for a healthier environment.

Jane is an icon of our era. Among her groundbreaking discoveries are that chimpanzees have personalities, use tools, have wars and can eat meat – all of which made us question our own behaviour as closely related great apes.

She established the Jane Goodall Institute, and her Roots and Shoots program now operates in more than 100 countries to encourage young people to be compassionate, helping people, animals and the environment.

When I first read about Jane's work, I was amazed anyone could get so close to animals – in her case chimpanzees – to understand their minds, society and lives. For several decades, my research attempted to do the same for intensively farmed animals.

Jane and I ended up in the same philosophical place: committed to exposing the horrors of factory farming, and proudly vegetarian because of the damage eating meat does to animals, the environment and to people eating the end products.

With this in mind I relished the prospect of meeting Jane. She gave us all unique insights into the inner lives of one of



our closest relatives, chimpanzees, as well as pioneering a compassionate approach to animals, a cause very close to my heart.

Clive Phillips: Jane, you famously dispelled the myth that humans are the only tool-users. Do humans have any unique characteristics to distinguish them from other animals?

Jane Goodall: Well, I believe the most important thing distinguishing us is the explosive development of the human intellect. We have developed communication using words, which means we can learn from our elders, we can plan for the future and we can teach our children about things that are not pleasant.

Above all, we can bring people together from different backgrounds to discuss a problem and try and find the solutions.

Phillips: Do you think this "human uniqueness" implies a responsibility towards animals?

Goodall: I would say it's a humanistic responsibility. I mean, once you are prepared to admit that we humans are not the only beings on the planet with personalities, minds and, above all, emotions, and once you are prepared to admit that animals are sentient and can not only know emotions like happiness, sadness, fear, but especially they can feel pain –

then, as humans with advanced reasoning powers, we have a responsibility to treat them in more humane ways than we so often do.

Phillips: You mentioned the importance of pain in animals and sentience. Does that give us a moral duty towards them? Or, do you think we have a right to manage them?

Goodall: Well, I don't know about having a right to manage them. But the problem is that because of the way our societies have developed, the harm we inflict on the environment, and the devastation we've caused so many species, we now have an obligation to try and change things so animals can have a better future.

We now know it's not only the great apes, elephants and whales that are amazingly intelligent. We now know some birds like crows and the octopus can be, in some situations, more intelligent than small human children. Even some insects have been trained to do simple tests. This was unthinkable a while back.

We also know, for example, that trees can communicate to the micro fungi on their roots, under the soil. And this is amazing. It's very exciting for any young person wanting to go into this field – these really are exciting times.

Phillips: Do you believe climate change will alter the relationship we have with other animals, and our ability to manage and use them in the way we do at the moment?

Goodall: We shouldn't be managing and using them. We should be giving them the opportunity to live their own lives in their own way. And we should stop interfering.

We should protect habitat so that they can continue to flourish in their natural habitat. Those animals that we have subjugated to domestication should be treated as animals: sentient sapiens with feelings, knowing fear and depression and pain.

And we should really start thinking about what we're doing in our factory farms, in our labs and with hunting. To me, that's the most important thing.

Phillips: And that will, in itself, address some of the climate change issues, I imagine.

Goodall: Yes. Eating meat involves billions of animals in factory farms that have to be fed. Areas of environment are cleared to grow the grain, fossil fuels are used to get the grain to the animals, the animals to the abattoir and the meat to the

tables. Phillips: And yet the world is eating more and more meat.

Goodall: Well, we have to change attitudes. Yes, we're eating more meat, but at the same time the number of people who are becoming vegetarian and vegan is increasing.

Phillips: It reminds me of one of your early discoveries of chimpanzees eating meat. Do you think that had an implication or any bearing on the human diet?

Goodall: Humans are not carnivorous, we are omnivorous. And there is a big difference. Our gut is not like a carnivore's guts, which is short to get rid of the meat before it goes bad and inside your gut. We have a vegetarian gut, an omnivore's diet. This means our gut is much longer to get all the goodness out of leaves and all the other things we eat.

So when you think of chimps – yes, they hunt, and they seem to love hunting. But it's been estimated that meat occupies only about 2% of their diets. That's just for some individuals. Others hardly ever eat meat at all.

Phillips: How can we best get the message across that a vegetarian diet is the most sustainable for the planet, and good for animal welfare?

Goodall: We're working with young people from kindergarten through university, now in more than 50 countries, growing all the time. It involves young people of all ages choosing projects to make the world better for people, animals and the environment.

They are changing the way their parents think, and the vegetarian ethic is very strong in many of them. So I say you've got to change the mindset and children help to change the behaviour of their parents.

Phillips: That's a tremendous piece of advocacy, given the huge concerns there are about animals' contribution to climate change and other dangers they pose to our water supplies and the quality of our land.

Do you think there should be any legal control of the use of animals for intensive animal production?

Goodall: Yes, I do. I think it should be banned. A) for the tremendous suffering caused to the animals; B) for the harm to the environment; and C) for the harm to human health. There should be legislation that limits or bans these intensive farms.

Pan African Parliament assesses impact of Covid-19 on human rights

By Special Correspondent

THE Pan-African Parliament (PAP) has reiterated that respect for human rights across the spectrum including economic, social, civil and political rights, will be critical to a successful public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa.

The call was made at the occasion of a webinar on the impact of Covid-19 on upholding human rights in Africa, held on 28 July 2020.

The virtual engagement sought to contextualise the centrality of human rights in dealing with health disasters, and the role of an informed legislature in addressing the human rights challenges arising from such pandemics, especially in

the context of Covid-19.

Moderated by Mephato Reatile, the webinar also aimed to identify the human rights violations that are likely to occur in Africa during COVID-19 and to promote parliamentary involvement in the upholding of human rights during pandemics.

Chief Fortune Charumbira, Vice President of the PAP, noted that that human rights transgressions have featured extensively in most African countries as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He further called on African Parliamentarians to hold governments accountable to their commitments to continental and international human rights instruments.

As part of its mandate, the

PAP is called upon to promote human and peoples' rights, consolidate democratic institutions and the democratic culture, good governance, transparency and the rule of law by all organs of the union, regional economic communities and member states.

"Our obligation remains to ensure that our states protect and promote human rights for all groups especially the vulnerable. This is imperative at this time to assist societies to emerge more resilient from this pandemic," said Charumbira.

Amb. Salah Hammad, Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat within the African Union Commission Department of Political Affairs, addressed the webinar on the

African Union (AU) Human Rights Mechanisms that protect citizens against abuse of power during health emergencies.

Amb. Hammad reminded participants that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced AU member states to use unusual methods of governance to address the health crisis.

Areas of human rights, justice and rule of law as well as democracy and constitutionalism have suffered setbacks as part of states of emergency declared to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in African countries.

In the light of this, AU mechanisms, organs and institutions are working closely to provide technical support to member states in the fight against COVID-19 through a human rights-

based approach.

"The approach seeks to mainstream specific areas of focus including human rights, human security, gender equality, youth empowerment and women inclusion as well as protection and promotion of the rights of marginalized groups such as children, cultural minority and old persons among others," said Amb. Hammad.

It was recalled that in October 2019, the PAP Plenary adopted the Model Law on Policing in Africa, which establishes guidelines for law enforcement agencies engagement with state, community and oversight actors. It envisages and prioritizes the protection of life, liberty, security, and upholding the rule of law and human rights.

The PAP has previously hailed the AU for endorsing a joint continental strategy to combat Covid-19, complementing efforts by member states and the regional economic communities by providing the public health platform.

Dr Raji Tajudeen, Africa CDC's Head for Public Health and Research told the meeting that the continental coordination of COVID-19 by the institution has focused on the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations.

He also highlighted efforts made to address stigma and discrimination in access to health care and funds made available as part of the fight against pandemics in general.

Ms Patience Mungwari Mpani,

Project Manager: Women's Right Unit at the Centre for Human Rights (University of Pretoria), shone the light on the plight of women and old persons.

She emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities.

"Mitigation strategies need to take into account the fact that certain categories are more exposed than others.

In the case old people, they usually carry underlying health problems and merit specific attention in these times.

On the other hand, it is important to highlight the inability of women to access social care in times of COVID-19 as they are also confronted with gender-based and domestic violence during these times.

Measles vaccination disruptions owing to Covid-19 a threat to millions of children

By Kate Hodal

TENS of millions of children around the world have been denied life-saving vaccines against measles in both rich and poor countries due to Covid-19 disruptions, with fears of further outbreaks this year.

Since March, routine childhood immunisation services have been disrupted on a scale unseen since the 1970s, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Data collected by Unicef, the Gavi Alliance, WHO and Sabin Vaccine Institute found in May that immunisation programmes had been substantially hindered in at least 68 countries, leaving 80 million children under the age of one unprotected from diseases including measles, tetanus, polio and yellow fever.

Although progress on immunisation coverage was stalling even before the pandemic hit, limited access to health centres, a lack of personal protection equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, and fear of contracting Covid-19 have all contributed to major disruptions in the delivery and uptake of vaccination programmes.

At least 30 measles vaccination campaigns were or

remain at risk of being cancelled, according to Unicef's chief of immunisation Dr Robin Nandy. "We were seeing an increase in the spread of measles globally over the past two years, even before the pandemic hit, so obviously now with Covid and the associated disruptions, we are more concerned," said Nandy.

"These outbreaks are not limited to low-income countries or countries with weak systems in Africa or south Asia. They extend to a number of middle-income countries in the Americas, such as Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico, where in 2019 we saw worrying trends, including up to a 20 percentage point decrease in measles vaccination coverage in some places."

Globally, November 2019 saw the greatest number of measles cases reported since 2006, according to Unicef. In Cambodia, which received its measles elimination status in 2015, the first confirmed case of Covid-19 in January coincided with 84 confirmed cases of measles. By early May, when 341 cases had been recorded, outreach teams were forced to go door to door, and in some cases, boat to boat, in order to maintain routine immunisation services. By the end of that month, the number of re-



ported cases began to fall.

Measles vaccination campaigns have been rolled out in a number of other countries, including the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Nepal and South Sudan, said Nandy.

In CAR, which declared a nationwide measles epidemic in January, more than 26,000 cases have been reported over the past seven months, said Médecins sans Frontières' CAR and DRC operations coordinator Emmanuel Lampaert.

"The Ministry of Health is planning a vaccination campaign for August but the main challenge so far has been the lack of PPE," said Lampaert. "MSF has managed to vaccinate 332,228 children since February, but there are still over 1.9 million children who need to be vaccinated against measles, by some estimates. Today, overall case notification is decreasing, with about 350 new cases for the last two weeks, down from 2,000 cases per week in mid-March. But we know that we are facing an underreporting of cases and deaths as there are important delays in the transmission of surveillance data."

In DRC, where a measles epidemic has been raging since June 2019, all 26 provinces remain affected, and nearly 1,000 children have died of measles this year, said Lampaert.

"The toll of this epidemic is just devastating, with 7,000 chil-

dren killed since early 2019 and 380,000 people infected. In the capital city, Kinshasa, we noticed a major drop in consultation as many people feared they would be infected with Covid by going to health facilities deemed under-equipped with protective equipment, or feared being isolated and stigmatised for a long time due to the delays in obtaining test results," said Lampaert.

"This situation affected the care of sick people and the monitoring of their treatment, especially for conditions such as diabetes, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/Aids. In other parts of the country, some people do not consider Covid-19 as real, they don't believe in it or see it as a foreigners' sickness."

The pandemic has forced countries to make local innovations as they resume their vaccination programmes, all while accounting for transportation shutdowns, lack of PPE and social distancing, said Unicef's Nandy.

"In Brazil, they tried things like drive-through vaccines so people wouldn't have to get out of their cars. In Tanzania, they were doing vaccinations under different trees to account for physical distancing," he said.

"It's a question of countries learning from one another, from both good and bad innovations, because it's not like we have prototypes of guidance that we can roll out.

"We are building the ship as we sail."

Amref International University to equip reporters with skills on needs of society

By Guardian Reporter

AMREF International University (AMIU)—a premier pan African University of health sciences has launched an exciting new course for health reporters.

The first-intake class of the Health Communication & Journalism course kicked off on Monday 27 July with 20 students in the first class.

"The training will ensure learners are equipped with skills to exercise power not just to inform but also to influence positive change in the health of communities. The media wields enormous power to influence vulnerable groups to take action on matters that affect them the most."

"Using the case of COVID-19, health reporters can inform the public and influence them to: promote health by good nutrition for increased immunity to better handle infection; prevent infection by undertaking various preventative measures such as hand washing and social distancing; and support rehabilitative health whereby there is reduced stigma due to increased awareness around the disease," she added.

In response to the pandemic restrictions, the course (like all other AMIU courses) is delivered virtually to the journalists from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi. Other than interactive sessions, the course requires that each participant undertakes a research project culminating in the presentation of a report.

Prof Joachim Osur, the Technical Director for Programmes at Amref Health Africa congratulated the first cohort of students who are recipients of the 2019 Africa Media Network on Health (AMNH), Excellence in Health Journalism Awards scholarships.

He said that the scholarship has come into existence with the dedication from Amref Health Africa, through Health Systems Advocacy Partnership programme, which provided sponsorship for the deserving media award winners.

Marie Yambo, the President of the Africa Media Network on Health (AMNH) encouraged learners to take advantage of the training to further hone their specialised health reporting skills.

You really don't want to catch both the flu and COVID-19...!

By Robert Roy Britt

THE last thing you need this autumn and winter is to catch the flu and Covid-19 at the same time or in rapid succession, because your defences are down after one illness, making you more vulnerable to the other.

With that in mind, this year's flu vaccine could serve as a vital shot in the arm for public health and society's efforts to avoid dual epidemics that could overwhelm the already overburdened healthcare system and its exhausted doctors and nurses.

"This is the year that everyone should be getting the flu shot," says Richard Ellison, MD, a professor of medicine and an expert in infectious diseases and immunology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

With Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations and deaths rising across the US, experts fear that the pandemic will worsen this autumn, when cooler weather drives people indoors.

Flu season starts in October and peaks from December into February. The severity can't be predicted, but in recent years flu deaths have ranged from roughly 12,000 to 61,000, with as many as 800,000 hospitalisations in a bad year.

Experts say no Covid-19 vaccine is expected until at best early next year. But the flu vaccine will be available in September.

Ellison and other infectious-disease experts say that researchers don't know the likelihood of catching the flu and coronavirus at once, but it definitely can happen.

Dual infections are generally not uncommon. It's known, for example, that people can contract a flu virus atop a cold virus, or vice versa, says virologist Andrea Amalitano, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University.

When people die of the flu, it's usually because they get a secondary infection of bacterial pneumonia, he points out.

Ellison explains that the flu actually predisposes a person to getting that bacterial infection, because it debilitates hair-like "barrier" cells in the upper airways that would normally sweep the bacteria away.

He says it's not known if the flu would predispose someone to catching Covid-19, adding that the possibility can't however be ruled out.

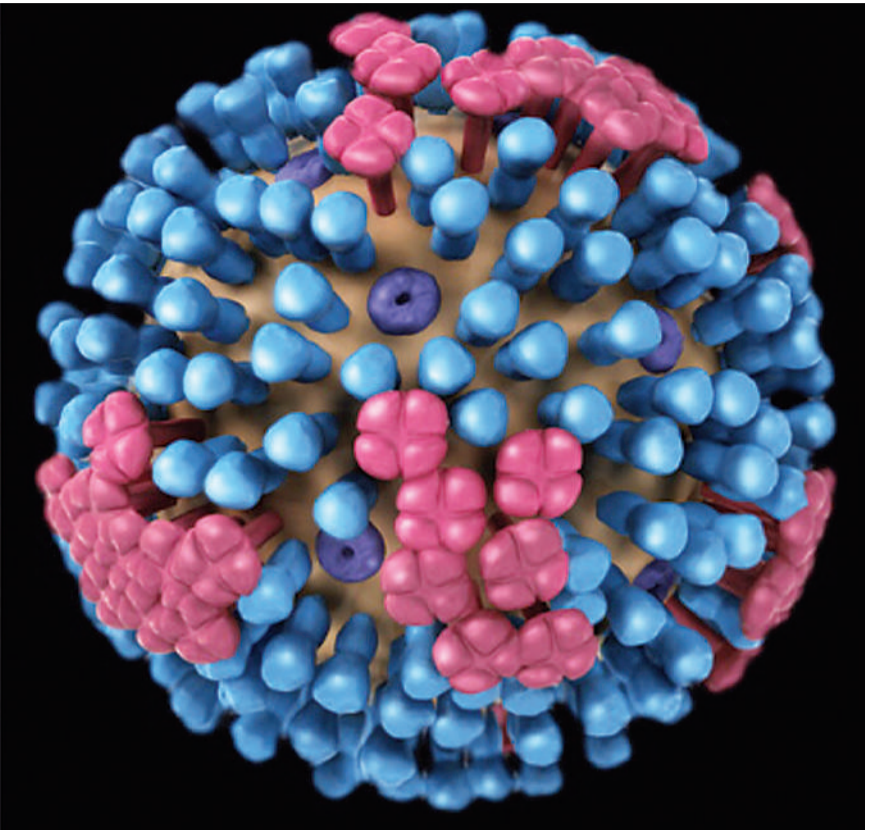
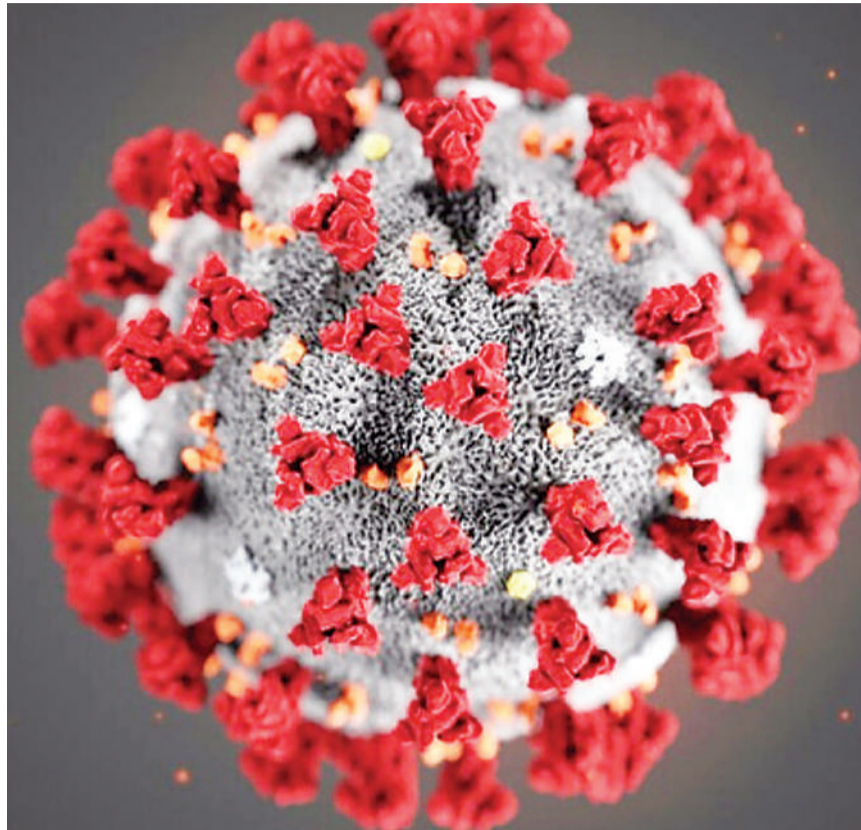
What is clear is that having Covid-19 and the flu simultaneously "is really going to increase the risk that someone ends up in the intensive care unit or on a ventilator", Ellison says. He adds that it would also make a person even more susceptible to bacterial pneumonia, and having all three "would be particularly devastating".

Amalitano says enduring the flu prior to contracting Covid-19 could be likened to the risks of other comorbidities, like diabetes or obesity, which are known to increase the severity of Covid-19 infections.

"You're already debilitated, you're already weak, just like if you have underlying health conditions," he says, adding: "Having an infection prior to catching another infection increases your risk that your body just can't take all these different insults at once."

And insults they are, says Julia Hurwitz, PhD, an infectious disease expert who studies immune responses and vaccine development at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. Our first line of defence against respiratory viruses comprises those sweeper cells that line our airways, she explains in an email.

"If the barrier cells are weakened by one virus infection (or any insult, such as that caused by smoking), cells will have more trouble protecting us from another insult," she says, adding: "Our front line will be weakened like soldiers in a war. We may then lose the



battle when another enemy (virus) comes along."

How effective is the flu shot?

The flu vaccine's effectiveness varies each year, as it's re-engineered for the various flu strains expected. On average it's thought to be about 50 per cent effective at reducing infections and severity of infections in healthy adults up to age 64. Precise figures don't exist, because people who get mild cases typically don't visit a doctor and so are never counted.

However, a vaccinated person who still gets the flu and ends up in the ICU spends, on average, four fewer days in the hospital than someone who had not been vaccinated.

The flu shot cuts the risk of flu-related death in half for children with underlying high-risk medical conditions, and reduces it by 65 per cent in healthy children.

While the vaccine "may not completely prevent you from getting the flu, you tend to be less sick and miss fewer days of work due to illness," Ellison says.

Also, each prevented infection reduces the risk of spread for everyone else. "If you're a young healthy person, it will help you to protect your grandparents," he says.

If enough people get the flu vaccine, herd immunity can kick in, Ellison explains. The virus has almost nowhere to go, because most of the herd is protected, and the spread is greatly reduced or even eliminated. Various estimates put the threshold for herd immunity for influenza in the 35 per cent to 75 per cent range, depending on how virulent a given strain is, and the effectiveness of each year's vaccine.

Who should get the vaccine?

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccines for everyone six months and older - with rare exceptions, including people with severe allergic reactions to the ingredients, among them eggs.

"Getting a flu vaccine this autumn will be more important than ever not only to reduce your risk from flu but also to help conserve potentially

scarce health care resources," the agency states.

However, only about 45 per cent of US adults and 63 per cent of children were vaccinated during the 2018-2019 season. Even at those less-than-hoped-for levels, the CDC estimates that 4.4 million flu cases were prevented, along with 58,000 hospitalisations and 3,500 deaths.

Addressing the prospect of dual epidemics this autumn, a recent opinion article in the Journal of the American Medical Association calls on the US federal government to "fund an evidence-based mass communication campaign, focusing on public benefit and personal obligation" of getting the flu shot this year.

It also recommends that states consider requiring flu vaccines for schoolchildren, just as they require vaccines for chickenpox, measles and a handful of other diseases.

"I personally take every vaccine that I am offered because I want to protect myself from outside invaders that can make me sick. I hate being sick," Hurwitz says.

A report in initially published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is a science & health journalist, author and former editor-in-chief of LiveScience & Space dot com.

What will rise from the ashes of the raging Covid-19 forest fire in the United States?

By Bo Stapler

HAVING observed undoubtedly one of the most unusual Independence Day the now-244-year history of the US, we find ourselves in the midst of an increasingly worrisome stretch of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cases are rising, authorities are enacting more stringent mitigation measures, bars and beaches are closing, and critical care units in some states are approaching capacity.

It is therefore easy to understand why the stress and uncertainty that started to subside in April and May are back on an upward trajectory.

What now? Where is the pandemic heading? What can we expect going forward?

A quick glance at the title of this story might prompt you to wonder if I'm going to explain away some silver

lining in all of this - that we're just experiencing the proverbial dark before the dawn.

Well, not exactly. Instead, we're on a steady burn. While its lethality may have peaked, the virus - SARS-CoV-2 - certainly isn't done ravaging our country. Don't take my word for it, though; let's look at some of the latest data to project what the future holds.

While the numbers of cases and deaths are trending differently in some states compared to others, the overall trend for cases across the country is on an uptick while deaths remain on a decline.

Changes in the number of deaths lag behind changes in the number of cases. Therefore, because of the recent climb in cases, we can expect the declining death rate to level out or possibly increase to some degree in about 2 to 4 weeks.

However, the main take away from the data is that despite an almost constant caseload of 20-35 thousand per day from mid-April to mid-June, the number of daily deaths over a two-month timeframe (accounting for the 2-4 week lag) declined by around 80 per cent. Let's talk about why this happened and why it's important.

Cases are occurring in younger individuals. In March, the average age of a patient with Covid-19 in Florida was about 65 years. By mid-June, it dropped to 35 years. Below are age-based trendlines for cases in South Carolina.

Since we know that the risk of death from Covid-19 declines sharply with age, it should come as no surprise that a shifting case demographic towards younger people will result in a decline in the rate of deaths.

Another reason for the decrease in



deaths is that care is improving. Remdesivir showed a trend towards reduction in mortality that fell just short of statistical significance.

Pre-published data on anticoagulation demonstrates a number needed to treat (NNT) of three to prevent one death from Covid-19 in mechanically ventilated patients.

Likewise, another preprint trial indicates that dexamethasone may reduce mortality with a NNT of 25 in patients receiving supplemental oxygen. Even non-pharmacologic interventions, like pronation, are likely beneficial.

One additional factor that could at least partially explain the decline in death rate is that a greater number of mild infections are being diagnosed. This would likely be due to increased screening of asymptomatic individuals and, to some degree, because of an increase in the availability of tests.

So, we've identified reasons for the drop in death rate in the face of stable cases. Now, we need to understand why this occurrence is important.

In April, the Centre for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) released the first of its Viewpoint publications outlining three likely scenarios for how the Covid-19 pandemic will unfold. These scenarios were developed based on data from prior influenza pandemics as well as knowledge of how coronaviruses generally behave.

At the time, one possible scenario considered was that of a sharp decline followed by a trough in cases over the summer and a large second wave in the autumn. Based on the data discussed earlier, this scenario now looks unlikely. CIDRAP director Dr Michael Osterholm agrees and stated on the June 21 episode of Meet The Press: "I'm not sure that the influenza analogy applies any more. I think that wherever there is wood to burn, this fire is going to burn."

"I don't see this slowing down through the summer or end of the autumn. I don't think we're going to see one, two and three waves. I think we're going to just see one very difficult forest fire of cases."

The steady burn to which Dr Osterholm refers is the path the novel coronavirus is taking towards becoming endemic. Just like four of its coronavirus siblings, SARS-CoV-2

is destined to circulate throughout the population slowly weakening and becoming more like the common cold as our collective immune systems learn how to recognize and defeat the virus.

Like many of us, you may be waiting for the announcement of a successful vaccine as a signal that we can all finally celebrate the end to one of the greatest world-wide disasters civilisation has ever endured. That sounds like a pretty happy and climactic ending. So, why the prediction of an anticlimax?

Don't get me wrong, I still think there will be a happy ending for society. I also think a safe vaccine is likely to be produced and could potentially play a role in helping bring the pandemic to an end.

But I suspect that we crave a vaccine more now than we may whenever it becomes available, perhaps in early 2021. While I'm thankful for those who are pursuing it, my guess - and it's just a guess - is that the vaccine will become an afterthought.

Herd immunity is coming whether it arrives with help from a vaccine or not, and there are now reasons to believe that herd immunity is closer than previously thought.

A recent study published on June 23 in the journal Science estimated the threshold for herd immunity to be 43 per cent. That means that it's likely that only 43 per cent of the population would need to become immune to the novel coronavirus in order for its transmission to slow and eventually stop.

This is significantly lower than prior estimates of 60-70 per cent. In addition, on June 25 representatives of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that 5-8 per cent of the US population had already been infected with SARS-CoV-2, and this was based on data from March through early May.

This story has garnered support from multiple physicians and medical providers. It was originally published in BeingWell, a Medika Life Publication for the Medical Community. Bo Stapler, MD, is an Internal Medicine and Pediatrics hospitalist.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 115 00--

WORD-FIT puzzle grid with a 5-letter word 'PET' visible.

- 5 LETTERS: PET, APE, CUM
- 4 LETTERS: FLOW, OVER, EVEN, REAL, OVER, ROME, MOOS, POUR
- 5 LETTERS: LARGE, NOVEL, OMBRE, SPORT, METER
- 6 LETTERS: EAGLES, LEAN TO, MTWARA, MODERN, REJECT
- 7 LETTERS: MOROCCO
- 8 LETTERS: ACCOUNTS
- 10 LETTERS: FREE MARKET

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-18.

- CLUES: Across**
- 1 fail to impress
 - 5 a memorandum
 - 7 accumulate over time
 - 8 a corner
 - 10 heaven
 - 11 known about by many people
 - 13 the refuse of grapes that have been pressed for winemaking
 - 15 out of the way
 - 17 Kuala Lumpur is her capital city
 - 19 one as a quantity
 - 20 a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water
- Down:**
- 1 Muslims bound together
 - 2 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia
 - 3 a house
 - 4 Zambia's capital
 - 6 on to
 - 7 Largest state in U.S.A
 - 9 vehicle equipped for living in
 - 12 the holding of an office
 - 14 a slatted wooden case used for transporting goods
 - 16 an accomplice of a hawk
 - 17 Mother
 - 18 labium

SOLUTIONS for the word fit and crossword.

DAR-TO-MOROGORO SGR LINE UP FOR COMPLETION BY DECEMBER

By Francis Kajubi

THREE hundred kilometers of Dar es Salaam to Morogoro standard gauge railway which currently is over 82 percent done, will be completed by December this year.

Tanzania Rail Corporation's Project Manager, Engineer Machibya Masanja said he remains confident that Turkish contractor, Yepi Markez will finish off the remaining part of phase one of the project on schedule.

"Everything is going on well and on schedule," Eng Masanja told representatives of stakeholders who included public entities, civil society organizations and development partners mid this week in Dar es Salaam.

He said the second phase of the project which covers Morogoro and Dodoma regions is also on schedule and is 34.12 percent completed. According to him construction of the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro stretch consumed four million cement bags while

the second phase will utilize six million bags.

"About 1.2 million slippers will be produced for the project whereby one slipper is made of 118 kilograms of cement," the TRC Project Manager added noting that the mega project has also provided employment to 13,369 directly.

The mega project which is financed by domestic revenue sources has paid over 30.33bn/- in salaries which US\$873million has been paid to suppliers of goods and services. "Completion of the SGR project will reduce cargo transportation costs by 40 percent compared to trucks," Eng Masanja noted.

On rehabilitation of the old central meter gauge railway which stretches between Dar es Salaam and Mwanza with branches to Kigoma and Tabora, the Project Manager said TRC has saved over 300bn/- that would be spend on construction of bypass roads to facilitate construction of the SGR.

"The rehabilitation covered 970 kilometers of most troubled areas,



Construction work of the SGR infrastructure in Dar es Salaam.

construction of new 370 bridges and replacement of new meter gauge railway covering 350 kilometers. The rehabilitation is complete by 91 percent," he

stated. He challenged local contractors and construction materials manufacturers grab the opportunity of the

mega project to make money and gain expertise. Among challenges facing the project's implementation include public resistance to cede land.

To ensure that the public along the SGR line get benefits from the project, TRC signed a memorandum of understanding with public institutions such Tanzania Social Action Fund, financial institutions and civil society organizations to provide support under a livelihood restoration program.

The program targets to offer incentives to ordinary people along the railway so that they feel part of the success story but also eradicate poverty among them.

Other institutions that were represented at the MoU signing were: Small Industries Development Organization, Women Fund, Vocational Education and Training Authority, Tanzania Women Lawyers Association and University of Dar es Salaam.

"All institutions will play their part in making sure that residents along the project see benefit during and after construction work. They will be empowered according to their priorities such as financial assistance, human rights sensitization, vocational skills training and entrepreneurship," said TRC Human Resource Manager, Amina Lumuli who is also assistant Director General of the state rail company.

C40 Cities launches Mayors Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery post-Covid-19

FREETOWN

C40 Cities has released its C40 Mayors Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery. The plan seeks to create a 'new normal', which will identify, contain and proactively prepare cities for future pandemics, while addressing systemic injustices and keeping global warming below the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

The agenda includes specific measures that are already being delivered and endorsed in many cities around the continent including Freetown, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Lagos and Accra.

Measures on the agenda The measures championed by mayors include providing immediate access to water to vulnerable communities and institutions, issuing permits for citizens to work and generate income, green job creation programmes; increased rights and support for all workers whose efforts proved essential during the Covid-19 pandemic; investments in green industries such as guaranteed access to resilient public services, particularly for the most vulnerable; building retrofit programmes; investing in safe and reliable mass transit, and new protected spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.

Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone said: "Freetown's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic will be an uphill climb. But as a city, we will ensure that our response and recovery is focused on bringing some of the city's most vulnerable along. Freetown's commitment to improving public services post-Covid, particularly sanitation, will make our city more livable for all whilst creating much needed jobs in the circular economy."

In Freetown, Aki-Sawyer rapidly provided sustainable access to water to vulnerable and important public spaces in the city such as informal settlements, markets and peripheral health units as a major component of the city's Covid-19 response plan.

US flight safety alert targets 10 KQ Boeing planes

NAIROBI

Kenya Airways will be forced to inspect afresh the engines of its 10 Boeing 737 New Generation aircraft after the US aviation regulator warned that they could stall mid-air after being grounded for months.

The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) said the Boeing 737NG aircraft that have been idle since the outbreak of Covid-19 could form corrosion on the air check valves, an anomaly that can lead to stalling of the two engines when the airplane is flying.

Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) director-general Gilbert Kibe said they had received communication from the FAA, adding that the agency will ensure local carriers such as Kenya Airways are in compliance. Kenya Airways has 10 Boeing 737NG – mainly used for mid-range flights such as the Africa routes – in its fleet of 42.

"We have received communication and Kenya Airways too has the alert. We shall monitor the task," said Mr Kibe in an interview with the Business daily. The FAA said should the airlines must replace the engine valves ahead of flying if they are corroded.

In a statement last week, Boeing Company, the manufacturer of the planes, said it had advised operators to inspect the aircraft that had been grounded for long or used



A Kenya Airways Boeing 737 New Generation parked at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi.

infrequently in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Boeing reckons that the valves can be more susceptible to corrosion. Kenya Airways said it was addressing the issue before taking to the skies in a move that will assure passengers of their safety once international flights resume this Saturday.

"KQ has a process and has put measures in place to ensure all its affected aircraft have the recommendation accomplished before they get back to the skies," said the airline in an e-mail response to

the Business Daily.

Kenya Airways normally uses these type of aircraft on Africa routes with higher passenger numbers because of its high capacity compared to the Embraer 190. The Boeing 737-800 has a flying range of 5,665 kilometres.

KQ grounded its international flights on April 6 after Kenya closed its airspace to passenger planes in order to curb the spread of Covid-19. The carrier has, however, been operating its fleet of Boeing 787 that it had converted into cargo flight

for long-haul services, especially to Europe and Asia.

This is the second time that Boeing has issued an airworthiness directive on this type of aircraft since late last year. Last September the FAA wrote to Kenya Airways directing it to inspect its fleet of Boeing 737 New Generation aircraft for potential cracks.

The carrier will resume passenger services on international routes this Saturday with 27 destinations having been earmarked. This is half of the routes that the

airline was servicing before the Covid-19 pandemic. KQ reported a Sh12.9 billion loss for the financial year ended December 2019, up from Sh7.7 billion in 2018, with losses attributed to increased cost of operations.

The airline estimates it lost Sh10 billion in the six months to June this year. The airline, which resumed domestic flights two weeks ago, is now banking on the resumption of the international flights to generate more income and be in a position to meet its financial obligation.

Progress on LNG project boosts Mozambique's GDP prospects

HONG KONG

A large financing agreement for one of Mozambique's large LNG projects shows continued progress on project implementation despite security challenges and lower medium-term hydrocarbon prices, raising the prospect of significant positive effects on Mozambique's growth and public finances in the longer run, Fitch Rating says.

Total SE (AA-/Stable), whose Mozambican subsidiary is the

operator of the LNG project related to the development of the Golfinho and Atum gas fields, announced on 17 July 2020 it secured a USD14.9 billion financing (98% of Mozambique's 2020 GDP). The funding was sourced from a mix of export-credit institutions, commercial banks and the African Development Bank (USD400 million). The project requires overall investment of USD20 billion (132% of

Mozambique's GDP) and involves the construction of two gas liquefaction trains, the first of which is scheduled to come on stream in 2024.

However, delays could occur for example if global energy companies' capital budgets are reduced further due to further changes in long-term energy price assumptions energy prices or if security risks cause operational interruptions. Terrorist attacks in the northern province of Cabo

Delgado, where the projects are located have increased in recent months. Although LNG facilities have not yet been directly attacked, contractors for Total were targeted in June 2020.

While the Total project is moving forward, the decline in global energy prices and need to cut investment globally led ExxonMobil, leader of a separate USD30 billion (around 200% of GDP) project related to the development of the onshore

Mamba field, to postpone its final investment decision to next year.

This will delay the start of production of the two onshore trains by one or two years, which would delay the start of production to around 2025-2026. The third LNG project (USD8 billion) in the Coral South field, led by Eni SpA (A-/Stable), for which a final investment decision was made in 2017, is unaffected with production scheduled for late 2023, although delays cannot

be ruled out.

The LNG production from the three projects is expected to have a significant effect on growth in the medium-term. The combined capacity of the three projects is roughly equivalent to twice the size of Mozambique's 2020 GDP.

Fiscal benefits would start to emerge only well after production commences as LNG development costs are likely to offset the rise in government LNG

revenues for at least five years.

In addition, the interest rate on Mozambique's restructured Eurobond (USD900 million) will increase to 9% in 2023 from 5% currently. The implementation of the LNG projects, which require large imports of capital and intermediate goods, is generating extraordinarily large current-account deficits (CADs). We project the CAD to deteriorate to 64% of GDP in 2020 from 21% in 2019.

TANESCO PICKS NORWEGIAN CONSULTANT FOR ITS RUMAKI, RUHIJI POWER PROJECTS

By Property Watch Reporter

STATE-RUN power utility Tanesco has picked Norwegian consultant, Multiconsult Norge AS to provide consultancy services for the Rumakali and Ruhiji Hydropower and Transmission Line Project in Njombe Region.

In a statement, the company said work will begin immediately and is planned to be completed in Q2 2021. Norplan Tanzania and Tanzania Photomap will act as subcontractors to Multiconsult.

"The United Republic of Tanzania through TANESCO will fund the review and update of the feasibility study, conceptual design and preparation of tender documents and conducting environmental and social impact assessment study for the proposed 222 MW Rumakali Hydropower plant and transmission line and for the proposed 358 MW Ruhudji Hydropower plant and transmission line," the state utility giant said.

Multiconsult will undertake feasibility studies, prepare the conceptual design and tender documents, and conduct environmental and social impact assessment studies for the two proposed hydropower projects and associated transmission lines, Tanesco said in its statement. Upon completion, the two projects will double the total installed



An artist's rendition of the proposed Rumakali hydropower plant in Njombe region.

hydropower capacity in the country from 562MW to 1,142MW.

"We are proud to participate in the energy development in Tanzania by being awarded these large and important projects," Multiconsult's EVP Energy, Hilde Gillebo. The Norwegian multidisciplinary engineering and architectural consulting company has more than 3,000 employees and 39 offices in Norway and abroad.

The Norwegian consultant also did preparation of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the proposed Kakono hydropower plant in Kagera region.

The Kakono is a HEP project along Kagera River with an installed capacity of 87MW. The dam will create a gross head of 32 metres resulting in a reservoir size of 18 square kilometres and the power will be evacuated via a 132 kV overhead transmission line to an existing substation in Kyaka village.

Tanzania's access to electricity index has recorded the highest level so far with 84.6 per cent in 2020, as authorities have vowed to intensify the rural electrification model, to boost the speed and efficiency of getting power especially to those lacking the facility. The number of villages with access to electricity rose to 9,112 in April 2020 from 2,018 in 2015, according to Ministry of Energy.

S.Africa Sasol seen advancing asset-disposal plan with sale of gas units

JOHANNESBURG

The South African chemicals and fuels manufacturer is accelerating its asset-disposal programme, with sales including a stake in its U.S. chemicals project and interest in a Mozambique pipeline well under way. Sasol Ltd.'s shares surged more than 11% after it agreed to sell gas facilities to Air Liquide SA, advancing company plans to cut debt by disposing of assets and reducing emissions.

The 8.5 billion-rand (\$515 million) deal is for air-separation units used to supply Sasol's fuels and chemicals processes at plants in Secunda, east of Johannesburg, that make up the biggest oxygen production site in the world, according to Paris-based Air Liquide. The French company already operates one of the 17 units and has plans for a modernisation program associated with the deal.

Sasol plans to raise as much as \$5 billion through asset sales to help reduce its debt by more than a half. The South African chemicals and fuels manufacturer is accelerating its asset-disposal program, with sales including a stake in its U.S. chemicals project and interest in a Mozambique pipeline well under way.

Shares rose as much as 11.6% after the announcement on Wednesday, and traded 10.3% higher at 147.81 rand by 1:39 p.m. in Johannesburg. A close at this level would make it the biggest one-day gain since June 8.

Sasol is the nation's second-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases and the sale of the air-separation units will contribute to its goal of cutting emissions by at least 10% by 2030. Final agreements on the oxygen units are expected by mid-August, with the transaction to close during the 2021 financial year, according to Sasol. The parties will also enter a long-term agreement for supply of the gases.



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What next after defunct realtor DN International goes into liquidation?

KIGALI

In 2010, DN International, a real estate development company embarked on a project that would see the firm complete construction of over 50 residential housing units valued at Rwf75 million each.

The new homeowners were promised to have their houses by the end of that year. However, this company's project dubbed "Green Park Villas", located in Gasabo District, was left incomplete and forced the owner, Nathan Lloyd, to flee the country in 2011.

When the company folded, as a financier of the project, KCB seized the incomplete estate in an effort to recover over a loan worth Rwf1.5 billion the developer had taken to fund the estate. But the bank did not take care of paying those who supplied construction materials or the prospective homeowners who had made down payment on the houses.

As a result, people who had delivered supplies or bought homes from the defunct DN International launched a lawsuit against the real estate developer in a case that was also drawn in Kenya Commercial Bank and Rwanda Development Board (RDB) seeking over Rwf780 million in compensation. Four years after KCB auctioned the land belonging to DN International to recover its fund, the



DN International's local real estate in Rusororo Sector, Gasabo District.

Commercial High Court cancelled the auction after establishing that some homes that were auctioned were not part of the collateral the company had presented to the bank and that some rules on public auction were flouted.

Earlier this year, the Commercial High Court resolved to liquidate DN International to be able to pay back the remaining creditors. Speaking to

The New Times on Wednesday, July 29, the Insolvency Administrator for DN International, Vedaste Mugemanyi, noted that some processes went slowly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He said: "The liquidation ruling took place in February this year, but due to Covid-19, I was only given the copy to resolve the insolvency on July 22." He added that: "What is being done now is the process

of transferring the land ownership from KCB Bank to DN International. After that, we will do the valuation of the property and look for potential buyers." Mugemanyi went on to say that he will afterwards hold a meeting with all creditors, including KCB, to assess the value of that wealth vis-à-vis the money they are owed.

In case the value of that property is

found to be less than the credit owed, then we will have no other option other than sharing among them the few that are available, he explained. After this process of liquidation, Mugemanyi is expected to write to the court requesting that the business is completely dissolved and even its name deleted from the Registrar's book.

Rio Tinto gets serious about giant African iron ore mine

CONAKRY

Rio Tinto Group is accelerating work toward potential development of the giant Simandou iron ore project in Guinea, as half-year earnings showed the steel-making ingredient dominated the second-biggest miner's profits.

There's been a longstanding question mark over Rio's stake in the massive African deposit. For years, a cast of owners including Israeli billionaire Beny Steinmetz and authorities in the West African nation fought over rights to develop Simandou. Even with those disputes now settled, Rio must decide whether it's prepared to spend the large

amounts needed to extract and transport the super-rich ore from its part of the project.

New studies with Rio's Chinese partners are aimed at cutting the capital intensity, operating costs and development timetable, with some fieldwork to start this half, the London-based miner said Wednesday in an earnings statement. Meanwhile, the Guinean-led and Chinese backed consortium with rights to the other half of the project could be producing within five years.

"Under all scenarios Simandou will be developed, with or without Rio Tinto," Chief Executive Officer Jean-Sebastien Jacques said in an interview Wednesday.

"There is a huge incentive for the Chinese to make it happen now." After years of being largely forgotten by the mining world, Simandou snapped back into the spotlight last year when Steinmetz ended a seven-year dispute with Guinea's government that saw him relinquish claims on half of the mine.

The project's reemergence could have big implications for the iron ore market. Half of the deposit could deliver more than 100 million tons a year of the highest-quality ore, which is increasingly in demand in China. China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, which oversees the biggest government-owned enterprises, is actively

pushing forward with the project, people familiar with the situation said earlier this year.

Simandou is divided into four blocks, with 1 and 2 controlled by the consortium backed by Chinese and Singaporean companies, while Rio Tinto and Aluminum Corp. of China, known as Chinalco, own blocks 3 and 4.

The renewed interest from China, as well as new owners for the half not controlled by Rio, means the company will consider options including joint development of the sites or their infrastructure. "We will look at all options because it is an infrastructure project and scale is important," Jacques said. "I think it's important for people to

understand what would be the benefits of putting together 1, 2, 3 and 4."

Rio, which has surpassed Brazil's Vale SA as the top supplier of iron ore, could generate an additional \$1 billion in annual revenue by replacing some lower-grade exports from Australia with better-quality material from Guinea, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts including Paul Young wrote in a July 23 note.

Forming a joint venture between two separate projects at the vast site could also cut total capital expenditure by as much as \$7 billion, through the sharing of costs for rail, port and power infrastructure, the Goldman analysts said.

CONSTRUCTION

BEIJING

Despite more space being leased in recent months, Grade A office rents in Shanghai continued their downward slide in the second quarter of 2020, according to recent reports by property agencies covering the city.

Following a lockdown that kept most businesses working at home during the first quarter, the amount of space leased in the city's office market registered a net gain of 116,265 square metres (1.25 million square feet), a marked change from the 90,545 square metres (974,618 square foot) decrease in the first three months of this year, according to Cushman & Wakefield.

However, despite the increased activity, rental rates slid at a faster pace during the period, with Shanghai's core commercial markets recording average rentals of RMB 286.4 (\$41.03) per square metre per month during the period from April through June – down 3.7 percent compared to the previous three months, according to the C&W report.

Helping to push rents lower is a flood of new real estate projects being completed away from the city's traditional commercial core, as well as bargain-hunting by tenants as lower-priced office options become available. Industry analysts attributed the uptick in leasing activity to cooperation between policy-makers and enterprises in the wake of the first quarter

SHANGHAI OFFICE RENTS DOWN IN Q2 DESPITE LEASING UPTICK



A bird's eye view of Shanghai central business district.

lockdown, with much of the space taken up located in emerging commercial centres.

"Combined efforts from government and firms allowed Shanghai's real estate market to gradually recover," said Eddie Ng, Managing Director for JLL East China. "Office leasing resumed as the decentralized market saw more leasing and firms pursued cost-saving strategies."

Cushman's researchers found that 64 percent of the new space leased during the quarter was located in suburban areas, including significant deals in the Pudong neighbourhoods of Qiantan and Yangjing, as reform of China's financial sector is seen sparking expansion plans by both local and international institutions.

"Pudong has a lot of financial tenants," James Macdonald, head of research for China at Savills told Mingtiandi. "This sector is seeing international firms take more space as the market opens to overseas competition, also reforms are creating new opportunities for domestic businesses to grow such as the granting of securities to banks."

Office leasing experts at JLL saw a similar trend,

with service sector tenants picking up any slack left by a still recovering manufacturing sector.

"While the market remains under pressure from the outbreak, demand from firms in the TMT, healthcare, and financial services industries has remained resilient," said Anny Zhang, Head of Markets for JLL China.

New projects add to vacant space

While tenants began re-entering the market, the service sector revival proved insufficient to overcome an increase in new supply, as the vacancy rate for grade A offices citywide rose half of a percentage point since the end of March to reach 17.4 percent, according to Savills. "Despite a temporary decrease in vacancy rates in the first quarter, they increased in the second quarter of 2020, due to new project completions and limited take-up," Savills' Macdonald said.

Two Grade A projects were completed in the period, EDGE by KWah International and One Financial Street Phase I by Hong Kong private equity firm Phoenix Property Investors, both in the section of Jing An district near Shanghai train station. Together, the two developments brought

a total of 78,429 square metres of new supply to the market, pushing the city's total Grade A office stock to 12.8 million square metres.

Shanghai office supply to grow by 50%

With vacancy climbing in Shanghai, both landlords and tenants appear to have an eye on the pipeline of future projects, with much of the leasing activity attributed to tenants looking for more affordable offices as landlords are offering longer rent-free periods, customised fit-out provisions and other incentives.

"Certain sectors and companies are still growing and thinking about long term opportunities with a growing number of tenants taking longer-term commitments at favourable rates," Savills' Macdonald said.

Those more tenant-friendly conditions could continue to accelerate as Savills predicts that over 784,000 square metres of new projects will enter the market this year. In its report, Cushman & Wakefield forecasts that over 6.4 million square metres of new office space will be added to the city over the next five years, increasing Shanghai's venues for desk parking by 50 percent.

Simon Properties sues in US court to cancel \$3.6bn acquisition of Taubman

MICHIGAN

The COVID-19 pandemic drove the biggest drop in US retail sales ever during April, and now the coronavirus has also killed off the country's largest mall developer's appetite for a \$3.6 billion merger.

Simon Property Group in a 202-page declaratory suit filed Wednesday asked an Oakland County, Michigan judge to nullify its agreement to purchase Taubman Centers, citing a drop in the New York Stock Exchange-listed shopping centre specialist's business caused by COVID-19. The suit comes after US Department of Commerce figures issues last month showed that retail sales fell 16.4 percent in April – the steepest drop since the government began reporting such data in 1992.

Indianapolis-based Simon cited the "material effect clause" of the agreement, which specifies remedies in the case of a pandemic or other excluded events, as justification for nullifying the deal signed between the two rivals in February of this year.

David Simon has called a halt to the \$3.6 bil deal. In a statement, the company noted that, "The Merger Agreement specifically gave Simon the right to terminate the transaction in the event that a pandemic disproportionately hurt Taubman."

Simon's representation, New York City litigation firm Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison, argued that the coronavirus crisis hit Taubman especially hard because the Bloomfield Hills, Michigan firm owns properties in densely populated areas that depend on tourism.

The group also said that Taubman had breached its covenants under the sale and purchase agreement, including a failure to make "essential cuts in operating expenses and capital expenditures and financing those unnecessary expenditures by borrowing hundreds of millions of dollars.



Beverly Centre in Los Angeles.

"The COVID19 pandemic constitutes a material adverse effect because it has had a uniquely devastating and disproportionate effect on Taubman compared with other participants in the retail real estate industry," the complaint alleged.

In an email response to Mingtiandi, Taubman said it still considers Simon "bound to the transaction in all respects," contending Simon's attempt to terminate the agreement is "invalid and without merit." A spokeswoman declined further comment.

Mall stocks tumble

Both companies saw their stock values fall Wednesday on the NYSE after the announcement went public. Shares of Simon Property Group stock fell 4 percent

to \$83.01 per share, while Taubman Center shares tumbled 20.1 percent to \$36.17 per share. Simon Property Group, operator of 325 retail properties covering some 22,400,000 square meters (241,000,000 square feet) globally, offered to buy out Taubman at \$52.50 a share back when the deal was signed by the real estate investment trusts.

Under the terms of the deal, Simon would acquire an 80 percent stake in Taubman Realty Group, a subsidiary of Taubman Centers, which owns and operates the 26 properties in its portfolio. CEO and chairman Robert S. (Bobby) Taubman and other members of the Taubman family would be selling around one-third of their 29 percent interest in Taubman Realty and would retain a 20

percent stake in the entity following the proposed deal.

Taubman indicated that following the transaction, its existing team would continue to manage the 25 million square feet (2.3 million square metres) of gross leasable area in its mall portfolio under Robert S Taubman's leadership.

Taubman Centers last year sold a 50 percent stake in the shopping centre assets of its Asian division to US alternative investment giant Blackstone in a deal valued at \$480 million. The transaction transferred significant holdings in three fully-leased shopping centres – one each in the Chinese cities of Xi'an and Zhengzhou, and a third in the South Korean city of Hanam – from Taubman to Blackstone.

Saudi Arabia's Amlak International reports 21% jump in second-quarter after-tax profit

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's mortgage lender Amlak International for Real Estate Finance reported a 21 per cent increase in its second-quarter net profit on the back of higher revenue from financing activities and lower cost of funding.

Net income for the three months ending June 30 rose to 23.8 million Saudi riyals the company said in a statement on Tuesday to the Tadawul stock exchange, where its shares trade. Total revenue from special commissions, financing and investments climbed 6 per cent to 73.1m riyals during the period.

The company attributed the rise in its quarterly income mainly to an increase in "net profit from Ijara, Murabaha, and Ijara Mawsoufa contracts by 17 per cent compared to the same period last year." Operating expenses also rose by 3.4m riyals compared to the same period last year due to an increase in impairment charge for expected credit losses.

Set up in 2007, Amlak International is a non-bank lender, mainly providing property loans. It is licensed by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority to provide Sharia-compliant lending to corporate, high net-worth and individual clients. Amlak started trading on the Tadawul earlier this month after completing its initial public offering.

The company said it first half net profit increased 128 per cent to 53.3m riyals due to "overall business growth, in addition to the gain from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's Private Sector Financing Support Programme and prior year's Zakat settlement concluded with GAZT [The General Authority of Zakat and Tax]." Total revenue from special commissions, financing and investments rose 8 per cent to 148.4m riyals during the reporting period.

Driven by population growth and a supportive government policy, housing demand in the kingdom is expected to increase to 188,000 units a year until 2021. Demand is set to further increase to 203,000 a year from 2022 to 2025 and eventually to 219,000 a year from 2026 to 2029, the company said previously. The Ministry of Housing intends to disburse 204,000 individual contracts for housing this year, up from 179,217 contracts worth 79 billion riyals in 2019.

Mandatory mask policy imposed on US House floor after lawmaker tests positive for coronavirus

WASHINGTON

NANCY Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, announced a mandatory mask policy on Wednesday that requires all members and staff to wear face coverings in the chamber. "Members and staff will be required to wear masks in the halls of the House," Pelosi said during remarks on the House floor, adding that lawmakers can temporarily take off their masks when speaking.

The California Democrat also said she has the authority to direct the House sergeant-at-arms to tell members to leave if they fail to adhere to the requirement.

The announcement came hours after Congressman Louie Gohmert, a Texas Republican, tested positive for the coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Gohmert, who has frequently refused to wear a mask, was scheduled to fly to Midland, Texas with U.S. President Donald Trump Wednesday morning but tested positive in a pre-

screen at the White House. However, the eight-term congressman blamed the result on wearing a mask.

"I can't help but think that if I hadn't been wearing a mask so much in the last 10 days or so, I really wonder if I would have gotten it," he said during an interview with a local TV station.

At least two House members have announced plans to self-quarantine due to contact with Gohmert.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr, who was seen walking alongside with Gohmert after a hearing at the House Judiciary Committee, tested negative for the virus on Wednesday, according to a spokesperson.

At least the 10th U.S. lawmaker known to have tested positive, Gohmert is among a group of conservative Republicans who have been walking around the Capitol without wearing a mask.

"Very frankly, too many Republicans have continued to act extraordinarily irresponsibly," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer told reporters on a press



Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives

call on Wednesday.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said "cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the disease, particularly when used universally within communities." Whether to wear a mask in public during the coronavirus pandemic, however, has become a divisive issue in the United States.

Trump has not endorsed the practice until earlier this month. More than 4.4 million people in the country have been infected with the virus, along with over 150,000 deaths, according to the latest tally from Johns Hopkins University.

A model from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation has shown that near-universal wearing of cloth or homemade masks could prevent up to 28,030 deaths across the United States before Oct. 1.

Gohmert is the latest in a growing number of U.S. politicians who have contracted the disease.

The White House announced earlier this week that National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien has tested positive for the coronavirus. Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday that he has not seen O'Brien "in a while."

The White House recently ended regular temperature checks for all those entering the White House complex, but those who will come into close contact with Trump are still given rapid tests, the kind of which Gohmert received Wednesday.

Last week, a cafeteria employee working in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, which is close to the White House, tested positive for the coronavirus, as did a U.S. Marine assigned to Trump's helicopter squadron ahead of the president's planned trip to his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Previously, one of Trump's military valets and Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary tested positive for the virus. **Xinhua**

Pompeo's remarks cannot alter general course of China-US ties - official

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent speech on China cannot alter the general course of development of China-U.S. ties, Hu Zhaoming, spokesperson for the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, tweeted on Wednesday.

Hu viewed the remarks made by Pompeo (pictured) as an "orange alert" on China-U.S. relations, saying in a tweet: "Despite a certain consolation he seemed to find in audience applause, Pompeo was

just hugging himself with total negation of China-U.S. relations like a handful of diehard anti-China elements often do."

"What he has uttered cannot possibly alter the general course of progress for China-U.S. relations," the spokesperson noted.

Hu's remarks come after Pompeo's Thursday speech at the Richard Nixon Library, the former U.S. president who pressed the start button to normalize relations with China about five decades ago, during which Pompeo urged



an end to the long-held engagement approach towards China and called for "a new alliance" to force China to change according to Washington's wishes.

The U.S. secretary of state mentioned Reagan's remarks on dealing with the Soviet Union on the basis of "trust but verify," saying that when it comes to the CPC, they must "distrust and verify."

Hu refuted the remarks in his tweet and pointed out that Pompeo's conceit was apparent during his speech as he trotted

out the notion of "distrust and verify." The fact of the matter is: no one took "trust" of the U.S. in the Soviet Union at face value when President Reagan said "trust but verify," said Hu.

Back then, the Reagan administration at least tried to conceal what was in their mind, said Hu. Now Pompeo and his ilk have even fallen short of such usual standard, laying bare their cloven hoof from the very outset, he added.

CGTN

Nearly half of US troops exiting Germany to stay in Europe

WASHINGTON

THE US military on Wednesday unveiled plans to withdraw about 12,000 troops from Germany following a decision by President Donald Trump, but said it will keep nearly half of them in Europe to address tension with Russia.

Trump announced his intention last month to cut the 36,000-strong US troop contingent in Germany to 25,000, faulting the close US ally for failing to meet NATO's defense spending target and accusing it of taking advantage of the United States on trade.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has sought, however, to present the pullout in a way that would prevent undermining NATO and its efforts to deter Russian intervention.

In remarks likely to irk Mos-

cow, Esper said some US troops would reposition to the Black Sea region and some could temporarily deploy in waves to the Baltics.

Other forces leaving Germany would permanently move to Italy and the US military's European headquarters would relocate from Stuttgart, Germany, to Belgium.

In total, about 5,400 troops of the 12,000 leaving Germany are expected to remain in Europe. Many of the remaining forces will be based in the United States but will rotate into Europe for temporary deployments without their families.

"I'm telling you that this is going to accomplish what the president said with regard to getting us down to a lower number in Europe, and it meets his other objectives I outlined with regards to the strategic piece," Esper said.



US soldiers take pictures with their cell phones during an artillery live fire event by the US Army Europe's 41st Field Artillery Brigade at the military training area in Grafenwoehr, southern Germany. (AFP)

Still, the moves out of Germany represent a remarkable rebuke to one of the closest US military al-

lies and trading partners.

The premiers of four German states that host US troops have

appealed to members of the US Congress to block Trump's withdrawal, which current and former American officials have criticized as politically, not strategically, driven.

If he is elected president, Democrat Joe Biden will review the Republican incumbent's decision to withdraw the troops from Germany, a top Biden aide told Reuters earlier this month.

US officials stressed that only a relatively small number of advanced units would move anytime soon. The rest of the troop movements would take years to fully implement.

"It will still be months to plan and years to execute because it is very complex," one US official said, noting potentially billions of dollars in required funding and more planning by the branches of the armed forces. **Agencies**

Zimbabwean govt to pay white farmers 3.5 billion USD in compensation

HARARE

THE Zimbabwean government and former white commercial farmers have signed a 3.5 billion U.S. dollars compensation agreement for the farmers.

The money, which will be borrowed by the Zimbabwean government, is meant for improvements made by the white farmers on their farms that were acquired by government under the land reform program.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, speaking on Wednesday at the signing ceremony in Harare, said the agreement was a significant step towards bringing closure to the land reform program.

Under the program which started in the early 2000s, government compulsorily acquired excess farm land from white farmers to resettle landless blacks.

Government said this was meant to redress colonial land ownership imbalances that were skewed in favor of whites, and also to economically empower the country's majority blacks.

"This momentous event is historic in many respects, it brings both closure and a new beginning in the history of the land discourse in Zimbabwe," Mnangagwa said.

He said the process which had culminated in the signing of the agreement is historic as it is a re-affirmation of the country's commitment to constitutionalism, respect of the rule of law and property rights.

Finance and Economic Development Minister Mthuli Ncube and acting Agriculture Minister Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri signed on behalf of the Zimbabwean government, while representatives of the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), the Southern African Commercial Farmers Alliance and a foreign consortium, Valcon, which undertook valuations, also penned the agreement.

At least 2,801 former commercial farmers acceded to the compensation out of 2,963 that were approached with the compensation offer.

Mnangagwa said the compensation was being done in line with the country's constitution, adding that the agreement was only limited to improvements made on the farms and not the land itself.

"My administration reaffirms that the government of Zimbabwe does not have any obligation for compensation for acquired land.

Thus, our entering into the agreement does not create any liability whatsoever," he said. Details of how much money each farmer would get were not immediately available, but the payments would cover the value of improvements, biological assets and land clearing costs.

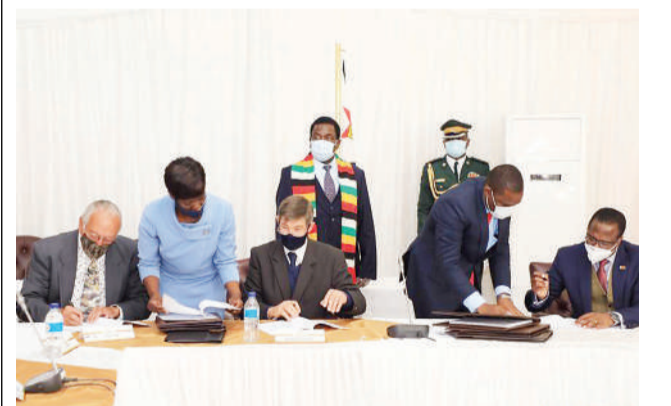
"The global compensation figure will be payable in installments as follows: a 50 percent deposit payable 12 months after signature of the agreement and one quarter of the balance in each subsequent year so that full payment is made over five years," reads part of the agreement.

According to the agreement, the full amount of the global compensation figure may, however, be paid within 12 months of signature of the agreement if sufficient funds for the purpose are mobilized within this period.

Mobilization of funding is expected to commence soon while a compensation committee would verify all claims before payment is made.

The Zimbabwean government is expected to borrow by issuing a long-term debt instrument of 30-year maturity in international capital markets in compliance with the country's debt management strategy, according to the agreement.

"Individual former farm owners may, at their own free will, elect not to accede to the Global Compensation Deed in which case they will not be bound by it," the agreement says. "As Zimbabweans, we have chosen to resolve this long-outstanding issue," said Andrew Pascoe, head of the CFU. **Xinhua**



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa (L, rear) witnesses a signing ceremony of compensation agreement at the State House in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Wednesday. The Zimbabwean government and former white commercial farmers on Wednesday signed a 3.5 billion U.S. dollars compensation agreement for the farmers. (Photo Xinhua)

China, ASEAN to embrace brighter future through cooperation

A series of Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM) on East Asia cooperation, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) SOM, the East Asia Summit (EAS) SOM, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) SOM, were held on July 20 and 21 via video link.

As countries are still at a key stage in combating COVID-19 and resuming development, the SOMs were of positive significance for regional countries to coordinate epidemic control and development, build political consensus, promote pragmatic cooperation, and push for regional peace, stability, devel-

opment and prosperity.

China and ASEAN countries are linked by the same mountains and rivers and live alongside each other like members in one big family. China has always taken ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and a key area for the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In recent years, the China-ASEAN (10+1) Cooperation Mechanism and the ASEAN plus China, Japan, ROK (10+3) cooperation mechanism embraced constant achievements and significant progress in regional cooperation. After the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, regional countries successfully held

a special meeting of leaders of the ASEAN plus China, Japan and the ROK on responding to COVID-19, the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease, and the Special ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers' Virtual Conference Meeting on COVID-19 Response. These meetings strengthened the awareness for cooperation, revitalized confidence for cooperation, and chart the course for cooperation. They demonstrated China's firm resolution to offer mutual assistance during the hard time and its profound friendship with regional countries.

True friendship stands out in difficult times, and countries shall join each other to fight the epidemic. During the past days, the voice of China-ASEAN solidarity and cooperation has become even louder. Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha recorded a video clip to promote China-Thailand solidarity amid the COVID-19 epidemic, and Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen's trip to China amid the epidemic explained the sincere friendship and mutual assistance between China and Cambodia.

People from ASEAN countries donated money and supplies to China to root for the Chinese people, and Chinese government,

enterprises, and non-government organizations also offered anti-epidemic materials to ASEAN countries and sent medical expert teams to Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Myanmar and Malaysia. Besides, China has also held video seminars over COVID-19 response with ASEAN countries, sharing its experience without reservation and actively promoting cooperation on drug and vaccine development.

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Kung Phook noted that China's efforts to combat the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as the valuable support offered by the Chinese government to countries

and regions around the world deserve to be praised.

Under regular epidemic prevention and control and orderly work resumption, China and ASEAN countries enjoy even broader prospect for cooperation. China and Singapore established a green channel for personnel exchanges, in an effort to jointly straighten the regional supply and industrial chains.

The ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on COVID-19 was held recently, during which the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation, jointly safeguard the unimpeded logistics and transportation between China

and the ASEAN, and protect the stability of global industrial and supply chains.

In the first half of this year, China's trade volume with the ASEAN rose 5.6 percent and accounted for 14.7 percent of China's total foreign trade.

The ASEAN is now the largest trading partner of China. The launching of the 2020 China-ASEAN Year of Digital Economy Cooperation will create stronger driving force for the two sides' economic and social development, and inject new energy into the long-term stability and prosperity of the region. **People's Daily**

Local US election officials try to ward off ‘virus’ of disinformation in November

WASHINGTON

As the clock ticks toward the U.S. presidential election in November, state election officials are devoting more time - and money - to educating voters about the dangers of disinformation while reassuring them that the system is fundamentally sound.

On a recent Zoom call, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, the state's top election official, ran through slides showing altered Facebook photographs, misleading tweets from the last presidential election and photographs of Russian hackers.

"Disinformation spreads like a virus," the presentation warned its audience of Black pastors, minority leaders, and civil rights campaigners, detailing how Moscow carried out "an all-out assault on African-American voters using social media."

It was an eye-opener, one attendee said.

"We had not had this kind of training or dialogue that I know of in the 20 years that I have been in Ohio," said Andre Washington, who leads the state chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an African-American trade union organization.

LaRose's sessions are one in a series of initiatives being rolled out by the state and other local officials who run elections across the country to help head off a repeat of 2016, when hackers and trolls pumped stolen emails and propaganda into U.S. public forums. It remains unclear if - or how - it affected the outcome of the vote.

Senior intelligence officials predict that Russia - along with China and Iran - will attempt to influence the 2020 election as well.

The process this year will be even more fraught due to the coronavirus pandemic, which will compel many Americans to use unfamiliar new forms of voting, including drive-throughs, drop-off boxes, or mail-in ballots.

Partisan politics is also poisoning the discourse. Trailing in opinion polls, Republican President Donald Trump has said mail-in ballots will open the door to massive fraud, despite the lack of evidence for such a view.

"When we were thinking about this 10 months ago or two years ago, we were probably thinking more in terms of external, foreign adversaries - Russia doing misinformation campaigns," Kim Wyman, Washington's secretary of state, told Reuters in June.

Referring to a tweet that Trump had posted that day alleging that millions of mail-in ballots would be printed by foreign countries in a "RIGGED 2020 ELECTION," she said: "Today's tweets show that it can come from anywhere."



Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall addresses workers separated by plexiglass and social distancing stickers before they begin a round of ballot inspection at the Thurston County Ballot Processing Center in Tumwater, Washington, U.S. July 23, 2020. REUTERS

Surveys suggest Americans were already worried about the integrity of U.S. elections before the coronavirus. A Gallup poll conducted in 2019 said 59 percent of Americans are "not confident" in the honesty of U.S. elections. And a Marist Poll from January said those polled believed "misleading information" represented the biggest threat facing the vote.

Wyman said that her mission - and the mission of "every election official in this country right now" - was "getting people to have confidence in our system."

U.S. political parties, donors, and social media platforms are all trying to be on better guard than they were in 2016.

Over the last four years, social media giants, including Facebook and Twitter, have improved their ability to spot inauthentic behavior, like Russia's past use of "sock puppet accounts" to spread fake or inflammatory claims. Election officials say they now have direct lines of communication to platforms like Facebook, allowing them to fast-track the removal of election-related lies. **Agencies**

More than 400,000 5G base stations constructed in China by June, says MIT

CHINA is determinedly pushing 5G construction despite obstructions from some overseas countries and economic pressure from the coronavirus outbreak, with more than 400,000 5G base stations opened by the end of June, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) showed.

In the first half of the year, China constructed 257,000 new 5G base stations, bringing the country's total to 410,000 by the end of June, according to MIIT data.

A weekly average of over 15,000 new 5G base stations have been opened in recent weeks in China, said MIT spokesperson Wen Ku during a press conference on Thursday.

Wen said shipments of 5G smartphones have hit 86.23 million in China, while 66 million phones have already been sold.

An industry insider told the Global Times that China is expected to build about 1 million 5G base stations by the end of this year, mostly in big cities. They will help push China's science and technology innovation over the next two years.

China's ceaseless efforts to push 5G construction come at a time when the country is facing increasing pressure, not only from the coronavirus pandemic but also from external obstruction. Following the US crackdown on Huawei, the UK has recently decided to ban Huawei from its 5G network.

The country's push for 5G and other high-tech industries is fueling a quick rebound for the country's high-tech industries. In the first half of the year, high-tech manufacturing industries in China saw their added value surge 4.5 percent on a yearly basis, a significant rebound from a 14.4 percent slump in January and February, MIT data showed. **People's Daily**

COVID-19, desert locust exacerbate food insecurity in E. Africa - UN

ADDIS ABABA

The East Africa region is facing an unprecedented triple food security threat caused by the combined effects of recent severe floods, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the upsurge of desert locusts, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) said.

The FAO, in a joint position statement issued together with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) late Tuesday, stressed that "urgent action is required to prevent a

major food crisis in Eastern Africa."

It emphasized that there is an increased risk of below-average rains during the upcoming October to December season, which could further threaten food security and livelihoods across the region.

According to FAO, even before these current challenges, Eastern Africa was considered among the most food insecure regions of the world, with nearly 28 million people in food insecurity crisis in 2019, or 20 percent of the total severely food insecure population across the



world.

It also stressed that an estimated 9 million children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition, including 2 million facing severe acute malnutrition.

The IGAD region is also one of the world's leading sources and hosts of internally displaced persons and refugees and asylum seekers who, due to limited livelihood opportunities

and degraded coping mechanisms, are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, according to the FAO.

The UNHCR estimates that the region currently hosts about 8 million internally displaced persons and 4 million refugees and asylum seekers.

"In this context of already high levels of food insecurity, the current triple threat facing vulnerable populations across Eastern Africa is expected to drive significant food security deteriorations in the absence of urgent action that protects lives and livelihoods, strengthens food systems, builds resilience across all vulnerable communities, and improves early warning systems and preparedness," the statement read.

Between March and May 2020, heavy rainfall across the region resulted in widespread flooding and landslides across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. According to IGAD, some 2.4 million people were affected, including 700,000 who were displaced and over 500 who were killed.

This is in addition to previous flooding between October and December 2019, which affected 3.4 million people across the region, according to FAO.

Forecasts of above-average rainfall between June and September 2020, particularly across western Ethiopia, eastern South Sudan, Sudan, western Kenya, northern and central Uganda increases the risk of additional flooding during the next several months. **Xinhua**

‘Vaccine nationalism’: Is it every country for itself?

LONDON / CHICAGO

It's dog eat dog in the world of COVID-19 vaccines.

That's the fear of global health agencies planning a scheme to bulk-buy and equitably distribute vaccines around the world. They are watching with dismay as some wealthier countries have decided to go it alone, striking deals with drugmakers to secure millions of doses of promising candidates for their citizens.

The deals - including those agreed by the United States, Britain and the European Union with the likes of Pfizer, BioNTech, AstraZeneca and Moderna - are undermining the global drive, experts say.

"Everybody doing bilateral deals is not a way to optimize the situation," said Seth Berkley, chief executive of the GAVI alliance which co-leads the scheme called COVAX designed to secure rapid and fair global access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Pfizer said this week it was in concurrent talks with the EU and several of its member states on supplying them with its potential vaccine.

And in the latest sloop, Britain announced a deal on Wednesday to secure advanced

supplies of potential COVID-19 vaccines from GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi.

This, according to global health charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), will further fuel "the global scramble to hoard vaccines by rich countries" and feed "a dangerous trend of vaccine nationalism".

The concern is that vaccine supply and allocation in this pandemic will echo the last - caused by the H1N1 flu virus in 2009/2010 - when rich nations bought up the available supply of vaccines, initially leaving poor countries with none.

In that instance, since H1N1 turned out to be a milder disease and the pandemic ultimately petered out, the impact on infections and deaths from vaccine imbalances was limited.

However COVID-19 is a far greater threat, and leaving swathes of the world's people vulnerable will not only harm them, but also extend the pandemic and the damage it can cause, health experts say.

"There is a risk that some countries are doing exactly what we feared - which is every man for himself," said Gayle Smith, former head of the US Agency

for International Development and CEO of the One Campaign, a non-profit aimed at ending poverty and preventable disease. **'I AM WORRIED'**

More than 75 wealthier countries including Britain have expressed interest in the COVAX financing scheme, which is also co-led by the World Health Organization and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, or CEPI, joining 90 poorer ones who would be supported through donations.

But the United States, China and Russia are not among countries expressing interest in COVAX, according to GAVI.

And an EU source said last week that the European Commission, which is the bloc's executive arm and leads EU talks with drugmakers, has advised EU countries not to buy COVID-19 vaccines via COVAX.

"I am worried," said Thomas Bollyky, director of the global health program at the Council on Foreign Relations. "What is happening with the handful of nations that are locking up supply of vaccine competes with the multilateral supply deals.

"At the end of the day, vaccine manufacturing is a finite

resource. You can expand it, but only so much."

Experts estimate the world can reasonably hope to have around 2 billion doses of effective COVID-19 vaccines by the end of next year, if several of the leading candidates prove effective in expedited late-stage trials currently underway. COVAX's aim is to distribute doses for at least 20% of its signed-up countries' populations.

ANOTHER TWO YEARS?

Berkley of GAVI said, however, that if self-interested countries or regions snapped those up to cover their entire populations - instead of sharing them across nations and protecting the most at-risk people first - the pandemic could not be controlled.

"If you were to try to vaccinate the entire US, (and) the entire EU, for example, with two doses of vaccine - then you'd get to about 1.7 billion doses. And if that is the number of doses that's available, there's not a lot left for others."

If a handful, or even 30 or 40 countries have vaccines, but more than 150 others don't, "then the epidemic will rage there" Berkley said. **Agencies**

UN warns 60% of Zimbabweans threatened by hunger

HARARE

THE UN food agency yesterday appealed for an additional US\$250 million to provide relief to millions of Zimbabweans as the COVID-19 pandemic bites and warned that 60 percent of the population could become "food-insecure".

Zimbabwe is gripped by a climate- and recession-induced economic crisis, its worst in more than a decade, which has seen shortages of foreign currency, medicines and soaring inflation.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said the number of food-insecure Zimbabweans will reach 8.6 million by December, which is 60 percent of the population, owing to the combined effects of drought, economic recession and the coronavirus.

The agency required an additional US\$250 million to support a rapidly expanding emergency operation. In April, the WFP sought US\$130 million to fund emergency operations until August.

"Many Zimbabwean families are suffering the ravages of acute hunger, and their plight will get worse before it gets



better," Lola Castro, WFP's regional director for Southern Africa, said.

"We need the international community to step up now to help us prevent a potential humanitarian catastrophe."

The WFP said a national lockdown would cause more job losses while rural hunger was rising as unemployed citizens returned to their village homes.

Political tensions are rising in Zimbabwe after activists called for protests on Friday against government corruption that they blame for worsening the economic crisis. **Agencies**

The government has branded the protests an "insurrection". On Thursday, police and soldiers increased security check points at all roads leading to urban centres around the country and turned back motorists and some workers, witnesses said.

With inflation running above 700 percent, prices of basic goods are now beyond the reach of many citizens and desperate families are eating less, selling off precious belongings and going into debt, the WFP said.

Key areas of Yangtze River to introduce 10-year fishing ban

the Yangtze River.

According to Yu Kangzhan, vice minister of China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the fishing ban in the Yangtze River is both an objective requirement put forward by the severe recession of aquatic resources and decreasing biodiversity in the river, and consideration for the long-term interests of fishermen.

Since 2019, provinces along the river have withdrawn nearly 80,000 fishing boats and 10,000 fishermen. Shanghai, Jiangxi and Yunnan have already completed the removal of fisherman and

sealed fishing boats in advance.

A special rectification campaign that lasts a year will be launched to crack down on illegal fishing in key waters of the Yangtze River basin.

According to Li Jingsheng, head of the Bureau of Security Administration under the Ministry of Public Security, the campaign will focus on key waters and time frames to strike a severe blow on illegal operations, as well as the processing and sales of illegal catch.

Yan Jun, an official with the State Administration for Market Regulation introduced that so far a special action plan has

been formed to severely punish the trade of illegal catch by enhancing the monitoring of key links such as manufacturing, sales, internet market, and advertising, so as to cut the illegal industrial chain of illegal fishing in the Yangtze River basin.

To impose the ban in major waters of the Yangtze River is about not only the orderly withdrawal of 100,000 legal and certified fishing boats, but also the resettlement of nearly 300,000 fishermen.

Most of the fishermen are aged and have no other skills apart from fishing, and the COVID-19 epidemic has made the transfer even harder.

Deputy director Song Xin of the employment promotion department under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security called for targeted resettlement plans which can create more local jobs, carry out relevant training and follow-up services, and help fishermen secure new jobs as soon as possible. Besides, those aged and unemployed farmers shall be considered people with employment difficulties and then offered with one-on-one assistance and targeted policies.

People's Daily

A TOTAL of 332 important aquatic reserves of the Yangtze River basin have been completely closed for fishing since Jan. 1 this year, and a ten-year ban will also extend to all natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries, as well as large lakes connected to it by 1 January 2021.

The ecological functions of the Yangtze River basin have deteriorated significantly in recent years due to intensive human activities. Rare fish species are facing a comprehensive decrease, and commercial fishery stock is almost exhausted, posing severe challenges for protection.

At present, China's annual aquaculture production stands at 63 million tons, and only less than 100,000 tons come from



Since 2019, provinces along the river have withdrawn nearly 80,000 fishing boats and 10,000 fishermen. Shanghai, Jiangxi and Yunnan have already completed the removal of fisherman and sealed fishing boats in advance

The Guardian

SPORT

For the NBA, it's time to play, kneel and demand change

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

MIAMI center Bam Adebayo did not know Breonna Taylor. He never heard of the woman who worked as an emergency room technician and had designs on becoming a nurse, a homeowner, a wife, a mother. Never knew anything about her.

That is, until she died.

Not a day goes by now where he doesn't say her name.

With the return of NBA basketball, players and coaches are determined to ensure they use this opportunity and their platform to make polarizing statements at a time when the demand for racial equality is as loud as it has been in generations.

"What happened to Breonna Taylor could have happened to me because of the color of our skin," Adebayo said. "We want people to understand that Black lives do matter. We're tired of seeing our brothers and sisters dying at the hand of police brutality for no reason. Put yourselves in our shoes. We just want to be equal. That's it."

The NBA shut down on March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Taylor was fatally shot by police in her Louisville, Kentucky, apartment two days later. The league officially restarts with two games on Thursday night. There is great anticipation in the resumption of play, but there is equal anticipation – if not more – in what players and coaches will do beyond playing the games.

None of the 22 teams at Walt Disney World have said specifically what they will do in terms of an on-court demonstration. Kneeling during the national anthem, an action that started in the NFL with Colin Kaepernick and has permeated through other sports since, is expected. Players from some teams, though none wanted to release details before games begin, said the actions will go beyond kneeling.

But with Black Lives Matter painted on the courts of the three Disney arenas and some players having considered opting out of the restart out of concerns that playing would minimize the demands for change combined with the hundreds of millions of eyeballs around the world set to watch these games, whatever the statements are they will be seen and heard globally.

It has been a constant since teams got to Disney. Coaches believe they are off to a strong start in trying to spark change and are vowing to continue. And many players have turned their media sessions into opportunities to only call for Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron to order arrests of the three officers who fatally shot the 26-year-old Taylor when they burst into her apartment using a no-knock warrant during a narcotics investigation. The warrant to search her home was in connection with a suspect who did not live there and no drugs were found.

"We obviously have an opportunity here to continue the messaging of the social justice movement," New Orleans guard J.J. Redick said. "I know a lot of guys have been very outspoken about Breonna Taylor and about calling attention to Daniel Cameron and what he needs to

do to bring her killers to justice. I think that's been great. The messaging on shirts, the court, it's all great. I know, I think I'm most proud of the guys who have stepped up and started taking action on some of these things."

LeBron James, who turned the majority of a post-scrimmage interview session into a plea for justice for Taylor earlier this month, is championing an initiative to get more people to vote in November. The league and the National Basketball Players Association are putting together a foundation where \$300 million will initially be earmarked for economic empowerment in Black communities. Countless players took to the streets in protests that popped up nationwide following the deaths of Taylor, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery.

"You know, it's funny, whenever we talk about justice, people try to change the message," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "Colin Kaepernick kneels; it had nothing to do with the troops. It had to do with social injustice, and everyone tried to change the narrative. How about staying on what we are talking about and dealing with that, instead of trying to trick us or change or trick your constituents? How about being real?"

The messaging will go beyond whatever happens during the national anthems. And though the NBA has had a rule in place for nearly 40 years saying that players must stand for the national anthems when they are performed before games, no one has expressed fear of repercussions of that rule right now.

"I respect peaceful protest," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

The overwhelming majority of players will wear a social-justice message on their jerseys for the remainder of the season, along with their names. Some will bear the word "Equality," which will be displayed in nine different languages. Others will say "Black Lives Matter." A few will simply say "Enough."

James, the league's biggest star, opted not to put a message on his jersey. He's using his reach in other ways, including donating money to the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition to help those in the state with felony convictions pay off fines and become eligible to vote.

He also cringes at the notion of calling Black Lives Matter "a movement." He prefers to call it a lifestyle.

"Unfortunately, in America and society, there ain't been no damn movement for us," James said. "There ain't been no movement."

Adebayo is hoping this moment in the NBA can finally spur some movement.

The league went 20 weeks without games because of the shutdown and pandemic. Basketball fans waited anxiously for games to come back. Adebayo points out players want the world to be reminded that Taylor's family has waited just as long for justice.

"The scariest thing ever for me was this: I was going somewhere one night, and my mom said to me, 'Just come back home,'" Adebayo said. "Nobody should have to worry about that. But that's how it is for us."

AP



In this Feb. 1, 2020, file photo, Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo (13) tries to get around Orlando Magic center Nikola Vucevic, left, and guard Terrence Ross (31) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla. Reporters from The Associated Press spoke to more than two dozen athletes from around the globe — representing seven countries and 11 sports — to get a sense of how concerned or confident they are about resuming competition. What emerged, above all, was a sense that they are going through the very same sort of calculus that much of the rest of society is: What is safe nowadays? (AP Photo)



MultiChoice Tanzania Head of Marketing, Ronald Shelukindo (C), speaks at the launch of a new local series 'Karma' scheduled to premiere on DStv Maisha Magic Channel from August 1. He has been flanked by famous Bongo Movie cast, Wema Sepetu (L), and Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Maisha Magic Bongo new series to premiere tomorrow

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

MULTICHOICE Tanzania has announced that the DStv Channel, Maisha Magic Bongo (MMB), will introduce a new exciting Swahili series, known as 'Karma'.

The series, which is set to premiere tomorrow, is set to garner much attention from movie lovers in Dar es Salaam given it includes prominent actors and actresses.

MultiChoice Tanzania Head of Marketing, Ronald Shelukindo, stated the new series' launch goes hand in hand with the channel's plan to see to it the viewers enjoy entertainment.

The series, he disclosed, is produced in

Tanzania and has local casts.

The MMB Channel's Head, Barbara Kambogi, pointed out the series' production team has Neema Ndepanya as the series' writer.

Neema, according to her, has also written a famous series, known as 'Sarafu', which was shown via the MMB Channel.

Barbara disclosed the new series has famous casts that include Wema Sepetu, who has successfully taken part in plenty of films which include 'A point of no return' which was aired in 2006, with Wema playing as 'Dina'.

Wema has also featured in many other movies and therefore

she is the ideal leading cast for the 'Karma' series.

Speaking at the 'Karma' series launch, Wema said it sheds light on two ladies, Suzanne and Veronica, who hate each other, with both having posts at the government and wield a lot of respect in the society.

The series has plenty of issues on love, deep secret, politics and revenge, with Wema 'Dr. Desire' starting a political rivalry with Veronica in the general election, which will have a lot of events which will turn 'Karma' into a thrilling series.

Wema assured film enthusiasts the 'Karma' series is produced excellently, insisting they

should not hesitate to closely watch it on the MMB Channel in the DStv every Saturday and Sunday at 9pm.

Meanwhile, popular ESPN sports and entertainment channels are now aired on DStv, with sports enthusiasts in the country, especially basketball fans, having been impressed by the presence of the channels on DStv.

Featuring every major US sport as well as European football, fans across the continent can now look forward to popular premier American leagues including the National Basketball Association (NBA), National Football League (NFL), and Major League Baseball (MLB),

via ESPN & ESPN2.

The channels also feature live football from the English Football League (EFL), Scottish Premier Football League (SPFL), Dutch Eredivisie and Major League Soccer (MLS), as well as local sports including the West African Football Union (WAFU) Cup of Nations and featured boxing tournaments and events.

Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa, disclosed the presence of the channel on DStv is good news to basketball fanatics in Tanzania, given they will from now start to closely follow the popular NBA League through the DStv.

Streamlined Tokyo Games may set future standard, says Coates

SYDNEY

THE Olympic movement faces its biggest challenge in four decades in getting a streamlined Tokyo Summer Games up and running next year but influential official John Coates believes it will happen.

Coates heads the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Coordination Commission for the Tokyo 2020 Games, which were postponed until 2021 because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The 70-year-old Australian concedes there is uncertainty because of the continuing spread of the virus but thinks it is vitally important that the Games go ahead.

"We owe it to the athletes to make sure this happens and a generation of athletes don't miss the opportunity of the Games," the IOC vice president told Reuters in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

"I'm putting a lot of work into it and my gut feeling is yes, we will (have an Olympics next year)."

While there will be changes to reduce the cost of the event, and others to ensure the health of athletes, Coates said the desire was still very much to have spectators in the stadiums.

"The crowd are an important part of it and it is very much in our planning to maintain that," he added.

To offset the increased costs caused by the postponement of a Games that was already slated to run up a bill of \$12.35 billion, the IOC and organisers have come up with more than 200 measures to simplify the Olympics.

"Not all will be adopted because we have to make sure they don't affect the athletes and the sports, and that they are acceptable to both sides, but we're working through them," Coates said.

One change that was already agreed, he added, was to scrap a

glitzy opening ceremony for the IOC meeting that traditionally precedes the Games.

"That will now be three speeches at the start of the session," said Coates. "And that might save you half a million dollars."

"AGENDA 2020"

Coates said that the simplification of the Games was very much in line with IOC President Thomas Bach's "Agenda 2020" project, which aimed to make hosting the Olympics cheaper after the 2014 Sochi Olympics ran up a bill of \$60 billion.

Some of the adjustments for Tokyo might therefore become the "new norm" for hosting the Olympics, he said.

"What we're having to do now,

sure, it's taking it to a new degree but it's the intention of the thinking (of Agenda 2020)," he added.

"Some of those areas could well further reduce the complexity, and thus the cost, of hosting Games in the future. That's the opportunity."

Coates said since the postponement there had been no change in the relationship between the IOC and their Tokyo partners, from Yoshiro Mori, the former Japanese prime minister who heads the organising committee, all the way down.

"I'm actually amazed, from the day the decision was made to postpone, the enthusiasm and the attitude of just getting on with it is quite remarkable," he added.

"They've maintained their moti-

vation. I'm very, very impressed ... This is a challenge they didn't anticipate and they're just getting on with it."

Coates said the IOC was facing its biggest challenge since 1980, when the United States led a boycott of the Moscow Olympics over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

While not wanting to underplay the problems, he thought his close ally Bach's commitment to overhauling the status quo would make it easier for the Olympic movement to ride out the crisis.

"In terms of the challenges I think we're in better position because when Bach came in, his mantra was 'change or be changed,'" he said.

REUTERS

Lampard aims to cap Chelsea comeback with FA Cup glory

LONDON

FRANK Lampard has set his sights on capping an impressive first season as Chelsea manager by leading the Blues to FA Cup glory against Arsenal on Saturday.

Lampard enjoyed four FA Cup final victories as a Chelsea player, but getting his hands on the first trophy of his nascent managerial career would be an even more significant moment for the 42-year-old.

Having led Chelsea into next season's Champions League via a top four finish in the Premier League, Lampard heads to Wembley surfing a wave of positivity.

It is a testament to Lampard's acumen that, in just his second season as a manager, he has Chelsea positioned as an emerging force just 12 months after the club was in turmoil.

When Lampard arrived at Stamford Bridge in June 2019 after one season as boss of second tier Derby, he carried the good wishes of supporters who idolised him during his glittering 13-year spell with the club.

But there were many pundits who doubted whether Lampard was the right man to get Chelsea back on track following the turbulent reign of Maurizio Sarri.

The taciturn Sarri fell out with several of Chelsea's stars, alienating them with his monotonous training regime and inflexible tactics.

Fixing the fractures in Chelsea's dressing room wasn't the only problem facing Lampard, who also had to deal with the club's transfer ban last summer and the sale of Belgium playmaker Eden Hazard to Real Madrid.

Even for an experienced boss, it would have been a daunting situation, but Lampard has risen to the challenge.

"There were a lot of unknowns when I came in, could we move forward without Eden Hazard? We knew we had lost a massive player," Lampard said.

"We've a real spirit within the group now and it's a real team effort now."

With his hands tied by the transfer embargo, Lampard was compelled to give some of the club's youngsters a chance to prove their worth.

That they responded so tenaciously and with such verve was a tribute to Lampard's influence.

The energy and optimism provided by Tammy Abraham, Mason Mount, Reece James, Billy Gilmour and Fikayo

Tomori gave the entire club a jolt of adrenaline.

A swaggering 5-2 win at Wolves in September served notice that Lampard and his young prodigies wouldn't be out of their depth, while a mature 1-0 Champions League win at Ajax showed they could handle Europe's elite.

- Midas touch -

Lampard's midas touch hasn't been restricted to the young guns.

He coaxed consistency from William and brought Olivier Giroud back into the fold after the French striker had appeared set to leave in January.

Exiled in the first half of the season, Giroud's prolific form since the coronavirus hiatus - seven goals in 10 matches in all competitions - played a key role in Chelsea holding onto their top four berth.

"What we've done this season is take the opportunity to bring in the younger players and improve the existing players," Lampard said.

At a club where owner Roman Abramovich dispenses with managers in ruthless fashion, Lampard showed he wasn't intimidated by twice dropping error-prone goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga despite the club's fears it could harm his future transfer value.

Lampard's furious response to perceived antagonism from Liverpool's coaching staff during their recent clash at Anfield was another sign he isn't to be trifled with.

While Chelsea's progress under Lampard has been undeniable, they still lost 12 times in the league for only the second time since Abramovich bought the club in 2003.

Unable to fix Chelsea's defensive frailties and often frustrated by their lack of cutting edge, Lampard has been busy in the transfer market and more new signings are on the way.

Lampard needs Leipzig striker Timo Werner and Ajax playmaker Hakim Ziyech to hit the ground running next season.

He has also been linked with Manchester United keeper Dean Henderson, West Ham's Declan Rice and Bayer Leverkusen's Kai Havertz as he tries to bridge the 33-point gap to Liverpool.

"The challenge now is to see what more we can do next season," Lampard said.

AFP

Barcelona president could face vote of no confidence

BARCELONA

A GROUP of Barcelona members have announced plans to launch a vote of no confidence against president Josep Maria Bartomeu and his board of directors because of the "unacceptable management" of the club.

Cor Blaugrana, the collective of Barca fans from various supporters' groups behind the action, say they have grown fed up with the Catalan club's top brass and argue that change is needed immediately.

Once the motion is officially filed, Cor Blaugrana will have 14 working days to gather the signatures of 15 percent of the club's members, which is just under 17,000 people.

If they achieve that, the vote of no confidence would then be put to the entire membership base in the form of a referendum. Two-thirds of a potential 154,000 voters would have to go against the board in the second stage in order for an election to be called.

Cor Blaugrana acknowledge that in the current circumstances it will be difficult to pull the coup off, but a spokesman for the group said the state of the club has left them no other option.

"We know we are working against a number of factors," Josep Maria Cremades told Cadena Ser on Wednesday. "We know we can't get signatures at games because fans can't attend, that we're in the middle of a pandemic and that there's an election due next year anyway."

"But we really want to move forward with this vote of no confidence. That's the level of indignation we're feeling right now. The

management of the club has been unacceptable."

Bartomeu and his board have come under increasing pressure in recent months. They were accused of hiring a third-party company to discredit presidential candidates, former and current players on social media earlier this year, although an external audit cleared them of any wrongdoing.

In April, citing that case, which became known as Barcagate, among other reasons, six members of the board resigned in protest at the running of the club.

In addition, Barca are facing their first trophy-less season since 2007-08. After exiting the Copa del Rey to Athletic Bilbao and missing out on La Liga to Real Madrid, their only hope of silverware now lies in the Champions League.

Regardless of the outcome of Cor Blaugrana's movement, an election will be held and a new president appointed next summer. Bartomeu, who has stressed he will not resign, will not be able to stand again.

This is the second time Bartomeu has had to deal with a vote of no confidence against him. In 2017, former presidential candidate Agusti Benedito tried to oust him but failed to get the 16,570 signatures required to force a referendum.

Speaking to ESPN at the time, Benedito cited the Neymar tax case, former Barca president Sandro Rosell's detainment and the uncertainty over Lionel Messi's future as the main reasons why Bartomeu and his board should resign.

(Agencies)

Nigeria is done begging foreign-born players to join the Super Eagles

BY COLIN UDOH, SPECIAL TO ESPN

YOUNG, talented, able to slot into multiple positions on the pitch, Arsenal youngster Bukayo Saka is the perfect example of the foreign-born player of Nigerian origins that the Super Eagles need.

But in what has become a change in approach, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) says it will be up to the player - and others with dual nationality who are eligible to represent Nigeria - to decide whether to represent the country.

NFF President Amaju Pinnick said in an Instagram Live chat with the federation's official channel, that players would not be begged to represent Nigeria.

"There are many players that play like Bukayo Saka in Nigeria. We don't want to go begging any player," Pinnick said.

Pinnick's statement is indicative of the NFF's new strategy, following criticism of their methods of approaching dual nationals and elevating them over home-grown players.

An NFF source told ESPN that the new policy is simple: Talented dual nationals who have the required quality would be informed that they are welcome to play for Nigeria if they so choose.

But after that initial approach, the choice of representing Nigeria will be down to them. And the NFF will only engage again if the player reaches out, especially those - like England-born Saka - who have already represented one country at junior level and are looking to switch.

The source added: "The Super Eagles is a very prestigious brand and we need to keep it that way. Just because a player is born or raised abroad does not mean they should automatically be invited."

"We will monitor them, and those who are good enough and fit into the areas that the team needs will be approached, but after that, it all be up to them to come back to us if they are interested."

"If they do, we all work with them through the process of change of nationality. If they don't, we will wish them well."

Saka is one such player who ticks every single box. Over and above his quality and versatility, the teen also fits perfectly into a position of need for the Super Eagles, at left back.

In his four years and change as Super Eagles coach, the left-back position is one that Gernot Rohr has struggled to fill. Elderson Echiejile, Bryan Idowu, and lately Jamilu Collins have all had shots at being the regular occupants of the position.

So far, Collins is the only one who has gained some measure of the German's trust, with Ola Aina filling in when needed. However, sources with the team have told ESPN that the coach continues to explore options.

And this is where Saka would fit in. Not only has he shown great defensive ability in his breakout season with Arsenal, the 18-year-old has also shown offensive capabilities, with four goals and 18 assists.

Nigeria team sources told ESPN that Saka has been approached, and it is now up to him to decide. It is a decision that the youngster is currently wrestling with.

"It's a tough choice," Saka told SkySports. "I'm happy to have represented England at youth level but I'm also proud of my Nigerian heritage from my parents."

"We haven't been picked by any team so it's about staying humble and when the time comes we'll make the decision."

Considering the quality he could bring to the side, could it be a good idea for Rohr to hand him a call up in order to speed up that decision process?

Former West Bromwich Albion and Stoke City forward Peter Odemwingie, who was born in Uzbekistan but chose to represent Nigeria, says the NFF are on the right track.

"I'm a believer that anything forced or manipulated in life never ends up good," Odemwingie told ESPN.

"The choice must come from those players. As they said, the door is open, but it has to come from their hearts and it has to be full commitment without looking back."

"If he says hundred percent, I'm ready, I want to play for Nigeria, even if I'm in Real Madrid and World Player of the Year. If he says that himself, then you know, you can cap him now."

Odemwingie pointed to his own experience and says players who decide to play for Nigeria must feel a genuine connection to the country.

"It depends on how the person feels," he said.

"It has to be a decision made happily.



Teenager Bukayo Saka was born in England and has represented the Three Lions at youth level. Will he pick Nigeria in the long term? (Agencies)



Tammy Abraham.



NFF President Amaju Pinnick

For me, my dad had no other words than it's Nigeria and luckily for him, my mom also loves Nigeria. It depends on the re-

lationship you have with your parents, how connected you are, have you been visiting?

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Nigeria is done begging foreign-born players to join the Super Eagles

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Azam FC players (L-R), Aggrey Morris, Franck Domayo and Abdallah Khery, jubilate after Khery had scored against Lipuli FC in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Iringa recently. The clash ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC now shifts focus to foreign players recruitment

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

AZAM FC has begun roping in foreign players for the 2020/21 season after the squad had failed to live up to expectations this season.

The Dar es Salaam club ended third in the Vodacom Premier League, with Simba SC lifting the tournament silverware, whereas Yanga took the second spot.

Abdulkarim Nurdin 'Popat', Azam FC Chief Executive Officer, noted they have already started signing players for the next season, especially domestic players.

"Our head coach presented the season report and he has recommended names of players he needs for the next season. Some of the players are now in discussion with us and we are close to signing them," he stated.

Nurdin disclosed his club has had no trouble roping in domestic players but the squad is experiencing difficulties in roping in foreign players.

"We are moving on smoothly in roping in domestic players, we have not done so for foreign players given some of the countries have yet to open their borders in an effort to

fight the coronavirus pandemic," he noted.

"We have, nevertheless, begun communicating with the players and they will jet in to seal contracts next month after their respective countries have opened their borders."

Nurdin pointed out Azam FC will not recruit many players next season, saying the side will mostly seek to strengthen some of the positions.

He said the will only rope in three foreign players, given the squad lately needs the mentioned number of foreign players.

He said three of Azam FC's foreign players' contracts have ended but the squad has seven foreign players who still have contracts with them.

"The coach has told us he is in need of right and left fullbacks, two midfielders, two forwards and two wingers, therefore three of them will be foreign and others will be local players," he noted.

Azam FC settled for third spot in the Premier League after collecting 70 points, with Yanga holding the second spot after recording 72 points, 16 points behind league winners, Simba SC.

Kinondoni Development cricketers thrash Lions Academy in TCA Development League

By Guardian Reporter

KINONDONI Development's cricketers have expressed their intention to turn into force to reckon with in the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League, cruising to three-wicket victory over Lions Academy at Leaders Club venue in the city early this week.

The eventual winners are positioned third in the tournament's table after the victory, having notched two points, win percentage of 100.00 and net run rate of 0.8408.

Much as Kinondoni Development have tied leaders, Upanga Warriors, and second-placed Ilala Boys on points, the former have been placed third because of their inferior net run rate.

Kinondoni Development will be credited for putting a spirited fight back at the crease, an approach which proved crucial to their successful chase.

Lions Academy won the toss, chose to bat first and posted 123 runs all out in 31 overs of the 40-over clash.

Top order batsman, Goodluck Andrew, was nine runs short of a half century as he ended with what turned out to be meaningful score for the outfit.

Andrew's performance at the crease, which had



Kinondoni Development's batsman, Dylan Manoj (C), puts his skills to show against Lions Academy in the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League's clash, played at Leaders Club venue in the city early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

him cracking five fours, saw his squad withstand Kinondoni Development bowlers' challenge, especially after the openers had fared horribly.

Opening batsmen, Ramadhan Mbunde and Gokul Das, faced early dismissal to leave the outfit with 13 runs after the first four overs.

Mbunde was bowled by Kinondoni Development's Abubakar Juma with no run to his name, whereas Das managed two runs and

was then trapped for lbw by Yash Hirwania.

Lions Academy's key all-rounders, Krutik Thakkar and Lazaro Festo, chipped in with 14 runs and 12 runs respectively.

After yet another wobble, which had Meet Bhalia and Salum Jembe managing paltry eight runs apiece, skipper Rijali Fentu stepped up to post 14 runs, which included two fours, for the side.

Spinner Aahil Jassani had an impressive spell for

Kinondoni Development, ending with five wickets and leaking 27 runs in seven overs.

Hirwania's spell had the bowler end with two wickets and leak 10 runs in five overs.

Despite giving their all during their bowling spell, Lions Academy failed to accomplish a monumental task of defending their score.

Kinondoni Development went on to reach the target for the loss of seven wick-

ets in 31.4 overs.

Openers, Mohamed Omary and Jumanne Mohamed, were the side's heroes as they recorded 28 runs and 32 runs respectively to catapult their squad to victory.

Omary, who is also the club's skipper, cracked three fours in his spell which was cut short by medium pacer, Jembe, who bowled the former.

Mohamed was Kinondoni Development's top run getter, blasting six fours in his spell.

Jassani wrapped up his impressive all-round displays with his 26 runs, which included three boundaries.

Hirwania also had double digit score, recording 16 runs.

Kinondoni Development had later endured a brief scare, when Dhruv Pancholi and Kelvin Anjelo faced early exits.

Pancholi was caught by Lions Academy's wicket keeper Das from Festo's delivery, whereas Anjelo was bowled by Jembe.

Dylan Manish and Abubakar Juma made certain of the squad's chase after posting four runs not out and three runs not out respectively.

Jembe took three wickets and leaked 34 runs in his eight-over spell, which had the medium pacer managing two maiden overs.

Morogoro Tae Kwondo center seeks to curb moral decay

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO's Tae Kwondo center has set out to offer self defense courses for teenagers and youths in the region in an effort to curb moral decay in communities.

The center's founder, James Mgenda, affirmed the center's ambition at a recent festival, which had three trainees receiving ranking whilst the other six were presented with certificates after having attended training.

The festival took place at Tungi Primary School's ground. The center is located at Wamo Street, Boma Ward in Morogoro town.

Mgenda mentioned Tae Kwondo trainees that received brown, orange and yellow belts as Nestory Matei that received brown belt, whilst Joshua Mtitu and Elvis John had yellow and orange belts respectively.

The founder said the trainees' journey to earning the belts began 10 years ago. He disclosed that the youths' commitment played key role in their acquisition of the ranking.

"Beside self defense training, the center now offers



Presbyterian Church's reverends, Lee Yong Gong (in grey suit), and James Mgenda (in blue kit), who is also the founder of Morogoro Tae Kwondo center, pictured with a section of the center's youths at Tungi Primary School's ground in the region recently. Gong presided over a ranking festival for the center's three youths that had attended the training under the church's support. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

secondary school education courses for teenagers that did not attend school, teachers are available, our target is to enable trainees look for posts through education offered here," he disclosed.

Mgenda said his center has 100 active members, 60 of whom are children and the rest are youths.

He disclosed he went for Tae Kwondo training 20

years ago before he had opted to engage in spiritual service.

As moral decay has increased in communities, he noted, he came up with the idea of introducing Tae Kwondo training for the region's youths.

"I was a Tae Kwondo master before I had enrolled for church services at Presbyterian Church, I then decided

to introduce the sport's course for youths who are interested in the game and they are mostly the youths that had fallen prey to moral decay," he disclosed.

The ranking festival's guest of honour, Reverend Lee Young Gong, said physical fitness is crucial for any person since it helps the individual curb diseases and increase thinking capacity.

He noted he was pleased with the way more teenagers and children from Standard Five enroll at the center.

Gong had certified six trainees, namely Michael Benedict, Jisaya Mtitu, James Mgenda, Nestory Matei, Elvis John and Ephraim Karinga.

Benedict said the training courses are not biased, noting all people regardless of their religion, colour, age and gender are allowed to join the Tae Kwondo institution.

He disclosed registration forms for training are available for 10,000/- and youths have to pay training fee totalling 15,000/-, whereas youths less than 15 years train free of charge.

"Since our target is to rescue children who have fallen prey to moral decay in the society, the center's management decided to offer free training courses for them," he added.

One of the Tae Kwondo center's trainees, Felician Ferdinand, stated he is eager to own the orange belt.

He said since he had enrolled at the center over two years ago, his body is fit and he has not fallen ill. He insisted youths should engage in daily exercises.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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“We are moving on smoothly in roping in domestic players, we have not done so for foreign players given some of the countries have yet to open their borders in an effort to fight the coronavirus pandemic,” he noted.