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Finance and planning minister Mwigulu Nchemba (R) pictured in Cairo yesterday having a quick word with Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister and International Relations and Cooperation minister, after a cooperation workshop organised by Egypt. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Treasury must disburse 100bn/- for purchasing maize, MPs say

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday appealed to the government to disburse 100bn/- to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for procurement of maize stocks, expressing concern that farmers may avoid cultivating the crop in the coming season, heightening fears of food insecurity.

They similarly expressed concern that maize prices dropped to 300/- per kilo and even to 200/- while farmers spend in the range of 356/- to 479/- to produce one kilogram of maize, urging the government to control rising prices of agricultural inputs and open doors for business people to purchase and export maize.

Kilolo MP Justin Nyamoga presented a motion requesting the House to suspend its scheduled business for Thursday to allow MPs to discuss matters related to dropping maize prices and lack of markets.

He said that maize farmers in southern

regions solely depend on maize farming to raise income, but the government has failed them with the 14bn/- disbursed to NFRA purchasing just around five percent of all the maize stock available.

The country might face a food crisis in the coming year as farmers are pushed to neglect to cultivate the crop for lack of assured markets, he said, referring to the danger as principally relating to Katavi, Ruvuma, Njombe, Songwe, Mbeya, Rukwa, Iringa and Tabora regions, along with Kongwa and Mbulu districts.

Special Seats MP Judith Kapinga declared that NFRA has purchased just two percent (32,000 tons) out of the 816,242 tons of maize produced in Ruvuma region in this harvesting season, while in the 2019/2020 farming season the agency procured four percent of total produced grain that stood at 700,000 tons.

"NFRA buys the grain without adhering to indicative prices set by the ministry, as a 100 kilogram sack of maize is now sold

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NEMC slaps 66 new petrol stations with 5bn/- in fines

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has penalised nine petroleum marketing firms to pay 5.1bn/- for operating gas filling stations without Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certification.

NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka said at a press conference yesterday that this follows findings from a countrywide investigation on the status of gas filling stations as to compliance with the 2004 environmental law and regulations.

The firms are supposed to pay the fines within 14 days from today, asking other firms operating gas fuelling stations without EIA certification to surrender themselves to the council.

During the ongoing investigation countrywide NEMC has found some 393 fuelling stations operating without EIA certification, with computation of fines having been done for 66 stations thus far, he said.

Oryx was found with 15 stations lacking

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TRA collects 1trn/- from big payers in two months

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has collected 1.02trillion/- in July and August from large taxpayers, expressing hope of hitting the collection target this financial year.

TRA Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata made this observation at a meeting with large taxpayers from sectors such as insurance, financial services, telecommunication, construction and others.

Commending the business community for paying taxes voluntarily, he said that being able to collect more than 1trn/- in the first two months of the fiscal year from

large taxpayers indicates that there is good adherence of the business group to voluntary compliance.

In the last fiscal year, TRA collected 18.063trn/- in total, with large taxpayers contributing 6.5trn/-, about 38 percent of total revenues. In fiscal 2021/22 TRA targets to collect 22trn/- with 9trn/- expected from large taxpayers, he stated.

The meeting was meant to collect ideas and hear of challenges in paying taxes, in view of harmonizing policies and laws impeding smooth collections in the near future. It is important for the government to hear from key business groups so that it sets strategies enabling it to take the right

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ATCL tickets issued on instalment basis

By Henry Mwangonde

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) has introduced a ticket payment by instalment to allow travellers to plan their trips ahead and pay small amounts before the date of flight.

Launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the new system allows passengers lacking the full amount to book reservation with amounts they have at that moment.

ATCL planning manager Edward Mkwabi said at the launching ceremony that a potential passenger is required to book a ticket and disburse 50,000/- as early payment to obtain an electronic miscellaneous document (EMD).

Passengers may contract with banks or other financial institutions for them to pay the full amount on tickets for the passenger, who later repay those amounts on terms agreed with the creditors.

"The new system allows passengers to pay for tickets in installments until the travelling date. We believe this will ease booking and increase the number of passengers using ATCL," he said, representing the CEO, Ladislaus Matindi.

In case of trip cancellation, conditions for installment tickets will be similar to the usual system, he stated.

Marketing officer Grace Magubo said the new system will be accompanied by

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TRA collects 1trn/- from big payers in two months

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track with taxpayers, he affirmed. "We are working on long existing challenges and emerging ones," highlighting the vital role of large taxpayers, thus hearing from them directly and engaging in constructive negotiations on how to go forward without businesses being hurt.

There are still challenges related to large taxpayers as regards transfer pricing where the government has been losing revenues through fraudulent calculations by multinational corporations and their local subsidiaries, he declared. Large firms need to make sure they

abide by the laws guiding transfer pricing to avoid unnecessary inconveniences in audit processes," he emphasised.

Alfred Mregi, the commissioner for large taxpayers said that out of 3.5m taxpayers, large taxpayers account for 508 taxable business units.

Promising regular meetings of that kind, he referred to the directive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to TRA that it collects revenues to meet the target, but with a positive approach. "We have initiatives in place that we are exercising to broaden the tax base by creating new taxpayers," he added.

NEMC slaps 66 new petrol stations with 5bn/- in fines

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certificates and fined 750m/-. Puma operates 22 such stations and was fined 1.1bn/-. Total has 16 such stations and was fined 800m/-.

Camel Oil was found with six such stations and fined 300m/-. GBP operates 10 such stations and fined 500m/-. GAPCO operates eight stations and was billed 400m/- in fines, he said.

Others are Ester Oil with nine such stations, fined 450m/-. Oilcom had 12 such stations and landed with a 600m/- fine, while TSN had four stations and was billed 200m/- in fines.

Last week, NEMC fined Lake Oil Co.3.3bn/ for constructing gas filling stations without EIA certification, ordering that the whole amount is paid within 14 days in default of which all 66 stations it operates countywide will be closed down.

"NEMC took the decision after receiving many complaints from citizens and other station owners that there was mushrooming of petrol stations whose construction lacks approval or EIA certificates," he stated.

Slapping the fine on Lake Oil,

he said that recently NEMC has witnessed the mushrooming of gas filling stations all over the country and after investigation they found that the majority did not have EIA compliance certificates or construction approval.

Fuelling station owners and others with projects lacking EIA must report to NEMC offices to explain why stern measures should not be taken against them, he added.



Camel Oil was found with six such stations and fined 300m/-, GBP operates 10 such stations and fined 500m/-, GAPCO operates eight stations and was billed 400m/- in fines



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla has a word with small traders in a section of the city yesterday. He instructed them to ensure they steer clear of roads and road pavements or face eviction. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

African leaders pledge to deliver sustainable and resilient food systems

NAIROBI

AFRICAN leaders have pledged to recommit their efforts to boost agricultural production towards zero hunger.

The leaders, both current and former heads of state and governments, as well as heads of private sector and multilateral organizations, were hosted by Hailemariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of AGRA and the AGRF Partners Group during the President's Summit at the AGRF 2021 Summit.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, who chaired the session, urged African nations to work together to accelerate action and deliver on commitments to enhance the resilience of food systems. He called for joint efforts by leaders and stakeholders in the agricultural sector towards creating sustainable and resilient food systems in the continent.

"The call to accelerate actions and make commitments to deliver

resilient food systems is urgent. We must identify immediate actions and steps that are required to fast track progress and recovery towards inclusive agricultural transformation," President Kenyatta said, noting the current disruption and pressure on Africa's food system by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The session was also attended by, among others, Presidents Paul Kagame (Rwanda), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Lazarus Chakwera (Malawi), Hage Geingob (Namibia), UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed, and African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

Rwanda President Paul Kagame said: "We need a transformation in how our food systems is organized to address the hunger situation in Africa and to safeguard agribusinesses and livelihoods derived from the sector."

Dr Akinwumi Adesina said: "To fully unlock the potential of agriculture in Africa, we must raise productivity; ensure value chains are well

developed; develop infrastructure; and boost private sector to produce healthy, nutritious & affordable food."

Also present were former heads of state and government, including Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria); Jakaya Kikwete (Tanzania); Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia); John Kufuor (Ghana); Lionel Zinsou (Benin); and Ibrahim Mayaki (Niger).

During the session, President Kenyatta highlighted Kenya's commitment to the food system transformation agenda noting ongoing actions towards achieving the country's food security pillar under the nation's Big 4 Agenda. He explained that Kenya is remodeling its food system harness the vibrant energy of its youth, thereby making it more inclusive, innovative collaborative and dynamic.

"Kenya is making tremendous efforts towards realization of the shared aspiration among nations of the world. Four critical pathways and priorities for Kenya's food systems have been identified and these

actions are: youth, digital innovation, diverse diets and climate change action," Kenya's President said.

During the Presidential Summit, winners of the 2021 Africa Food Prize, as well as GoGettag Agripreneur Prize and Women Agri-preneurs of the Year Award (WAYA) that recognize youth-led and women-led agribusinesses respectively, were announced.

The \$50,000 grand prizes in the GoGettag Agripreneur Prize were won by Tracy Kimathi, founder of Tree.Sea.mals, in the female category; and Nshimiyimana Alexandre, co-founder of Sanit Wing Ltd in Rwanda in the male category. Recipients of the Impact Social and Environmental Awards for 2021, each with a cash prize of US\$2,500 are: Fily Keita, co-founder and CEO of Agrowomen in Mali; Diana Orembe, co-founder and CEO of NovFeed in Tanzania; Gabriel Eze, co-founder and COO of Rural Farmers Hub in Nigeria; and Costantine Edward, founder of AgriLife in Tanzania.



Simanjiro legislator Christopher ole Sendeka (L) in a tête-à-tête with Special Seats MP Neema Lugangira in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Majaliwa urges ministers, PSs to fully supervise govt capital area at Mtumba

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries to fully supervise the second phase of Mtumba city in Dodoma so as to be completed on time.

He issued the instructions here on Wednesday during his meeting

with ministers, deputy ministers and permanent secretaries as well as the national taskforce on the government's plan to move to Dodoma.

The prime minister told the top government officials to make sure they fully supervise construction work that was being implemented in two phases during FY 2021/2022

and 2022/2023.

"In ensuring the construction is successfully implemented it would be better to mobilise the private sector to engage in production in order to be certain on the availability of building materials including bricks, sand and aggregates," he said.

He said some ministers have

begun procurement procedures and called on those that have not to make sure they finalise tender procedures by the end of September this year.

"All institutions that will be involved in the buildings should make sure they adhere to quality standards and that there wouldn't be any construction delay," he added.

Treasury must disburse 100bn/- for purchasing maize, MPs say

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at 12,000/-," she stated.

Dr Christine Ishengoma, chairperson of the parliamentary committee for Agriculture, Livestock and Water suggested that the government purchases all the grain stocked by farmers and look for regional and other markets. Finding markets for maize as it was done for cashewnut must be prioritized, she urged.

Simanjiro MP Christopher ole-Sendeka (CCM) said that the government must source funds from the Treasury to rescue maize farmers from falling prices.

Vwawa MP Japhet Hasunga said that NFRA has so far purchased five percent of maize produced in Songwe region this agricultural season. Farmers are likely to refrain from cultivating the crop in the coming season after spending a lot of money in the season, but now selling a 100 kilogram sack of maize at 18,000/- to 24,000/-.

Responding, Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said the

government through NFRA and the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) was now selling most of the grains in Kenya, noting that CPB will soon start exporting maize to South Sudan, Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The board has signed agreements with a milling company in Mombasa to supply 100,000 tons of the grain each year, and it has opened maize selling centres in Nairobi and in Juba, South Sudan while expecting to open such centres in Morocco, Comoro, DRC and Zimbabwe.

The World Food Program (WFP) is expected to purchase 200,000 tons of maize, he said.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told MPs that funds have been requested from the Treasury, with elaborate procedures to be used for grain purchasing maize expected to be set out today.

The government has recently consulted buyers from Burundi, Kenya and South Sudan who have promised to purchase the grain.

ATCL tickets issued on instalment basis

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a special offer whereby a passenger booking tickets for five others will be exempted and pay just half of the total costs.

This offer is applicable to local trips and those travelling abroad, initiated as part of a campaign to market the airline so as to increase the number of passengers.

In 2016, Tanzania developed a

programme to revitalise the national carrier, purchasing six new aircraft from 2016 to 2018, paying out debts and providing new capital for improvement and modernisation of operations.

Air Tanzania plans to grow its operations across Africa and various international destinations, as in 2019 it launched the Mumbai route and Guangzhou in China, officials said.

By Francis Kajubi

TCCIA due to initiate strategic projects for revenue creation

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) has said it is determined at initiating more new strategic projects for generation of enough revenues on its own, hence bringing efficiency in its operations.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the opening of a two-day capacity building workshop for TCCIA regional chairpersons and executive officers, facilitated by the GIZ through its Business Scout Development funded programme, TCCIA President Paul Koyi emphasized on the essence of having own means of income generation if the trade body is to realise its vision and mission.

"If you don't have any source of generating revenues, everyone will disrespect you. We need to follow

the strategies we have highlighted in our annual strategies and in long term plans to make sure that the chamber initiates more projects that leads to creation of its own revenues.

However, we have called this meeting so that we can have discussions on important issues related to the chambers at the regional level such as management, what to do according to our mission and vision and their critical responsibilities to the members," said Koyi.

According to Koyi, the meeting aims at enhancing the capacities of chairpersons and executive officers from the 26 regions of mainland Tanzania especially on leadership and resources mobilisation. He asserted that the two-day capacity building sessions will enable TCCIA to be a resilient private sector association in the country so as to effectively cater for the 30,000 members across the country.

"At the time that African nations are holding discussions on how to tap opportunities in the African

Continental Free Trade Area, our chambers at the regional and district levels are responsible for grilling our members on strategic productive approaches so that they can make good use of this trading platform. We need to provide our members with all necessary support so that

they understand where to start and what to take first," added Koyi.

Dr Meshack Kulwa, Vice President Commerce TCCIA, commended the Business Scout for Development for being cooperative in TCCIA initiatives that are meant at strengthening the business

community capable of taking part in local and regional markets.

Elia Simbeye, TCCIA Songwe region executive officer, said that the workshop is also intended at discussing challenges facing their members in doing business hence coming up with resolution of how to go about them.

"We are looking forward to sending the message from this workshop to our colleagues at the district level and through our coordination members and non-members will enjoy doing business under the TCCIA umbrella," said Simbeye.



Benjamin Lazaro (L) and Majira Makoba, locality leaders at Kakisheri village in Musoma Rural constituency's Nyakatende ward, pictured at the weekend collecting sand for use in the construction of classrooms and a teachers' house for Kambarage Primary School. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania to host maiden EAC tourism exposition

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is set to host the first East African Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE) 2021 in Arusha next month.

Mary Masanja, the deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism said here yesterday that the inaugural event is slated for 9th to 16th October, to promote investment in the tourism industry across the region.

The expo will be held on a rotational basis among the EAC member states, with this year's theme given as 'promoting resilient tourism for inclusive socio-economic development,' she stated, noting that back in July, EAC ministers for wildlife and tourism approved the EAC Tourism Marketing Strategy for the 2021-2025 period.

The strategy focuses on the establishment of the tourism exposition as a forum bringing state and non-state tourism actors to showcase the rich and diverse tourism attractions and investment opportunities in the region, she said.

The event is also a platform for business to business (B2B) engagements and dialogue aimed at the recovery of the tourism and wildlife sectors, taking them to next level for sustainable development, she elaborated.

Tanzania becomes the first country to host the EAC regional tourism expo being waited for, she stated, with the first three days devoted to exhibition and four days to conduct familiarization trips and tours to major attraction sites the Mainland and Zanzibar, she affirmed.

Exhibitors, international buyers, investors and delegates from within and beyond the region will be featured in the exposition, with an investment forum aligned with educative seminars on various topics, she further noted.

The topics include tourism resilience and crisis management, digital tourism marketing, promotion of multi-destination tourism packages, collaboration and co-operation in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade in EAC states, along with wildlife economics, the deputy minister specified.

"The expo is a great opportunity to strengthen conservation of natural and cultural resources as well as stimulating tourism growth, particularly conference tourism," she said.

Residents of Arusha, accommodation service

providers, tour operators, travel agents and tour guides need to embrace the economic and social opportunities resulting from the coming event, she added.



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Rogue hippos kill 10 people in Mtera Dam in 18 months

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

More than 10 fishermen have died while 15 others were injured between February 2020 and August 2021 from attacks by hippos inside Mtera Dam, Iringa region while engaging in fishing activities.

Speaking before Iringa District Commissioner during his visit to inspect Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) efforts to fight destructive animals and other fierce wildlife, Mohammed Hassan Moyo called on the fishermen to adhere to safe fishing practices to protect themselves.

Some fishermen said among reasons for continued attacks from hippos was the increase of the hippos' population in Mtera Dam that has been a challenge to fishermen.

They appealed to the government to frequently harvest the beasts to reduce human deaths and injuries.

Elaborating on the fishermen's complaints, TAWA conservation commander for Southern Highland Zone, Joas Makwati said he cannot harvest all the hippos as there are laws and regulations governing wildlife cropping.

He said fishermen should understand that the meat of all hippos harvested from Mtera Dam are sold at various game meat butcheries according to the laid down laws and procedures.

He said according to the census conducted by Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in 2020, there were about 261 hippos, that is 24 per cent below the endurance level of 1,070 hippos in a dam.

Makwati said according to TAWA wildlife control procedures, harvesting of hippos continues in Mtera Dam and that from February last year to August this year 18 hippos were killed thereby reducing threat facing fishermen.

He further said TAWA plans to bring a boat and establish a permanent camp at Lunda Mkwambi for rapid response during attacks by hippos.

Mtera dam is 660 sqkms in size and is shared by Iringa, Dodoma, Chamwino and Mpwapwa districts.

For his part, Iringa DC Moyo said among the reasons for frequent attacks to fishermen include night fishing in or near hippos' areas, use of poor fishing gear and decrease of fish stocks.



Karatu district commissioner Abbas Kayanda (R, in cap) has a word with locality leaders during a visit to Endonyawet village yesterday. Photo: Woinde Shizza



He said fishermen should understand that the meat of all hippos harvested from Mtera Dam are sold at various game meat butcheries according to the laid down laws and procedures

Three die in motorcycle accident

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

THREE young men, died on the spot as the motorcycle they were riding on rammed into an incoming Fuso truck with registration T507 BCF.

The deceased were residents of Shagiro Village in Itilo ward, Nzega District, Tabora Region.

Tabora Regional Police

Commander, Safia Jongo said the deceased are estimated to be 15 to 18 years old.

She said the accident happened on Tuesday this week at 6:00 pm in Tazegwa area along Nzega-Tabora road and that the motorcycle they were riding on had no number plates.

The RPC said the cause of the accident was over speeding, the

motorcycle travelling towards Tabora was trying to overtake two vehicles but in doing so it smashed into an incoming Fuso truck.

She named the deceased as Paulo Petro, Rubeni Jogi and another identified by only one name - Nasoro.

Village chairman Marko Kazwiru said the cause of the

accident was sheer carelessness by the driver of the motorcycle and that of the truck and appealed for all drivers to take great care on the road to avoid accidents.

The bodies of the deceased have been preserved at Nzega District hospital and burial will take place after the police finish their investigations.



Muheza District health coordinator Grace Mwaimu (R) pictured at a centre at Muheza town bus stand yesterday vaccinating Mussa Mshihiri against Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the National Assembly here yesterday that the newly introduced livestock identification and traceability system which includes tagging of animals with ear tags will reduce incidences of livestock theft.

He said apart from labeling animals with ear tags, the government has also tightened measures for transportation of livestock from one village to the other. He said animal transporters are required to acquire permits from local government authorities.

"The ear tagging procedure has been identified as the key identification device which enables farmers as well as authorities to identify the animals' origin and

Ear tags will reduce prevalence of livestock thefts, premier says

the owner," he said adding the ear tags are an alternative to the previous animal identification and traceability system whereas animals were labeled through heat branding.

He said the government resolved to shift from the traditional branding method for cows, goats and sheep to ensure quality of the produced animal skins. He said previously, there were complaints from leather factories that some locally produced animal skins were at low quality due to the use of traditional branding methods.

Majaliwa noted that during his recent meeting with livestock stakeholders in Dar es Salaam, they agreed that placing of ear tags should not include ear mutilation. He said to reduce cost of the ear tags, livestock keepers will only pay once for the tracing devices and that if misplaced farmers will only need to present documents indicating they had paid for the devices previously.

He was responding to a query raised by Nkasi North Member of Parliament (CHADEMA) during the impromptu questions and

answers session. The legislator was concerned that livestock keepers were supposed to pay at least 1,700/- for each of the ear tags, and that if lost they would be forced to repay the money. Kenan requested the government to reduce the price of ear tags to allow livestock keepers to protect their animals.

The government has in the 2021/2022 financial year introduced the new ear tag identification and traceability system which has now started to be applied in some regions including Rukwa.

Fertiliser importation liberalised, with govt seeking better prices

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has liberalised processes for fertiliser importation, opening the doors to traders who intend to bring the commodity into the country to do so, a move expected to increase competition and thus impact the commodity's price.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made the remarks in the National Assembly yesterday during the impromptu questions and answers session. He added that more measures are being taken to ensure availability and supply of the commodity to farmers preparing for the coming agricultural season.

Majaliwa was responding to a question from Mufindi South legislator, David Mwakiposa (CCM) who queried government measures to control rising fertiliser prices in the country especially southern highland zone. He said a 50kg sack of the commodity is now sold at a price of more than 100,000/- while maize prices declined to 5,000/- per 20kgs.

According to the premier, some of the government interventions to increase fertiliser supply in the country includes attracting investors, whereas an investor from Burundi-Itracom Fertiliser Limited is constructing a fertiliser manufacturing factory in Dodoma Region. The firm is constructing a fertiliser factory worth \$180 million (about 414bn/-).

"We are now inviting investors to production of fertilisers, we have just one factory - Minjingu Mines and Fertilisers Limited which cannot meet the country's fertiliser demand," said Majaliwa, adding the fertiliser production has also gone down globally.

He said efforts are ongoing to consult fertiliser manufacturers around the globe as well as those

neighbouring countries to ensure enough supply of the commodity. He said that during his recent visit in Morocco, he held talks with fertiliser manufacturers to ensure they also bring the commodity in the country.

Recently during his visit at the port of Dar es Salaam, Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda announced to abolish the tender procedure for fertilizer importers.

Prof Mkenda added that, if there will be an increase in fertilizer importation in the country; there are possibilities for the fall in prices, which will significantly benefit farmers.

He said in the past, importers were required to submit their tenders to the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) before being offered an opportunity to supply fertiliser.

Every bidder was required to join the pre-qualification stage in which few companies are shortlisted. Minister Mkenda said that the tender procedure was pushing the fertiliser prices up because those who won the tender influenced the price.



We are now inviting investors to production of fertilisers, we have just one factory - Minjingu Mines and Fertilisers Limited which cannot meet the country's fertiliser demand



Mzee Kilele, Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank's acting director of planning, research and policy, pictured at a meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking on how the bank supports the livestock sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tamwa demands stern legal action on killings of women and children

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar wing of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has called on law enforcers to arrest and prosecute suspects who are behind the recent killings of women and children in Zanzibar.

Dr Mzuri Issa, director of TAMWA-Zanzibar said there are several murder incidents targeting women and children something that threatens peace and tranquility of the group.

"This situation of attacking women and children not only infringe their rights to safe life, but they intimidate the wider women and children community and disturb them from actively engaging in the development activities," she said.

According to her, a 23 year old Sumaiya Mohamed Said, living in Jambiani Kikadini, South Region Unguja is alleged to be killed after being slashed with a machete by Imani Abdallah Abdallah nicknamed Kicheche aged 38, recently.

Another incident involved Raya Khamis Mgeni (45) of Fuoni - Nyumba Mbili, Urban West Region- Unguja who was allegedly to also have been slashed with a machete together with her baby

who is less than one-year-old.

The attack led to the death of that innocent child while the mother sustained serious injuries and was admitted to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital for treatment since then.

According to TAMWA-Zanzibar records from 2016 to date, over 19 incidents of battering and killing women and innocent children in Zanzibar (15 women and four children) have been reported but only few have reached the attention of the courts including victims Wasila Mussa (21) and Hajra Abdallah Abdallah (21).

TAMWA-Zanzibar therefore cordially requests the police force to work towards ending these acts by arresting the culprits and bring them to courts so that justice takes its own course.

"This situation of attacking women and children not only infringe their rights to safe life, but they intimidate the wider women and children community and disturb them from actively engaging in the development activities"

Govt to form livestock authority to cater for pasture and markets

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will establish a livestock authority that will ensure pasture is readily available to livestock and keepers get markets for animals and their products.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Mashimba Ndaki told a meeting of stakeholders here that the government remains keen on improving livestock keeping environment so that the sector can make bigger contribution to national development.

"The government will form an authority that will essentially oversee availability of pasture and look for markets for livestock products", he told delegates to a livestock stakeholders' meeting that ended here yesterday and added that the authority: "will work to improve this sector, reduce conflicts and stop livestock keepers from roaming the country."

In the past three decades, Tanzania has witness widespread clashes between farmers and wandering herders looking for grazing land and water for animals. Animals have intermittently on and off encroached on farms, eaten crops and trampled on water sources.

Ndaki told the delegates that the planned authority will deal with those and other problems and that he was using the forum to assure livestock keepers that the government has their interests at heart. "I am here to encourage you and assure you that the government is there and will continue to improve conditions for keeping livestock in recognition of its importance in advancing the our economy and in creating jobs for the youth," he said.

The TADB Acting Director for Planning, Research and Policy, Mzee Kilele who stood for the Bank's Managing Director, Frank Nyabundege, assured delegates of the bank's support, explaining that meetings of that nature give the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) the information it needs to reach and serve many livestock keepers.

"I am using this opportunity to assure delegates that our bank will increase pace in providing loans and adding value to livestock products so that the sector becomes strong, it benefits the herders themselves and promotes national economy," he said.

Until August this year, Kilele said, TADB has given the sector direct loans amounting to 23.8 billion, enabling 128 farmers in five AMCOs to secure high breed cows. The bank has also disbursed 11.8 billion, helping recipients to build four dairy industries that buy milk from over 6,000 farmers.

The chairman of Karagwe District Livestock Keepers Association, Jackson Kamkoto said keepers lack requisite education on their trade, there a big shortage of extension officers and acute shortage of pasture and water for animals. He called on the government to form an institution that will coordinate issues relating to the livestock sector so that it becomes efficient and beneficial to the nation.

When opening the meeting, Premier Kassim Majaliwa called on the ministry of livestock and fisheries to participate fully in resolving conflicts between herders and other users of land.



I am using this opportunity to assure delegates that our bank will increase pace in providing loans and adding value to livestock products so that the sector becomes strong, it benefits the herders themselves and promotes national economy

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the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

Tel: +255 22 277 5236, e-mail: jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz

Request for Applications (RFA)

For

Pastoralism Livelihoods Consultancy to provide strategic expertise in reduction of the impacts of livestock on critical chimpanzee habitats in Western Tanzania

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) seeks to subcontract a Pastoralism Livelihoods Consultant to provide technical and professional expertise in the development of a Strategy and Action Plan to address biodiversity threats from cattle movements through Forests managed under the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania project (LCWT).

About Us:

Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is an international non-governmental organization that continues Dr. Jane Goodall's pioneering work on chimpanzee ecology and behavior. Its mission is to promote wildlife conservation, in particular chimpanzee sustainability, through research, education, and community conservation. In Western Tanzania, JGI Tanzania has been supporting a community-led, integrated conservation and development effort known as TACARE in Western Tanzania, since 1994. Through the years, multiple donors have worked with JGI Tanzania to advance conservation and sustainable development in this region.

Project Background:

On November 5, 2018, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) launched the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) project funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is designed to address the primary threats to natural forest cover and the chimpanzee population in the Gombe Masito Ugalla (GMU) landscape. It aims to protect chimpanzee populations and their habitat in western Tanzania while improving household income from the sustainable use of natural resources and the establishment of microenterprises and private sector partnerships that reinforce conservation behaviors.

The LCWT project scope covers an area of 1,733,283 ha, which is categorized into management zones that include protected areas (Gombe National Park, Tongwe East, the newly established Tongwe West and Masito Local Authority Forest Reserves, and national forest reserves and village forests. The area includes 104 targeted villages in the landscape covering Kigoma, Uvinza, Mpanda and Tanganyika districts. Tanganyika and Mpanda districts host Mishamo and Katumba refugee settlements respectively – both of which are transitioning from refugee settlements into formal Tanzanian villages.

Objectives of the Consultancy:

The consultant will work with project staff, district, and regional technical experts to build a better understanding of the dynamics of Livestock as a threat to forest ecosystems in general and to chimpanzees specifically (either directly or indirectly through habitat loss) in the LCWT landscape. Based on that assessment and experiences from other conservation projects the consultant will collaboratively develop a strategy and action plan to guide the project in implementing an effective Livestock strategy that reduces threats to chimpanzee habitat in a sustainable fashion.

- Conduct a thorough socio cultural and economic assessment of agro-pastoralists/pastoralists utilizing protected forests in the LCWT landscape.
 - Review existing relevant literature and LCWT sponsored surveys conducted to date (2018 and 2021).
 - Document strategies being used by agro-pastoralists/pastoralists in the landscape to utilize these forests to support livestock herds. Including information on how they evade control (law enforcement) and why they refuse to change behaviors.
 - Visit pastoralists inside forests to conduct detailed assessment to discern and map the real owners of the livestock and if possible, to reach them to get their views and perspectives. Include traditional leaders in the assessment.
 - Build an understanding of agro-pastoralist/pastoralist's perspectives on efforts to regulate their practices to be compatible with the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of chimpanzee habitat. Identify what they think can and should be done.
- Work with JGI experts to assess the relative impacts of Agro-Pastoralist / Pastoralist activities on chimps and chimp habitat in protected forests; Are livestock incursions a bigger threat than subsistence agriculture in riverine forests (a key chimp habitat)?
- Work with LCWT and District and Regional support (NRM and Livestock) staff to devise a strategy and action plan for reducing impacts of livestock incursions into protected forests and chimp habitat in the LCWT landscape. Identify potential livelihood improvement options that could reduce livestock impacts.
- Provide ongoing periodic support to LCWT in the implementation of the strategy and action plan.

Consultancy Deliverables:

The consultant will produce:

- A work plan detailing methodologies to be used and activities to be carried out to accomplish the objectives.
- Report combining a socio-cultural and economic assessment of pastoralist behaviors with an assessment of the relative impacts of Pastoralists on chimps and their habitat, in the LCWT Landscape.
- Collaboratively developed strategy and action plan for reducing impacts from Livestock in the LCWT landscape.
- Other deliverables to be specified by LCWT in support of implementation of the strategy and action plan.

Level of Effort:

The consultant is expected to complete deliverables 1 to 3 within 60 calendar days.

Application Instructions:

Qualified applicants should submit their applications to the following e-mail address:

jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz. The applications should include covering letter, CV, and detailed technical and financial proposal (not more than 5 pages) describing how the Consultant would implement objectives 1-3 above. Applicants should clearly describe the approaches they will use to get the needed information; the Consultant's approach should follow the basic ethical guidelines that protect the rights of pastoralists but get at the answers needed. The use of field enumerators to collect qualitative data is an acceptable expense.

Application deadline is 14 days from the date of this advertisement.

Please note that only the shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

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REA threatens to take action against all sluggish rural power contractors

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

THE Board of Directors of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) has threatened to take stern measures against all rural power contractors who fail to implement their responsibilities in accordance with the terms of the agreements.

Early this week REA Board Members visited Kyela District in Mbeya Region to inspect rural power distribution projects where they received depressing reports.

The representative of REA Director General, Eng Romanus Lwena said in Mbeya Region, the firm that was contracted to distribute power - Sagecom started work on March 10 this year and was supposed to complete the projects in December this year.

However, Eng Lwena said so far the contractor is remained with only

three months but only 25 per cent of the work has been completed.

"He should have at least completed 60 per cent of the work, and there are some materials and equipment that have not been brought, very depressing," he said.

He said the firm was contracted to distribute power to more than 150 villages in all districts of Mbeya Region but a great number of villagers are yet to see the contractor.

After receiving this report, REA board members showed their dismay by the firm and decided no more time should be given as well as other firms who were also dillydallying in their projects.

One of the Board Members, Eng Styden Rwabangira said if by December this year the contractor will not complete the project, no more time should be added,

and other terms in the contract agreements should be invoked verbatim.

"After its contract period expires it should not be extended, we used to do that in the past as many such contractors were new in the work, but since there is now stiff competition among themselves we should now be firm on them," he added.

He said as for now the government needs 8.8tr/- to complete power distribution in all homesteads countrywide, but now it only provides 400bn/- per month.

For his part, Mbeya Region TANESCO Manager Eng Elisa Kirimbo said the power utility will closely supervise the contractor to make sure they complete the work in time, the similar pledge given by Sagecom representative, Eng Stanley Mwakabungu.



Filbert Mponzi (3rd-L), NMB Bank Plc's chief - retail banking, in a show of love and solidarity with representatives of companies that have sponsored the upcoming NMB Marathon 2021. This was at a press conference held yesterday to announce the chief guest of the historic September 25 race and was in line with the theme of the event: 'Mwendo wa Upendo' (literally, all in the spirit of love). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rural power contractors must respect contract terms - REB

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

THE government has called on contractors distributing power in rural areas to respect the terms of contract agreements they signed.

The call was given here on Wednesday by the Rural Energy Board (REB), Advocate Julius Kalolo as he was speaking to the electricity contractors of Tabora region.

The meeting was part of the board's visit in Tabora Region to inspect the implementation of rural power distribution projects.

Kalolo was speaking after receiving rural power projects reports that show some contractors

were dillydallying, hence causing delay in the projects' completion in violation of the terms on the contract agreements.

He stressed that the government will not tolerate any contractor who performs poorly thereby delaying the projects.

Speaking at different times, REB Board member Oswald Urassa and Rural Energy Agency (REA) Director General Amos Maganga warned poor performing contractors to respect the government of Tanzania saying "it is firm and does not joke in the supervision of projects that aim to bring development to the people.

Meanwhile, The REB delegation

visited various areas in the region with ongoing power distribution projects and spoke to village leaders for their views.

For his part, Igalula District Chairman Athumani Ramadhani said the villagers were happy for the project.

"The villagers have established various development projects including milling machines, and so far there haven't been any power outages," he said.

Kigwa Village chairman in Uyui District Hussein Maganga thanked the government for bringing power to the villages, saying it has been of great benefits to the villagers in improving their lives.

Mining firm supports Covid-19 awareness training programme for Geita journalists

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mine (GGML) in collaboration with the Geita Regional Commissioner office has organised a training which brought together over 60 journalists from various media stations to capacitate them on Covid-19 pandemic.

The introduction of the special Covid-19 awareness training programme aims to put a stop to misinformation about the alleged dangers of vaccination.

Speaking during the session, GGML's vice president of sustainability Simon Shayo said educating journalists on the dangers of the diseases is vital as this will help them disseminate correct information to the public.

Shayo said GGML has since the outbreak of the pandemic taken measures to ensure the safety of its employees, including simple measures such as switching to cashless payments to limit contact

transmission.

"The company has set up hand washing stations throughout the mine where employees, contractors and visitors are required to wash and sanitize their hands thoroughly as regularly as possible. All persons entering the mine site are checked for body temperature. We have also given some employees the opportunity to work from home," he said.

He further said when the pandemic was confirmed early last year, GGML committed a total of 1.6bn/- to support the government of Tanzania in its efforts to contain the pandemic.

"Journalists have immense power to educate or mislead. We are confident that you will serve as frontline soldiers in the fight against COVID-19 in Geita," Shayo said.

Jimmy Mtabwa, who represented the Geita Regional Medical Officer, praised the journalists for their participation in the training and

Geita Gold Mining Limited for their support to the government in the fight against COVID-19.

"We believe that through your respective media houses, you will be great ambassadors of this message to your viewers and listeners. I would be remiss if I did not thank Geita Gold Mining Limited for funding this awareness programme," said Mtabwa.

Novatus Lyaruu, a journalist from Rubondo FM and secretary of Geita Press Club commended GGML and the Geita Regional authority for organising and funding the training.

"The training has come at the right time when the public need more information on the pandemic and vaccine. As journalists, we are the mouthpiece, the ears and the eyes of the community. This training will help me to better inform our audience on how they can protect themselves and their families from infection," he said.

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Ratifying EAC food safety protocol uplifts integration

THE Tanzanian legislature, at the request of the government, has finally ratified the East African Community (EAC) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol (SPS) of 2013 on the enhancement of food safety.

This long-delayed step was among areas of accord reached between Tanzania and Kenya in the wake of a trade wrangle chiefly involving maize earlier this year.

The overall view in the legislature was that the move will improve access to a greater choice of safe foods and provide rules for the management of aflatoxins posing hazards to human and animal health. That was still missing.

The introductory exposition said that the protocol was developed in line with Article 151 of the EAC Treaty, which requires partner states to harmonise sanitary and phytosanitary measures for pest and disease control.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said that ratification of the protocol would boost trade between Tanzania and other East African countries and ensure safety of food, plants and animals.

It appears that it was crucial for use to speed up in ratifying EAC protocols in that regard so that non-tariff impediments to trade are eliminated - that is, instead of depending on goodwill.

The minister could thus affirm that implementing the protocol would accelerate EAC zone growth, especially in the agricultural sector, in part increasing business opportunities thanks to easier access to EAC markets.

But even more important is that the relevant authorities in neighbouring countries will not cite aflatoxins as an impediment.

Further, with the ratification and adoption of the protocol, mannerisms among ministerial departments

and agencies will be altered - from a trained suspicion of things from the other side to comprehending the need to harmonise inspection procedures and certification schemes to ensure market standards.

That would see crops delivered safely and efficiently without major hitches at exit or entry points.

The protocol provides for EAC experts to cooperate in preparing standards and enforcement mechanisms in food safety, plant and animal health.

In a sense, accessing fully to this protocol will also add assurance to meat trade in the Middle East in particular, a market that the respective agencies here have struggled to access for years but with little headway seen.

MPs raised a point on the harmonisation of agro-sector laws, policies and regulations encompassing measures to control importation of genetically modified products in line with Tanzania's position on the matter.

EAC member states remain divided on the status of biotechnology and its products, an aspect that had to be provided for in ironing out original terms of cooperation. There may have been some changes in Tanzania's outlook since then, but caution is still being observed, which is unlikely to be an impediment in the implementation of the food safety protocol as such.

Dr Christine Ishengoma, the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, has appealed to the government to put in place strategies to ensure fair competition as there are possibilities of the country not benefiting from the protocol.

That has been the position for quite some time, having held back the protocol for eight or so years. Luckily, it is no longer tenable, as it denies our produce room to make it into large nearby markets.

Kudos to TCB for women entrepreneurs new facility

INDUSTRIOUS women and their groups have every reason to smile after the Tanzania Commercial Bank initiated a unique platform to empower women entrepreneurs through tailor-made financial solutions addressing challenges in their business.

That is roughly how Dodoma regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka described the situation when commending the bank for the initiative at an inaugural TCB Women Business Forum this midweek.

The facility stands to help more women put to work their ideas or products, which would make a difference in the market as women are keenly adaptive and will bend accordingly when faced with impediments rather than wish to cut corners.

The RC was convinced that the facility was top-notch creativity for women's financial liberty, helping them in devising ways to make their businesses a force to be reckoned with.

Kit is widely believed that the novel TCB project takes up aspirations expressed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to accord women an opportunity to play their due role in managing the economy.

The initiative is a middle-level facility adding to many small openings such as in small savings groups that women use to raise some capital.

Banks and other financial institutions have a major part to play in shaping the women's empowerment and entrepreneurship agenda, which the TCB Business Forum for Women prizes.

TCB chief executive Sabasaba Moshingi said the bank is obliged to drive the empowerment agenda

following its recent acquisition of Tanzania Women's Bank.

This provides the institution not with a new zeal to an existing vocation, even with a change of institutional set-up, for which the CEO was all praises as to how the government moved to merge TWB, Twiga Bancorp and TIB Corporate Bank with operations of the Tanzania Postal Bank.

That creates a vastly different entity, boosting the fortunes of TCB in the market and enhancing services to the economy.

While there are intense issues as to the growth of the local market and purchasing power, more deposits and investments are drifting into the banking and credit sector.

Many commercial units of merit have affinities with similar products in outside countries that can introduce the styles or manner of those products and proceed to make local procurement, on condition of checking the quality and specifications of the products needed.

In that sense, the TCB initiative is a clear empowerment strategy and a wide range of banking solutions and also an undertaking to strengthen the supply mechanism in the changing market where a more sensitive consumer base seeks quality and specificity.

Meanwhile, making credit access easier means that a whole range of products will be served, including upper market needs and goods demanded by the less privileged.

Too often analysts see the strata and class differences, but there are also types of goods and patterns of consumption to be taken care of. TCB and the forum it has designed evidently merit both applause and support.



Bank of Tanzania gives economy a crucial boost amidst COVID-19

By Baraka Futta

TANZANIA announced its first Covid-19 case on 16th March 2020. The government has since implemented several measures from the public health perspective, while the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has devised and issued responsive policies meant to sustain the economy.

On July 27, 2021, the central bank issued a notice to the public containing special economic policy measures. Among other things, these are directed at promoting economic recovery through increase in credit to the private sector by driving lower interest rates.

These measures supplement another set of measures implemented by the bank in mid-2020 that provided several reliefs relating to the restructuring of loans to provide breathing space to borrowers who had been affected by the pandemic.

As the pandemic rages, it has increasingly disrupted lives across countries and communities, and has negatively affected the global economy.

A World Bank Covid-19 impact report indicates that the pandemic reduced the global economic growth in 2020 from an annualised negative 3.4 per cent to a negative 7.6 per cent.

On the other hand, the global trade was estimated to have fallen by 5.3 per cent. These changes translate into billions and trillions of dollars.

The third wave of Covid-19 is hitting countries across the globe, that is, including Tanzania, with BoT's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020 indicating that the pandemic has led to a decreased pace of growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) to 4.8 per cent in 2020 from 7 per cent in the preceding year.

Private sector credit growth has meanwhile been low, ranging from 2.3 per cent to 9.1 per cent - with interest rates charged by banks remaining high, at an average of 17 per cent.

To save the economy from further shrinkage, BoT implemented several monetary policies to promote credit to the private sector. The policies include setting aside an economic stimulus fund where banks can borrow at an interest rate of 3 per cent, with onward lending to customers at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent.

Other measures include reduction



Baraka Futta

of the statutory minimum reserve (SMR) for banks extending credit to agriculture at an interest rate not exceeding 10 per cent, relaxation of requirements to register agency banking and limitation of payment of interest to mobile money trust funds.

There is also the introduction of special loans amounting to 1.0 trillion/- to banks and other financial institutions for onward lending to the private sector.

All these measures are aimed at stimulating economic growth and mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

This article is meant to provide insights into two out of five key policy measures implemented by BoT. These are the reduction of SMR requirement for banks lending to agriculture sector as well as the introduction of special loans amounting to 1.0 trillion/- to banks and other financial institutions for onward lending to the private sector.

The funds are available from BoT at a lending rate of 3 per cent to the qualifying banks and other financial institutions.

BoT will allow SMR for banks extending credit to the agricultural sector at an interest rate not exceeding 10 per cent per annum to fall at an amount equivalent to the loan extended.

With SMR currently set at 6 per cent of customers' total deposits and borrowings from the public and 40 per cent of government deposits, the measure presents several

opportunities to both banks and the agricultural sector.

For banks, the measure gives a chance to significantly expand their customer base and market outreach in the sector, considering that agriculture contributes to over 20 per cent to the Tanzania's GDP - this according to National Bureau of Statistics data.

To farmers, the measure presents an unprecedented opportunity to expand operations in that they can now access business funding at a cheaper rate.

The ultimate benefit here is that there will be an increase in their yields, operational synergies and reduced cost of business, thus creating provide room for more investment in efficient means of agricultural production.

Eventually, we would want to see our farmers realise better margins and improve returns to investors. The multiplier effect from this will have an enormous impact on the economy in the form of taxes, employment and improved balance of trade through the realization of better export numbers.

The second measure that caught attention relates to the special loans to banks and other financial institutions at a 3 per cent per annum lending rate for the pre-financing or re-financing of new loans to the private sector at interest rate not exceeding 10 per cent per annum.

The measure will lead to an increase in liquidity to banks, hence

boosting their lending capacity and providing an opportunity for banks to expand their customer base and build relationships beyond business recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

The package also provides the banks with extra ability to lend to new and performing sectors despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The private sector, on the other hand, gets an opportunity to access facilities at a lower interest rate (not exceeding 10 per cent), as opposed to the prevailing interest rates of 17 per cent or higher.

Having a cheaper cost of funds is key for businesses and is indeed a recipe for the growth of new investments that can eventually yield better profits and many other benefits to the economy, all essential for growth.

Crisis moments often create opportunities, while challenges usually ignite greatest creativity as this forces the corporate world to focus on strategies outside the norm while remaining agile.

The private sector should therefore take advantage of the opportunities presented to turn their businesses around while building resilience during these hugely challenging times.

• **Baraka Futta is a senior auditor with KPMG in Tanzania. However, the views and opinions expressed in this piece are his and do not necessarily represent those of KPMG. Contact: bfutta@kpmg.co.tz.**

Smile Train and COSECSA boost surgical training through US\$1.2million investment

NAIROBI

SMILE Train, the world's largest cleft charity, has amplified its partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to invest in the education and training of 112 additional cleft palate reconstructive surgeons.

This is in an effort to strengthen the surgical systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

Through this partnership, 12 surgeons will receive a full scholarship to a three-year Plastic Surgery Fellowship, with four positions specifically reserved for female surgeons.

The partnership will also support ten scholars to engage in an eight-month Post-Fellowship Cleft Surgery Certification programme.

In addition, over a five-year period, Smile Train will support 60 scholars to attend country-level Train the Trainer Surgery workshops as well as 30 scholars to participate in a fully funded Surgical Exchange programme.

The charity will further support programme management and the COSECSA examination processes.

Smile Train has continuously supported COSECSA's training programmes over the last five years. This increased investment is part of the organisation's commitment to scaling cleft surgical education and training.

"Smile Train-led training innovation for cleft surgeons began more than a decade ago when we first released our ground-breaking Cleft Surgery DVD, which has since evolved into an award-winning Virtual Surgery Simulator," said Esther Njoroge-Muriithi, senior vice president for the charity's global medical programmes.

She elaborated: "We also distribute the highest-fidelity cleft simulation devices in the world through our division, Simulare. We support our more than 1,100 partners with a range of education and training opportunities throughout the year. We are truly transforming the landscape of cleft treatment around the world, and in doing so transforming surgical systems."

The partnership comes against a backdrop of increased need for qualified surgeons in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

"The Covid-19 pandemic has proven the need to have more robust surgical systems in the local communities, and through Smile Train's unique teach a man to fish model we can help elevate surgical capacity,"



Dr Amanda Malungu (2nd-R), a beneficiary of the Smile Train COSECSA Scholarship, performs a cleft surgery at the Nairobi-based Gertrude's Children's Hospital – a not-for-profit paediatric medical facility providing healthcare to children in Kenya and those referred from neighbouring countries. Photo: Special Correspondent

noted Nkeiruka Obi, vice president and regional director with Smile Train Africa.

"Together with COSECSA, we are bridging the gap for the 5 billion people who lack access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care; and will increase the number of surgeons across Africa, including those who specialise in cleft care," she added.

According to the 2015 Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, 143 million additional surgical procedures are needed in LMICs each year to save lives and prevent disability.

Additionally, every year an estimated 81 million people face catastrophic financial expenditure due to costs associated with seeking surgical care. A surgical workforce crisis threatens to heighten these global inequities, and investments in surgical workforce capacity are essential.

COSECSA president Prof Godfrey Muguti welcomed the partnership, noting Smile Train's keen interest in empowering surgeons in the region.

"The burden of surgical care is astronomical and out of reach for many, and families gamble with fundraisers to the tunes of millions to receive better care in developed nations," he said.

He added: "Through the investment in the knowledge exchange in our memorandum of understanding with Smile Train, we aim to build confidence in Africa's surgeons, find local solutions to local challenges and administer quality, more affordable care in the local community."

Smile Train, which has active cleft care programmes in 40 countries across Africa, has 245+ partners and 255+ partner hospitals across the

continent.

At the core of the charity's model is local capacity building for cleft ecosystem professionals including surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses, nutritionists, midwives, speech therapists and orthodontists.

Orthodontics is a dentistry specialty that addresses the diagnosis, prevention and correction of malpositioned teeth and jaws as well as misaligned bite patterns. It may also address the modification of facial growth, known as dentofacial orthopedics. Abnormal alignment of the teeth and jaws is common.

Through strategic partnerships at the local and international level, Smile Train dedicates itself towards quality healthcare capacity building and advocacy to increase access to safer surgeries in LMICs.

In sum, Smile Train empowers local medical professionals with training, funding and resources to provide free cleft surgery and comprehensive cleft care to children globally.

It advances a sustainable solution and scalable global health model for cleft treatment, drastically improving children's lives, including their ability to eat, breathe, speak and ultimately thrive.

For its part, COSECSA is a non-profit professional body that fosters postgraduate education in surgery and provides surgical training in the East, Central and Southern Africa region.

It shapes and leads the training, examination and accreditation of surgeons in the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region. Admission to the college is open to all registered medical practitioners who comply with the professional requirements.

China to basically complete construction of new international land-sea trade corridor for western regions by 2025

By Lu Yanan,

China aims to basically complete the construction of an economical, efficient, convenient, green, and safe land-sea trade corridor for its western regions by 2025, according to a plan issued by the country's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The completion of the corridor will significantly enhance the transportation capacity of three major routes connecting regions in west China with ports in south China's Beibu Gulf. The operation of the corridor, ports, and logistics hubs involved will become more efficient, and the land-sea trade passage will play a more evident role in driving the economic and industrial development of areas along the routes.

In recent years, the construction of the corridor has been advanced in a well-coordinated manner, while higher-quality development and increasing economic benefits achieved in its operation.

Last year, the number of scheduled trains running between western China and Beibu Gulf reached nine. Meanwhile, rail-sea intermodal trains passing via Beibu Gulf have made 4,607 trips, which skyrocketed 105 percent from a year earlier; and China-Vietnam freight trains passing via Pingxiang port, which helps link the corridor with other railways for easier trade with foreign countries, completed 1,264 trips, a year-on-year increase of 23.2 percent.

In 2020, Beibu Gulf Port and Yangpu Port, both destinations of the corridor, opened 52 and 33 routes respectively for domestic and foreign trade, linking the corridor with over 100 countries and regions.

During the same period, the total volume of goods transported via the rail-sea intermodal transportation mode along the corridor rose to 230,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Container throughput at Beibu Gulf Port and Yangpu Port reached 5.05 million TEUs and 1.02 million TEUs, respectively.

"High-level construction of the land-sea trade corridor requires foci on main drawbacks and constraints as well as intensify efforts to advance the implementation of relevant projects actively," said Zhou Xiaoqi, an NDRC official, noting that a highlight of the plan lies in its specific measures for addressing short slabs in the construction of the corridor and its logistics hubs.

"As the construction of the corridor constantly deepened, and the transportation volume along the routes rises, the high-quality development of the corridor demands higher intensity and faster pace in our work," Zhou pointed out.

According to the plan, the corridor's west route will be basically completed by 2025, when its middle route will also be more capable and the east route further improved. Meanwhile, road bottlenecks will be addressed effectively, and the

transportation capacity of the corridor's arteries, with railways as the backbone and high-grade highways as supplements, will be increased substantially.

In addition, the volume of goods transported via the combined rail-sea transportation service along the corridor is expected to reach a total of 500,000 TEUs and the total number of cross-border freight train trips 2,000 by 2025, the plan said.

"Our company will move faster to build new lines and improve existing ones for the three routes of the corridor. This year, we've completed projects worth over 2.18 billion yuan (\$340 million)," said Dong Hui, deputy director of the freight transportation department of China Railway, a participant in the construction of the corridor.

By 2025, China will have completed a bunch of projects for comprehensively optimizing facilities and services to develop Beibu Gulf Port into an international gateway port and Yangpu Port into an international container hub. Both ports will have more closely knit networks of domestic and international routes and over 10 newly-added international routes, the plan pointed out.

Container throughput at Beibu Gulf Port and Yangpu Port will reach 10 million and five million TEUs respectively by 2025, with their container throughput for foreign trade hitting two million and one million TEUs respectively.

People's Daily



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RFP

CONSULTANCY: DEVELOPMENT OF AWARENESS-RAISING RADIO CAMPAIGN ON INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN THE RUVUMA LANDSCAPE (RLS)

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non-Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

2. Leading the Change (LTC) Programmes Overview

The southern part of Tanzania the Selous-Ruvuma Landscape is rich in natural resources, but the people live in poverty. Natural resources in the landscape are increasingly subjected to severe pressures such as unsustainable land-based investments, population growth and increasing market demand for natural resource-based products. The advent of global climate change has also resulted in unpredictable climatic conditions undermining livelihoods and biodiversity. These growing pressures threaten the sustainability of biodiversity beyond the capacity of existing conservation programmes. Challenges to conserving the ecological integrity of the Selous-Ruvuma landscape are further compounded by the capacity of stakeholders.

Despite of the efforts of WWF Tanzania and other stakeholders to support sustainable land and resource management, local communities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Community Organizations (CBOs) are still faced with inadequate capacity to fully manage natural resources and ensure that benefits are accrued to the rights holders. There is still low awareness of community rights, land and resource ownership, and inadequate representation of women and youth in resource management and decision-making. Limited business knowledge and inadequate revenue sharing mechanisms exist. As a result, communities often lack power to receive benefits or develop alternative livelihoods.

To address the above challenges, WWF-Tanzania is implementing a 5 years Leading the Change (LTC) Programme. This CSO, rights and environment-based programme is implemented in the Selous-Ruvuma Landscape in Tanzania covering four thematic areas namely forest, wildlife, marine fisheries and energy. The program's desired change is 'by 2022, people in the Selous-Ruvuma Landscape are effectively controlling decisions and receiving full benefits from natural resources & exercise their rights for ensuring that the ecological integrity is sustainably managed and use of sustainable, clean and affordable renewable energy is increased'. WWF Tanzania is implementing a 'Beyond Tourism Specific tasks. The consultancy should to produce and broadcast interactive programmes on conservation, rights and climate change resilience targeting youth and women. Likewise, to increase programme awareness, visibility and support among key stakeholders.

3. **Scope of the Work.** The consultant will be responsible for production and broadcasting of of A 4 episode magazine programme consist of Interviews (with benefiting communities, decision makers, WWF Staff and partners), news, discussion, vox pop, tips, a feature, a voice piece (talk, live report, etc), sound effects, music (traditional song) and min drama.

4. All interested applicants may get the detailed ToR on WWF websites at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ and also, send your full proposal (technical & financial) through procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org only softcopy proposals are accepted addressed to;

Secretary, Procurement Committee

WWF Tanzania

Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikochoeni

P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;

website. [wwf.or.tz](http://www.wwf.or.tz)

5. Registered, eligible and reputable, firms, institutions, and individuals are advised to submit both technical and financial proposals for this assignment. Applications should be a concise full combined technical & financial proposal fully signed, highlighting the company profile, concrete evidence of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule, and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also, apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should specify the time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes;

6. **Applicant Requirement and qualifications:**

- Over 5 years of experience in undertaking similar assignments professional staffs with high competency;
- Demonstrated experience in Mass communications esp. journalism and radio programme productions;
- Demonstrated experience and competency in Research, Script writing, and Digital editing.
- Quality production tool;
- Experience and ability to work in diverse geographical and multi-cultural environments.
- Demonstrated good writing and communication skills;
- Experience working and has coverage in the Southern parts of Tanzania.

7. Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid

Deadline for submission: kindly submit your applications as instructed by **Monday, 27th September 2021 at 17.00hrs** Tanzania local time. The only successful applicant will be contacted.

AfDB praises Sahara Group on its commitment to electrifying Africa

LAGOS

AFRICAN Development Bank Group (AfDB) President Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina has commended Sahara Group, the largest privately-owned power generation and distribution conglomerate in sub-Saharan Africa, for boosting power supply in Nigeria through its Egbin Power Plant and Ikeja Electric Plc.

Speaking at Sahara Group's 25th anniversary celebration, Adesina emphasized the need for Africa to achieve universal access to electricity as soon as possible.

He urged Sahara Group to sustain its role in setting industry standards for environmental sustainability, spearheading the transition to renewable energy, and accelerating affordable electricity access to low-income households and small and medium size enterprises. "Africa's future is bright. Nigeria's future is bright. I fully expect Sahara Group to do even better in the years ahead to help make Nigeria and Africa's future even brighter," he said.

AfDB's Desert to Power initiative, which is geared towards building the world's largest solar zone in the Sahel of Africa, covers eleven countries including Nigeria.

The project, according to Adesina, is expected to provide electricity for 250 million people while gen-

erating unprecedented investment opportunities valued at more than US\$20 billion.

He said private sector players such as the Sahara Group ought to take advantage of these investment opportunities by providing centralised off-grid and mini-grid energy solutions.

"This could be done by taking advantage of Africa's rapid digitalisation and mobile payment systems that enable low-income customers to access electricity more efficiently, flexibly and cost effectively," he noted.

He elaborated: "These present new, compelling and exciting opportunities for the Sahara Group to partner with development finance institutions such as the African Development Bank, to lift 600 million Africans out of energy poverty, to provide renewable energy across the continent, and to accelerate Africa's energy transition."

Adesina urged Sahara Group to implement major initiatives that would enable the energy conglomerate to take full advantage of opportunities arising from



AfDB President Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina

the African Continental Free Trade Area in power supply, regional power market pools, renewable energy and infrastructure development.

"Together, we must Power and Light up Africa. Since the African Development Bank Group launched its Light Up and Power Africa in 2015, when I became its President, we have supported the access of 30 million people to electricity," he said.

According to Adesina, the percentage of people with access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 33 per cent in 2010 to 46 per cent by 2019.

"While that is very encouraging, our collective challenge is achieving universal access to electricity within the next ten years. This is critical to meeting the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he declared.

Established as an oil and gas trading firm in 1996, Sahara Group has emerged as a leading international energy conglomerate with leading businesses in the upstream, mid-stream, downstream and infrastructure sectors on the African continent.

Three keys to success for transitioning to reader-led revenue

By Ng Mei Yan

THE shrinking of advertising dollars has been a top concern for publishers for at least the past decade. Larger newsrooms have consequently made the leap to a business model led by reader revenue, but what about those that have yet to make the transition?

During WAN-IFRA's recent second edition of the Newsroom and Business Transformation Asia (NBTA) 2021 programme, programme leaders and guest speakers stressed the urgency of change to remain viable and provide a toolbox of key techniques for publishers to get started.

It is never too late to begin, said programme leaders George Brock and Gregor Waller at the five-

month-long event.

Now in its second year, NBTA is organised by WAN-IFRA and supported by the Facebook Journalism Project. It is designed to help Asian publishers implement and accelerate their newsroom transformation projects.

Learned insights are essential

While competitors may have established a lead in getting paying readers, the "late-mover advantage" can be valuable.

With lessons from case studies around the world and tools to now extract fine-grain data to understand audiences on an unprecedented level, there is now less guesswork on the road to transformation.

Steve Dempsey, guest speaker at

the first session of NBTA and Group Director of Publishing Products at Independent News & Media in Ireland (INM), recalled that The Independent's main competitor, The Irish Times, were five years ahead in switching to a reader-led revenue model.

"But they were premium and costly. We gained competitiveness in price difference," he said, also crediting a highly supportive senior management and cultural shift for successfully implementing The Independent's subscription business.

While market conditions vary across countries, Dempsey's account clearly demonstrated some main factors which Brock and Waller pointed to that will shift the needle in any newsroom.

One is that transformation starts

at the top. Two of the biggest questions publishers first need to ask are whether the organisation is truly digital and how they can win revenue from readers.

"If we step back and look at these challenges from above, there are two things that really matter, and they are leadership and strategy," said Brock, adding that good leaders in news publishing clarify the goal(s) and always communicate with those they lead.

Leaders are also tasked with navigating the obstacles with a sound strategy. Rather than lofty targets and mission statements, strategy, Brock said, involves diagnosing the problem, developing a guiding policy to shape the approach and finally a set of coherent actions that bring the guiding policy to reality.

A participant of last year's NBTA, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, used this systematic technique to figure out what made the Inquirer Plus, its digital newspaper, worth paying for. Then COO (chief operating officer) and now CEO Rudyardo Arbolardo first obtained support for the project's goals across the newsroom and engaged the expertise of a technology vendor.

A cross-functional team then took action, segmenting the various target readers while ensuring that the product was affordable, easy to buy, pay for and reach (via digital means). Exclusive content was also developed for Inquirer Plus.

As a result, they achieved double-digit conversion rate, steady growth in subscribers and an average subscription term of 12 months among other success indicators.

Two: Harness the power of data. Technology and connectivity have now made it possible for publishers to obtain valuable insights, from the amount of time readers are spending on each article and which users are mostly likely to convert to their search habits and professions.

"The idea of a data strategy is to

know your users, having different offerings for different segments and having a very thorough idea of the channels, such as mobile, desktop and push services, that people are using," said Waller.

He added that by understanding readers and matching them with their preferred journalistic formats, letting them access a website that is populated with personalised offerings, the likelihood that they're going to subscribe and stay is much higher.

Additionally, "data can serve as a 'single source of truth' and be a unifying force in the newsroom", noted Brock.

For example, a daily email to summarise and explain insights from data during the past 24 hours is a good way to communicate the qualitative value of those numbers.

For those who have not yet started developing a data-informed newsroom workforce, there is no need for a mindless rush to develop a sophisticated dashboard and visualisation tools.

"Instead, start with what you have, even if it is a limited set of data," advised Waller.

In his Quick Step Strategy, Waller recommends that publishers first group their readers based on loyalty, dive into each group's use patterns and embark on A/B testing as a means of experimentation.

When this stage is complete, a cross-functional team can be established and more resources and investment can then be made into integration and data-gathering capabilities.

Three: Serve your most important audience. While it might feel counterintuitive at first, trying to please every news consumer is likely to be detrimental to the bottom line. Instead, publishers need to segregate audiences based on loyalty.

Norway's Amedia news group found in a 2017 study that readers

who visited a news site for 21 days or more in a month were exponentially more likely to subscribe, and those who visited for more than 25 days would likely stick with their subscription.

"It is absolutely crucial, and also one of the biggest challenges, that you are able to identify and measure these target groups. Separate the heavy users and fans from the occasional users and fly-bys, those who visit one to two times a month," said Waller.

Though heavy users and fans may only make up a small percentage of readers, it makes sense to formulate the editorial strategy around this group.

The average revenue per user (ARPU) for this group tends to be significantly higher - their high number of visits and higher page impressions per visit correspond to more advertisement views and consequently more returns.

"You don't have to look for a big audience, but the relevant audience for you to focus your strategy on because their ARPU is higher," he added.

NBTA 2021, organised by WAN-IFRA and supported by the Facebook Journalism Project, is the first training and coaching programme of its kind in Asia designed to accelerate transformation in Asian news companies. NBTA's five-month-long curriculum supports senior editorial and commercial managers in developing an editorial vision, business strategies, integrated product plans and newsroom processes.

A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). Ng Mei Yan writes for a variety of clients, including government agencies, healthcare institutions and lifestyle businesses. In recent years, she has covered digital transformation stories on organisations in various industries.



This is to notify the general public that **Mr. Harrison Herry Runkulatile** pictured above is **no longer an employee of ALAF LIMITED effectively from September 3, 2021.** He is not authorized to represent or transact any business on behalf of the Company.

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MANAGEMENT OF ALAF LIMITED



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xinyang city in China's Henan Province.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Appeal for improved access to care and treatment for patients with rare diseases in Tanzania

By Geoffrey Tusiime, TUDARCO

SHARIFA Mbarak (38) a resident of Upanga, Dar es Salaam gave birth to a bouncing baby boy on April 9, 2011 at Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

The birth of her treasured son Ali Kimara who celebrated her birthday in April this year introduced her to the new world of parenthood even though the child developed rare disease complications two years later.

"The birth of Ali Kimara will always remain one of the moments I will always cherish. As a young mother, it felt so good holding him in my arms for the very first time. I was filled with joy," she added.

She recalled that after taking good care of her son, two years down the road, her son Ali started developing complications but she never thought about these complications.

Mbarak added, "After realizing this, I took him for diagnosis at Muhimbili National Hospital and later I transferred him to Aga Khan but still the health professionals could not verify the problem of my child's complications."

This prompted her to take the child to Nairobi for further diagnosis and ascertain what the problem with her child was but also in vain.

"I have consulted all the health professionals in and outside Tanzania but all of them cannot tell what is wrong with my child. Most of them thought that my son was suffering from muscular dystrophy but upon diagnosis, all the tests proved negative.

Mbarak has come to terms with the rare disease that befell before her child but she is still optimistic and thanks God that her child is still alive today.

She recounted losing her other young child almost five years ago who passed away after developing the same complications.

It is on this background that she found Ali Kimara Rare Disease Foundation whose mission is to be the voice of an unknown number of people living with a rare disease in Tanzania.

According to Mbarak, there are millions of people affected by rare diseases in developing countries including Tanzania adding that even though most rare diseases don't have treatment, that should not be the reason to abandon patients.

"We are currently lobbying to ensure that the health policy is amended to include rare diseases. The battle for rare diseases is far from over,



The Ali Kimara Rare Disease Foundation Founder Sharifa Mbarak speaking during the 13th African Society for Human Genetics Society (AfSHG) conference in Dar es Salaam last week.

we need to put even more effort and resources into this sector - for the sake of everyone affected by rare diseases," she added.

Rare diseases are diseases which affect a small number of people compared to the general population and specific issues are raised in relation to their rarity. Rare diseases (RDs) are

known to individually affect less than 5 people per 10,000.

In 2019, a scientific paper published in The European Journal Scientific stipulated that over 300 million people worldwide are living with rare diseases; accounting for 4% of the estimated world population of 7.5 billion.

There are up to 7000 rare diseases, which can be chronic, progressive, degenerative, and often life-threatening. Some of these diseases may be observed at birth or childhood, like Muscular Atrophy or Rett Syndrome, but 50% of Rare Diseases appear during adulthood. In most cases, there are no diagnostic tests for RDs and when present, they tend to be expensive. As a result, many patients with RDs are not appropriately diagnosed and as a consequence, their conditions are mismanaged.

According to Professor Raphael Sangeda from Muhimbili University of Health and Applied Sciences (MUHAS), countries in Africa including Tanzania need to invest in human genetics training so as to combat rare diseases.

"It is common for a physician to question a patient if one of their family members has a history of diabetes, asthma or high blood pressure or other diseases. Those questions seek to determine if the person may have a problem that is inherited," he said.

Prof. Sangeda noted that although doctors are aware of hereditary diseases, they need to get more knowledge and training on human genetics and how to use this knowledge to improve disease detection and provide appropriate treatment in line with genetic DNA variation from one individual to another.

Speaking to reporters during the 13th African Society for Human Genetics Society (AfSHG) conference in Dar es Salaam last week, The Tanzania Society for Human Genetics (TSHG) Vice Chairperson Dr. Samson

Kilaza underscored that, the need for human genetics research in the treatment of rare disease would help in identifying the variations that humans are having at genetic level.

"These variations are the determinant to the disease susceptibility, disease severity and drug response to individuals. Research in human genetics enables precise diagnosis of diseases, incorporated with appropriate medication," he added.

Dr. Kilaza noted that some diseases that can be properly managed using human genetic approaches include sickle cell diseases, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory bowel diseases and Rare Diseases.

"All those diseases can easily be diagnosed at a very early stage using human genetics methods, thus there must be a need to design human genetic researchers around these areas," he added.

He noted that because of the relevance of this research, TSHG is set to conduct a Human genetic variation project for major ethnic groups in Tanzania.

"The idea is to learn our population genetic variation and the link to rare diseases, hereditary diseases and communicable and non communicable diseases. This would help in designing the mitigation strategy," he added.

Earlier the (TSHG) Chairperson Dr. Siana Nkya said, TSHG was conceptualized in 2017 with the overall goal of pursuing and advocating for research and training, increasing awareness and consultancy in human genetics and related fields.

NBAA, ICAI in new drive to address cybercrime, data privacy, protection

By Guardian Correspondent

ICAI Dar es Salaam Chapter has organized a joint Continuing Professional Development (CPD) with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) in an effort to address cybercrime incidents.

One of the eminent speakers on the subject matter is from India, an Advocate and company secretary, Anuj Agarwal also took part at the event through Zoom virtual platform.

The event was attended

and benefited by more than 150 participants including members of NBAA, ICAI, and others.

It was also witnessed by Chartered Accountant (CA) Nihar N Jambusaria, ICAI President based in India, CA Kapil Garg, ICAI Dar es Salaam Chapter Chairman, CPA Pius Maneno -Executive Director NBAA, CPA Neema K Mssusa-NBAA Governing Board Vice Chairman and moderated by CA BasudeoMundhra.

Speaking at the occasion Anuj Agarwal said that even

the most internet-savvy person can fall for a cybercriminal's tricks, "so it's important that everyone keeps their guard up when navigating the virtual world as one single vulnerability is all an attacker needs."

"Most of us take care to protect ourselves from physical crimes in the 'real world, yet we do not always take the same precautions against virtual crimes in the online world," he said, noting that while crimes like burglary and assault are something we

can see, cybercrime is largely invisible, leading many people to underestimate its very real damage - or the likelihood of becoming a victim.

"But the effects of cybercrime can be just as devastating as physical crimes, with a number of potential dangers hidden online."

ICAI Dar es Salaam Chapter organized the event under its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) executed on Monday with the aim to serve the CPA fraternity as a whole and the event was an attempt to

provide insight to members of the NBAA and ICAI to direct critical thinking to such sensitive matters.

ICAI is working under the regulations and guidelines of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body established under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act No. XXXVIII of 1949) for the regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountants in India.

During its 72 years of ex-

istence, ICAI has achieved recognition as a premier accounting body not only in India but also globally, for its contribution in the fields of education, professional development, maintenance of high accounting, auditing, and ethical standards.

ICAI is the second largest accounting body in the whole world. The Chapter was formally inaugurated on 13th January 2015 as the 26th overseas chapter of ICAI, in the presence of then ICAI President K Raghu and then Vice

President CA Manoj Fadnis.

The Executive Director of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors, Pius Maneno, and then High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Debnath Shaw were also present during the inauguration. The Chapter conducts CPE programs as per ICAI regulations and provides facilities for interaction amongst members by holding regular meetings and organizing talks and lectures of professional interest and operates principally in Dar es Salaam.

NEMC in new technology to replace mercury use in mineral processing

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is planning to embark on a five-year project worth US\$7,339,450 (17.7bn/-) to come up with new technology that will replace mercury use in mining activities.

According to NEMC, the move will greatly support small-scale miners, who mostly use the dangerous chemical as well as protect the country's environs.

The project coordinator Eng. Benjamin Mchwampaka said, the study intends to control the mercury use in small scale mining activities and rescue people and environment from dangers of the chemical.

Mchwampaka said that there is a lot of undesirable health impact from mercury use if it is mishandled, noting:

"The solution for this is not to burn the use of mercury but to do research and come up with cheap mercury alternatives that the small miners can afford to use in their daily activities."

He said that Tanzania is estimated to have about two million small miners, so it is not easy to

burn mercury use as the move to save the environment and lives of living things. Initiating that move will be redundant due to the fact that miners depend on mercury in their mining activities because currently there are no other alternatives.

If mistreated, mercury and its remaining continue to circulate in our environment can cause serious health problems to humans and other living organisms, he said.

Eng Mchwampaka said despite the fact that it is the global target to reduce or eliminate completely the use of mercury; but for Tanzania, the available solution is not to burn immediately but to do research and come up with alternative solutions.

He said the project which is under NEMC supervision will have a span of five years and will be implemented in the regions of priorities because of the huge number of small miners. The regions are Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Singida, Mbeya and Songwe.

He said mercury is a kind of chemical which has several uses but small miners depend on it and they can do nothing without it in



their daily activities because after smashing the rock and get small particles that is where they use mercury to burn that small particles of sand to get gold.

He cautioned that mercury damages were enormous if not properly handled and circulate in sea, river or any water stream because it is the place where different living organisms live including fish.

He cited an example that in 1956 the mercury caused problems in a village known as Minamata in South Japan where a fishers community accidentally took fish with mercury remaining and soon after they started to see strange diseases among their newborns.

"After this situation the world made the declaration that there is need to control mercury use because it is hazardous to people and all living organism and eventually in 2013 the famous treaty known as Minamata was signed by 218 countries including Tanzania and in 2020 we agreed to start the implementation of the treaty," he says.

"That's why NEMC came up with this project. Different experts came together and wrote the project write up proposal and requested funds from World Bank and eventually Global Environmental Facility agreed to fund the project with 7,339,450 US Dollars,"

he says.

According to Mchwampaka all preparations have been done and they have also opened an account to channel the project's funds adding that they are going to do what they can to get mercury alternatives.

He said that during the executions of the project they will also look at the areas which were damaged by small miners by cutting down trees during the mining activities and rehabilitate them to become a normal situation.

Eng Mchwampaka said through this project there are four laboratories one from Chief Chemist, NEMC, Mineral Commission and Geologist Agency which will be equipped with different facilities to enable them detect various dangers in land, water and air.

He added that it is very easy for mercury chemicals to destroy nerve systems, kidneys and cause miscarriages to pregnant women or sometimes to give birth to abnormal babies.

"Unfortunately mercury consequences are inherited from one generation to another. For example if someone is affected today there are possibilities even the grandson to be affected and sometimes you get a newborn with a number of disabilities," he said.

By Guardian Correspondent

COVID-19 vaccination campaigns are in trouble in many African countries on account of persistent confidence in withstanding the disease, and risk aversion with regard to any unforeseen effects, recent events suggest.

One such event is the destruction in Malawi of some 20,000 doses of AstraZeneca on account of poor turnout of people to be vaccinated, on the basis of revelations aired in a midday broadcast of the German international news

Covid-19 vaccines' risk of being destroyed on the rise

channel, DW.

This tendency is similar to reports here in the past two weeks that only about a third of the 1.2m doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Janssen had been administered to a section of the population, especially frontline health workers and those above the age of 50.

The vaccination rollout has since been extended to other sections of the population but

it appears that the turnout, even among some relatively older people has been slow, partly on account of limited impact of infection and hospitalization in inner quarters of various urban centres and villages.

At the time that the rollout was launched by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, vaccine criticism based on passionate rejection of that exercise by the previous

administration dominated, and some well distributed scientific material from US skeptics and others elsewhere.

Following a spate of deaths and big numbers of burials in a short period, most of which has not been acknowledged as part of official statistics, the turnout improved when inoculation centres were opened in Moshi and Arusha, and sig-

nificantly also portions of the Lake Zone.

So far Health ministry authorities have not talked of any danger of the vaccines donated by the United States under the international vaccines access drive (Covax) but as the Malawi example shows, the remainder of the 1.2m doses risks being destroyed if not used within this month at least.

The greater longevity in

comparison with the destroyed vaccine doses in Malawi can partly be explained by the fact that Tanzania was late in joining the global campaign, so it may have obtained doses made slightly later than what was delivered in a number of African countries.

Again, there will be greater take up of the remaining doses estimated at around 0.7m doses as of the past two

weeks or so, since Zanzibar re-launching its vaccination drive on account of lack of recognition of the Chinese made Sinovac brand, especially for those wishing to take up the pilgrimage in the course of the year.

There were reports circulating earlier than the start of the vaccination drive both in Zanzibar and the Mainland that the Sinovac type of vaccine does not withstand the more recent strand of

Covid-19, named Delta, while Janssen was being seen as the most resilient because it

Florida avoided the worst of Covid-19 for over a year. So what happened this summer?

By James Surowiecki

THE current story of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States is, with few exceptions, pretty straightforward: while cases are rising most everywhere, hospitalisations and deaths (which are the things we should be most concerned about and paying real attention to) have skyrocketed in states with relatively low vaccination rates, and have remained mostly under control in states with high ones.

And this was a predictable outcome, given that we know that the Covid-19 vaccines provide good protection against infection but exceptional protection against serious illness and death.

Last weekend's big New York Times story on why Florida has been slammed by the pandemic over the past month, though, tries to complicate this narrative and offer a more nuanced account of why the state has seen tens of thousands of people hospitalised for Covid-19 - and thousands die of it.

It's an understandable goal, but in the process the story leaves readers with a distorted picture of how Florida - and in particular Governor Ron DeSantis - has tried to manage the pandemic.

Even more problematically, it leaves readers with the impression that Florida's experience shows that mass vaccination is not enough to keep a state from "reaching frightening levels of hospitalisations and deaths".

The problem with the Times story is easy to understand - it's built around the idea that Florida is a state that went all-in on vaccination as a strategy to fight Covid-19, and nonetheless saw itself unexpectedly battered by the disease.

If true, this would be quite a tale. But it isn't actually true - as the body of the piece, oddly enough, makes clear.

vaccination: it went kind-of-in. The state's vaccination numbers are not good - they're mediocre.

According to the Florida Department of Health's most recent Covid-19 report, the state has fully vaccinated only around 49 per cent of its population and only 56 per cent of those eligible to get vaccinated.

While the state did a good job of vaccinating the elderly early on, over time its progress with that group stalled, and at this point, according to the NYT article, it has fully vaccinated just 82 per cent of people 65 and older, even as many states now have vaccination rates for senior citizens (the elderly) that are 90 per cent or higher.

It's true that Florida's vaccination rates are middle-of-the-pack relative to the US as a whole. But the vaccination rate in the country is, at this point, mediocre relative to other developed countries.

More importantly, Florida's demographics and its history with Covid-19 meant that it needed to be especially aggressive in vaccinating its population if it wants to prevent the Delta variant from causing a major outbreak.

The elderly, who are most vulnerable to Covid-19, make up a larger percentage of Florida's population than of any other state. So a vaccination rate of just 82 per cent means that Florida still has more unvaccinated senior citizens (more than 800,000) than many other states have senior citizens, period.

Even more shockingly, as the Times article points out, Florida has done an especially bad job of vaccinating people in nursing homes, who are often especially vulnerable to Covid-19.

Its rate of 73.1 per cent vaccinated, on average, per home is worse than any other state but Nevada. (Connecticut, by way of comparison, has an average nursing-home vaccination rate of 91 per cent per home.)

On top of this, Florida came into



the summer surge with a much lower level of natural immunity in its population than many other US states had, because it was able (for reasons that remain somewhat obscure) to dodge the worst impacts of Covid-19 last year.

A lower level of natural immunity means, of course, that more of people are vulnerable to infection and serious illness, which in turn points to the need for a higher vaccination rate to get the same level of protection as states that were hit harder. Given that, an overall vaccination rate of 49 per cent was asking for trouble.

Finally, there's another problem with Florida's vaccination numbers: they include many people who don't live in the state full-time, or at all.

In the early days of Florida's vaccination campaign, DeSantis opened vaccination up to anyone aged 65 and over. As a result, so-called vaccine tourists from around the country, as well as from Canada and Latin America, came to the state to get vac-

inated. They did so in such volume that in mid-January, Florida revised its policies and put a residency requirement in place.

The residency requirement was in place for more than three months, but even when it was in place, it was not strict (if you were staying at someone's house, you could use that address as your residency).

And in any case, Florida has a large population of property-owning snowbirds - people who live up North, but come to the state for winter - that could, and did, get vaccinated there.

Now, on the one hand, this is not something Florida should be faulted for. The goal is to get everyone - and especially every senior citizen - vaccinated, regardless of where.

However, it does mean that Florida's vaccination numbers make the state's vaccination rate look better than it actually is, since they include people who were vaccinated in the state but aren't actually living there now.

If you dig into the numbers, for instance, Miami-Dade and Broward County, senior-citizen vaccination rates above 100 per cent.

This kind of overstatement of the state's true vaccination rate is also true of other states, like Pennsylvania, that had open vaccination - and it's impossible to know just how big the overstatement is. But given Florida's location, and its status as a tourist mecca, it wouldn't be surprising if the number of out-of-state residents who were vaccinated there is large.

Of course, it's possible that Florida's mediocre results happened in spite of the state's best efforts to get everyone vaccinated. And this is what the Times piece's framing (Florida made "a major push for vaccinations") suggests, even as it paints a similar picture to the one I just sketched out of where the state ended up and why.

But the reality is that after its initial big push, Florida's vaccination campaign has been more routine than aggressive.

As noted above, it has failed to get

nursing-home residents (and staff) vaccinated; it hasn't used incentives (like New York City's US\$100 cash payments to get people vaccinated), or even vaccine lotteries; and it's done little to close the wide gap between its counties with very low vaccination rates and those with higher ones.

On top of this, in May, DeSantis issued an executive order banning businesses and government agencies from requiring customers to be vaccinated. That was followed by the legislature passing that ban into law. (Strangely, the Times article doesn't even mention this.)

No one expected a red state to put vaccine mandates of its own in place. But prohibiting businesses from making their own decisions about vaccine passports sent a clear message that getting vaccinated was not, as it were, a matter of life and death.

Even so, the real problem with the portrayal of Florida as a state that has been aggressive about vaccinating its population isn't that it lets Ron DeSantis off the hook. You can decide for yourself whether he could have done more to get Floridians to take their shots.

It is that it creates the false impression that Florida's high vaccination rate couldn't prevent it from being crushed by Covid-19 this summer.

Instead, the reality is that Florida got crushed, at least in part, because its vaccination rate was low - and especially low given its particular circumstances.

If you look at Covid-19 hospitalisations and deaths in the United States, this remains a pandemic of the unvaccinated. Florida's experience doesn't contradict that narrative. It confirms it.

A dispatch by GEN, a publication from Medium about politics, power, and culture. James Surowiecki is the author of The Wisdom of Crowds. He has been a business columnist for Slate and The New Yorker and written for a

Hong Kong

Thai tourism offers hope for others

DESPITE lower-than-expected tourist arrivals, Thailand's reopening sends promising signals to tourism destinations around the world as the Southeast Asian country tests out how to open up safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic, experts said.

Jesper Palmqvist, area director for Asia Pacific at data and consulting company STR, noted that visitor numbers in Thailand, following the nation's moves to reopen some destinations to foreign tourists, have fallen short of expectations, yet the initiative "definitely ... matters".

As Palmqvist sees it, the signal about restarting tourism during COVID-19, is what is really important in relation to Thailand's reopening plan.

Since it was launched on July 1, Phuket Sandbox, Thailand's tourism reopening pilot program that allows quarantine-free travel for vaccinated travellers, has brought some 28,000 international visitors

to the island province, generating 1.6 billion baht (US\$48.77 million) in revenue, the National News Bureau of Thailand reported on Sept 6.

The program initially covered Phuket but was later extended to other select destinations including Koh Samui under a similar format.

The majority of the travellers were from the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, Germany and France, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The numbers are a far cry from a previous forecast by the TAT. When the Sandbox program was launched, the TAT said it expects 100,000 foreign tourists to visit Phuket in the third quarter and generating 8.9 billion baht of revenue to the local economy.

But Palmqvist said the numbers still inject confidence into the tourism industry. For example, before the Sandbox, the occupancy rate of hotels in Phuket was only about

1-2 percent, and it went quickly up to 20 percent within two weeks after launch of the program.

Even after Phuket tightened COVID-19 restrictions, the occupancy rate was still between 15 and 20 percent.

"International tourism (accounts for) about 12 percent of Thailand's GDP, and for Phuket, (the number) is 80 to 90 percent," said Yuwanee Promppamorn, a hotels and tourism analyst at Maybank Kim Eng Securities (Thailand).

"So whatever moderate recovery it was, it is still very important (for Phuket)."

"It is also very important to the rest of Thailand to learn from Phuket to handle this situation going forward when we reopen fully in 2022," Yuwanee told China Daily.

More destinations including Chiang Mai, Hua Hin and Pattaya are planned to reopen from Oct 1, Bangkok Post reported on Sept 6.

Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Thailand's minister of tourism and sports, however, said the reopening of Bangkok has been postponed to November. The whole country will reopen by January 2022, he said, but added that it will largely depend on whether Thailand can achieve herd immunity.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha said in June that the country aims to give at least one shot of vaccine to about 50 million people by October to fully reopen to foreign visitors.

However, the vaccination rollout has fallen short of expectations.

The country administered COVID-19 vaccines to 36.64 million people as of Sept 7, but only about 15 percent of the total 70 million population are fully vaccinated against the virus.

"As Thailand is still recording daily caseloads of more than 10,000 and was downgraded to the red list for some target mar-

kets, the number of tourists this year might not exceed 300,000," said Phiphat.

"However, if Thailand can return to the safe list this month, there are promising signs in the last quarter we can hope for 1.2 million travellers."

Yuwanee said she expects more significant tourism recovery towards the second half of next year as the current reopening pilot program is just "a preparation".

The analyst said there will be more tourists to Thailand in the fourth quarter, but the number will not be as high as was expected in July due to rising COVID infections. Booking cancellations amid tightened restrictions in countries like the UK for travellers returning from Thailand will also be a key reason.

Thailand reported 13,821 new COVID-19 cases on Sept 7, the fewest since July 22, according to the country's Center for COVID-19

Situation Administration. The number of new fatalities remained high at 241. Over 6,000 newly confirmed cases and more than half of the new fatalities were reported in Bangkok and neighboring provinces.

Since the pandemic started early last year, Thailand's total COVID-19 case tally has reached 1,308,343 with 13,283 fatalities.

Thira Woratanarat, an associate professor at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Medicine, said in a message posted on his Facebook page that the sandbox programs need to be reviewed in a deeper and more comprehensive way, considering the risk that they may bring imported cases and cause infection transmission.

Phuket's governor Narong Woonwiew said on Sept 1 that the province is facing a crisis as the number of daily new infections reached more than 200. The island province reported 258 new cases on that day, one of them a tourist who entered under the sandbox program, according to Bangkok Post. **Agencies**

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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'FUTURE OF DAR INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL BEYOND 2025 IS YET TO BE KNOWN'

By Property Watch Reporter

THE future of Dar es Salaam Port's container terminal after expiry of a 25 year concession granted to Tanzania International Container Terminal Services when it expires in 2025 remains undecided.

Works and Transport deputy minister, Mwita Waitara said in Dar es Salaam this week that the government will soon decide the fate of the terminal whose leasing to Ticts in the year 2000 was controversially extended in 2005 without following procedures.

"So far nothing has been decided because the process is yet to begin," Waitara said when responding to questions that a Chinese operator has been picked to take over from Ticts whose performance has high and low over the period.

Waitara said that as far as the ministry is concerned, the future will be decided through a transparent and legal way as per state preferences. "The future will involve the floating of an international tender to get a winning bidder through merit or the government may decide that TPA takes over the terminal," he added.

Ticts which is part of Hutchison Port Holdings of Hong Kong has been criticized for not paying adequately to Tanzania Ports Authority because of a poor contract signed by the government in the year 2000 followed by an



An aerial view of Dar es Salaam Port's container terminal.

irregular extension in 2005. The 10-year concessional leasing con-

tract gave Ticts jurisdiction to operate the prime port's container terminal, Kurasini

Inland Container Depot and four berths at an annual fee of US\$3.68 million plus

wharfage of each container.

But when the an addendum was signed in 2005, the period was extended from 10 to 25 years and gave Ticts berth 8 and Ubungo Inland Container Depot in addition.

In April 2008, parliament passed a resolution requiring the government to annul the extended period of 15 years to the contract but nothing was effected.

In a 2014/15 report, Controller and Auditor General said that the nature of the amendment made in 2005 to the term of the lease was improper because it was prohibited by one of the clauses in the original agreement.

The CAG report also mentioned lack of oversight by TPA as a major short coming that has been putting the interests of the government at stake. "We noted that TPA does not have control to monitor total number of containers handled at Ticts."

TPA only relies on information received from Ticts and does not reconcile with the actual number of containers handled by Ticts," the CAG report said.

Because Ticts is supposed to pay TPA wharfage charge for each container that it handles, its inability to control container flow at the port puts government revenues at stake, the CAG report stated.

State to work with agribusiness stakeholders in effort to boost value chain of commodities

By Property Watch Reporter, Dodoma

IN a bid to ensure that the agricultural value chain for commodities including horticulture is strengthened, the government will continue working with agribusiness stakeholders and activists such as Farm Africa to promote local producers and entrepreneurs.

Acting Director of Policy and Planning at Ministry of Agriculture, Timothy Semuguruka said in Dodoma mid this week at a horticulture stakeholders' forum that the value chain includes supply of agro-inputs to smallholder farmers and also market access for commodities.

"We congratulate Farm Africa which has been providing knowledge and experience on production, value addition and marketing of commodities to smallholder farmers which is a key role that the government recognizes and appreciates,"

Semuguruka said.

He said government emphasizes focus on smallholder farmers so that they add value to commodities before supplying consumers in order to get access to markets at premium prices globally.

Semuguruka further noted that Ministry of Agriculture has a specialized department working on marketing of agricultural products hence noting that the country has no food deficit but rather marketing challenges.

"I also urge farmers to continue working with institutions such as Tanzania Revenue Authority, Small Industries Development Organization, Tanzania Bureau of Standards and NMB Bank Plc to get better prices for the commodities but also pay taxes and other fees," he advised.

In remarks during the event, Farm Africa's Program Manager, Beatrice Muliabela said their organization



Participants who attended Farm Africa horticulture stakeholders forum held in Dodoma mid this week.

has been implementing a project to deliver embedded business development services and short-term technical assistance to emerging horticultural enterprises in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Coastal, Dodoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro, Songwe, Njombe and Tanga regions.

"The project has been delivering technical assistance by supporting 30 horticultural processors to help minimize post-harvest losses of fruits," Muliabela said while adding that the three-year project was funded by Norway International Development Agency (NORAD) and covered

2019 to December 2021.

In addition to horticulture, Farm Africa also works in several other value chains including oilseeds (sunflower, sesame), sorghum, maize, beans, grain staples (rice, maize, beans) and forest products (honey, mushrooms and moringa).

One of the beneficiaries of the project who is a horticultural processor from Kisarawe's Upendo Development Group, Lydia Jacob said Farm Africa has enabled them to access more markets and offer

employment to more women and youth.

"Farm Africa has developed our capacity through training and now we properly keep financial records, make business plans and devise strategies to access markets," Jacob said adding that she has also been training peers on the new skills she has acquired.

She encouraged women and youth to join horticulture farming and add value to commodities before supplying markets so that they can compete and earn more.

Jacob's observation was backed by Director of Jofenai Investment Company Limited, Felician Joyce who said processing of horticultural commodities has completely changed her life thanks to windfall profits made.

"As a young woman, I decided to become self-sufficient by involving myself in processing horticultural products which has generated me profits thanks to Farm Africa's capacity building project," she noted.

KPA seeks Sh17.4bn for Lamu port works

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) says it requires Sh17.4 billion to buy equipment and complete the construction of the two berths at the port of Lamu.

Tender documents show that the KPA targets borrowing Sh12.4 billion from local and foreign banks, of which Sh3.2 billion will be used to complete construction works at the port that is not yet fully operational. Some Sh3.1 billion from the loan is to be used to purchase marine equipment and Sh6.1 billion for yards operations, according to the State agency.

It further plans to raise Sh5 billion internally for general equipment security and ICT installations. The launch of the Lamu Port had been delayed thrice over the past two years due to funding challenges and incomplete construction of all three berths.

The first berth was finally launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta in May this year, with equipment such as cranes, trailers, gantries and oil spill response borrowed from Mombasa. As a result, it has only been able to attract ships that have their own gear for ship operations and roll-on/roll-off shipping like motor vehicle carriers as opposed to container shipping.

"Completion of construction of the project is expected on October 21 (subject to adequate funding) and the action plan for operationalisation of the completed project on a bare minimum equipment has an estimated expenditure of Sh17,400 million," KPA managing director John Mwangemi said in the tender documents. Early this year, authorities had indicated they needed Sh16.4 billion, including Sh9.5 billion for equipment, Sh383 million for ICT, Sh2.1 billion for security, and Sh4.5 billion for additional



MV Cap Cernel at the new Lamu Port on 20th May 2021.

dredging.

To make berths 2 and 3 operational, the port structure has to be fully established and new equipment acquired by mid-November this year. The KPA says it needs to fund operations at the new port to generate money for servicing debt and creating room for borrowing to acquire new equipment.

The ports authority says it is targeting lower borrowing rates, grace periods, and long tenors from the contracted bank or development finance institutions to restructure its balance sheet. The tender documents posted on its website with a missing page indicated the KPA needs to pay the Japanese government Sh437.5 million semi annually

until 2047, an estimated total of Sh21.8 billion, in 25 years.

The agency is also expected to pay Sh32 billion between 2025 and 2055 in semiannual tranches used in Mombasa port development projects and take up an additional Sh30 billion for the Dogo Kundu special economic zone from Japan.

Just how will Rwanda meet 5.5m housing units demand?

KIGALI

RWANDA needs 5.5 million housing units up from 2.5 million housing units in 2019 to accommodate an estimated 22 million people in 2050 according to Rwanda Housing Authority.

Vincent Rwigamba, the Director of Housing Planning at Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) said that this requires building at least 150,000 housing units every year to satisfy the demand. The Ministry of Infrastructure says that more real estate firms ought to invest in affordable housing to meet the demand for dwelling units that is projected at 310,000 housing units per year by 2032.

Currently 217,000 units are needed in the country considering the current population. In Kigali city alone, there is a shortage of over 30,000 dwelling units out of 31,279 units needed every year, according to studies.

With the demand, Rwigamba, explained that the government is working on different alternatives to ensure affordable houses get easily available to the growing population in secondary cities, satellite cities and Kigali city. He said that the number of secondary cities has increased according to the land use master plan saying that affordable houses will be needed. Initially six secondary cities included Muhanga, Huye, Rusizi, Rubavu, Nyagatare and Musanze.

"Muhanga has been now considered as a satellite city," he said. The current secondary cities include Nyagatare, Huye, Rubavu, Rusizi, Musanze and Kirehe, Karongi. The satellite cities include Muhanga, Rwamagana and Bugesera. "We are also acquiring land in what we call 'land bank' for affordable housing in secondary cities and affordable houses have been developed in Muhanga and Rubavu secondary cities while investors are being mobilized in other districts," he said.

He said affordable housing development and informal settlements upgrading must go together. "An alternative plan for informal settlement upgrading is to link affordable housing development with informal settlement upgrading," he said.

LEADING BREWER COMMITS TO BACK STATE EFFORTS TO INVEST IN LIFE-CHANGING SOCIAL SERVICES

By Property Watch Reporter

INVESTMENT on life improvement social services will remain Serengeti Breweries Limited's focus in the next decade as the brewer continues to back state efforts to better ordinary people's lives.

SBL Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said in Dar es Salaam last week during the launch of East African Breweries Limited's 2020 Community Support Program report that the brewer has already invested billions of shillings in community projects including water supply, training of extension officers, road safety sensitization and boosting of cereals farmers who grow raw materials.

"We at SBL reaffirm our commitment to joining hands with the government through collaboration with relevant ministries, the business community and the general public by investing in social economic viable projects for the society," Ocitti said.

He said being one of EABL subsidiaries in East Africa, SBL has a key role to play in supporting state efforts to improve water supply, agriculture modernization and safety of both people and property while on the country's roads.

"I can therefore assure the public that SBL will continue implementing its strategic corporate social responsibility programme to ensure well-being of the community that we do business with," he stressed. SBL which alongside Kenyan Breweries Limited and Uganda Breweries Limited are EABL subsidiaries all



Serengeti Breweries Limited's brewing plant in Dar es Salaam.

belong to London based conglomerate, Diageo plc.

The launch of the EABL report was the culmination of last year's launch of Diageo's 10-year action plan dubbed, "Society 2030: Spirit of Progress," which comprises a range of 25 bold and ambitious goals which designed to make a positive impact on the world by 2030.

However, the pursuit to transform the society, according to Ocitti, and in tandem with Diageo's strategic plan, is anchored on three core areas: promoting positive drinking; championing inclusion and diversity; and pioneering grain-to-glass sustainability-which is equally a policy commitment to support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS).

The SBL chief executive further enumerated the brewer's social programs undertaken in the country so far and the results attained. The

'Don't Drink and Drive' campaign has reached over 300,000 people mostly motorists, 'bodaboda' taxi riders and pedestrians who have been sensitized with moderate drink messages. "In championing inclusion and diversity, we have provided sensitization to youth in the communities where we operate to help prepare them for employment through our 'Kilimo-Viwanda' Scholarship programme," Ocitti said.

He explained that the 'Kilimo-Viwanda' programme which has so far benefitted over 70 students, targets children of financially struggling families of smallholder farmers who cannot afford to pay for their children's diploma in agriculture studies.

In championing inclusion and diversity, the brewer has 61 percent of women enrolled in its community programmes in an all-female crew

in Tanzania in its spir- its production line (Cube). "We have also taken a progressive approach, reframing our inclusion and diversity strategy to incorporate people with disabilities," he added.

The SBL boss revealed that as pioneers of the grain to glass sustainability, the brewer, has drilled 18 boreholes valued at 1bn/- in water-stressed rural areas across the country where an estimated over one million people, now enjoy access to safe clean and reliable water supply.

"Besides, we have reduced our value chain emissions by 50 percent while using 100 percent of renewable electricity across our direct operations, becoming net-zero carbon in our direct operations," he stated and thus aligning with one of the UN's SDGs.

The Dar es Salaam based alcoholic drinks

manufacturer has also invested in about 400 smallholders farmers across the country who supply the company with cereals used in the making of beer.

"Our flagship agribusiness venture which has recruited over 400 farmers across the country enables them get farm inputs; get regular training on sustainable farming, early warning, assessment but also links them to financial institutions to access credit," Ocitti added saying the brewer also provides a lucrative market for their commodities.

"In 2020 alone for instance, SBL got 70 percent or an equivalent of 17,000 metric tons of its raw materials such as barley, maize and sorghum from these farmers who are based in eight regions of the country of which four of them are within the SACGOT," he explained while noting that investments have also been made in environmental conservation.

"We have stepped up efforts to protect the environment by planting thousands of trees in Moshi, Dodoma and other areas. We will continue to keep waste from our operations to a minimum and ensure that our supply chains adhere to principles of a circular economy," the SBL Managing Director pledged.

Centum revises tax on its properties to Sh4bn

NAIROBI

CENTUM Investment Company Plc has reviewed taxes payable on its investment properties to Sh4 billion, raising the figure six times from the previous Sh669.9 million. The company says in its latest annual report that it used to assess tax payable on revaluation gains in its real estate portfolio based on the capital gain tax (CGT) rate of five percent.

It has now adopted the corporate income tax rate of 30 percent following a recent decision by the Tax Appeals Tribunal which concluded that entities involved in sale and development of land ought to be taxed at the higher rate as this is their normal business. Adoption of the 30 percent tax in the year ended December saw Centum restate its prior year's retained earnings and deferred income tax.

"For investment properties, where realization is expected to be through sale or development and sale of the property, management has established that deferred tax should be determined at the statutory income tax rate of 30 percent as the entity is deemed to be trading in land/properties rather than holding them for capital appreciation," the company says in the report.

"A recent ruling at the Tax Appeals Tribunal in a matter involving a property developer with similar business model to Vipingo Development/Vipingo Estates also concluded that the applicable tax rate for entities involved in sales and development



Centum's Two Rivers shopping complex in Nairobi.

of land is the income tax rate of 30 percent, and not the CGT rate of 5 percent."

Centum had booked cumulative revaluation gains of Sh13.3 billion in its investment properties between 2019 and 2020 and which showed a deferred tax assessed at Sh669.9 million based on the previous CGT rate of five percent. Those gains have now generated a deferred tax of Sh4 billion based on the 30 percent corporate income tax, raising the obligation by Sh3.3 billion.

"The deferred tax has no cash flow implication, but it reduces the book value of shareholder funds and transfers the capital to a deferred tax account which is in effect an early recognition of tax," Centum's chief finance officer Wambua Kimeu writes in the report.

"At the point of conclusion of a sale of any portion of the land, this account will be reduced by the actual tax payments." The company recently consolidated most of its real estate ventures into its fully-owned subsidiary Centum Real Estate Limited. Centum, however, continues to hold Two Rivers Development Limited directly.



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NGOs seek to halt proposed mining activities in Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park

LUSAKA

A coalition of NGOs and stakeholders is calling on newly-elected Zambian President, Hakainde Hichilema, to urgently halt an open-pit copper mine that was recently given the go-ahead in the Lower Zambezi National Park in southern Zambia.

The NGOs say that if the mine goes ahead, it will not only risk contaminating water for communities in both Zambia and the neighbouring Zimbabwe, but for the entire Zambezi delta. "We believe mining activities should be restricted to happening in mining areas of the country and should not be allowed in tourism and wildlife conservation areas that have their own ecological and economic value to the country," the NGOs say.

The coalition says it trusts the views of President Hichilema on not mining Lower Zambezi National Park remain unchanged and "looks forward to engaging in overturning the decisions that have been made in this regard."

The Zambian president had previously indicated on social media (here) that he was opposed to mining activities in the



An elephant relaxes in Zambezi National Park.

Lower Zambezi National Park area. The Zambian Environmental Management Agency (Zema) had recently approved an Environmental Impact Study, paving the way for the Kangaluwi mine to go ahead.

The NGOs say that the river pollution that could be caused by the mine could threaten the Zambezi River's 2,000-ton subsistence fishery, which provides food and protein security to 20,000 people along its banks.

"The Lower Zambezi National Park is an integral part of the wider Zambezi basin, which is the most significant shared resource that contributes to the economic, environmental and social development of southern Africa. Sustainable management of this resource is crucial in securing the futures of over 250 million people in the broader region that depend on it," the NGO coalition said.

The NGOs add that "eco-tourism in the area depends largely on the renewable wildlife and habitat resources and contributes significantly to the local and national economies around the Lower Zambezi National Park."

The coalition, made up of NGOs such as World Wide Fund for Nature, Zambezi Valley Conservation Network, Game Rangers International and The Africa Hope Fund, is also calling on all Zambians to sign a petition to halt the proposed mine national park.

TECHNOLOGY

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

BLACKSTONE BUYS NORTH DELHI WAREHOUSE FROM TARC FOR \$40M

NEW DELHI

US fund manager Blackstone has added to its formidable industrial holdings in India with the acquisition of a North Delhi warehouse asset for INR 295 crore (\$40.1 million).

Already the country's biggest warehouse owner, the private equity giant purchased its latest asset from New Delhi-based developer TARC Ltd via a managed fund, BREP Asia II, as industrial properties around the region continue to attract foreign capital after record investment activity in the second quarter of the year.

The Economic Times of India reported in August that Blackstone's recently-acquired Embassy Industrial Parks unit would develop a 1 million square foot (92,903 square metre) warehousing facility at the 36 acre (14.6 hectare) North Delhi site, which sits 60 kilometres (37.3 miles) from Delhi Airport.

TARC, one of the largest landowners in the National Capital Region, plans to use part of the proceeds from the sale to fast-track higher-yielding residential projects, the company said in a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange.

More deals to come

Known as Anant Raj Global Ltd until a rebranding in April, TARC has built projects across the New Delhi NCR in the residential, hospitality, commercial and retail segments.

Chief executive Amar Sarin said TARC's mantra of creating a high-quality asset base, while leading with integrity and transparency, had been rewarded with the confidence and trust placed in the company by Blackstone. TARC is negotiating additional similar opportunities with Blackstone and other global funds, the company said.

Blackstone in May announced the completion of its long-anticipated



Blackstone bought out Embassy Industrial Parks in May this year.

acquisition of Embassy Industrial Parks from private equity major Warburg Pincus and Indian developer Embassy Group, gaining a portfolio with 10.6 million square feet of logistics and warehouse assets near major cities in India.

No purchase price was disclosed for the Embassy portfolio, but local media accounts early in the year said Blackstone was offering \$700 million. According to Real Capital Analytics' Asia Pacific Capital Trends report released last month, the Embassy transaction amounted to \$704.7 million for six assets.

With the Embassy assets in hand and the North Delhi project in the works, Blackstone may be on its way to reprising a strategy it has employed

in Europe and Australia: assembling a logistics mega-portfolio with an eye towards a later exit.

Blackstone first entered India's warehouse market in December 2019 through a \$350 million joint venture with Mumbai-based real estate developer Hiranandani Group. Blackstone took a 50 percent stake in that joint venture, according to local press accounts at the time. The company also bought a \$53.6 million slice of Mumbai-listed Allcargo Logistics in January of last year.

In 2017, Blackstone scored Europe's single largest real estate deal ever when it sold the Logisor platform to China Investment Corporation for \$13.8 billion. That deal, which involved 630 distribution centres in

17 European countries, came after Blackstone had completed more than 50 transactions to acquire and tune the Logisor platform.

In April, Blackstone agreed to sell its Milestone Logistics portfolio in Australia to ESR Milestone Partnership, a collaborative venture of Hong Kong-listed ESR and Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC, for \$2.9 billion after a protracted bidding contest with four other contenders.

Pan-African energy leasing company, Solarise Africa lands 5m euro debt funding from Trine

STOCKHOLM

SOLARISE Africa, a pan-African energy leasing company, has secured a €5 million debt funding from Swedish-based impact investment platform Trine. The investment will be used to advance investments in food security, renewable energy, urban development, manufacturing, and production in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, and Rwanda.

Demand for on-site renewable energy assets is growing rapidly as businesses are faced with rising energy costs and a desire to improve the sustainability of their operations. Building on-site micro-grid assets require significant capital outlay and building owners and operators have few other options today to take control of their energy.

The first debt financing round provided by Trine will unlock the potential to meet the demand for renewable energy and will finance five solar projects in the regions of South Africa and Kenya. "We are very excited about this new partnership as we move into the commercial and industrial market."

This presents a new offering for our investors as Solarise Africa works with a selected group of renewable energy solution companies and collaborates very closely

with their partners to provide a range of tailor-made financial solutions for their customers. Their innovative financing solutions are very impressive and we are glad to have them onboard and look forward to following their continued success," said Sam Manaberi, CEO and co-founder of Trine.

"Our first debt raise marks a milestone for the business", said Jan Albert Valk, CEO and Co-Founder at Solarise Africa. "We are deeply honoured by Trine's and its investors' confidence. These funds will be used to deploy projects and expand market share in current operational countries. At the moment, Solarise Africa has operations in Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda, and Ghana where several projects have been deployed, and our pipeline continues to expand quickly. We are excited to make our Energy-as-a-Service offering available to more partners so that we can actively drive Africa's progress together."

The partnership combines the expertise and capabilities of leaders in renewable energy and sustainability: Trine, an impact investment platform providing capital to accelerate investments in solar energy; Solarise Africa, a leading pan-African Energy-as-a-Service company.



Aluminium witnesses fresh 13-year high on supply woes

LONDON

ALUMINIUM extended its stunning yearlong rally to the highest since 2008 as supply concerns in China and Guinea tightened the market.

A coup in the African country, which supplies almost a quarter of the world's bauxite, has fuelled concerns about potential supply disruptions to the material key to aluminium production. That's even as Guinea's new leaders urged mining companies to keep operating and reassured them that their existing agreements with the state will be honoured.

The worries over bauxite come amid aluminum supply constraints in China driven by campaigns to conserve power and crack down on pollution from the energy-intensive industry. Those environmental goals could be reassessed, however, after a surge in Chinese producer price inflation to a 13-year high highlighted the need to intensify efforts to curb raw material prices.

With supply chains restricted "and the real risks that they might break, any additional risk to supply is really spooking the market," Fiona Boal, head of commodities at S&P Dow Jones Indices, said in an interview with Bloomberg TV. "It's largely a supply story for now." Aluminium rose as much as 1.6% to \$2,837.50 a metric ton on the London Metal Exchange, the highest since 2008, before trading at \$2,829 as of 12:48 p.m. Shanghai time. In Shanghai, the metal climbed 2.1% to the highest since 2006.

Aluminium has almost doubled since its trough last year as businesses worldwide reopened from pandemic shutdowns and consumer demand and economic activity rebounded. Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Citigroup Inc. and Trafigura Group are among those forecasting further gains ahead, as the industry braces for a potentially seismic shift into deepening deficits.

Fitch says China's Evergrande likely to default on debt

BEIJING

CHINA Evergrande Group suffered fresh credit downgrades this week from a pair of key credit agencies, and the world's most indebted developer also caught flack from a paint supplier for failure to repay more than RMB 100 million (\$16 million) in debt.

Moody's Investors Service announced Tuesday that it was cutting the corporate family ratings of Evergrande and its principal domestic unit, Hengda Real Estate Group Co Ltd, by three notches to Caa1 from Caa2, with a negative outlook.

The agency also lowered Evergrande's senior unsecured ratings to a lowest-possible C from Caa2, due to the fact that most claims are at operating subsidiaries and have priority over claims at the holding company in a bankruptcy scenario, Moody's said in a rating action report.

"The downgrades reflect Evergrande's heightened liquidity and default risks given its sizable amount of maturing debt over the next 6-12 months," said Cedric Lai, a Moody's vice president and senior analyst. "The downgrades also reflect the weak recovery prospects of Evergrande's creditors, if there is a default."

Fitch foresees default

Moody's also marked down to C from Caa2 the corporate family rating of Tianji Holding Ltd, which serves as Hengda's overseas financing platform, and likewise cut the backed senior unsecured ratings for another offshore financing vehicle, Scenery Journey Ltd, to C from Caa2. Moody's second set of downgrades for the Shenzhen-based group led by billionaire Xu Jiayin in little over a month came as Fitch Ratings issued its own demotions on Tuesday.

Fitch cut the long-term foreign-currency issuer default ratings for



Evergrande's Wanchai headquarters.

Evergrande, Hengda Real Estate and Tianji to CC from CCC+, as well as the senior unsecured ratings of Evergrande and Tianji to C from CCC and the Tianji-guaranteed senior unsecured notes issued by Scenery Journey to C from CCC.

"The downgrade reflects our view that a default of some kind appears probable," Fitch said in a report.

"We believe credit risk is high given tight liquidity, declining contracted sales, pressure to address delayed payments to suppliers and contractors, and limited progress on asset disposals." Evergrande's

bonds plunged earlier this week after a downgrade by a mainland rating agency led to restrictions on the securities' use as collateral.

Also on Tuesday, Shanghai-listed Skshu Paint Co Ltd said Evergrande had failed to fully repay RMB 336 million in short-term debt owed to the Shanghai-listed maker of 3Trees brand coatings.

Evergrande has paid back RMB 235 million to the paint supplier – albeit with RMB 220 million of that in real estate and a mere RMB 15 million in cash – leaving the developer about RMB 101 million in arrears, Skshu Paint said in a filing

with the Shanghai Exchange.

Reuters reported Wednesday that Evergrande plans to suspend interest payments due on loans to two banks on 21 September. The news agency cited sources who spoke with financial intelligence provider REDD.

Also Wednesday, Bloomberg said Evergrande's heavy discounts on its current projects failed to boost property sales in August after the group signed contracts worth RMB 38.1 billion during the month, with the average selling price plunging 11.5 percent from a month earlier to its lowest point since July 2016.

WORLD

Taliban: Continued US sanctions on cabinet affect Doha pact

By Bloomberg

US sanctions against senior members of the Taliban's new cabinet violate last year's peace deal with America and should be rescinded immediately, the group said in a statement.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the Haqqani Network, who is on the FBI's most wanted list for terrorism, has been named Afghanistan's new acting interior minister. Two-thirds of the newly unveiled cabinet are on UN or US sanctions lists. That's likely to complicate any moves by the US to cooperate with the Taliban, particularly as US President Joe Biden has urged the militants to cut all ties with terrorist groups.

Haqqani and his family were "part of the Islamic Emirate," the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed said in a statement Thursday. "Similarly, in Doha Agreement all officials of the Islamic Emirate without any exception were part of interaction with the US and should have been removed from the UN and US blacklists, a demand which still remains valid."

"We urge that these incorrect policies be immediately reversed through diplomatic interactions," Mujahed added.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said the Biden administration is watching the new government and "any legitimacy, any support will have to be earned."

The Taliban's acting Prime Minister Mullah



Members of the Taliban Badri 313 military unit stand beside damaged and discarded vehicles parked near the destroyed Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) base in Deh Sabz district northeast of Kabul on Sept 6, 2021 after the US pulled all its troops out of the country. AFP

lah Mohammad Hassan is also sanctioned by the UN as both his deputies, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi.

Baradar has long been the public face of the Taliban. He oversaw and signed the peace deal with the Trump administration in

Doha, Qatar in February last year that paved the way for the exit of American and NATO troops from Afghanistan.

According to the terms of that deal, the US should have removed any sanctions on the Taliban by August 27, 2020.

Agencies

Exiled Ghani apologises to Afghan people

FORMER Afghan president Ashraf Ghani, who fled Kabul as Taliban forces reached the outskirts of the city last month, apologized on Wednesday for the abrupt fall of his government but denied that he had taken millions of dollars with him.

In a statement posted on Twitter, Ghani said he had left at the urging of his security team who said that if he stayed there was a risk of "the same horrific street-to-street fighting the city had suffered during the Civil War of the 1990s."

"Leaving Kabul was the most difficult decision of my life, but I believed it was the only way to keep the guns silent and save Kabul and her 6 million citizens," he said.

The statement largely echoed a message Ghani sent from the United Arab Emirates in the immediate aftermath of his departure, which drew bitter criticism from former allies who accused him of betrayal.

Ghani, a former World Bank official who became president after two bitterly disputed elections marred by widespread allegations of fraud on



Former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani

both sides, dismissed reports that he had left with millions of dollars in cash as "completely and categorically false."

"Corruption is a plague that has crippled our country for decades and fighting corruption has been a central focus

of my efforts as president," he said, adding that he and his Lebanese-born wife were "scrupulous in our personal finances."

He offered appreciation for the sacrifices Afghans had made over the past 40 years of war in their country.

"It is with deep and profound regret that my own chapter ended in similar tragedy to my predecessors - without ensuring stability and prosperity. I apologize to the Afghan people that I could not make it end differently."

Agencies

BRICS can play bigger role in anchoring tumultuous world

BEIJING

SINCE its inception in 2009, the emerging-market mechanism of BRICS has grown from strength to strength as its members can always come together to tackle shared challenges and achieve common goals.

Yesterday, leaders of the five BRICS countries -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- were scheduled to meet at a virtual summit for the second year. As they gather, they are facing a still rampant pandemic, an increasingly uneven global economic recovery as well as a torrent of rising non-conventional global security challenges.

BRICS represents more than 26 percent of the world's landmass, 42 percent of the global population and over 20 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP), which puts it in a good position to play a vital role in dealing with this changing world. The time is now for the BRICS countries to reinforce their cohesion within the mechanism, and build up new consensus for more dynamic cooperation.

The top priority is to contain the pandemic as early as possible. To do that, the BRICS

countries should not only strengthen their coordination in cross-border prevention and control measures, but also pool more resources and talent for vaccine cooperation, the most potent weapon to vanquish this deadly pathogen.

China launched the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development (R&D) Center-China Center this May, a move to implement what Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at last year's summit. It is necessary to accelerate the construction of the vaccine R&D center, carry out production cooperation and help bridge the global vaccine divide.

As some U.S. politicians are peddling the so-called "Wuhan lab leak" theory in order to politicize the origin-tracing of the virus, the BRICS countries should jointly reject such ill-founded conspiracy theories and support a scientific and fact-based approach to solving the mystery of the disease.

The BRICS countries should also work together to further stimulate global economic rehabilitation. At the moment, the pandemic is accelerating the widening of the North-South development gap. Thus,



the BRICS members should step up macroeconomic policy coordination, and collectively stabilize the global industrial and supply chains.

An open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment will not only benefit the BRICS members, but also the whole world. Thus the five leading emerging economies need to enhance global trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and oppose all forms of trade protectionism.

They also need to defend the world's present multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, which involves endorsing necessary reforms to the organization, and pushing for an earlier settlement of the WTO's Appellate Body crisis.

With common goals for high-quality and more sustainable development, the BRICS countries should fully implement the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, and strengthen practical cooperation and exchanges on e-commerce, services trade, intellectual property rights protection, green development and other fledgling fields.

Last but not least, the BRICS members should also stand together to uphold true multilateralism on the world stage. Multilateralism is an important cornerstone of the existing international system. Yet this cornerstone is being eroded as some Western countries are seeking to form exclusive clubs out of self-interest in the name of multilateralism. Those are hegemonic moves

and unilateral actions in disguise, and should be opposed.

The BRICS group includes five countries with diverse political systems and cultures, of different sizes and on four different continents. With major projects like the New Development Bank and BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution innovation center, the framework itself is a successful example of multilateralism and proves that win-win cooperation based on mutual respect can transcend ideological differences and bear fruits.

Throughout the years, the framework has also inspired emerging countries on how differences can be shelved for common development and how to advance South-South cooperation.

Xi once compared the BRICS economies to the five fingers of a hand, saying they are "short and long if extended, but a powerful fist if clenched together."

Looking into the future, as long as the BRICS members can stick together through thick and thin, they can not only achieve greater development for themselves, but always help make this world a better place. **Xinhua**

Emergency alarm sounded on ISS, all systems operating normally now – Roscosmos

MOSCOW

AN emergency alarm in the Zvezda module of the ISS's Russian segment woke up the Russian cosmonauts, the press service of Russia's space corporation Roscosmos told TASS yesterday.

"An emergency alarm sounded in the service module (Zvezda) of the International Space Station's Russian segment at 04:55 Moscow time," the space corporation said.

According to Roscosmos, the air purification system was switched on to eliminate the cause.

"After the air purification, the crew members continued their rest," the space corporation said.

Currently, all systems of the Russian segment are operating normally, it stressed. "The crew continues to prepare for today's spacewalk," the press service added.

The press service added that Russian cosmonauts continued regular training for spacewalks, nothing threatened their lives and health.

"According to the data of the main operational control group of the Russian segment at the station, all systems are operating normally, the composition of the air on board the station is in line with the standard indicators," the press service said.

Roscosmos specified that "the crew continued regular preparation for today's spacewalk." **Agencies**

Canada PM accuses main rival of favouring abortion curbs, gun lobby

OTTAWA



CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, facing a possible election defeat, on Wednesday lashed out at his main rival, accusing him of favoring restrictions on abortion and wanting to loosen gun controls.

Opinion polls show the right-leaning Conservatives of Erin O'Toole could win the Sept 20 vote, ending six years of rule by the left-of-center Liberals.

At the end of an otherwise unremarkable two-hour leaders' debate in French, Trudeau (pictured) said O'Toole had sided with the gun lobby and wanted to overturn a Liberal ban on assault weapons.

He also said dozens of Conservative Parliamentarians had voted in favor of draft legislation to curb abortions that was defeated in the House of Commons in June.

"Mr O'Toole refused to tell Canadians what he wants to do. He signs deals with special interest groups," Trudeau said. "He is offering weak leadership ... he can't be trusted."

O'Toole, who has consistently attacked Trudeau's decision to call a snap election during the COVID-19 pandemic, retorted that the Liberal leader would "say anything to win" and said he was in favor of abortion rights.

Last Sunday O'Toole scrapped a campaign promise to eliminate a ban on some assault weapons after Trudeau accused him of cozying up to the gun lobby.

Trudeau called the election two years ahead of schedule as a referendum on his handling of the pandemic but has struggled to overcome voter fatigue.

Wednesday's two-hour debate was the second and final one to be held in French, which is predominantly spoken in Quebec. The province accounts for 78 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons and is crucial for any party seeking office.

The leaders will hold another debate on Thursday in English, the language spoken by two-thirds of Canada's 38 million population.

DPRK holds paramilitary parade to celebrate 73rd founding anniversary

PYONGYANG

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) held a parade of paramilitary and public security forces to celebrate the country's 73rd founding anniversary at Kim Il Sung Square in central Pyongyang at midnight yesterday, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, attended the parade with cadres of the party, government and military.

Entering the square first was the column of the Pyongyang City Division of party members, and following them were the columns of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards of the city and other provinces, according to the KCNA.

The Worker-Peasant Red Guards are a civilian defense organization which is composed of around 5.7 million workers and farmers in the country. There were other columns of different departments, sectors and enterprises marching through the square. At the end of the event, fireworks shot off and an evening gala began at the square, the report added. **Xinhua**

Trade in services speeds up digitalisation of world economy

THE 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) just concluded in Beijing on September 7. Multiple forums were held at the event during which Chinese and foreign officials, entrepreneurs, scholars and international organization representatives exchanged views on the high-quality development, open cooperation and new digital ecology of service trade.

Impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, global foreign direct investment (FDI) plunged by 42 percent, and service trade has also been hit hard. However, the accelerating digitalization of the service trade sector is

bringing new opportunities to the sector's restructuring and the development of new service trade.

The average growth of global trade in services in the recent decade is twice that of the trade in goods. The service trade sector is playing an increasingly prominent role in promoting global growth and organizing the global value chain.

China, continuously expanding its service trade, has ranked as the world's second largest trader of services for seven years, which caught high attention from the guests attending

the 2021 CIFTIS.

China is constantly promoting the integrated development of service trade, said Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and Pacific, adding that as the world's second largest importer and the fourth largest exporter of services, the country is continuously developing its service trade and making it diverse. Kwakwa believes that service trade will help countries recover from the pandemic faster and better, and accelerate the digitalization of the world economy.

President Marcos Troyjo of the BRICS New Development Bank said the trade in services is even more important given the rising trade protectionism. Service trade is occupying an increasingly larger share in global trade, and benefits a series of sectors such as manufacturing, he noted.

Troyjo gave a high evaluation on China's sci-tech development, new approaches to industrialization, and efforts on intellectual property protection, which he believes are very important for restructuring the global value chain.

Steven Barnett, Senior Resident Representative for China at the IMF, said service trade doubled its share in the global economy over the past 20 years, while trade plays a very important role in the global economy. China's continuous opening-up is conducive to the liberalization of service trade and will inject new energy into global recovery, he added.

As a new form of global trade and a new engine of trade in the future, digital economy was one of the buzzwords at this year's CIFTIS. It is reported that the global exports in digital

trade bucked the trend and expanded by 3.8 percent last year, further increasing its share in service trade to 62.8 percent and contributing 98.3 percent to the growth of service export.

During the Forum on Trends and Latest Developments of Digital Trade of the CIFTIS, participants offered ideas and recommendations on how China and the world should advance digital economy and trade, from legal construction to infrastructure reinforcement, and from sustainable development to digital transformation of enterprises. **People's Daily**

Mohan Munasinghe, the vice chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said good management of digital technologies and trade in the post-pandemic era will guarantee sustainable development. He believes China's experience in sustainable development is worth learning from, saying the country has embarked on a path of inclusive and green development and established new models of sustainable development through finding a balance among economic development, social development and ecological protection.

'America First' is pulling world back to age of 'law of the jungle'

BEIJING

CHRIS Donahue, the last U.S. soldier to depart from Afghanistan, boarded a C-17 cargo plane at the international airport in Kabul on Aug. 30, marking an end to America's two decades of war in the battered country.

The chaotic scenes of the hasty U.S. military withdrawal are eye-popping: crowds of Afghans were chasing a U.S. plane as it taxied along the runway at the airport; some of those who clung to the plane fell to their deaths after take-off; the U.S. soldiers opened fire on civilians following a deadly terrorist attack targeting the airport.

The appalling picture best demonstrates the inhumanity of the "America First" doctrine, the thinly-disguised "law of the jungle," under which Americans' lives matter but the others' do not.

'AMERICA FIRST'

The U.S. administration of President Joe Biden has stoutly defended its withdrawal decision, insisting that the exit from Afghanistan is in the interests of the United States.

"This focus on narrow national interest is what (former U.S. President Donald) Trump called 'America First.' Biden would never use

that term," but they share the same lodestar, said a recent article published by The Atlantic.

Actually, putting "America First" is entrenched in the United States' political genes. Former U.S. President Richard Nixon once said "our interests must shape our commitments, rather than the other way around," showing America's own interests are the only thing that the U.S. government cares about.

From isolationism that advocated non-involvement in European affairs to the Monroe Doctrine that competed for dominance in the Americas, from Wilsonianism and "internationalism" that devised and pursued U.S. global hegemony to Trump and Biden's hegemonic practices, the U.S. foreign policies have seemingly varied over the years, but with the underlying aim unchanged: to put "America First."

The COVID-19 pandemic has further unmasked "America First" as a self-serving slogan. Since the onset of the outbreak, the United States has astonished the world by intercepting other countries' response supplies, forbidding exports of medical materials and hoarding vaccines.

LAW OF THE JUNGLE

After WWII, the United States,



with superior national strength, designed a set of so-called "international rules" and on that foundation, built various global agencies and mechanisms, most of which have been under the control of Washington and its allies, leaving weak countries scarce chances to decide their own fates.

As suggested in The False Promise of Liberal Order, a book authored by Patrick Porter, professor of international security and strategy at the University of Birmingham, the world shaped by America came about as a result of coercion and compromise, sometimes brutality.

However, the international land-

scape has been drastically changing in recent years as emerging economies keep burgeoning. Facing a relatively declining power and a sharply rising strategic anxiety, Washington has adopted a utilitarian attitude towards the "international rules" it once underpinned, supporting the ones that enhance U.S. interests but discarding those unfavorable.

Many powerless countries have succumbed to the world's sole superpower's wanton behaviors, which range from quitting international treaties and bodies to prioritizing domestic legislation over international law as well as

imposing unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction.

"America First" is pulling the world back to the age of "law of the jungle."

ANXIETY AMONG ALLIES

Today, more countries are suffering from the United States's reckless movements to put "America First," and its allies are no exception. Claiming that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline linking Russia and Germany is threatening the energy security of Europe, Washington has repeatedly opposed the project and imposed unilateral sanctions.

No wonder Joseph W. Sullivan, a senior advisor at the Lindsey Group, said in an analysis published in Foreign Policy that the Biden administration "continues to pursue U.S. interests in a way that hurts the rest of the world."

Moreover, the United States indulges in forming ideological cliques and fomenting antagonism. In August, the White House announced that in December Biden will convene leaders from "the world's democracies" at a virtual Summit for Democracy, to be followed "in roughly a year's time by a second, in-person summit."

Xinhua

Guinea suspended from West African regional bloc after coup

By Bloomberg

WEST African leaders suspended Guinea from the regional economic bloc and urged the junta to immediately restore constitutional order following the coup that deposed President Alpha Conde.

The Economic Community of West African States said Guinea was banned from all its deciding bodies until further notice. A high-level Ecowas delegation will visit Guinea on Thursday to meet with the military junta, Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Alpha Barry told reporters in the capital, Ouagadougou, following a virtual summit of West African heads of state.

"The leaders are very worried about the socio-political situation in Guinea following the Sept 5 coup and the arrest of President Alpha Conde," Barry said. "They call for the immediate release of Conde and for the junta to restore constitutional order," he said.

In the final communique of the bloc's summit, the coup was condemned "in the strongest terms," and the leaders repeated their call for the immediate return to constitutional order without specifying that it wants Conde back as leader.

Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, the head of Guinea's special forces unit, deposed Conde in a putsch less than a year after he secured a third term in office. The coup plotters were quick to say they would honor agreements with miners, including United Co. Rusal and Rio Tinto Plc, who operate in Guinea, the world's biggest exporter of bauxite and home to the largest untapped deposit of iron ore.

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin signed a decree posthumously conferring the Hero of Russia title on late Emergencies Minister Yevgeny Zinichev, who died on Wednesday, the Kremlin press service said yesterday.

Putin bestows late emergencies minister with Hero of Russia title

"Russian President Vladimir Putin, in his decree, awarded General of the Army Zinichev (pictured) the Hero of the Russia title posthumously for heroism, courage and bravery displayed when he performed his official duty," the statement reads.



Earlier on Wednesday, the Emergencies Ministry said that Minister Yevgeny Zinichev, 55, died in the line of duty during drills in the northern city of Norilsk while saving a man's life.

Zinichev had worked in state se-

curity bodies since 1987. In late July 2016, he was appointed acting governor of the Kaliningrad region.

From October 2016 to May 2018, he served as deputy director of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB). Zinichev served as Russia's Emergencies Minister since May 2018.

Agencies

China's Juncao technology cooperation mirrors the country's commitment to common progress

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Forum on the 20th Anniversary of Juncao Assistance and Sustainable Development Cooperation, hailing the gigantic role played by the unique Chinese technology of Juncao in international development and cooperation.

Xi emphasized that China is willing to work with relevant parties to continue to contribute China's wisdom and China's solutions to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make Juncao technology a "grass of happiness" that benefits people in developing countries.

Over the past 20 years since the Juncao technology was firstly introduced to other countries, it has made important contributions to promoting local economic development and livelihood. It demonstrates China's sincerity and actions to advance global poverty reduction cooperation, promote common progress and contribute to global sustainable development.

The Juncao technology generates economic, social and environmental benefits, and the Chinese government has long used it to serve human development.

When Xi was working in Fujian province, he personally promoted the building of the first overseas demonstration base for Juncao technology in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 2001, raising the curtain for China's international cooperation on the technology.

He also witnessed the sign-



Chief scientist Lin Zhanxi (first on the left) of China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, celebrates a harvest of upland rice with local farmers in Papua New Guinea. File photo

ing of a series of aid programs between China and PNG related to new Juncao technology and dry land rice planting when paying a state visit to the Pacific island country in 2018. So far, the technology has been introduced to over 100 countries and is generally welcomed by developing countries.

President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, said the technology has made an important contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals set in the 2030 Agenda, from poverty eradication to clean energy, gender equality to preserving biodiversity.

Juncao, an herbal plant for growing edible mushrooms, is connecting people around the world. Over the past 20 years, China has vigorously promoted Juncao technology cooperation with developing countries, which vividly mirrors its commitment to global poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The successful promotion

of the technology once again proves that Chinese development cooperation programs, with a focus on development and livelihood improvement, aims to enhance the welfare of the people. Considering developing countries' respective resources, as well as development level and demands, these programs bring technologies and advocate independent development. To ensure lasting impact, China guarantees that every project achieves good results and is effective, and helps countries localize project management.

Speaking of the assistance brought by Juncao technology cooperation to local development, President of the Central African Republic Faustin-Archange Touadera said President Xi attaches high importance on Chinese and global poverty reduction. He noted the people have always been the beneficiaries of pragmatic cooperation in each field, and practices tell the importance of international cooperation.

Development is meaningful only when it is inclusive and

sustainable. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, President Xi has proposed the vision of a global community of shared future and the Belt and Road Initiative. China is committed to pursuing the greater good and shared interests, and upholding the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity, and good faith for developing relations with other developing countries and the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness for expanding relations with neighboring countries.

To this end, President Xi has taken advantage of many major international occasions to announce a broad range of cooperation measures. These present China's approach, offer its vision, and contribute its strength to resolving global development issues and implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Right now, the world is caught between a pandemic of the century and momentous changes never seen in the last one hundred years. The journey to sustainable development would be a long and arduous one.

At the critical moment, China's sense of responsibility is even more important. Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has carried out its largest emergency humanitarian action since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and fulfilled its promise of making COVID-19 vaccines a global public good. It has made important contributions to building a global immunity barrier.

People's Daily

African leaders renew commitment to food security agenda

NAIROBI

HEADS of State and Government drawn from the Sub-Saharan African region have reaffirmed their commitment to the food security agenda as part of post-pandemic recovery.

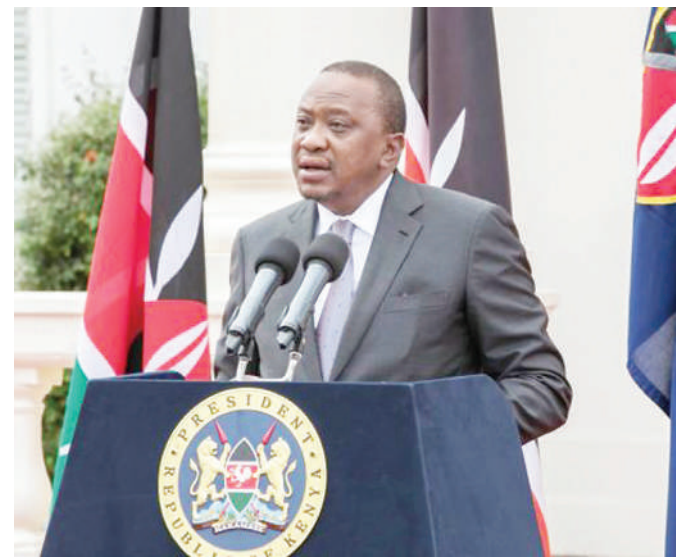
Speaking at the ongoing African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2021 Summit being held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, the leaders said transforming farming systems to boost food, nutrition security and rural incomes was an imperative as the continent embarks on recovery from COVID-19 shocks.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said that bold policy choices combined with investments in appropriate technologies were key to boost agricultural productivity in Africa.

"We must identify immediate steps to accelerate agricultural transformation, achieve food and nutrition security for our citizens even as we embark on rebuilding our economies after disruptions triggered by the pandemic," said Kenyatta.

Kenya is hosting the 2021 African Green Revolution Forum on Sept. 7-10 under the theme of "Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems".

The four-day summit that is taking place in a hybrid format has brought together political leaders, policy makers, donors, investors and innovators to discuss novel ways to transform Africa's



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta

food production system amid challenges posed by the pandemic, climate change, diseases and pests.

Kenyatta said the continental forum that is a precursor to the UN Food Systems Summit slated for Sept. 23 in New York will chart a new beginning in efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty in the continent.

He said that delivering resilient food and agricultural systems is central to the realization of sustainable development, peace, stability and shared prosperity in Africa.

The President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame said that political goodwill is key to transform Africa's agriculture amid myriad challenges linked to climate change, pressure on arable land, distorted value chains and low technology uptake.

According to Kagame, Africa should leverage robust financing, policy realignment, enhanced market link-

ages and farmers' training in order to boost agricultural productivity.

Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi said that investments in modern transport and storage infrastructure, research on improved seeds, enhanced surveillance to contain pests and diseases could be the answer to endemic challenges facing African small-holder farmers.

Chakwera said the continent should adopt innovations that promote climate-smart farming in order to boost the productivity of agriculture and livestock sectors, and reduce the annual food import bill.

On his part, the President of Namibia, Hage Geingob said that harnessing nature-based interventions was key to strengthening the resilience of Africa's food systems in the light of climatic stresses, pandemic and rapid population growth.

Xinhua

THE UK government announced a consultation on mandatory vaccination for frontline health and care staff in England.

The six-week consultation starts Thursday, according to a statement.

Some 92 percent of National Health Service staff have had their first dose and 88 percent have had both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Overall, nearly 89 percent of people aged 16 and over in Britain have gotten their first vaccine dose and more than 80 percent have received both doses, according to the latest official data.

In another development, the rules for obtaining licences to drive lorries in Britain are to be eased as the

UK seeks to combat a labor shortage that is roiling supply chains.

The testing system will be simplified to speed up drivers getting their qualifications, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said Thursday. Officials have already relaxed a limit on the hours that drivers are allowed to drive and boosted capacity at testing centres.

The UK recorded a further 191 daily deaths from COVID-19 and 38,975 new cases

on Wednesday, taking the totals to 133,674 deaths and 7,094,592 confirmed cases.

Infection numbers in the last seven days are up 15.3 percent on the week before, and the weekly death count is up 26.1 percent.

The latest data came as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales in the week ending Aug 27.

On death registrations where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, there were 769 deaths involving coronavirus in the week ending Aug 27, an increase from 654 deaths in the week before.

Vaccinations for pregnant, breastfeeding women

Countries in the Americas should prioritize pregnant and lactating women in distribution of COVID-19 shots,

the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said on Wednesday, hailing the ability of the vaccines to protect women and their babies.

"PAHO recommends that all pregnant women after their first trimester, as well as those who are breastfeeding, receive the COVID-19 vaccine," Dr. Carissa Etienne, director of PAHO, the WHO's regional arm, said during the organization's weekly virtual briefing.

More than 270,000 preg-

nant women have had COVID-19 in the Americas and about 1 percent have died, she said, adding that in Mexico and Colombia the illness is the leading cause of maternal deaths this year.

"In Mexico, where pregnant women have been prioritized for vaccinations for some time, not a single vaccinated woman has died from COVID during pregnancy," Etienne said.

Countries also must ensure pregnant women are

able to access pre-natal care, Etienne said. At least 40 percent of regional countries reported disruptions to maternal and newborn care during the pandemic.

Just 28 percent of people in Latin America and the Caribbean have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 so far, Etienne said, adding that vaccination figures vary widely, with one-fourth of regional countries yet to vaccinate even 20 percent of its people.

Guatemala and Nicaragua are currently below 10 percent vaccine coverage, while Venezuela is at just over 11 percent. Less than 1 percent of Haiti's population has been inoculated against COVID-19.

UK studies mandatory COVID-19 jabs for frontline staff

SPORT

Vanessa Mdee expecting first child, Jux releases congratulatory song



Vanessa Mdee

By Elizabeth Richard & Geoffrey John, TUDARCO

PROMINENT Tanzanian artist, Vanessa Mdee, alias 'Vee Money', announced on Wednesday on Instagram that she is expecting a son with Nigerian-American singer/actor, Olurotimi Akinosho, famously known as Rotimi.

Vanessa, one of the members of Bongo Flava, shared the news along with photos from her exclusive maternity photoshoot by a popular U.S.-based magazine.

She captioned one of the pictures, "The greatest gift of all. Thank you Jesus for choosing us. It is a true honour. We are overjoyed."

In an exclusive interview with the magazine, she stated: "We are super excited to welcome our son. As first-time parents, everything about this experience has been a brand-new challenge."

She disclosed that she has had a smooth pregnancy so far except for minor issues.

Vanessa added: "He has been so good to us. No real pain or symptoms. Some funny cravings and food aversions here and there."

"It's been much harder in these final weeks because he's preparing his arrival, but all in all, we've been super blessed," she said.

Weeks ago, rumours about Vanessa being pregnant started circulating and the announcement confirmed the rumors to her fans who an hour after posting the pictures, flooded her Instagram page with comments congratulating the power couple.

One person wrote: "Never been happier for two people I've never met. Congratulations."

Vanessa and Rotimi first met at an Essence Festival afterparty which was held in New Orleans where they talked for hours and became close friends since then.

Even after Vanessa left for Tanzania, they still kept in touch. On December 30, 2020, the two got engaged.

Rotimi is known for his hit singles, 'In My Bed' and 'Love Somebody' and for his

role in the favourite series, 'Power', as Dre Coleman and Idi Izzi in the sequel, 'Coming 2 America', starring legendary actor/comedian, Eddie Murphy.

After the announcement of her pregnancy earlier this week, U.S.-based Vanessa has received congratulations from her friends, fans, and fellow artists.

One of the artists, who congratulated Vanessa, is her ex-boyfriend, Juma Mussa Mkambala, nicknamed 'Jux'.

The Bongo Flava musician released a new song yesterday, titled 'Sina Neno', produced by Bob Manceky, which explains his thoughts and feelings about the whole situation.

The original audio of the song already has over 300,000 views on YouTube and is trending number five on YouTube Tanzania.

In the song, he says: "I know you're happy because of the gift you got, and the way you're such a heroine your son truly got a good mother."

He also says: "I don't hate you rather I'm praying for you to have a good and happy life, May God guide you through it. I'm not crying I'm used to it. But I'm happy to see your family"

In a recent interview with a domestic journalist, Millard Ayo, 'Jux' admitted that he took the announcement quite positively because it is truly a good thing and the timing is perfect for Vanessa to have kids and he sends them his congratulations.

When he was asked whether the musician had ever thought of having kids with Vanessa, 'Jux' replied: "Everything is planned by the Almighty God and everything has its timing and perhaps the time we were together was not quite right for us to have kids."

Vanessa and 'Jux' had dated on and off for close to six years but called it quits for good late 2019 after the rumours of their break up started speculating.

Other celebrities, who congratulated Vanessa, are comedian, Anne Kansime, musician Esther Akoth 'Akothee', and Zari Hassan.

“

Vanessa and Rotimi first met at an Essence Festival afterparty which was held in New Orleans where they talked for hours and became close friends since then.

SPORTS

Midfielder Said Ndemla aims to redeem himself at Mtibwa Sugar

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FINALLY what has been wished for by many football lovers in Tanzania for a very long time has come into life and now it may be time for action and other facts in football.

Usually, in life, everything has its lessons depending on the situation. Something is talked about, later it happens and after that, there is continuity.

Midfielder Said Ndemla has agreed to join Mainland Premier League outfit, Mtibwa Sugar of Turiani in Morogoro, a move which of course most football fans did not expect.

The footballer has moved to Mtibwa Sugar for a season-long loan deal from Simba SC to get regular playing time, which will sharpen his performance.

It seemed like such a shock because of three issues. Firstly there was no chatter about the loan deal's occurrence.

Secondly, Ndemla and Simba SC have been silent on the matter and thirdly no side expressed dissatisfaction with the decision on the matter.

People should leave that aside, if soccer followers can remember, Ndemla has, more than six seasons, continued to turn out for Simba SC and has continued to be an unreliable player.

Whenever Simba SC brings in new footballers, Ndemla has often continued to be a bench player, and many others have landed at the outfit and achieved success, whereas he continued to remain on the bench as a reserve player.

Several times whenever he got a chance to play, Ndemla has shown great potential at the outfit and did well.

But as Simba continues to grow at a tremendous rate, it is clear that Ndemla still has no chance of becoming a starter and most dependable player on the side.

Even those local footballers who are roped in by Simba, for example, Mzamiru Yassin and others, at least may have a greater chance of either playing or starting than Ndemla who of course has to face battles due to quality players in his position.

Look at a midfielder like Feisal Salum of Yanga, he is the kind of player like Ndemla whose talent continued to stagnate and disappear because he is more of a fringe player at Simba.

This has led to domestic soccer followers voicing their views on what they think is wrong for Ndemla to continue to mainly contend with fringe player status for no apparent reason even if he can get



Said Ndemla

playing time elsewhere.

If domestic football enthusiasts can remember, Ndemla emerged as a hero at Simba over five years ago, entering the field after the breather and helped his outfit hold Yanga to 3-3 draw after having trailed 3-0 against the latter after the opening 45 minutes.

It was a match that many predicted Simba would lose by many goals in the second half!

Football supporters should ask themselves if a hero is a starlet at a certain side, how can he fail to be a reliable footballer when he is a promising player.

Ndemla can play, the ability to understand the game, the quality of passes, and even the quality of shooting, which is better than possibly all the players in the Mainland Premier League for this period.

This means Ndemla had to be out of Simba to get a chance to play and ask himself questions and there is a chance to come back with a chance to play in the side's first team. As for this verdict, it remains in his hands.

Today Ndemla woke up and agreed to shake off the dust that had surrounded him at his side's bench, having seen more than four foreign coaches joining the club and later head elsewhere.

This is a decision I believe he will never regret if he decides to be careful and do his job at the highest professional level.

Ndemla has great potential, I believe even many coaches who do not trust him very much may have been intoxicated to trust foreign professionals the most but Ndemla has the potential for many things that most foreign professionals did not even have within the Simba SC squad.

Football is a game of system, sometimes you have to experience a loss in form so you can get a chance to start again.

Sometimes a footballer may have a good chance of achieving the goals that were putting him under pressure when he seemed to be very close to achieving but failed.

I believe Ndemla has been too late to contemplate settling for a loan deal as he had to leave Simba at least two seasons ago.

But it was probably a difficult decision to make and perhaps because he has been at Simba for most of his football career.

Ndemla should show what kind of player he is at Mtibwa Sugar. The popular domestic clubs will come back running on him at all cost.

Midfielder Hassan Dilunga started his football journey at the Coast Region's Ruwu Shooting.

The midfielder, later, went to Yanga, when things got tough for him, he turned out for several other sides up-country.

He emerged at Mtibwa Sugar and did well to the extent that Simba was impressed by his qualities and roped him in. They brought him back to Dar es Salaam.

As for Ndemla, he needs peace of mind, otherwise, the crossroads where he now stands on may find him inching closer to ending as a frustrated footballer.



New Namungo FC attacker, David Molinga.

Coach Suleiman impressed by David Molinga signing

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MAINLAND Premier League squad Namungo FC's head coach, Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco', has defended the signing of Congolese striker, David Molinga 'Falcao', saying he is a good footballer.

Suleiman disclosed the DR Congo footballer is set to bring positive contributions to the club next season. The Lindi-based club, nicknamed 'Southern Killers', is currently in pre-season training at Black Rhino Academy in Karatu, Arusha to prepare for the next season.

Namungo FC players that have extended contracts and the newly signed ones are attending the drills, seeking to make sure they come back in the top flight contest afresh.

In his recent remarks, 'Morocco' praised the former Yanga goal-getter,

saying he is going to improve a lot at his new side, that is why he recommended the footballer to land at the club.

"He is a good player and even when he was at Yanga, he was improving. I believe he is going to be serious at his new home," he said.

Moreover, Morocco admitted that all the signings which have been accomplished at Namungo FC are his preferences.

Morocco pointed out for that matter he does not doubt that his team will work hard to produce what they want to achieve in the coming term.

Commenting on the progress of his team, he revealed that so far, everything is unfolding well and that each player in the squad is in good shape grasping what he is imparting them.

"We are building team chemistry since there are some new players who have just joined us as such, our main focus at the moment is to ensure that we create balance in the team," he pointed out.

He noted Karatu is a perfect destination for them to pitch a camp due to the nature of its environment which enables players to concentrate on the sessions.

The striking force for Namungo FC has such famous players as Molinga, Obrey Chirwa, Blaise Bigirimana, and Reliant Lusajo.

The mentioned footballers' presence offers the coach enough options on whom to engage according to the nature of their opponents.

"We are happy to snatch good players to fill the gaps which were unmasked in the past season and we hope that in the upcoming league campaign, Namungo is going to be a competitive team than ever before," he said.

Subs steal show from Aubameyang and Salah in dramatic draw

CAIRO

MOSTAFA Mohamed scored in the final minute to snatch a 1-1 World Cup Group F qualifying draw for 10-man Egypt in Gabon on Sunday after Jim Allevinah had put the dominant hosts ahead.

Billed as a showdown between high-profile English Premier League forwards Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Gabon and Mohamed Salah of Egypt, the stars had to take back seats as two substitutes netted.

All the drama came in the final 19 minutes in Franceville, starting with a red card for Egypt midfielder Omar Gaber after being yellow-carded twice.

Allevinah put Gabon ahead two minutes later, beating goalkeeper Mohamed el Shenawy from inside the box after the visitors failed to clear a free-kick.

Egypt coach Hossam el Badry reacted to falling behind by introducing Mohamed I3 minutes from time and the Galatasaray forward nodded in a dramatic equaliser after his chip was parried.

Salah missed a win over Angola last Wednesday because Egypt is on the United Kingdom coronavirus "red list" and he would have been forced to quarantine for 10 days on his return had he gone to Cairo.

Meanwhile, Namibia went top of Group H with a surprise 1-0 away victory over Togo thanks to a spectacular second-half goal by Elmo Kambindu.

After coming off the bench in a 1-1 draw with Congo Brazzaville three days ago, Kambindu was promoted to the starting line-up by coach Bobby Samaria for the match in Lome.

The change paid off eight minutes into the second half when Kambindu scored with a bicycle kick after Deon Hotto floated a free-kick into a crowded goalmouth.

Namibia have four points from two matches, one more than Sadio Mane-inspired Senegal, who will regain first place if they avoid losing in Congo on Monday.

- Togo pointless -

AFP

Italy set new unbeaten record as Germany thump Armenia

LONDON

ITALY broke the world record for the longest unbeaten run in international football with a goalless draw at Switzerland on Sunday, while Germany got their World Cup qualifying campaign back on track by thrashing Armenia 6-0.

European champions Italy should have taken all three points, but Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer saved Jorginho's second-half penalty.

"The ball didn't want to go into the goal," Italian coach Roberto Mancini told RAL.

"We had too many chances today not to win the match... We have to be more clinical and more precise."

The draw, however, extended Mancini's side's unbeaten run to 36 matches, breaking the previous mark they shared with Brazil and Spain.

The Azzurri remain top of Group C, four points above Switzerland who have two games in hand.

Italy are bidding to banish the memories of their shock failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

The group winners automatically reach next year's finals in Qatar, with the runners-up heading into the play-offs.

The Germans brushed off the cobwebs of their underwhelming 2-0 win over Liechtenstein in Hansi Flick's first match in charge by thrashing previous leaders Armenia to go top of Group J.

Bayern Munich winger Serge Gnabry scored twice in the first 15 minutes.

Timo Werner set up Marco Reus, who was recalled by Flick, to put the result beyond doubt before netting himself to complete a dominant opening 45 minutes.

The home crowd in Stuttgart were given a fifth goal to cheer by Jonas Hofmann early in the second period, before the four-time world

champions added further gloss in added time through 19-year-old debutant Karim Adeyemi.

They now lead Armenia by two points, with Romania a point further back after beating Liechtenstein 2-0.

A shock home loss to North Macedonia earlier this year had put Germany's qualification in danger.

England cruise at Wembley - A much-changed England laboured for long periods before seeing off Andorra 4-0 in their first match at Wembley since their Euro 2020 final defeat by Italy on penalties.

Jesse Lingard, who missed out on Gareth Southgate's Euro squad, put the hosts ahead in the 18th minute, but a second goal did not arrive until substitute Harry Kane's penalty 18 minutes from time.

England, for whom Southgate made 11 changes, did enjoy a late goal spree as Lingard netted a second and Bukayo Saka marked his birthday by finding the net.

That goal brought loud cheers from the crowd at Wembley - where Saka missed the decisive penalty in the shootout against the Italians in July.

"He (Saka) got a fabulous reception, before and during the game," Southgate told ITV. "You can see how popular he is with the rest of the team as well."

England have won all five of their matches in Group I and visit Poland, who they lead by five points, on Wednesday.

Robert Lewandowski scored twice and Adam Buksa grabbed a hat-trick as the second-placed Poles hammered San Marino 7-1.

Spain, who are in danger of not qualifying automatically, thrashed Georgia 4-0 in Badajoz.

First-half goals from Jose Gaya, Carlos Soler and Ferran Torres ensured they would bounce back from their loss to Sweden with a win.

Do Sevilla have what it takes to win LaLiga?

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

IF Sevilla are to become Spain's champions for the first time in 76 years, which is feasible, then aside from the obvious goal of registering more points than anyone else, their primary task is to end their status as weaklings in the group of "top four" LaLiga clubs.

Since Julen Lopetegui took over Sevilla have begun to resemble him and, in a sense, his father too.

Lopetegui's father was a notorious Basque Country strong man. You know the old-school type: in his prime, Jose Antonio Lopetegui had a chest wide enough to play five-a-side football on, muscles on top of muscles, he could lift 100 kilos 22 times in 60 seconds; there's even a cracking picture of Julen and his behemoth dad in which Jose Antonio is holding each of his two daughters up in the air on the palm of his hands. (That part specifically never caught on as an Olympic event, but after BMX, surfing and skateboarding made the grade in Tokyo, there's no real reason to suspect that "Daughter Clean and Jerk Free Lift" might not one day.)

Sevilla resemble Jose Antonio to the extent that when most teams now run into them, they bounce off worse for the experience. Los Rojiblancos are stern, muscular, stubborn and they don't like you getting in their way. They resemble Jose Antonio's boy, Julen, because they are meticulous, relentless and intense: they're hard to fend off, and quick to bounce back if you do catch them out.

Where Sevilla are puny, perpetually disappointing versions of themselves, however, is against Madrid, Barcelona and Atleti.

Since Lopetegui took over in summer 2019, teaming up with Sevilla's guru-like Director of Football (and like-minded football obsessive) Monchi, Los Rojiblancos have played the big three a grand total of 14 times. The record would make you green at the gills: Two wins, five draws, seven defeats. In LaLiga, out of a possible 36 points, Lopetegui's lads have taken... eight.

It gets worse. In LaLiga, across 1,100 minutes against Madrid, Barcelona and Atleti, Sevilla have scored eight times. In the Copa del Rey, their 2-0 semifinal first-leg win at home against Barca was overturned by a three-goal humiliation at Camp Nou.

Was it a lack of talent? No. A lack of preparation? Forget it - Lopetegui's one of those managers (like Pep Guardiola, Rafa Benitez and Unai Emery) who believe that if he works hard enough on



Julen Lopetegui has shown he's a perfect coach for this Sevilla team. He's got the talent and the nous to catch a weakened trio of Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid out. (Agencies)

detail then one day, he'll be able to predict and pre-programme every single second of a match. Lack of guts? Who can really tell?

This record is so miserable, but there are tiny rays of light. Atleti are reigning champions, and it's against them that Lopetegui's dark-horses have fared best, notching two draws and a win. Sevilla's last two home matches against the rest of the big four - Atleti in the league and Barcelona in the Cup - brought two victories, both without a goal conceded.

As a topic, this is red-hot important for the red-and-whites. It's the difference between them staying also-rans and being champions.

Last season, Lucas Ocampos, Papu Gomez, Jesus Navas, Youssef En-Nesyri & Co. drew and lost to Barcelona, lost and drew with Madrid and went win/lose with Atleti for a haul of five points. It's not at all unreasonable to have demanded that they go draw/win against Barcelona, draw/win against Atleti and draw/draw against Madrid. To do that, they'd have only needed to score three more in this elite mini-league and concede four fewer: That would have yielded seven extra points, it would have decreased Atleti's end of season total by three... and Sevilla would have been Spanish champions by one clear point.

A genuinely heady thought.

Sevilla were due to play host to Barcelona this Saturday night, due to begin the simple-sounding task of scoring a similar number of points against LaLiga's "other" teams and taking seven more than they did against the "big three" last season. Yet nothing in Spanish football is ever quite that simple.

When we watched that farce in Sao Paulo this past Sunday, where not only

did the right hand not know what the left hand was doing across Brazilian sport and politics, but the left foot was kicking itself in the backside and the right foot was enthusiastically testing the edge of the precipice before someone removed the blindfold, we were watching the fate of Saturday's Sevilla vs. Barcelona match.

The South American federation, which made a monumental mess of the Copa America this summer, were almost causing a boycott from Brazil's players and since saw fit to order their international teams to play three World Cup qualifying matches in eight days specifically so that the players - the real attraction - can't get back in time for their club matches, thereby squashing that brilliant match at the Estadio Sanchez Pizjuan. It was partly because three key Sevilla players (Acuna, Papu Gomez and Gonzalo Montiel) wouldn't be back in time for the contest (nor would Barcelona's Araujo) that LaLiga wanted the match postponed.

Rather incredibly, until you consider that almost no-one in power cares a hoot whether we are about to squeeze the creative and physical juices out of our wonderful football players until they wither, the Spanish Federation wanted the game to go ahead. The dispute went to a Spanish Government committee and, hallelujah, some duty of care about the clubs and the players won the argument both Sevilla vs. Barcelona and Villarreal vs. Alaves (for the same reason) were postponed.

Just in case anyone thought that the matches might simply be held back a day and played Sunday, don't forget that Sevilla and Villarreal have hugely important - and financially lucrative - Champions League matches to play on Tues-

day. They should never be asked to play hugely significant LaLiga contests late on Sunday night and then, 48 hours later, compete against the cream of Europe.

Doctors, physios and the players' union all conclude (in one of the few subjects where there's unity and harmony of voice) that the minimum (I repeat minimum) recuperation time for elite footballers is 72 hours between matches. Again, this being Spain, at the time of writing there was still an opportunity for the Spanish FA to appeal the decision. If they do, I'll despair of how even a bitter, non-stop feud between the League and the FA can reach the depths of ignoring player welfare completely.

Anyway, a few important issues spill out of the match postponement.

Sevilla haven't been playing with much of a spark yet this season, and it's feasible to argue that, purely in terms of how likely they are to get a win over a Messi-less Barcelona, postponement might be a boon. I know that they'd have played the match without their three Argentinians if they'd been ordered to, but let's look at the possible re-schedule dates.

It's feasible that a special midweek slate of fixtures, for Sevilla, Barcelona, Villarreal and Alaves, could be scheduled for the midweek after Spain play their UEFA Nations League semifinal against Italy in Milan. That would mean around October 13-14, and purely from Sevilla's point of view, let's weigh that up.

Right now, off the back of international matches when key players often come back drained or "not in the zone," they were about to face Barcelona, RB Salzburg in the Champions League, Real Sociedad away and then Valencia at home. Strip Barca out of that and the little "racha" (run) of matches looks a little more digestible. On those October dates, Sevilla would be enjoying a run of Granada away, Barcelona at home, Celta away, Lille away and Levante at home - much, much more appetising overall.

I wonder whether fate just gave Sevilla a little nudge in the ribs. After all, the meetings between Sevilla and Barcelona do have some historic antecedents. Back in 2003, an argument over releasing international players (at the time, Dutch footballers from Barca) led to President Joan Laporta scheduling the match at 12:05 a.m. on Sept. 3 just to stick two fingers up at everyone: the League, UEFA, FIFA, you name it. In the end, Ronaldinho thrashed in his first goal for Barcelona, the late Jose Antonio Reyes scored for Sevilla and honours were shared.

How Copa America set World Cup qualifying on road to crisis

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

IT would have been wise to check the passenger lists on flights from Europe to South America before trying to pick a winner from September's three rounds of South America's World Cup qualifying.

Paraguay have missed Newcastle's Miguel Almiron, their leading talent; Chile are without Blackburn Rovers' Ben Brereton Diaz, the young striker who made such a positive impression in the Copa America. These and other England-based players are caught in the middle of an ugly tug of war between their clubs and national teams, in a situation where it's not easy to identify the good guys.

Brazil are without their nine Premier League players: Alisson, Fabinho, Roberto Firmino (Liverpool); Ederson, Gabriel Jesus (Manchester City); Thiago Silva (Chelsea); Fred (Manchester United); Richarlison (Everton); and Raphinha (Leeds United). Argentina managed to bring their quartet - a deal was done with Aston Villa to free Emiliano Martinez and Emiliano Buendia for two of the three games, and sources told ESPN the Tottenham pair of Cristian Romero and Giovani Lo Celso will be fined by their club for making the journey without consent - but, after Sunday's farce away to Brazil, they maybe wished they had stayed at home.

Many European clubs were reluctant to release players for this controversial tripleheader - an extra match has been added to the calendar, meaning that the games end on Thursday night, two days later than usual. There is an extra problem in the UK given the compulsory 10-day quarantine for those arriving from so-called "red

list" countries (which are perceived as having a high risk of COVID-19 transmission). The issue here, as far as the clubs are concerned, is not just that the players will be in quarantine, but that those days would be spent in a hotel room, leading to an inevitable loss of physical condition.

This has been made reciprocal in Brazil. Those four Premier League players from Argentina were deemed to have fallen foul of the quarantine requirement on those arriving who have spent time in the UK in the previous 14 days, leading to the ridiculous scenes in Sao Paulo on Sunday when the match was interrupted in the sixth minute by officials from Brazil's sanitary authority demanding the deportation of the players.

FIFA now has a tough task of working out what to do with this match. The South American football authorities were happy to pass the buck to FIFA.

The ideal scenario would be to re-stage the game - but this runs into the key problem behind the whole imbroglio. When? There are no dates available.

As soon as the decision was made to go ahead with the Copa America some three months ago, the continent had left itself with no margin for error, and plenty of potential for conflict.

CONMEBOL, South American football's governing body, said that the rea-

son for playing the Copa was to strengthen the teams for next year's World Cup. They were explicitly giving the World Cup priority over the Copa, but their actions did the contrary.

The players, especially in Brazil, gave a warning. They made it clear - along with some other players and coaches - that they were playing the Copa under protest.

This was not only because the COVID-19 pandemic was hitting the continent so hard, but also because they thought the time would be better spent catching up on World Cup qualification, which was behind schedule.

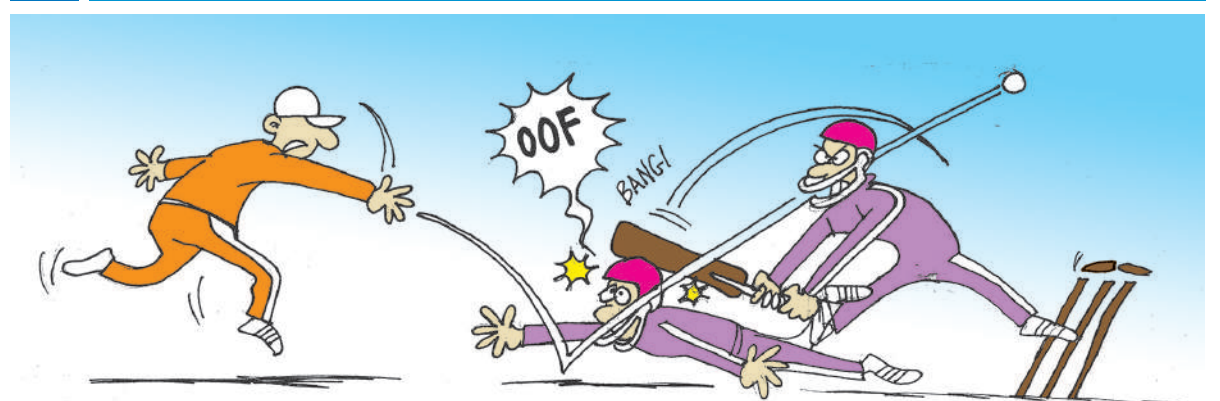
Instead, once the Copa was over, there were still 12 rounds of qualifiers to get through, not enough dates to play them, and the risks of ploughing ahead in the face of increased travel restrictions. An extra FIFA date was arranged for the end of January, and the controversial third game was added to the schedule in September and October.

But there was no margin for error, and the planning ran off the rails in front of a huge global audience in Sao Paulo last Sunday. It is unlikely that what took place in Sao Paulo was the result of some intricate conspiracy. Far more likely is that it was the consequence of a number of factors all hitting together: bureaucratic complications, negligence,

bad communication, incompetence, arrogance, trickery, an excess of zeal and a deficiency of common sense. The farce of Sao Paulo will make European clubs even more wary of releasing their players for next month's FIFA date. There is an urgent need to get all involved round the negotiating table and try to thrash out a solution.

As always, there must be give and take, but the European clubs will argue that there is no reason for them to cede anything when the South American football authorities will not do likewise. Once they decided to go ahead with the Copa, they were committing the national teams to 21 competitive games in a 10 month period - a hefty and surely excessive workload even without the logistical problems of global travel at this time.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Do Sevilla have what it takes to win LaLiga?



Yanga's newly signed winger, Dickson Ambundo. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga winger in pursuit of success in Premier League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's newly recruited winger, Dickson Ambundo, has vowed to give his all to achieve the club's goal of regaining the Mainland Premier League title in the new season, which officially kicks off at the end of September.

Ambundo, who joined Yanga in August from Dodoma Jiji FC, said his signing at the club was part of achieving his goal of winning the title.

The winger disclosed he must be prepared for a fight that he believes will bring productivity by the end of the 2021/22 season.

Ambundo said Yanga is a popular club and it should be in the spotlight to win trophies locally and continentally, that has been a challenge for a long time.

He believes it is time to restore happiness to followers and members of the oldest club in the East and Central Africa region.

Ambundo said he would however not do the job alone, noting all of the players, who make up the Yanga squad, have such responsibility.

According to the winger, the feat will be achieved through unity and solidarity throughout the Premier League season and in CAF Champions League.

Ambundo stated: "We have a lot of work to do and it must be completed, e have goals to do well domestically by getting positive results, and even in international competitions it is important to do well."

"The competition will be great and that is clear but we must fight to get results in the matches that we will play, the fans should be shoulder to shoulder with us," Ambundo pointed out.

Yanga will kick off the 2021/22 season this weekend by playing the preliminary round of the CAF Champions League against Rivers United of Nigeria at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam

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We have a lot of work to do and it must be completed, e have goals to do well domestically by getting positive results, and even in international competitions it is important to do well

Namibia coach Jacobs aims high at COSAFA Women's Championship

WINDHOEK

NEW Namibia's national women football squad's coach Woody Jacobs says he is hoping to unlock the incredible potential of the side as they head into the 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship that will be played in Nelson Mandela Bay in South Africa from September 28-October 9.

Jacobs has been appointed to lead the side having previously worked as an assistant coach and is tasked with helping Namibia win a first-ever regional title in the women's game, which he believes is achievable.

"When I got the call, I jumped at the opportunity," Jacobs said. "There's so much potential. I believe with the right combination of desire, effort, and methods, the team can become formidable."

"When I leave here one day, I want to leave with the team ranked under 100. That is doable."

Jacobs says he hopes to inject youth into the team and believes his experience can help the squad grow.

"I see a young upcoming team, which can do wonders in women's football. I want to share what I've learned in football with them and try to achieve those things that in the last 10 years have been elusive to them.

"Although they've had some success here and there, especially with the development of the game, growing the team into a formidable outfit and being one of the feared teams in Southern Africa is something that I want to work towards.

"You can only do it through competitions and playing regularly. COSAFA [Women's Championship] is one of them, we want to see if we can bring the title home this time around."

Namibia has been drawn in Group C in Nelson Mandela Bay and opens its campaign against East African guest nation Uganda on Sept. 30. They will then meet Zambia on Oct. 3 and finish their pool play against Eswatini two days later.

Namibia has five previous appearances at the COSAFA Women's Championships when they turned out in 2006, 2008, 2017, 2018, and 2019, and has largely excelled in the regional showpiece competition.

The Brave Gladiators have always been tough competitors in the past and the same will be expected when they feature this year, having missed out in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In their first showing in 2006, they claimed an excellent 2-2 draw with Zambia and then thumped Eswatini 6-0 in the pool stages, enough to see them into the semifinals as runners-up in their group.

They gained revenge over Zambia with a 5-4 penalty shoot-out victory after a 1-1 draw but lost in the final to South Africa when they went down 3-1.

They reached the semifinals again two years later, but this time was ousted at that stage by South Africa, ironically by the same scoreline.

They had less success in 2017, beating Botswana 4-0 in their opener, but then losing 2-1 to Lesotho and once again suffering a 3-1 loss to South Africa to finish bottom of their pool.

The following year they beat Eswatini 4-1, but a defeat to Zimbabwe (0-1) a draw with East African guest nation Uganda (0-1) meant they did not progress to the knockout stages.

They were back again in 2019 but won only one of their three games, an 8-0 the hammering of Mauritius. Before that, they lost to Botswana (0-1) and Zambia (2-3).

They will meet Tanzania in the preliminaries for the 2022 continental finals, having made one appearance at the African Women's Champions League when they hosted the competition in 2014.

Simba Queens SC loses to Lady Doves FC in CAF Women's Champions League Qualifiers' playoff



Tanzania's Simba Queens SC's Flavine Mawete (2nd R) negotiates her way past Uganda's Lady Doves Women Football Club defender in this season's third-place playoff of CAF Women's Champions League (CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers) at Kasarani Stadium in Kenya yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA QUEENS SC

By Somoe Ng'itu, Nairobi

TANZANIA'S Simba Queens SC has settled for the fourth spot in this season's CAF Women's Champions League (CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers), as the squad suffered a 2-1 loss to Lady Doves Women Football Club of Uganda in the showdown's third-place playoff at Kasarani Stadium in Kenya yesterday.

Lady Doves Women Football Club has for that matter been presented with US dollars 10,000 for finishing third.

Both Lady Doves Women Football Club and Simba Queens SC have lost out on making it to this season's CAF Women's Champions League, which has been slated for November in Egypt.

Simba Queens SC was down 1-0 after the completion of the first period. Spencer Nakacwa scored the goal for Lady Doves Women Football Club in the 22nd minute.

She completed a good move which was executed by teammates from the midfield, easily slotting the ball past Simba Queens SC's keeper, Gelwa Yona. The second period witnessed the outfit opt for a fast-paced approach and Lady Doves was seeming the better of the two, outmuscling Simba Queens SC and notching the second goal, which was slotted in by Fadhila Ikwaputi on the 83rd minute.

Forward Asha Djafar pulled one goal back for Simba Queens SC on the 88th minute, slotting in off a well-executed cross from a teammate, Aisha Juma. Simba Queens SC, coached by Hababuu Ali, could nevertheless not turn their fortunes around.

The two teams, which were in

Group A of the qualifiers' league stage, were facing each other for the second time.

The first meeting had culminated with the two squads settling for a 0-0 draw.

Kenyan squad, Vihiga Queens, took on Ethiopia's Commercial Bank of Ethiopia in the showdown's final the same day.

The winners will pocket US\$30,000 and the runner-up will walk away with US\$20,000. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has supported the competition with a financial boost of US\$100,000.

South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns have been crowned the inaugural winners of the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League, COSAFA Qualifiers, with a 3-0 victory over Black Rhinos Queens of Zimbabwe in the final in Durban on Saturday.

The jubilant Sundowns side not only claims bragging rights in the region and a trophy but also book their ticket to the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League that is scheduled for Egypt later in the year. They scored 22 goals in their five games, and conceded just once, showing their dominance in the competition and earning the title of worthy winners.

The match was watched by Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe, who is a former owner of the Sundowns club, as well as a delegation from FIFA that included Secretary General Fatma Samoura and Chief Women's Football Officer Sarai Bareman.

Sundowns took the lead on 12 minutes as their pressure at the

start of the game paid dividends. Melinda Kgadiete forced the error and the ball broke to Andisiwe Mgcoyi, who laid on a square pass for Lerato Kgasago to side-foot into the net.

The closest that Queens came in the first half was a shot on the turn from veteran forward Rutendo Makore that sailed just over the crossbar.

Queens came out firing in the second period, but that meant they were leaving more space at the back and Sundowns almost profited when Kgadiete found space on the edge of the box, but her powerful shot was just too high.

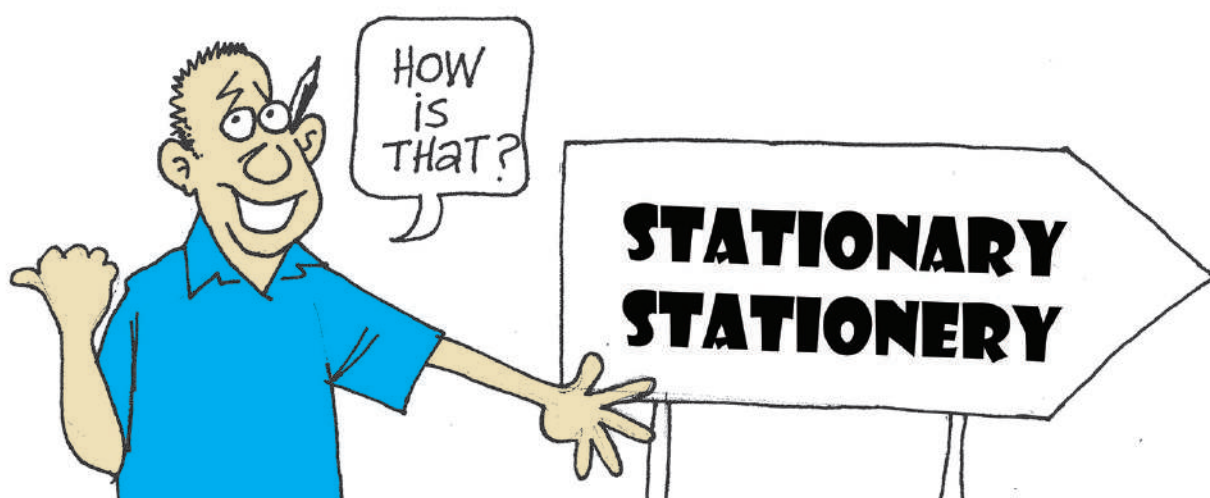
Mgcoyi should have added a second when she met a cross at the near post, but her header missed the target, while Makore had another effort that was straight at Sundowns' goalkeeper Phillistus Rabalao.

The second goal finally arrived for The Brazilians Ladies on 78 minutes when Nonhlanhla Mthandi profited from hesitancy at the back from Queens and she dispossessed goalkeeper Precious Mudyiwa to score into an empty net.

The cherry on top came with a third goal late on as Lesotho international Boitumelo Rabale fired into the top corner after skipping past one defender and unleashing an excellent strike to finish the competition.

The Player of the Tournament award was won by Makore, with the Golden Glove for best goalkeeper going to Mudyiwa. Sundowns' Kgadiete won the Golden Boot for her five goals in the tournament.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bonga Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

east africa RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

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