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Battle 'not yet over' against locusts



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Raging fire hits Mt K'njaro

■ Authorities working to use helicopter to douse flames, says RC

By Guardian Reporters, Moshi



Arqes Africa Ltd consultant Rose Nestory (R) briefs Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein shortly after the inauguration of Kwahani New City houses in Zanzibar yesterday. Others include Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Seif Ali Iddi; CCM's candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency in the upcoming General Election, Dr Hussein Mwinyi (3rd-L); and his wife, Mariam Mwinyi (4th-L). Photo: Zanzibar State House

ABOUT 170 firefighters from the College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM-Mweka) were yesterday deployed to help combat a fire outbreak at Horombo area, which along with Kibo Hut, sits at the bottom of the Kibo crater wall.

The flames engulfing a section of the upper reaches of the mountain, within Kilimanjaro National Park started Sunday afternoon and authorities have been working to contain it.

Paschal Shelute Assistant Commissioner (Communications) at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), said in a statement that TANAPA has continued taking all precautions to ensure the safety of visitors and their properties, seeking to extinguish the fire without causing harm to on-going tourism activities.

Prof Jafari Kidegesho, the Rector of the CAWM-Mweka campus, declared that the firefighters deployed include students and servants, as an urgent effort to save the mountain's biodiversity.

The college relies on the mountain zone as its teaching laboratory, thus having to move to support efforts to contain the flames, he elaborated.

"We are among the crucial stakeholders of the mountain, we frequently use it for practical training; we could not stand aside while one of the major climbing destinations is destroyed by fire," said the college principal. He had also provided four vehicles to facilitate transportation of food, water and other

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BoT extends deadline for MFIs registration

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has extended for six months the deadline for microfinance institutions (MFIs) to register and obtain licenses as per the Microfinance Act of 2019.

Earlier, BoT gave MFIs until October 31st to register, paving the way for the legislation to start being applicable from November 1, in which case the law will be held until MFIs finish registering on April 30 next year.

Registration is being conducted in accordance

with new regulations on MFIs meant to ensure the protection of clients and stability of such institutions, targeting enhancing financial inclusion and improvement of operations.

Regulations have been made clearer and supervision eased, which shall help resolve challenges facing the microfinance industry, BoT Governor Prof Florens Luoga (pictured) said in statement yesterday.

He stated that BoT opted to extend the period of registration following requests from service providers as most of them are yet to obtain new business licenses, a crucial document in seeking registration.

He said that MFIs including the Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), Village Community Banks (VICOBA) and the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) will have enough time to prepare and submit their completed applications to BoT head offices or branch offices in Arusha, Mwanza, Zanzibar, Mbeya, Mtwara and Dodoma.

Microfinance service providers of grade

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JPM says mining, energy reforms created enemies

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli yesterday revealed how the various steps he has been taking including controlling the looting of natural resources in turn created local and international enemies for him and the country.

Addressing a campaign rally at Kinyerezi in Dar es Salaam, Dr Magufuli said his decision to conduct reforms in the mining industry led to the formulation of new laws and to build a wall at Mirerani did not go well with those who were benefiting from past norms.

He said construction of the Nyerere hydropower project also angered those with interests in the Selous Games Reserve because



There are people locally and internationally who are jealous of Tanzania, even on the way it has fought the coronavirus pandemic, he further asserted

the project was going to halt illegal activities that were taking place in the zone, including poaching of wildlife.

"There are many who are envying us for the resources but also over various initiatives that we have taken to control the plundering of our resources as they used to do. They can't be happy at all," he said.

Upon following up sentiments expressed on the hydropower project, it was discovered that those who oppose building the dam were benefiting from activities in the game reserve, with 41 hunting blocks and 31 airstrips at their disposal, he said.

There are people locally and internationally

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'Meat, milk uptake still far below FAO's levels'

By Guardian Reporter

THE country's consumption of meat and milk is below the set international levels of 50kgs of meat and 200 litres of milk per person per year.

Dr Rashid Tamatamah (pictured) the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, took note of this situation yesterday when opening World Food



Day exhibitions held nationally in Njombe, with the theme "Better Tomorrow is built by Better and Sustainable Nutrition."

He said statistics show that currently on average Tanzanians consume 15kgs of meat and 54litres of milk annually, far below the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recommended levels.

Dr Tamatamah said that in 2019/2020, the country's milk production topped three billion litres compared to 2.7bn litres in 2018/2019, with the increase arising from improvements in the investment environment in the country's dairy industry.

Meat production reached 701,679.1 tons in fiscal 2019/2020 from 690,629 tonnes the

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Raging fire hits Mount Kilimanjaro

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requirements to those combating the fire outbreak, he elaborated.

The last time a fire broke out on Mt Kilimanjaro was in 2013, with the current outbreak springing from the Wahona area, a resting centre for mountain climbers and visitors passing using the Mandara and Horombo routes to reach the mountain top at Kibo Peak, he said.

A range of old and younger indigenous trees have been destroyed in the burning, while police were as yet unable to identify the source of the fire.

"Efforts are ongoing to put off the fire at the Wahona-Horombo area. We have a good number of firefighters from the Fire and Rescue Force, CAWM-Mweka students and villagers surrounding the Kilimanjaro National Park," the TANAPA official noted.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Dr Anna Mghwira said authorities are working to use a helicopter that will deliver water for aerial firefighting.

Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest peak, at nearly 6,000 metres (20,000 ft) above sea level, having three volcanic cones—Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira, while being the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world.



President John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election on the ruling CCM ticket in the upcoming General Election, addresses a campaign rally at Kinyerezi in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

JPM says mining, energy reforms created enemies

FROM PAGE 1

who are jealous of Tanzania, even on the way it has fought the coronavirus pandemic, he further asserted.

The government will construct roads in Segerea constituency to improve its links with the rest of the city, he told the

gathering.

The decision to initiate reforms in the mining sector originated from the often stated view that the country was not benefiting from its resources, citing tanzanite gemstone where the country was getting only four percent of its

global sales value despite being the only place where the gemstone is found.

Today, the government is expected to receive another bonus from its agreement with Barrick Gold after a deal which was reached in 2017.

He told the rally that if voted for a

second term he will continue from where he has reached, especially on rural electrification and provision of social services like water and medical care.

Dr Magufuli directed the minister for Water and Irrigation to ensure that Kinyerezi, Kifuru and Bonyokwa

wards receive water in the next two months.

This was the second rally in Dar es Salaam after the president appeared at the Mkapa Stadium last week, and is expected to speak at Mburahati also in Ilala district today.



Tundu Lissu, the opposition Chadema's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency in the upcoming General Election, addresses residents of Tumuli village in Singida Region yesterday before the start of campaign rallies in Singida, Tabora and Shinyanga regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Meat, milk uptake still far below FAO levels'

FROM PAGE 1

previous year, he stated, noting that despite this increase, meat and milk consumption in the country was still low. "Tanzanians should eat more meat to reach the set international level," the top official intoned.

The fisheries sub-sector contributes 30 per cent of protein intake and provides employment to about 4.5m people with various activities in the fisheries sector, he stated.

The fish stock in the country's water bodies has increased, as in Lake Victoria the Nile Perch catch increased from 417,936 tonnes in 2016 to 816,964 tonnes in 2019, equivalent to 95.5 percent increase, he said.

Fish harvests from natural water bodies increased from 362,645 tonnes in 2015/2016 to 497,567 tonnes in 2019/2020, while between 2015/2016 and 2019/2020, the number of fish dams increased from 22,545 to 26,445 and fish ponds from 109 to 431m, he pointed out.

The country's average fish consumption per year increased from 8.2kgs per person in 2018/2019 to 8.5kgs in 2019/2020. Globally, FAO data shows that average fish consumption in 2018 was 20.3kgs per person per year, he elaborated.

The livestock sector enables better nutrition which makes Tanzanians participate fully in economic activities, thus raising the national income, he said, emphasizing that the sector has a huge contribution in regard to employment, provision of food, nutrition and as a foreign exchange earner.

Ministry data indicates that in the 2019/2020 financial year, the sector contributed as much as 7.4 percent of the country's GDP, with the production of eggs increasing from 3.59bn in 2018/2019 to 4.05bn in 2019/2020, an increase of 13.3 percent, underlining an 8bn/- increase in value, he affirmed.

Ministry data similarly shows that Tanzania has a total of 33.4m cattle, 22m goats, 5.6m sheep, 2m pigs and 660,000 donkeys, officials noted.

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BoT extends deadline for MFIs registration

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three should submit their license applications to the Registrar of Regional Cooperative Societies to be licensed by the Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC).

Service providers at grade four should apply for registration at the nearest local government authorities (LGAs), the statement indicated.

"The central Bank wishes to warn the public about misleading advertisements and directives made by unscrupulous individuals. It urges the public to disregard any advertisements and instructions regarding the licensing or registration that is not from the relevant authorities," it emphasized.

The bank advised the public to contact the relevant authorities when faced with various challenges in applying for a license or registering a microfinance entity.

"BoT officials will be available to provide assistance to those who

will encounter difficulties in the registration application process," the governor insisted.

Research findings unveiled in 2017 by Finscope showed that 55.3 percent of the country's workforce access loans from microfinance units, with about 80 percent of Tanzanians using services of MFIs countrywide.

The new regulations are intended to constitute remedial action to enable the sector to be a more reliable operator in taking the country further in socio-economic development.

In December 2019, the central bank issued a public notice on the Microfinance Services Act of 2018 whose regulations came into effect on November 1, 2019.

Section 57 of the Microfinance Services Act provides that microfinance service providers must submit applications for a license or for registration to the Central Bank or be suspended 12 months after the Act comes into force on October 31, 2020.

Alcohol levels for drunk driving to be determined in hospitals

NAIROBI

The Inspector-General of Police Hillary Mutyambai has announced new measures in the enforcement of random alcohol checks on all major towns.

The IG, in his weekly #EngageTheIG Q&A session on Twitter, said alcohol levels will be determined in hospitals under strict Covid-19 rules.

"The alcohol levels in the bloodstream will be determined by doctors in hospitals under strict Covid-19 rules," Mutyambai said.

The police boss however fell short of stating who will foot the hospital bills in this new arrangement.

According to Mutyambai, the new measures have been enforced following a spike in fatalities on the roads linked to drunk-driving.

"There will be random drunk-driving checks mainly because there has been a rise in the number of fatal accidents related to drunk-driving," the IG said.

The latest development comes just

days after the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA) and the IG announced the resumption of alcohol operations after a report revealed that 60 people were killed due to drunk driving between October 2 and 4.

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AGENCIES



Nelson Mbawala (L), a fisheries officer with the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, pictured at the ongoing World Food Day exhibition in Njombe municipality at the weekend speaking on quality fish farming. This was at the ministry's pavilion. Photo Guardian Correspondent

TDB seeks to improve milk collection in the rural areas

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) is working to increase the number of milk collection centres to reach rural areas with a good number of dairy farmers and milk production.

The intended initiative is aimed at heightening the country's milk collection capacity, the development which will automatically see milk processing factories supplied with enough fresh milk.

Available statistics indicates that there are at least 99 milk processing factories in Tanzania, with capacity to produce 865,600 litres per day, but due to low production of milk from farmers the industries are only processing 203,600 litres, equivalent to 23.52 per cent of their production capacity.

TDB registrar, Noely Byamungu linked the poor production of milk due to poor infrastructures especially in rural areas. He said that transport affects timely transportation of fresh milk from farms to processors.

"To constant supply of milk to processors, the board is working to expand the availability of milk collection centres in all rural areas with highest number of dairy cattle farmers and milk production", he explained.

Byamungu said that there are at least 221 milk collection centres across the country whereas 717 have been installed with cooling facilities with the capacity to store a total of 352,098 liters per day.

The collection centres according to him, provides a friendly platform that ensures farmers of a reliable market for their products.

He said throughout the system, milk

processing factories will be directly getting milk from the centres and pay them on weekly basis as per conditions outlines in signed contracts.

The registrar noted that TDB will continue working closely with key stakeholders including milk processors to educate and motivate farmers to form special groups where they can jointly sell their milk through the collection centres.

"By increasing the availability of milk collection centres we will overcome several challenges facing dairy farmers as well as milk processors", he said.

Byamungu said the board is also preparing to start conducting a countrywide tour to inspect all the milk processing factories and offer helpful guidelines on how to operate the facilities more professionally.

Out of the 99 registered milk plants currently operating in Tanzania, only five factories have successful managed to install Ultra High Temperature (UHT) processing machines. They are ASA, Tanga Fresh, Milkcom, Galaxy and Azam.



By increasing the availability of milk collection centres we will overcome several challenges facing dairy farmers as well as milk processors

'Battle 'not yet over' against locust invasions in E. Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African countries are expected to face a second wave of desert locusts in November after the first hit earlier this year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned.

The UN body underscored that the situation remains worrisome in the Horn of Africa and could potentially deteriorate further this month because of recent breeding.

In a Desert Locust situational update report released on Monday, the FAO said that there will be an increased threat of swarm migration from Yemen, northeastern Ethiopia and northern

Somalia south to eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia in October that could extend to northern Kenya in November, resulting in the second wave for the country.

Locust numbers, the worst in three generations, surged in East Africa and the Red Sea region in late 2019 and early this year, encouraged by unseasonably wet weather and dispersed by a record number of cyclones. The pests could cost East Africa and Yemen \$8.5 billion this year, the World Bank has said.

Swarms can fly up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) a day with the wind, and a single square kilometer (0.39 square mile) swarm can eat as much food in

a day as 35,000 people. Desert locusts feed on nearly all green vegetation and crops including leaves, flowers, bark, fruit, millet and rice.

Aerial spraying is the only effective way to control the locust outbreak. After the locusts crossed into Uganda for the first time since the 1960s, soldiers resorted to using hand-held spray pumps because of difficulties in obtaining the needed aircraft.

The FAO also reported that there are upcoming threats to Central and Eastern African countries. In September, the UN agency warned that locusts could endanger up to 7 million people in the southern region, further exacerbating food insecurity.

The outbreaks of African migratory locusts in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe are not related to the billions that have affected East Africa for months, the FAO said.

While far smaller, the southern outbreaks need quick attention to prevent a wider problem as farmers and others are already struggling to recover from last year's drought and the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.N. agency said in a statement. A swarm of the voracious insects "can eat enough food for 2,500 people in a day," a separate FAO document reported on the southern Africa outbreaks. A single swarm can contain millions of locusts.

By Guardian Correspondent, Bahi

Govt revamps 511 cattle dips

THE Government has revamped 511 cattle dips in the country in the year 2019 aimed to eradicate cattle diseases such as ticks.

Speaking at the weekend to herders in Bahi District at a cattle dipping campaign, the Director of Veterinary Services in the Livestock and Fisheries Ministry Dr Hezron Nonga said in addition 78 new dips were built as well.

"Cattle dipping has helped in reducing cattle deaths especially heifers by 30 per cent," he said.

DR Nonga said in 2020 15,600 litres of chemicals were purchased and distributed to 162 local councils, saying 1,967 dips are operating.

He explained that the chemicals will be used in in Bahi District's 20 dips, and since it was picked as a strategic district the government will continue providing chemicals after revamping other dips.

The Executive Director of Bahi District Council Dr Fatuma Mganga said some of the livestock infrastructures

were still under refurbishment because they had been in for a long time.

She said the district was in need of 24 dips, but only 22 were operating, and added that they were still educating herders to reduce the number of their herds due to inadequate grazing land.

"Areas fit for grazing is 133,156 hectares compared to the national ratio of 2:3 per year for only 44,385 cattle while the number of cattle in the district is 294,235, which is totally inadequate," she said.

Over 11 million African girls likely to miss school due to COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

THE education of over 11 million school going girls hangs in the balance as they are likely to remain home after the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

This problem, if not dealt with, will worsen the plight of the already existing canker of high number of girls without access to education.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 33.3 million girls of primary and lower secondary school age are out of school.

This number rises to 52.2 million when taking into account girls of upper secondary school age, according to a UNESCO Institute for Statistics 2018 report.

Due to the high possibility of girls education being affected if the needed attention is not given, some stakeholders in education are demanding deliberate actions from African governments and decision makers to ensure equal access of education for every girl on the continent as the world marks International Day of the Girl Child.

African Youth Activists have joined UNESCO, the All-Africa Students Union and the 100 Million Campaign, through the "Girls Back to School Campaign" to push for inclusiveness and prioritization of girls to enjoy education to the highest level possible. This year's commemoration, under the theme, "My voice, our equal future", is hinged on reimagining a world led and inspired by young girls.

In an open letter signed by the activists, they expressed concerns over the likelihood of multitude of girls remaining home after the pandemic if African leaders fail to adhere to the call to ensure girls go to school. "We have unfortunately witnessed a rise in teenage pregnancies and increased Gender-Based Violence cases during coronavirus induced lockdowns and as the financial impact of the pandemic pushes more families into poverty, cases of early child marriage and child labour are likely to grow.

The combined impacts of the aforementioned have the potential to erode all the gains made to ensure gender equality. This cannot be yet another dangerous legacy of COVID-19," the activists said in the letter.

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Shiganza appointed new deputy managing director for TAZARA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania-Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) board of directors has appointed Eng. Christopher Shiganza the new deputy managing director for the Authority with effect from 1 October 2020, replacing Eng. Betram Kiswaga, who was re-assigned in July 2019.

According to a statement issued yesterday, Eng. Shiganza (pictured) possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree



in Civil and Structural Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam and two Masters Degrees in Business Administration and Project Planning and Management from the Mzumbe University and the Open University of Tanzania, respectively.

Until this appointment, Eng. Shiganza was the managing director for the Moshi Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority.

Prior to that, he served as technical manager for the Tabora Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (2011-2018) and as planning and construction engineer for Mbeya Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (2007-2011). He also served as site engineer in various construction projects.

"The TAZARA family is delighted to embrace Eng. Shiganza and his wealth of experience in engineering," the statement reads in part.

TAZARA, is a bi-national railway linking the Southern Africa Regional transport network to Eastern Africa's seaport of Dar es Salaam, offering both freight and passenger transportation services between and within Tanzania and Zambia.



This is a scene from the site of the ongoing construction of Dar es Salaam city's 6.3-km Tanzanite Bridge, which is meant to link the Aga Khan Hospital section of Upanga East and Coco Beach/Oysterbay via India Ocean waters, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Dr Chuwa to chair seventh meeting of Statistical Commission for Africa today

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA'S Statistician General, Dr Albina Chuwa is scheduled to chair the seventh meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa starting today until 15th October, 2020, The Guardian has learnt.

A statement contained in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) website indicates that today, President Sahle-Work Zewde of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Vera Songwe, Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will proceed with the official opening of the Statistics Committee, implemented as Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa).

Owing to the global context marked

by the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be conducted online said the statement. "The meeting will be conducted by the StatCom Bureau chaired by Dr. Albina Andrew Chuwa, Statistician-General, National Bureau of Statistics of the United Republic of Tanzania," reads the statement.

With the theme "Developing regional solutions to enhance the resilience of African national statistical systems to meet the need for data during the Decade of Action in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic", the meeting will hear experience from selected countries it has severely impacted the implementation of statistical activities.

The overarching objective of the meeting will be to devise innovative statistical solutions to strengthen

national statistical systems with a view to keeping decision-makers informed of economic, social and environmental developments in real time.

One of the expectations is that as a subsidiary body of the ECA, the Statistical Commission for Africa will provide guidance for ECA statistical programmes in fulfilling the requirements for statistical data engendered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting will be attended by ECA member States represented by Heads of African National Statistical Offices and Experts representing Sub-regional organisations, statistical Training Centers, United Nations Agencies and various other International organizations.

The meeting is expected to gather more than two hundred participants

across the world with the ultimate purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the African Statistical System to take stock of ongoing global initiatives and seek ways to mainstream ownership of new and/or updated methodologies aiming at enhancing Member States' statistical capacities to meet data needs for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Welcoming remarks in the meeting will be delivered by Oliver Chinganya, Director ACS/ECA, Secretariat of Stat Com-Africa while opening statements will be made by Stefan Schweinfest, Director United Nations Statistics Division, followed by Dr Albina Andrew Chuwa, Statistician-General, National Bureau of Statistics,

Official opening remarks to be made by Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) then Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

According to the statement, the meeting will hear experience from selected African countries on how COVID-19 has severely impacted the implementation of statistical activities.

The countries will share their experience on key statistical programmes such as health statistics to be done by the World Health Organization (WHO), population and housing census programme (Ghana), ongoing household surveys (Zambia), data collection for the consumer price index (South Africa) and civil registration and vital statistics (Namibia).

On the same day, series of statutory report by ECA will be table. They include statistical capacity development in Africa, regional report on Sustainable Development Goal indicators, 2020 round of population and housing census, Civil registration, vital statistics and the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda.

Others are Implementation of the African Gender Statistics Programme 2017-2021, 2008 System of National Accounts, United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management: report on regional activities in Africa and ECA statistical programme for the period 2021-2022.

The meeting will be closed by Oliver Chinganya, Director ACS/ECA and the StatCom Chairperson, Dr Albina Andrew Chuwa, said the statement.

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Contractors Registration Board registrar Rhoben Nkori (2nd-R) presents a certificate in Arusha city at the weekend to one of the contractors who attended a just-ended three-day seminar organised by the board. Others are CRB deputy registrar (R&D) David Jere (R), training coordinator Neema Fuime (4th-R) and north zone manager Sauda Njila. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt orders public servants to encourage young ICT experts

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication Dr Zainab Chaula has challenged the public servants to stop frustrating young experts in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as it derails their dreams to encourage development of technology in the country.

"Young experts are highly important in this era of technology, the government is depending a lot on technology in the process of achieving industrial revolution," she said.

Dr Chaula added that the country is full of talented youth in the area of ICT, but the problem is people who are in the authority, instead of supporting them, frustrate with long procedures which are less important.

"The government is working hard to put in place a supportive environment for encouraging the development of technology, we need to see every responsible authority is playing its role to compliment the initiatives," she insisted.

The PS made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when closing the 4th Tanzania Annual ICT conference which was held for three days.

The conference which brought on board more than 500 participants from across the regions, is part of the series of conferences on ICT held to discuss the development and challenges of ICT and what strategies need to be initiated to achieve the intended goals.

Dr Chaula explained that, there are a lot of youth with bright minds and creativity which are needed in this era of technology, we need to invest more in them in order to get expertise in the technology.

"We need to move forward from a middle income country to a higher income country, but without investment in technology and infrastructures we will not win," Dr Chaula insisted.

"I encourage youth to keep their dream alive and to search for more opportunities present, the government in collaboration with the private sector will provide essential support on that," she said.

"I also urge the private sector to open more rooms of opportunities to young ICT experts in order to leverage the more youth to show up their talents," she emphasized.

For his part, acting director general for ICT commission Samson Mwela said that the

conference discussed a number of issues including skills in technology, vision and innovation towards industrial economy, we looked up on where the country is and what needs to be done to achieve that.

"But also we discussed the ongoing revolution in technology to the digital economy, readiness of the country, status, and resources available if we are able to support the changes," he said.

According to him, the government through the commission for ICT is preparing the modality for developing its home ICT experts, "we intend to have our own network securities, frequencies and systems, the idea is to reduce and finally stop dependence to foreign experts."

By Beauty Mwakatobe, TUDARCO

Dar ward residents 'demand' peace

RESIDENTS of Makuburi ward, Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam Region have deplored increasing gang crime and demanded that police step up security.

Speaking to The Guardian, residents said that in recent months, gangs of youths are engaging in theft, robbery and violence, increasing fear among people in the area.

Led by Sylvia Kisinini, they said the once-peaceful area has turned into a den of thieves, who have been breaking windows and stealing people's valuables.

"This place used to be cool but nowadays the group moves around breaking into people's houses, stealing properties and even money," she said.

Residents want the government to intervene, put up a police booth and deploy officers to regularly patrol the area before the situation escalates.

The crime wave has been going on for a year now and efforts to stop the gangs have proved futile, Sylvia said.

"These incidents have been happening but this year is worse and robbers target mobile phones, wallets, television sets and laptops," she said, adding: "In the past we had a similar robbery incidents, but it was stopped after people decided to take the law into their hands by beating and setting fire on suspected robbers."

"We have reported the matter several times to local government authorities

but in vein," said Junior Gaudence.

Makuburi ward local government official Kajima Mayunga confirmed the incidents saying he is also a victim of robberies.

He said: "since November last year during the local government elections the existing leaders resigned so the office was left with only the executive officer. Many things came to a standstill including participatory street patrolling."

Mayunga said citizens are the ones hindering access to participatory security as local governments officials convene meetings but their response is limited. Local government officials decided that citizens themselves

should choose young people who will be in participatory patrols.

The leadership has decided to call a meeting once again with the people as soon as the general election is over, now it will not be possible due to the ongoing campaigns and the people are the attendees.

Citizens have also been hiding the thieves now they should choose their own participatory security scheme to reduce the inconvenience in the fundraising exercise for paying these young people". He concluded by urging the people to be quick to respond to the call as they are required to participate in the development of the nation as a whole.

Regional lender encourages more Asian investments in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has conveyed the continent's immense investment and partnership opportunities to Asian business leaders, particularly as the continent prepares to return to economic growth in 2021 following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a virtual workshop organised alongside the bank's Asia External Representation Office, the regional lender offered participants from Asia an opportunity to learn more about the bank and its operations in line with the recently launched African Economic Outlook 2020 -Asia Supplement, which revised growth projections and outlook for Africa for 2020 and 2021.

Samuel Mugoya, the bank's Director for Syndication, Co-financing and Client Solutions Department said: "I strongly encourage Asian private sector entities gathered here today, to partner with the bank to take advantage of the multiple investment opportunities that exist on the continent."

Mugoya praised Asian countries' ongoing support for the bank and Africa's development, saying, "There are four Asian member countries in the bank, namely China, India, Japan, and Korea that have been long-standing and strategic partners for almost 40 years."

"The Asian member countries have consistently contributed

to the bank's capital requirements and supported the African Development Fund's successive replenishments."

ADF is the bank's concessional window. It contributes to the promotion of economic and social development in 38 least developed African countries by providing concessional funding for projects and programs, as well as technical assistance for studies and capacity-building activities.

Takashi Hanajiri, Head of the Asia External

Representation Office, provided an overview of the bank and its history and components before providing a summary of its flagship Africa Investment Forum (AIF) initiative and the opportunities it offers.

Referring to the AIF event held in Johannesburg in 2019, he said "So far the largest deal was an LNG project in Mozambique with a total cost of \$24.6 billion," adding, "many Asian institutions, both public and private, are sponsoring the project."



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR FACILITATING VILLAGE LAND USE PLANNING IN 15 VILLAGES IN TOTAL IN LINDI AND RUVUMA REGIONS

The Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC) is a 4-year Programme funded by the Governments of Tanzania and Finland. The implementing agency of the programme is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania.

FORVAC aims to increase economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands while reducing deforestation. FORVAC focuses on forest value chains development based on production of timber, charcoal, and non-wood forest products (NWFP) in the Village Land Forest Reserves.

Currently, FORVAC is looking for a service provider to facilitate implementation of the Land Use Planning (LUP) process in fifteen (15) villages in total in Lindi and Ruvuma Regions. For more details, see the specifications and application instructions (ToR) on our website (www.forvac.or.tz). Deadline for the proposals is **2 November 2020**.



NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS FOR FORMER TIB CORPORATE BANK LIMITED (TIB CBL)

Dear Customers of the former TIB Corporate Bank,

We would like to inform you that TIB Corporate Bank Limited - Mwanza branch located at PSSSF Plaza Building 3rd Floor will be closed effective 30th October 2020. All customers receiving services through this branch will now be able to access all banking services through TPB Bank PLC branches in Mwanza (Pamba, Kenyatta and Liberty) or any TPB Bank Branch and agents countrywide.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

**Corporate Affairs Unit
TPB Bank PLC
Tel: +255 22 216294**

KENAFRIC INDUSTRIES TANZANIA LIMITED

REGISTRATION NO. 96548

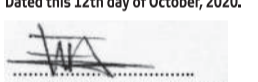
MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF THE COMPANY

(Made under Section 333(1)(b) of the Companies Act of 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Members of Kenafric Industries Tanzania Limited have resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and that Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate) of Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Street, P.O. Box 7323 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has been appointed as Liquidator for the purpose of winding up the company effectively from 04th September, 2020.

Creditors of Kenafric Industries Tanzania Limited are required within thirty (30) days after the date of issuance of this notice to send their names and addresses with full particulars of their debts or claims against the said company to the liquidator and proof of their debts or claims. Creditors will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2020.


 Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate)
 LIQUIDATOR

Ensure YARA fertiliser reaches farmers, PM urges govt officials

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed government officials to ensure fertiliser supplied by YARA Tanzania reaches farmers targeted under the special programme to go simultaneously with preparation for the 2020/2021 farming season.

Majaliwa was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launching of the programme of the distribution of 12,500 tonnes provided by YARA as part of its pledge to ensure the farming sector makes strides to increase farmers' incomes.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate YARA by offering itself to strengthen the farming sector by supplying fertilizer for free to more than 83,000 farmers," the PM said.

He said it was important for government officials to work together with YARA to realise its aim in providing farmers with the farming input free of charge.

The PM also called on other firms in the farming sector to emulate YARA's example to improve the important sector by alleviating challenges facing farmers.

Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said his ministry and other authorities have been satisfied that YARA fertilizers are fit to use in the country's environment hence it will

spur production of farm crops in particular maize and rice.

He said the government will continue to mobilise and ensure farmers receive education over the use of fertiliser, quality seeds and pesticides that are fit for use in the country's soils.

YARA Tanzania Managing Director Winstone Odhiambo said the programme is in efforts of its parent company in Norway to ensure African countries, including Tanzania are self-reliant in food production.

"The free fertilizer distribution programme is known as 'Action Africa'" he said and called upon farmers in the country to grab the opportunity.



I take this opportunity to congratulate YARA by offering itself to strengthen the farming sector by supplying fertilizer for free to more than 83,000 farmers



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks at the launch of free Yalamila fertiliser distribution to over 83,000 smallholder farmers at Yara Tanzania offices in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

RESIDENTS of Sanga Village in Meatu District, Simiyu Region, have thanked the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) for bringing safe and clean water to their village as the service has reduced cases of various water borne diseases including diarrhea and UTI.

The villagers said so at the weekend as they spoke to officials from the Water Ministry who visited the village to inspect the implementation of water projects in Simiyu Region.

Sanga villagers thank RUWASA for bringing clean water closer to them

They said in the past they suffered from water borne diseases due to impure water from streams and ponds.

"It is no secret that RUWASA has helped us a lot, as it hardly passed a

week or two without a member from our families becoming ill because many villagers here do not have the habit of boiling water before use," said Shome Masanga, a Sanga villager.

Another villager, Jasmin Gibaka said

since safe and clean water supply was brought to the village, they were now safe from rampant diseases they were suffering from before.

RUWASA Manager for Simiyu Region Eng Mariam Majala said the

region was implementing a total of 71 water projects costing over 30bn/-.

She said so far 27 water projects have been completed since 2016 when they started to be implemented, with six in

urban area.

She said the plan is to finish work on all the projects by December 30 this year and hoped that water borne diseases in the region would be past history.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

COUNTRY: TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: SECOND WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT

CREDIT NO.: IDA/59490, IDA/59500

CONTRACT TITLE: SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC WATER METERS FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION

REFERENCE NO.: TZ-DAWASA-191345-GO-RFB

- The United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Second Water Sector Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply of additional domestic water meters for water distribution.
- The Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply of One Hundred Thousand (100,000) domestic water meters complete with accessories. Delivery location is Dar es Salaam and delivery period is within six (6) months after signing the Contract.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, dated January 2011, revised in July 2014 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, Procurement Management Unit, and inspect the bidding document during office hours i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours, Monday to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays at the address given below.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **TZS 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Tanzania Shillings) or its equivalent amount in freely convertible currency**. The method of payment will be direct deposit to Account No. 01J1021921900, at any Branch of CRDB Bank, SWIFT code CORUTZ TZ. Pay in slip should be submitted to be able to collect the bidding document.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 11th November, 2020, 14:00 hours local time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on 11th November, 2020, 14:00 hours local time.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **TZS 150,000,000 or any equivalent amount in freely convertible currency** in form of irrevocable bank guarantee.
- The address referred to above is: Secretary, DAWASA Tender Board, Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, DAWASA Building, Dunga/Malanga Street Opposite Mwananyamala Hospital, P.O. Box 1573 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Telephone: +255222760006/+255222760015. Fax: +255222762480

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY



Procurement Opportunities

Tender for Framework Agreements

Medical Teams International is Non-Government Organization (NGO) which was founded in 1979, providing life-saving medical care for people in crisis, such as survivors of natural disasters and refugees.

Medical Teams International, Kasulu Tanzania is inviting interested suppliers to express their interest to supply MTI with items per description below. All interested parties are invited to participate.

Procuring Entity:	Medical Teams International
Tender No:	MTI20/GEN PROC/001
Tender Name	Invitation to Tender for Framework Agreements
Reference Number	CATEGORY A: SUPPLY OF GOODS
PP/MTI-TAN/01/2020	Supply of general stationery.
PP/MTI-TAN/02/2020	Supply of office supplies.
PP/MTI-TAN/03/2020	Supply and maintenance of photocopiers, scanners, computers, printers, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), laptops, software, toners and other ICT accessories.
PP/MTI-TAN/04/2020	Supply of branded items and promotional materials.
PP/MTI-TAN/05/2020	Supply, installation and maintenance of fire and security alarms equipment and security systems.
PP/MTI-TAN/06/2020	Supply of Fuel (Diesel & Petrol)
PP/MTI-TAN/07/2020	Supply of bottled water, dispensing machines and maintenance.
PP/MTI-TAN/08/2020	Supply of motor vehicle/cycle parts and accessories.
PP/MTI-TAN/09/2020	Supply of airtime and scratch cards.
PP/MTI-TAN/010/2020	Supply of office furniture's and fixtures.
PP/MTI-TAN/011/2020	Medicines
PP/MTI-TAN/012/2020	Medical Consumables
PP/MTI-TAN/013/2020	Medical Equipments
Reference Number	CATEGORY B: PROVISION OF SERVICES
PP/MTI-TAN/014/2020	Provision of catering services.
PP/MTI-TAN/015/2020	Provision of air travel, reservations and ticketing services.
PP/MTI-TAN/016/2020	Provision of sanitary, fumigation, pest control and cleaning services.
PP/MTI-TAN/017/2020	Provision of internet services.
PP/MTI-TAN/018/2020	Provision of hotel accommodation and conference facilities.
PP/MTI-TAN/019/2020	Provision of security services (guards, dog patrols and security survey).
PP/MTI-TAN/020/2020	Servicing, repair and maintenance of vehicles and motorcycles
PP/MTI-TAN/021/2020	Vehicle Hire-minibus, pickups, hardtop Landcruiser's
PP/MTI-TAN/022/2020	Provision of printing services
Source of Fund	Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration & UNHCR
Eligible Firms	National (Registered in Tanzania)
Method of Procurement	National Competitive Bidding
Mode Application	Via Email; procurementtz@medicalteams.org (Please send an introduction email for document inquiry)
Deadline	11 th November 2020 4:30PM
Bids Submission	Effective 12 th October to 11 th November 2020

"Daring to love like Jesus, we boldly break barriers to health and restore wholeness in a hurting world"



Filbert Mponzi (L), NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, exchanges greetings with members of the business community at a reception the bank hosted for them in Zanzibar at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN refugee agency says refugees in Uganda face food insecurity

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed concern about over 500,000 refugees in Uganda facing acute food insecurity amid severe cuts in food aid and Covid-19 restrictions.

UNHCR communications officer for Uganda, Khaled Kabbara said that Uganda's refugee response is challenged by a mix of Covid-19, food cuts and decreased level of humanitarian funding hitting the country at the same time.

More than 91,000 refugees living in 13 refugee settlements across Uganda are experiencing extreme levels of hunger, and 400,000 are considered to be at crisis hunger levels and 135,130

children acutely malnourished and in urgent need of treatment, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) released last week.

"We witness the deterioration of food security and worrying protection trends. We see an increase in high-risk coping mechanisms to secure basic food needs," Kabbara said.

"Achieving food security is crucial for refugees' self-reliance, stabilization and survival, especially in times when refugees' daily life struggles are coupled with challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

The spokesperson said improving access to livelihoods and self-reliance are critical to supporting medium-to-long-term solutions to food security.

"This requires greater partnership with governments, humanitarian and development partners, as well as the private sector to create an enabling environment that allows refugees to respond to their food security needs," Kabbara said.

The UN World Food Programme in Uganda in April announced a 30 percent reduction in food rations and cash transfers to more than 1.4 million vulnerable refugees who have fled into Uganda from neighbouring countries.

According to the IPC, the situation will become worse if food and cash transfers are further cut to the refugees, who have fled violence mainly from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

Deliver correct messages to the public, TASAF boss tells journos

By Correspondent Amri Lugungulo, Lindi

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has called upon journalists to make sure they deliver correct messages to the public especially when reporting on the fund's implementation of the second part of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN II) project in the third phase, which will go until 2023.

TASAF executive director Ladislaus Mwamanga made the remarks in Lindi Region when officiating a seminar for journalists from Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma and Coast Region.

The capacity building seminar which was held for two days from October 7th to October 8th this year was meant to enhance journalists' awareness on the second round of PSSN II which has been implemented in the country since February this year.

The PSSN I was implemented from

February 2013 and ended on December 31, 2019 spending a total of 1.46trn/-.

Mwamanga cautioned that some words used by journalists when reporting the fund's activities across the country depict a negative image that it was misusing public monies.

"We only transfer funds to targeted beneficiaries; we do not provide money to every citizen," he said.

TASAF Finance Manager, Shedrack Mziray said they have come up with a new technology to register the beneficiaries biometrically to fight the challenges raised in the previous phase.

He said: "We have strengthened our systems to ensure that the identification of poor people and households is conducted smoothly without loopholes."

Lindi Regional Administrative Secretary, Rehema Madenge

commended the government for empowering poor households as well as boosts their economy by enabling them to build better houses, purchase school requirements for the children and assure them of daily food.

A recent joint study carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the World Bank found that if TASAF had not been there, the rate of poverty in Tanzania would be at least 2 percentage points higher.

In this second part of the 3rd phase, the fund focuses on supporting and empowering vulnerable Tanzanians to fight poverty in their households.

In the last phases, 1.1 million households with over five million poor people were covered.

In the new phase, TASAF is expecting to reach 1.4 million households which have over seven million poor people in all the 185 district councils in Tanzania.



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



SECRETARIAT OF THE JOINT SONGWE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Songwe River Basin Development Programme

Date: 13th October, 2020

Grant No: 5550155001701

IFB No: S-SRBC/SRBDP/2020/2021/G/01

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR TENDERS

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in the UNDB online Project ID: P-Z1-EAZ-054 of 4th March, 2020 on-line and on the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group's Internet Website.

2. The **Secretariat of the joint Songwe River Basin Commission** has received a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the African Development Bank towards the cost of the **Strengthening Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Natural Resources Management in the Songwe River Basin (STCINRM-SRB) Project**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract executions for supply of the following goods:

S/N	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	TENDER NUMBER
1.	Supply of nine (9) Motor cycles	SRBC/SRBDP/2020/2021/G/01
2.	Supply of two (2) Motor vehicles	SRBC/SRBDP/2020/2021/G/02

3. The Secretariat of the joint Songwe River Basin Commission now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the above mentioned tenders.

4. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive procedures specified in the United Republic of Tanzania Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 as amended 2016 and are open to bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Tender Data Sheet.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain tender documents at the office of The Secretariat of the joint Songwe River Basin Commission (S-SRBC), P.O. Box 300, Kyela, Tanzania at former Water Department Building (Idara ya Maji), Kalumburu Area, near Kyela Resort Hotel from 08:30 to 15:30 Hours (EAT) from Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.

6. A complete set of Tender document(s) in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of USD Fifty (USD 50) for bid documents. The method of payment will be either by Bankers cheque or TISS, payable to

Bank Name: **National Microfinance Bank;**

Bank Account Name: **Joint Songwe River Basin Commission – GEF;**

Bank Account Number: **60910016707;**

Bank Branch: **Kyela NMB;**

Swift Code: **NMBTZT.**

7. All Tenders must be accompanied by an Unconditional Tender Security in an acceptable form in the amount of not less than **two percent (2%)** of the Tender Price; the Tender Security must bear the name and address of **The Secretariat of the joint Songwe River Basin Commission (S-SRBC), P.O. Box 300, Kyela, Tanzania** and must be submitted together with the tender.

8. All Tenders in one original plus two copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address of the **Secretariat of the joint Songwe River Basin Commission (S-SRBC), P.O. Box 300, Kyela, Tanzania** at or before **12:00 Hours (EAT) on 26th October, 2020**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend in the opening ceremony.

9. Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

**ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
SONGWE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 300,
KYELA, TANZANIA,**

**(AT FORMER WATER DEPARTMENT BUILDING (IDARA YA MAJI), KALUMBURU AREA,
NEAR KYELA RESORT HOTEL.)**

For further information: Email: info@songwerb.com

Telephone number: +255 754 832484; or +255 25 2957412

Fax number: +255 25 2957413.

BARRICK

BULYANHULU

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work packages as part of the Restart Project at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following services.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Minimum Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-20-09-001	Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Laboratory Building at Bulyanhulu Mine site	i. Applicants that had successfully executed EPC Contracts on a turnkey basis from design stage to commissioning of projects over the past ten (10) years shall be considered. ii. Applicant should be capable and prepared to undertake Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) project for Building Laboratory facility from Front End Engineering Design stage to successful completion of the facility as per Scope of works iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided iv. Local compliance with valid CRB registration, Class 1 contractor v. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary with regard to its financial stability, engineering capabilities, organizational structure, experienced personnel, equipment, expertise in relevant types of building construction facilities and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations
2	BUL-20-09-002	Supply of new paste pumps	i. Specialist company with site support ii. High density slurry/paste pumping iii. Underground pumping experience iv. Quality v. Lead time vi. Cost vii. Guarantee and warranty time frames

The above services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced service providers will be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s);
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years
- A written statement that your company is able to comply with all the Barrick Codes of Ethics and the submission of the fully completed Barrick Supplier Questionnaire [to be provided by Barrick on request];
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian equity percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required i.e. CRB etc
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- List of policies & procedures
- Job, equipment and client reference for similar services rendered within the last 3 years
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by 17:00 on the 16th October 2020. Any responses received after this date and time shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Food should not be for exerting political and economic pressure

FOOD security is a measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it. Affordability is only factor. There is evidence of food security being a concern many thousands of years ago, with central authorities in ancient China and ancient Egypt being known to release food from storage in times of famine. At the 1974 World Food Conference the term "food security" was defined with an emphasis on supply. Food security, they said, is the "availability at all times of adequate, nourishing, diverse, balanced and moderate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices". Later definitions added demand and access issues to the definition. The final report of the 1996 World Food Summit states that food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

Household food security exists when all members, at all times, have access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Individuals who are food secure do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Food insecurity, on the other hand, is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a situation of "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways".

Food security incorporates a measure of resilience to future disruption or unavailability of critical food supply due to various risk factors including droughts, shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability, and wars. In the years 2011-2013, an estimated 842 million people were suffering from chronic hunger. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, or

FAO, identified the four pillars of food security as availability, access, utilization, and stability. The United Nations (UN) recognized the Right to Food in the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and has since said that it is vital for the enjoyment of all other rights.

Climate change could put a major fishery— and the millions of people who depend on it—at risk in one of the world's most vulnerable regions, according to researchers. Developing nations, like those surrounding Lake Tanganyika in eastern Africa, depend on fish as an important protein source. It's also an important part of their cultural identity.

Lake Tanganyika is home to small pelagic fish, known locally as dagaa, that feed millions of people in Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Zambia. The fish's conservation is crucial to the food security and economy of rapidly growing and largely impoverished segments of these nations, but certain climatic changes may place the fishery at risk.

Until now, sedimentary records from Lake Tanganyika lacked the resolution needed to accurately measure the influence of frequent climatic events, such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Conditions within certain areas of Lake Tanganyika converged to provide high temporal resolution of its sediment, which the team was the first to sample.

The convergence of high solar irradiance and La Niña results in a strong monsoon and upwelling, which increases algae in southern Lake Tanganyika, according to the researchers. In contrast, a monsoon weakened by low solar irradiance and El Niño, as well as warmer surface waters, results in weak or absent upwelling and low algae production.

The team said the socioeconomic threat these conditions create for sub-Saharan Africa is the most severe of any region on Earth, but they believe their findings can help guide long-term management practices.

Sub-Saharan Africa must seek to have enhanced resilience to natural hazards

DISASTERS in sub-Saharan Africa often take a huge toll on vulnerable populations. Loss of life and livelihoods in the face of already existing challenges sets communities back many years leaving them at risk should another natural hazard occur.

African countries suffer from inadequate information to enable risk-informed decisions. While the magnitude and intensity of disasters is increasing in the region, national capacity to systematically record the disaster losses and damages is low.

To support disaster risk management in sub-Saharan Africa, the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) signed an agreement in 2013 to help strengthen ACP member states' regional integration and inclusion in the global economy, to address climate change as well as agriculture and rural development. The agreement also aims to contribute to better governance and education.

Under this agreement, the 'building disaster resilience to natural hazards in sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities programme' was launched in July 2015 to provide effective implementation of an African comprehensive disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management framework.

The EUR 60 million programme, funded by the European Union (EU) and covering a period of five years, is being implemented in Africa as part of a cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).

The International Day for Disaster Reduction is an international day that encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster-resilient communities and nations. The United Nations General Assembly designated October 13 as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction as part of its proclamation

of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Disaster risk reduction is a systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster as well as dealing with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them. Here it has been strongly influenced by the mass of research on vulnerability that has appeared in print since the mid-1970s.

It is the responsibility of development and relief agencies alike. It should be an integral part of the way such organisations do their work, not an add-on or one-off action. Disaster risk reduction is very wide-ranging. Its scope is much broader and deeper than conventional emergency management. There is potential for disaster risk reduction initiatives in just about every sector of development and humanitarian work.

The evolution of disaster thinking and practice since the 1970s has seen a progressively wider and deeper understanding of why disasters happen, accompanied by more integrated, holistic approaches to reduce their impact on society through reducing risk before it occurs (disaster risk reduction, or disaster risk management) as well as managing impacts when disasters occur (disaster management). It is being widely embraced by international agencies, governments, disaster planners and civil society organisations.

A gender-sensitive approach would identify how disasters affect men, women, boys and girls differently and shape policy that addresses people's specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is an international document that was adopted by the United Nations member states between 14 and 18 March 2015 at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in June 2015.

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By Femi Akintunde Johnson

I get it: the children have been home for more than four months, with a worrying potential that their education may be stunted to such a degree that they may be clutching air in an attempt to catch up with their contemporaries universally, in this frenetic digital age, where we still struggle, nationally.

I get it: young parents are witnessing the sweet-bitter exposure to infant belligerence and relentless mischiefness - not merely on weekends - but through a near hellish four months; perfectly made even more nightmarish by several weeks of lock-down that forced parents to stay home without any hope of escape into offices or some field work.

I get it: irritated parents, itching teachers, terrified school owners and other vested interest are pulling the government on all sides, trying to pressurise the government, especially in the states, to open up the educational space for some controlled school resumption.

I get it: life, as we know it, has basically shifted, perhaps permanently... to what is now commonly called "the new normal" - and part of the human response to beat Covid-19, is to somehow within reasonable and knowledge-based precautions and self-preserving protocols, device means of resuming "normal" lifestyle. We needed to get the businesses back at some steam... transportation had to get back on the move... markets, churches, mosques, restaurants, cinema houses, bars, recreation centers... almost all the elements that define our humanity have to be restarted... Even as we sort out efforts to check the spread of Covid-19, and await, with hope on this side, for vaccines that can save human beings, as early as possible.

With constant head nodding, you are probably in sync with the sentiments in the above paragraphs, and therefore understand the reason why the federal government endorsed general resumption of schools across the nation as from October 5. This is in spite of worried signals that Covid-19 may surge dangerously high in same October, and probably spike another round of quarantine and lockdowns.

Let us pause and review the available data that could justify our seeming risk to sacrifice the lives of our children on what appears a hunch that Covid-19 may be curtailed when children, characteristically ebullient and restless, mingle and frolic in so-called sanitized (safe) environment. Many schools in the United States have had thousands of returning students quarantined to prevent further spread of Covid-19; we have read alarming warnings of top US scientists advising school authorities not to send students suspected to be asymptomatic back to their homes - to prevent infecting adults.

Perhaps a report by The European

'I don't get why we want to sacrifice our children'



Sting in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, published on August 10, 2020 will provide alternating perspectives to deepen our appreciation of these worrying times. Here are few extracts which crunched the numbers using Nigeria as one of its research-cases:

"What we do know is that low-income countries face a very different set of circumstances from high-income countries - for example, a higher proportion of households that include both children and elderly people, difficulty (in) testing for COVID-19 and enforcing social distancing in existing school settings, and the urgency of maintaining the livelihoods of working-age adults to prevent hunger and poverty. Our study finds reopening schools too early in developing countries could undermine the gains made so far in containing the spread of the virus. When deciding to reopen schools, policymakers need to weigh these findings against the cost of keeping schools closed for a prolonged period..."

"A common justification for reopening schools is that children are very unlikely to die from COVID-19. Yet, children live with adults, and - particularly in developing countries - elderly adults. According UN data, the proportion of elderly people who live with at least one child under 20 is more than 10% in most African countries, compared to less than 1% in European countries and the United States. This raises the risk that children may contract the virus at school and transmit it to parents and grandparents at home."

Indeed, the complexities of whether to reopen schools, or wait out the year,

are damning for policy and decision makers: "Opening schools increases fatalities among older adults, and most commonly the elderly. By closing schools alone, our model predicts it could save around 175,000 lives relative to doing nothing. Other additional interventions can do even better, such as shielding the elderly. A blanket lockdown (of the formal sector) would save the most lives but would lead to large additional declines in GDP, meaning reduced livelihoods for many vulnerable households."

For any decision taken, there are costs to pay, and losses to incur. What will our people prefer... between the deep blue sea and the hard unfeeling rock? Here is more from the Sting report: "The single biggest reason to delay school re-openings is to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Our study predicts that delaying school openings can be a potent force for saving lives, by reducing the risk of children getting infected at school, and in turn, spreading the virus within their households."

"Of course, any policy decision about delaying school openings must dispassionately weigh the potential lives saved against the negative impacts of keeping children out of school for a long period. For example, evidence from the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone show an increase in out-of-wedlock pregnancies and a drop in school enrolment after the crisis among young women in villages. On the other hand, some families could not afford to send their children back to school after losing their livelihoods, indicating an important link between protecting livelihoods and access to education. Other major issues of

concern in developing countries around keeping schools closed for long periods include losses in learning, missed midday meals, availability of childcare for working parents, and limited resources for online learning."

From the copious reports around us, and experiences of other nations, especially the developed nations with heightened and more widespread counter measures against the spiralling grim-ripper, what I get is our bold-faced gamble to expose our children, and inevitably their parents and grandparents, to the contagion, and hope nothing bad happens. What I see is our government hoping, or wishing, that all will be well with our children, if only they would wash their hands regularly, wear face masks, keep safe distances; and school authorities mobilise teachers and school workers to supervise, lead by personal examples and drive the safe teaching environment in schools, either public or private. So much for national policy dependency on uncontrollable variables.

I am fully persuaded that if I have children of school-going age, I shall confidently ignore the risk and potential sacrifice of exposure wherein the government would not be around when the possible consequences of their resumption protocols backfire... and one would be left to carry one's own cross - as it is with most of our relationship with governance in this continent. I would rather my children miss a full year of study, and resume when the air is sufficiently "immaculate", and vaccines available... than join the government in the risky dance of "let's reopen schools, and see what happens" - that, I get!

TARI visits Mama Maria Nyerere at Butiama

BY GERALD KITABU

Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has organised and conducted a working visit in Butiama district to the First Phase First Lady Maria Nyerere. TARI visit in the district follows Maria Nyerere's request of improved and high yielding crop varieties from TARI for planting on her field. In this article, one of TARI Principal Agricultural Research Officers who is also the current National Coordinator for Beans Programme Dr. Rose Mongi granted an exclusive interview to our reporter Gerald Kitabu on the mission. Excerpts:

QUESTION: Briefly tell us about your tour of Butiama village, the home of the First Phase First Lady Maria Nyerere.

ANSWER: In fact I was very happy. It was a unique chance to meet Mama Maria Nyerere who has been in frontline to advocate nutritious foods for Tanzanians. The common bean is one of such crops that she has been insisting on due to its nutritious benefits to all ages regardless of gender. Being a plant breeder with passions of contributing towards alleviating hidden hunger caused by lack of nutritious foods, my chemistry matches that of Mama Maria. She is such a wonderful and caring mother.

Q: Being a plant breeder, what is your experience in Butiama especially with beans?

A: Many farmers in Butiama are still growing beans in a traditional way using mixtures of varieties with alarming disadvantages of low yields. This is a quote from Madaraka Nyerere who was present during demonstration in the field. "I grew beans in seven acre field and harvested only six bags, less than a bag per acre". This prompted TARI researchers to plan for demonstration plots of four recently released varieties that are high yielding (more than eight bags per acre). These varieties are Calima Uyole, Njano



Uyole, Uyole 18 that are tolerant to diseases and highly marketable in neighbouring countries of Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo DRC, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, and South Africa. The varieties were well received in Butiama and farmers are having high expectations of boosting production, increase income, have more nutritious foods for the families especially to women and children. As we all know, Butiama has large number of livestock ranging from cattle, goats and sheep. Bean fodder is a good source of animal feeds that can be used directly from the field.

Increasing bean productions will go hand in hand with increase in the amount of feeds available in the district. For

those who do not keep cattle, sheep or goats, this is an opportunity of generating income through fodder sales that will also contribute in job creation and increase in income. The advantage of soil fertility when beans are grown cannot be forsaken. Bean has the ability to live in association with nitrogen fixing bacterial that take advantage of the bean roots and fix nitrogen from the air. As a cereal growing district, soils in Butiama can be improved considerably.

A number of households particularly in rural areas are either incapable of purchasing high quality foods or are not knowledgeable about balanced diets and they often end-up with foods that are high in starch

with little amount of protein. As a result, hidden hunger is a common disaster with frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases. Beans are a good source of protein that can easily be stored and accessed when needed. Consequently, the bean leafy vegetable is a good source of vitamins and minerals that can be consumed more if production is boosted at individual farm level.

Q: Beans have been grown in Tanzania for more than a century. As the National Coordinator of Beans Programme, what is the current position and status of the crop in Tanzania in general?

A: It is very true that beans have been grown in Tanzania for more than a century. The

crop remains to be the main source of protein, vitamins and minerals to many households. Per capita consumption is estimated at 19.3kg with a total production of more than 1.2 million metric tonnes annually. Although Tanzania is leading Africa in bean production, the yield per unit area is low, standing at 1.2 tonnes per hectare compared to 2.5 tonnes per hectare. The tonnage produced does not suffice the high demand of the crop within and outside the country.

Tanzania is endowed with diversity of beans varieties with different colors, sizes and growing habits. Using this diversity, considerable efforts have been made in developing new varieties in which more than 42 have been released. Along with that improved agronomic practices for bean production have been developed to increase production. This includes land preparation, appropriate time of planting, seeding rate, recommended spacing, weed management, insects and disease control. Bean production technologies are currently being disseminated countrywide to all bean producing agro-ecologies/districts including Butiama.

Q: What about beans value chain and the crop's future?

A: Like any other crops, beans can be processed into different food products such as porridge, buns, breads, and pastries especially when mixed with cereals. This has been indicated to increase consumption rates and promotion is currently underway in hospitals, clinics and schools.

The existence of good road networks and the country motive towards industrialisation, will contribute to increasing

production, processing and value addition of the crop. The development of food industries is a good opportunity to increase food availability in the country but this must be balanced as experience shows that most of the food industries base on fats and starchy foods while majority of the populations are often incapable of supplementing their diet with protein foods. Products such as pre-cooked beans will increase consumption, conserve the environment considering firewood used for cooking and serve time to cooks. In this regard, common bean has a potential to contribute in alleviating poverty in the country and improve livelihoods of the people. In this regard, seed production of all classes and development of new varieties is a key driver in increasing bean production in the country.

Q: besides beans, did you demonstrate any other high yielding crop?

A: TARI through Ukiriguru Centre which is under Dr. Henricko Kulembeka handed over improved cassava varieties. Remember for the past ten years, TARI has been working hard and so far has researched and released several improved varieties that have high yielding capacity and suitable for the farmers in the Lake zone. If you heard properly, TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said until December last year TARI had released a total of Nine improved cassava varieties and one of them is known as TARI CAS 4 which, under good agricultural practices can produce up to fifty tonnes per hectare from the current seven tones per the same size of land.

The improved cassava varieties are a solution to diseases such as cassava mosaic disease and cassava brown streak diseases which have ravaged the crop and reduced productivity in the Lake zone.

We are actually very grateful to President John Magufuli for putting in place conducive environment for conducting research in the country. It is through research that the country can produce more, get more raw materials for our industrial economy.

Investment prospects for Africa in a post-Covid-19 era

BY JIM COLEMAN

The Covid-19 pandemic has created an interesting conundrum for the investment world. As global economies attempt to go back to some normalcy following extended periods of economic inactivity, investors are also faced with critical decisions on the best markets and asset classes where to invest their capital.

In these uncertain times, what we do know for certain is that the pandemic has left even the world's largest investors wary and even more risk-averse.

Navigating uncharted waters, with the UK now almost certain not to have agreed trade deals with the EU by the end of this year, the UK's official withdrawal from the European Union has created a unique set of challenges for its relations with its sovereign neighbours and the rest of the world.

Against the backdrop of negotiations by the EU and UK parliaments to map out rules on trade, immigration, aviation, security and access to fishing waters, the Covid-19 pandemic has weighed significantly on the UK economy.

Unemployment, already rising rapidly, is projected to rise to over 3 million by the end of 2020. New cases of Covid-19 are running at over 2,500 per day, again causing the government to re-introduce social gathering restrictions. The onset of winter is expected to cause a significant increase in new Covid-19 cases.

Noting the dramatic hit on the economy, trends point towards consequences more severe than experienced during the 2008 global financial crisis - and the odds seem to be increasing.

With a steep decline in GDP figures not seen in over 40 years, the International Monetary Fund forecasts a general decline of 8 per cent across the world's advanced economies and 10.2 per cent for the UK - with slow recovery.



It is therefore not surprising that most countries are preoccupied with national re-building projects geared at stimulating local economic investment and activity.

As a result, investor appetite for risk has declined significantly over the crisis period. This has raised considerations around how this will impact Africa - home to some of the poorest people - and even some rapidly developing nations in the world.

De-globalisation, according

to the World Economic Forum, is set to further marginalise the African continent with funds tracking the currencies of the major trading nations.

Therefore, with the entire continent's GDP less than that of the UK, there is little to no tracking in this sphere. With the exception of the South African Rand, most funds have no knowledge of African currencies and therefore don't have interest in African economies.

With UK-Africa trade at only 2 per cent currently, it

remains to be seen how far the UK will be willing to invest in Africa. Following its exit from the EU, the UK is likely to look towards crafting new approaches towards trade, aid and investment.

To its advantage, Africa has a burgeoning human capital in its increasingly young population. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa asserts that, by 2050, the teeming numbers of young Africans will form over a quarter of the world's labour force.

In theory, this is set to unlock great potential for the continent in the next decade and may afford it stronger bargaining power in future.

But without radical restructuring and policy reforms, led by experienced leaders boasting the continuous support of political overlords, even the expected increase in youth participation in economies may be fleeting.

Despite the low levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the Africa, the continent has historically given better return on investment than have other regions in the world,

and therein lies its investment case.

However, with investors increasingly in survival mode and avoiding potential meltdowns, the onus rests on Africa to prepare itself as fertile ground for investment.

To attract and sustain FDI, African countries need to demonstrate strong management and transparency, especially within its banking sector. Governments also need to play their part, compete with clear plans to improve collection of taxes, employment, education, health services as well as water and waste processing.

With the advances in technology, different commodities are becoming increasingly important. Core commodities will remain steady but still cyclical.

There will be new commodities, and this stands to disrupt the status quo. Some may have greater longevity than others as the advance in nanotechnology (that is, the use of matter on an atomic, molecular and supramolecular scale for industrial purposes) gains pace.

Now, more than ever before, food has become increasingly important and factors such as climate change and population growth have exacerbated the problems.

That Africa holds great potential goes without saying. While the Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly dealt the continent several blows, including witnessing lower trade and investment as well as suffering a continental supply shock affecting domestic and regional trade, there may be room for innovative investment opportunities in the future.

These include live entertainment and related broadcasting as well as hubs providing links to trusted service providers such as private banking, lawyers, accountants, medical care, clothing, lifestyles, vehicle rentals and entertainment.

• Jim Coleman is CEO of de Carneys Capital and dec Africa.

Why did leaders of the US and the USSR meet in the middle of nowhere during the Cold War?

By John Varoli

Glassboro, New Jersey, probably won't mean much even to seasoned experts in international relations. But in the summer of 1967, it was the capital of the world for three days - when then US President Lyndon B. Johnson met with then Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

While that summer wasn't the Cold War's most tense period, such as during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis or the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, there was nothing simple and easy about that year with regard to relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The US was bogged down in a brutal war against North Vietnam, a crucial ally of Moscow in Asia. Also, a civil war had begun in Nigeria (over Biafra) and turmoil in the Middle East threatened to drag the superpowers into direct confrontation.

In this increasingly hostile atmosphere, at the last minute and to the surprise of nearly everyone, the American and Soviet leaders decided to meet. Kosygin was going to be in the US anyway to address the United Nations on June 19.

With President Johnson soon to face re-election (in 1968), some type of foreign policy success would be welcomed. He had come to power in November 1963 after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald, who had lived for several years in the USSR.

And so, after the UN session, on June



23-25, the two leaders met at Glassboro State College to discuss the most pressing issues then threatening world peace.

Where was this? If you've never heard of it, you're not alone. Pretty much in the middle of nowhere in the south of New Jersey, halfway between New York City and Washington DC, lies the small town of Glassboro.

Why Glassboro? Here's the back-

story: Kosygin didn't want to travel to Washington, DC, and Johnson didn't want to meet in New York, fearing Vietnam War protests there. The relatively remote Glassboro, a halfway point between those two major cities, was seen as the best compromise.

"This was the first superpower summit in an ordinary community, rather than at Camp David or the White House," said Professor of So-

viet Studies, James Heinzen, who teaches today at Rowan University - the successor to Glassboro College, which in 1967 was a public teachers' college in a town of about 10,000 residents.

The college and the town had 16 hours to prepare for the summit and Hollybush, a 19th century mansion that was home of Glassboro College's president, had to be modernised to host the two leaders.

Twelve small air conditioners were installed, as well as 16 telephones. Meanwhile, the local cinema screened the comedy "The Russians are Coming, the Russians are Coming!"

"Hundreds of Secret Service officers and state troopers swarmed over the campus and checked every room of every building. Snipers took up positions on every rooftop," said Professor Heinzen, adding: "Since the summit had been organised with only 16 hours' notice, students and staff were taken by surprise when approached by armed men asking for identification."

During those three days, Johnson and Kosygin met for a total of almost ten hours in Hollybush's small library. The topics discussed included the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War that took place just weeks before, as well as the nuclear arms race and the Vietnam War.

While no major agreements were signed at Glassboro, Johnson considered the summit a triumph and afterwards invoked "the Spirit of Glassboro" when referring to improved Washington relations with Moscow.

Johnson and Kosygin gave press conferences on the steps of Hollybush mansion, as thousands cheered on the street. Almost 1,000 journalists from around the world covered the summit.

"We may have differences and difficulties ahead, but I think they will be lessened - not increased - by

our new knowledge of each other," Johnson said, noting a "spirit of direct, face-to-face exchanges between leaders with very heavy responsibilities".

Johnson showed photos of his new grandchild to Kosygin, who was also a new grandparent, and he in turn showed Johnson his pride and joy.

"They bonded over these photos. Johnson was an outgoing Texan, while Kosygin was a typical Soviet stony faced apparatchik (Russian for 'bureaucrat'). Johnson wanted to connect personally with Kosygin with the idea that this would make their conversations about very complex issues more productive," said Professor Heinzen.

"New agreements are not always reached in a single conversation," Johnson told the media on June 25 as the talks ended, adding: "We've gone more deeply than before into a number of the many questions before our two countries."

A little more than a year later, however, the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia, effectively ruining that good spirit.

Nevertheless, that spirit lived on, if even only as just a flicker, and - almost 20 years later - US President Ronald Reagan invoked the Glassboro Summit and the "spirit of Hollybush" when remarking about his successful negotiations with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

● **Russia Beyond**

By Ed Yong

Last Monday (September 14), when I called cardiologist Amy Kontorovich in the late morning, she apologised for sounding tired. "I've been in my lab infecting heart cells with SARS-CoV-2 since 6 a.m.," she said.

That might seem like an odd experiment for a virus that spreads through the air and primarily infects the lungs and airways. But SARS-CoV-2, the new coronavirus behind the Covid-19 pandemic, can also damage the heart.

That much was clear in the early months of the pandemic, when some Covid-19 patients would be hospitalised with respiratory problems and die from heart failure.

"Cardiologists have been thinking about this since March," said Kontorovich, who is based at Mount Sinai, adding: "Data have been trickling in."

Autopsies have found traces of the coronavirus's genetic material in the heart, and actual viral particles within the heart's muscle cells. Experiments have found that SARS-CoV-2 can destroy lab-grown versions of those cells.

Several studies have now shown that roughly 10 to 30 per cent of hospitalised Covid-19 patients had high levels of troponin - a protein released into the blood when the heart's muscle cells are damaged. Such patients are more likely to die than others with no signs of heart injury.

This is worrying for people with severe symptoms but, more recently, a few studies suggested that Covid-19 can cause heart inflammation - or myocarditis - even in people who showed mild symptoms or had recovered.

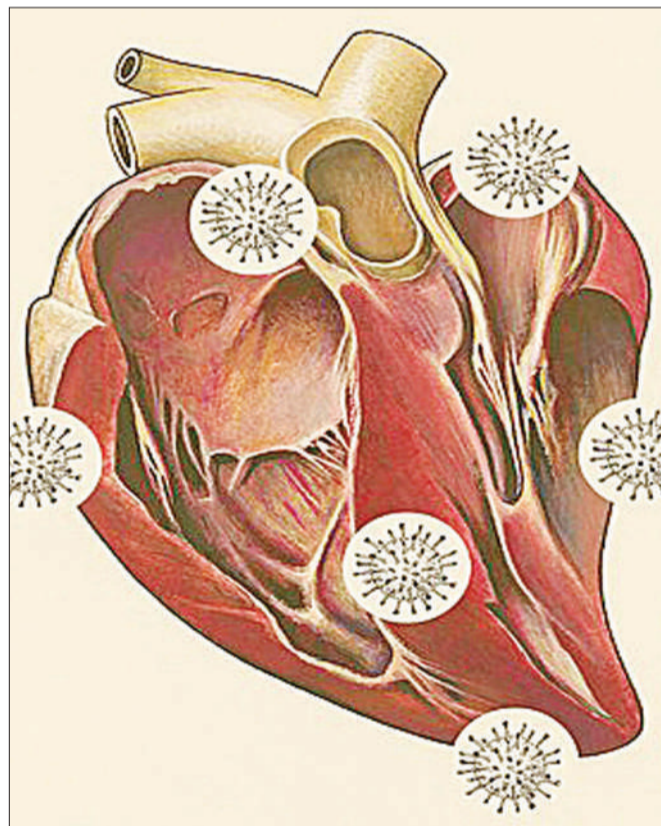
These results were controversial but concerning. Myocarditis is frequently caused by viruses and resolves on its own in many cases. But it can progress to more severe heart problems, and is one of the leading causes of sudden death in young adults.

These studies contributed to decisions by two US college football conferences - the Big Ten and the Pac-12 - to cancel their autumn season. The Big Ten has since reversed its call, and the Pac-12 is considering doing the same.

These developments have only added to Covid-19's mystique. News stories and scientific articles have spun a narrative about a bizarre virus that behaves like no other as well as a supposedly respiratory illness that should perhaps be reconsidered as a vascular disease.

But several cardiologists and virologists I've talked with say that such claims are overblown. Covid-19 is a severe disease that should be taken seriously, but it's not all that strange. It seems that way in part because it is new and extremely widespread, and so commands our full attention in the way that most viral illnesses don't.

The core lesson of the Covid-19 heart debate



Anatomical illustration of a human heart with small coronavirus cells overlaid on it. Photo: De Agostini/Getty Images

Hundreds of researchers are studying it. Millions of people have been infected by it. And every study, every news story, and every unusual detail quickens the pulse.

From a virus's point of view, the heart is both an easy target and a terrible one. It is easy to reach and invade because it collects blood from all over the body and, unlike the brain, has no protective barrier.

But infecting the heart also risks killing the host without triggering symptoms that would allow a virus to spread easily - coughing, sneezing, diarrhoea or vomiting. For that reason, viruses that affect only the heart "do not exist", says Efraim Rivera-Serrano, a virologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

However, viruses can incidentally affect the heart. They do so often enough that they are the most common cause of myocarditis in the Western world. At least 20 known viruses can trigger this condition, including those that cause influenza, Zika, dengue and measles.

The list also includes the original SARS virus: One Toronto-based study found its genetic material in seven of 20 autopsied hearts. These hearts also had myocarditis.

By contrast, autopsied hearts with traces of the new coronavirus typically don't - with some exceptions. The virus was there,

but whether it was actually doing anything is unclear.

But a virus doesn't need to be in the heart to wreak havoc. It can cause indirect damage by attacking the lungs and starving the heart of oxygen, or by triggering an inflammatory immune response that affects the entire body.

Even viruses that primarily affect the gut (like enteroviruses) or the respiratory system (like adenoviruses) can cause myocarditis in this way, when molecules produced at the site of infection travel through the bloodstream and inflame the heart.

Coxsackie B, for example, is the most widely studied cause of viral myocarditis, but it is primarily a gut virus that spreads through faecal contamination; it can infect the heart, but it does much of its damage via the immune system.

"To say that a virus is cardiac or vascular or respiratory simplifies things too much. Any time a pathogen invades the body, the whole body reacts," says Paul Checchia, a cardiologist at Texas Children's Hospital.

SARS-CoV-2 is no exception. The immune system's response to this coronavirus can be slow to kick off, but then prolonged and severe. These immune overreactions are similar in kind to those triggered by other respiratory viruses, like influenza, but greater in degree. The heart could potentially be caught in this stronger crossfire.

But how often does that happen? In the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, it seemed clear that the risk of heart injuries was "directly proportional to the severity of the illness", says Neel Chokshi, a sports cardiologist at the University of Pennsylvania.

But in July, a team led by Valentina Puntmann at University Hospital Frankfurt, in Germany, complicated that picture. The researchers showed that 78 per cent of people who had recovered from Covid-19 - including many who had never been hospitalised - still had some kind of heart abnormality that was detectable on MRI scans two months later. About 60 per cent still had signs of myocarditis.

The study was explosive. It spawned a wave of articles and papers about the possibility that Covid-19 could inflict stealthy and

prolonged harm upon the hearts of people who aren't outwardly sick, and reportedly influenced decisions about whether college athletes should be allowed to play.

These intense discussions touched off intense criticism. Other scientists slammed the study for several errors, including data that were missing, reported incorrectly or analysed with the wrong statistical tests. The Frankfurt team corrected its paper, but says the main conclusions still stand.

"I think the data are good," says Tiffany Chen of Penn Medicine, who specialises in cardiac imaging and was not involved in the study, adding: "These were relatively healthy, mild cases of Covid-19, and they had a lot of abnormalities. It's unsettling."

But the clinical implications of these findings - what they mean for Covid-19 patients whose symptoms have abated, but whose MRI scans are abnormal - aren't yet understood, she says. "Viral myocarditis isn't always a problem. It's entirely possible that one has had the condition at some point in one's life without ever realising it. Some people recover but have persistent scarring that weakens their hearts and increases the risk of problems years down the line. And in a third group, the inflammation rapidly worsens, leading to faulty heartbeats, heart failure or even death."

The latter two outcomes are rare, but "it's really hard to give accurate percentages", says Chokshi. Doctors typically see cases of viral myocarditis only when they fall into the third group, and severe symptoms warrant MRIs and other diagnostic tests.

"We don't do MRIs on everyone who has the flu, so we don't know how many have inflammation or what their long-term outcomes are," says Martha Gulati, the cardiology chief at the University of Arizona.

For example, in two small pilot studies, Checchia found signs of heart damage in between 40 and 55 per cent of children who were hospitalised with RSV - a common respiratory virus.

"On discharge, they seemed perfectly fine. But we couldn't get funding to look at them months or years down the line," he says.

Without that information, it's hard to know what to make of

the Frankfurt Covid-19 study or others like it. Yes, some patients have myocarditis - but what does that mean? How do the numbers compare relative to other respiratory viruses?

Will Covid-19 patients with myocarditis recover fully, or will some have long-term problems? Is this virus doing something strange, or are researchers just studying it more intensely than other viral infections? For now, it's difficult to say.

The worry is that Covid-19 is doing whatever it's doing at scale. The original SARS epidemic of 2003 infected only 8,000 people, killed slightly fewer than 800, was over in three months, and its impact on the heart was "lost in the historical bin of the scientific literature", says Checchia.

SARS-CoV-2, by contrast, has infected at least 31 million people and killed at least 960,000. Its effects are thousands of times more obvious than those of its predecessor. Even if it's no worse than any other viral illness, its sheer scope means that a tiny risk of severe long-term problems would still translate into a lot of failing hearts.

Reassuringly, "there hasn't been an obvious influx of patients being admitted to the hospital with unexplained myocarditis, despite the huge numbers who have had Covid-19," says Venkatesh Murthy, a cardiologist at the University of Michigan.

"I don't find it convincing that there is a major amount of serious clinically relevant myocarditis in people who are feeling well," notes Murthy.

Still, he and others say that long-term studies are important. "We're still early," says Tiffany Chen, adding: "I don't think there's a defined time point when we would expect to see heart failure, so we have to follow these patients for months or years down the road."

That can be unnerving for people who are currently sick. Long-haulers, who are struggling with months of debilitating Covid-19 symptoms, are "responding to the media's interpretation of these studies and, to put it bluntly, are rightfully freaking out", said Kontorovich, who is part of a team that provides care for long-haulers. But for now, she sees the myocarditis issue and the long-hauler phenomenon as separate matters.

Some long-haulers have been diagnosed with dysautonomia - a group of disorders that disrupt involuntary bodily functions, including heartbeats (which can become inexplicably fast) and blood pressure (which can suddenly crash).

However, people with lingering heart problems after viral myocarditis don't usually experience the chronic symptoms that long-haulers do, and they typically have measurable changes to their hearts that long-haulers don't.

"There may be a connection, but it hasn't been proved," noted Kontorovich.

College athletes are also facing immediate decisions. In just the past two months, the 27-year-old basketball player Michael Ojo died from a heart attack during a practice session, while 20-year-old football player Jamain Stephens Jr. died from a blood clot in his heart. Both had previously contracted Covid-19.

In a recent study, a research team at the Ohio State University scanned the hearts of 26 college athletes who tested positive for Covid-19 and had mild or absent symptoms. Four of them - or 15 per cent - had signs of myocarditis.

But the Ohio study didn't examine a control group of similar athletes who didn't have Covid-19, and even healthy athletes experience changes in their heart as they train, including features that are "similar to what you might see with infections or scarring", says Gulati, the cardiologist at the University of Arizona.

If athletes come down with clinical myocarditis - that is, with obvious signs of heart problems - they're taken out of play for at least three months to let the infection run its course and to give the heart a chance to bounce back.

The question now is: What does one do about the people who have subclinical myocarditis after Covid-19, which presents with no symptoms and can be seen only on a medical scanner?

Chokshi, the sports cardiologist, says the risk that these abnormalities will lead to heart failure "is very, very low", but "the outcome is catastrophic".

The American College of Cardiology has published guidance advising that all athletes testing positive for Covid-19 rest for at least two weeks, even if they show no symptoms.

● **Ed Yong is a science**

Bashe graces revival of Chato cotton ginnery

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER, CHATO

AGRICULTURE deputy minister Hussein Bashe has inaugurated Chato Cooperative Union (CCU) ginnery, saying it was part of government's plan to make the farming sector self-sufficient and as provider of industrial raw materials.

Speaking at the event at the weekend Bashe said the revival of the ginnery was a good beginning for cotton farmers to increase production as well as their own incomes.

"The project to revive the ginnery had cost 6.7bn/- from Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) loan," he said.

He said the revival of the factory that stopped production for several years will make farmers in Chato District and surrounding areas to increase cotton production.

Bashe also hailed TADB for its efforts to spur development among farmers via soft loans.

"I congratulate TADB, the ministry and other agriculture stakeholders on how we worked together to ensure the factory continues production," he said and called on other financial institutions to emerge and invest in the farming sector.

TADB managing director, Japhet Justine said the inauguration of the factory will add value to the cotton crop which dropped since 2013/14 season.

He said this year's price for cotton has been good compared to other seasons and that they will continue mobilizing for the availability of markets.

During the last season we made efforts to buy cotton from farmers at a price that they were happy with but we continue more efforts to make cotton more profitable by reviving more cotton ginneries," said Deputy Minister Bashe.



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank managing director Japhet Justine (L) explains a point to Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (R) at the weekend shortly after the inauguration of the just-revived cotton ginnery owned by the Chato Cooperative Union. The bank has released 6.7bn/- for the revamping of the facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African countries advised to revise aviation policies to fight pandemic

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TOP African Union (AU) official has called on the 55 AU member states to go over their aviation policies to revive the industry hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, during a recent webinar hosted by the union.

Amani Abou-Zeid, the AU commissioner for infrastructure and energy, also asked the member states to prepare emergency plans to minimize risks to the aviation sector, while also setting sustainability goals.

"Recovery of aviation is essential to rapid and sustainable recovery of Africa economies post-COVID-19," Abou-Zeid said during the webinar, Sept. 30.

The event was aimed at exploring strategies to rebuild a safe, secure and competitive air transport sector in cooperation with AU partners, such as the World Bank.

The government officials and industry leaders discussed strategic approaches by the AU to support the aviation industry in African countries and help ensure public confidence in air travel.

Among the participants were World Bank Vice President for Infrastructure Makhtar Diop, South Africa's Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan, African Airlines Association Secretary General Abderahmane Berthe and Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) former president Bernard Aliu.

"As countries begin to open their economies and assess the damage from the pandemic, our focus at

the AU is to advise governments on best approaches for the air transport sector to bounce back and contribute to rapid recovery," Abou-Zeid said.

She noted the pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented downturn in air transport activity, jeopardizing economies and livelihoods dependent on travel and tourism.

The airports in African countries overall are projected to suffer a combined revenue loss of \$6 billion this year, with restrictions still remaining on aviation activities.

Under the circumstances, Abou-Zeid stated that the uncoordinated opening of aviation infrastructure without consistent quarantine measures would be impractical and unhelpful in terms of sustaining the jobs and welfare of employees in the aviation industry.

She shared the roadmap for recovery from the High Level Task Force (HLTF), jointly coordinated by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the African Civil Aviation Commission and the ICAO.

The taskforce, according to her, seeks to "recover and restart aviation economic activities meaningfully in a way that is beneficial to everyone on the demand or supply side."

Aliu viewed the recovery of the aviation sector "will largely depend on regaining the confidence of passengers in the adequacy and efficacy of the new health measures implemented at airports and in national borders."

560 million people in Africa at risk of neglected tropical diseases

BY JACKY ACHAN

OVER 560 million people across Africa remain at risk of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) a group of parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases that include among other river blindness and intestinal worms.

A recent report by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) research and analysis division of The Economist Group says in the over 54 countries across Africa where NTDs persist, there is a great economic and social burden due to these diseases.

The most common NTDs in Africa are intestinal worms and schistosomiasis (bilharzia).

NTDs affect societies' most marginalised and poverty-stricken communities that often have limited access to clean water and good sanitation. If left untreated, these diseases can cause disability and early death.

According to the ministry of health in Uganda, NTDs also cause reduced economic productivity and social stigma.

Found in Uganda include among other lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), leprosy, schistosomiasis (bilharzia), and soil-transmitted helminthiasis (intestinal worms), plus sleeping sickness.

Now African countries and

stakeholders have been asked to go beyond the continuous treatment of disease and move towards preventing disease through improved sanitation programmes, health education, and data collection.

The report also points out the need for governments to own and lead initiatives so that solutions are better tailored to local needs.

The economic benefits of ending these diseases are profound across all levels of society, and require a locally owned multi-stakeholder approach," said Karen Palacio, Associate Vice President, Programs, The END Fund a private philanthropic initiative to control and eliminate NTDs.

The report that focused on Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe suggests that meeting the WHO's NTD 2030 targets could result in GDP gains of \$5.1bn at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) - a measurement that uses the prices of specific goods in different countries to compare currencies - between 2021 and 2040.

In terms of impact by country, the report indicates that Ethiopia, which has the greatest NTD burden of the four countries, could record the largest gains (\$3.1bn) followed by Kenya (\$1.3bn), Rwanda (\$0.4bn), and Zimbabwe (\$0.3bn).

These economic gains would be a direct result of reductions in

illness that would allow adults to work and contribute more actively to the economy.

Besides, eliminating parasitic infections among school-age children would improve their ability to learn and attend school.

"In the last 10 years, we have had tremendous improvements in the health of the children. We have dramatically reduced morbidity. But we cannot stop the control interventions now. If we stop, we lose all the benefits", Dr. Antonio Montresor, Medical Officer, in charge of soil-transmitted helminthiasis, Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases, World Health Organisation (WHO) explains.

Int'l Day of Girl Child: GBV cases still high in Zanzibar

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

EVERY October 11, the global community commemorates the International Day of Girl Child and this year is themed: "My voice, our equal future", focusing on how girls globally are leading the way. The commemoration came at the time when GBV incidents become a common occurrence - an everyday thing in Zanzibar.

Barely a day passes in Zanzibar without the report of a case of violence against women and girls. It is widely believed, however, that many cases go unreported. And the numbers keep going up.

GBV in the Indian Ocean archipelago takes the form of physical, mental, social or economic abuse against a person because of that person's gender and includes violence that may result in physical, sexual or psychological harm and suffering to the victim. It may also include threats or coercion, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life.

Salma Amir Lusangi, policy analyst and advocacy manager at the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar), said between January 2019 and August 2020, a total of 761 GBV and child abuse cases were reported at various police stations in the Isles.

Those cases, she said were of various kinds of gender based violence and child abuse whereby over 649 children were physically and sexually abused while 147 were sodomized.

Salma said despite this number of children who were physically and sexually abused, only four cases resulted in convictions of the perpetrators who received jail sentences while 370 cases were still under investigations at vari-

ous police stations.

She said 123 cases are in courts while 80 have been closed, 48 cases still at the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) while 16 suspects were set free.

According to her, of the 147 cases of sodomy on under age children only one suspect was convicted and found guilty and received prison sentence while 93 cases were still at various police stations in Zanzibar and Pemba, while 15 cases were closed and six were still at the DPP office.

However she revealed that investigations done by TAMWA-Zanzibar found out that 88 under-age girl students were impregnated and dismissed from schools in the period 2017-2019.

Statistics from the Ministry of Education show that in the period 2017-2019 50 under age children were forcibly married off, she said, suggesting the need for tougher punishments against the culprits.

"It is possible to have a Zanzibar that is free from any forms of violence. This can be reality if the government and stakeholders work closely together," she declared.

SOS Children's Village in Zanzibar Director, Asha Salim said that many children face a number of challenges that need to be addressed.

"We're appealing to the government authorities to take various efforts including coming up with laws, policies and plans to protect children against all sorts of violence, but yet such cruel acts against them are on the rise in the Isles," he said.

She insisted on parents and guardians to properly take up their parental roles as per international conventions ratified by both the Union and Zanzibar governments.



bar governments.

Apart from protecting children against violence, parents are expected to provide them with necessary needs and ensure their basic rights to education, medical treatment and being heard.

"The government should ensure proper supervision and implementation of the laws and policies to enhance children protection," the director noted.

On behalf of her fellow stu-

dents from Kajificheni School, Salamu Mohamed said many children face with various challenges in regard to rape and other acts of sexually abuse including sodomy, the situation that he said was not conducive in studying.

She also said the many children failed to realise their life dreams due to early marriages.

Chairman of the Zanzibar Commission charged in amending various laws, Judge Mshibe Ali Bakari said together

with various efforts from various institutions, there was still a challenge among the community over lack of awareness in controlling these acts and that is the reason for the large number of under-age marriages.

In regard of acts of sexual abuse, he said: "If the child is sexually abused, even if the law takes its course, still the child will live with pain and impairment for the rest of his/her life, the only remedy was

for the community to ensure their children should not under these vile acts."

Twenty-five years ago, some 30,000 women and men from nearly 200 countries arrived in Beijing, China, for the Fourth World Conference on Women, determined to recognize women's rights as human rights. The conference culminated in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: the most comprehensive policy agenda

for gender equality.

In the years following, women pressed this agenda forward, leading global movements on issues ranging from sexual and reproductive health rights to equal pay.

Today, these movements have expanded. They are being organized by and for adolescent girls - girls from all walks of life who are boldly demanding action against discrimination, violence and poor learning opportunities.

Strapped for cash, Trump yanks TV ads in vital states as Biden spending surges

By Michael Finnegan and James Rainey

President Trump stopped all of his television and radio advertising in three states and substantially reduced it in four others in recent weeks after his lacklustre fundraising left him unable to match a surge in spending by his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden.

Trump's retreat from Ohio, Iowa and New Hampshire reflects his struggle to change the dynamics of a race which polls suggest that the president is on track to lose. In the six weeks since his party's national convention, Trump's campaign has cancelled more than \$17 million in advertisements he had previously booked in those states.

Two of them, Ohio and Iowa, are must-wins for the Republican president. Polls show him running almost dead even with the former vice president in both. Trump's withdrawal of advertising in those states - despite the risk - is a sign of his campaign's poor financial condition.

"It seems the Trump campaign has reached the point where they have to do some triage (readjustment of priorities). They don't seem to have enough money to run ads everywhere," said Travis Ridout, co-director of the Wesleyan Media Project, which tracks political ads.

By contrast, Biden has been sharply increasing his ad spending across the entire election map and has begun pouring money into states that once looked out of reach. Among them are Texas, Georgia, Ohio and Iowa.

In the week that will end Monday October 12, Biden's \$36 million in TV and radio spots overall is double Trump's \$18 million, according to Advertising Analytics, an ad tracking firm.

The reason for the disparity is clear: Trump has far less money than Biden. At the end of August, Biden reported \$466 million in the bank, and Trump \$325 million - this according to filings



at the Federal Election Commission and tallies shared by the campaigns.

"If you are Trump's campaign manager, you never expected to find yourself in this situation this late in the campaign, where the Democrat has a lot more money," said Linda Fowler, professor emerita of government at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

"It's because of a combination of things, like Trump's people spending way too much money early on on things like expensive Super Bowl ads. And Biden's fundraising, which initially looked so weak, took off in a big way."

Since the end of August, Trump has also cut \$11 mil-

lion in ad time that he had previously reserved in Nevada, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, according to Advertising Analytics.

Part of what Trump is doing is shifting resources into states which he sees as essential to get the 270 electoral votes he needs to win a second term in the November 3 election: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Arizona. He added \$18 million to the ad spending he had already reserved for the last six weeks in those states.

Trump's financial strain is also showing in Pennsylvania, another state which he can't afford to lose. After pulling about \$2 million in ads he'd planned to run there last month, he has

ramped up spending in the last couple of weeks.

In its hunt for quick cash, the Trump campaign has been making urgent appeals. In the 24 hours ending on Friday morning, one potential donor received 13 emails and five text messages with pleas for money from Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and others.

In the campaign's final weeks, Trump could shift priorities and spend heavily in states where he has pulled back. But more than 9 million Americans have already cast their ballots and more people vote each day, so the target audience is steadily shrinking.

Trump spokeswoman Samantha Zager said Demo-

crats and the media were applauding Biden "for over-spending on TV ads". She said Trump's campaign had been "talking directly with voters for years in all of these states", in part through on-line content and digital ads.

"We're confident that our strategy will lead President Trump to victory while Biden is left to binge-watch his TV ads from his basement," she said.

In 2016, Trump's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, outspent him on advertising - but his brash antics drew enormous free media coverage. Cable news channels often carried his rallies live. And Clinton, unlike Biden, was viscerally disliked by many voters. Now, however, Trump is an unpopular incumbent defending a tumultuous presidency that has polarised the nation.

The election environment could hardly be worse for Trump, who was hospitalised October 2 with Covid-19.

The pandemic has killed more than 214,000 Americans, put more than 11 million out of work and disrupted the lives of virtually everyone. The United States makes up 4 per cent of the world's population, but 20 per cent of its Covid-19 fatalities.

Making matters worse as his campaign draws to a close is that Trump's failure to require masks and social distancing at the White House has spawned a coronavirus outbreak that has infected dozens in his inner circle and beyond.

Dr Anthony Fauci, the gov-

ernment's top infectious diseases expert, said on Friday that Trump's White House celebration of Judge Amy Coney Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court was a "superspreader event".

Trump's woes are clear in the latest polls. Biden has widened his lead nationwide to 10 percentage points, according to a FiveThirtyEight aggregate of public surveys. More threatening to Trump is the daunting electoral college map, where polls show Biden ahead in every state that Hillary Clinton carried in 2016 and in nine of those that went for Trump.

Voters prefer Biden by more than 5 percentage points in the three states Trump won by tiny margins: Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Biden holds narrower leads in six other states that Trump carried: Florida, Arizona, North Carolina, Iowa, Ohio and Georgia.

Biden spokesman T.J. Ducklo said the Democrat was expanding the election map with advertisements in 16 states that "maximise the paths to 270 electoral votes".

"Meanwhile, while Donald Trump is personally superspreading the virus by acting irresponsibly and against the advice of medical experts, his campaign is in full retreat and appealing only to his base," Ducklo said.

Trump gave a speech from a White House balcony on Saturday to hundreds of supporters on the South Lawn. Few in the crowd social distanced or wore masks.

Trump's latest ads say he will eradicate the coronavirus, create 10 million jobs and protect Social Security and Medicare, a pitch to regain the support of older voters put off by his handling of the pandemic. He is also airing spots that falsely claim Biden opposes the police and encourages rioting.

In Michigan on Friday, Trump started airing an advertisement portraying the pandemic as receding when in fact about 46,000 new infections and 700 deaths still occur every day, and nearly 35,000 Americans are now hospitalised with Covid-19.

The spot shows Trump walking out of Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre as a narrator says: "President Trump is recovering from the coronavirus, and so is America."

Biden's ads also try to appeal to seniors, attacking Trump on Social Security and Medicare. In Tucson on Saturday, he began running a spot featuring Cindy McCain saying Biden would "bring out the best in us, not the worst", and highlighting his friendship with her late husband, John McCain, a longtime Republican senator from Arizona.

Biden's commercials also promise that he will take the advice of scientists and medical experts to get the pandemic under control and rebuild the US economy in a way that favours working-class Americans.

"I will not abandon you," Biden says in one of the advertisements.

LA Times

By Anne Soy

Here're 5 reasons Covid-19 has been less deadly in Africa than elsewhere...

Many African countries have been praised for waging an effective campaign to combat the spread of coronavirus despite their reputation for having fragile state health systems.

The continent, which has a population of more than one billion, has had about 1.5 million cases, according to data compiled by the John Hopkins University.

These figures are far lower than those in Europe, Asia or the Americas, with reported cases continuing to decline.

Africa has recorded about 37,000 deaths, compared with roughly 580,000 in the Americas, 230,000 in Europe and 205,000 in Asia.

"The case-fatality ratio (CFR) for Covid-19 in Africa is lower than the global CFR, suggesting that the outcomes have been less severe among African populations," noted a recent continental study by Partnership for Evidence-based Response to Covid-19 (PERC), which brings together a number of private and public organisations.

Dr John Nkengasong, the head of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), says that low testing rates continue to undermine the continental response but there is no indication that a large number of Covid-19 deaths have been missed.

So what are some of the reasons for Africa's relatively low death rate?

One: Quick action. The first case on the continent was confirmed in Egypt on February 14. There were fears that the new virus could quickly overwhelm largely fragile health systems on the continent. So, right from the beginning, most African governments took drastic measures to try and slow the spread of the virus.

Public health measures - including avoiding handshakes, frequent hand-washing, social distancing and wearing of masks - were swiftly introduced.

Some countries - like Lesotho - acted even before a single case was reported. It declared an emergency and closed schools on March 18, going into a three-week lockdown about ten days later in unison with many other southern Africa states.

But it was only days after the lockdown was lifted - in early May - that Lesotho found its first confirmed cases. In



a population of more than 2 million, it has so far recorded about 1,700 cases and 40 deaths.

Two: Public support. In a survey conducted in 18 countries in August by PERC, public support for safety measures was high - 85 per cent of respondents said they wore masks in the previous week.

"With strict public health and social measures implemented, African Union member states were able to contain the virus between March and May," the report said, adding that minor loosening of restrictions in June and July coincided with an increase in the reported cases across the continent.

Since then, there has been a notable drop in the number of confirmed cases and deaths in about half of the continent, possibly linked to the end of the southern hemisphere winter.

The implementation of the restrictions came at a huge cost. Livelihoods were lost on a large scale. South Af-

rica, which had one of the most stringent lockdowns in the world, lost 2.2 million jobs during the first half of the year.

More and more countries have been forced to re-open their economies even though the number of Covid-19 cases is much higher than when they ordered the shutdowns.

According to the PERC report, public opinion about re-opening the economy was mixed: six in ten respondents said economies needed to re-open and believed that the risk of getting Covid-19 was minimal if social distancing rules were followed. However, seven in ten said that thinking about resuming normal activities made them feel anxious.

"The data suggest that people across the AU see Covid-19 as a serious threat but, for many, the economic and social burdens outweigh their personal risk perception of catching the coronavirus," concluded the report.

Three: Young population - and few

old-age homes. The age of the population in most African countries is also likely to have played a role in containing the spread of Covid-19.

Globally, most of those who have died have been aged over 80, while UN data show that Africa is home to the world's youngest population with a median age of 19 years.

"The pandemic has largely been in younger age groups... about 91 per cent of Covid-19 infection in sub-Saharan Africa are among people below 60 years and over 80 per cent are asymptomatic," reported the World Health Organisation.

"We have (in Africa) about 3 per cent of the population aged over 65 years," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Africa head. In comparison, Europe, North America and wealthier Asian countries have the oldest inhabitants.

"One of the big drivers in Western countries is that the elderly people were living in specialised homes and these became places where the trans-

mission was very intense," added Dr Moeti.

These homes are rare in most African countries, where older people are more likely to be living in rural areas. It is the norm in many African countries for people to return to their rural homes when they retire from employment in urban areas.

The population density in rural areas is lower and therefore maintaining social distance is much easier.

Furthermore, an underdeveloped transport system within and between countries appears to have been a blessing in disguise. It means that Africans do not travel as much as people do in more developed economies, minimising contact.

Four: Favourable climate. A study conducted by researchers at the University of Maryland in the US found a correlation between temperature, humidity and latitude on the one hand and the spread of Covid-19 on the other.

"We looked at the early spread of the virus in 50 cities around the world. The virus had an easier time spreading in lower temperatures and humidity," said Mohammad Sajadi, the lead researcher.

"It's not that it doesn't spread in other conditions but only that it just spreads better when temperature and humidity drop," he added.

African countries away from the tropics have been worse off. The spread of the virus accelerated in South Africa as the southern hemisphere went into winter.

However, as it became warmer, the number of cases dropped significantly, impacting the continental outlook - as South Africa accounts for almost half the total number of cases and deaths on the continent.

Five: Good community health systems. The Covid-19 pandemic came at a time when the Democratic Republic of Congo was dealing with its biggest outbreak of Ebola yet. Neighbouring states were on high alert, and the health screening of travellers for Ebola was extended to include Covid-19.

Several West African states - which battled the world's worst ever outbreak of Ebola from 2013 to 2016 - had also mastered the public health measures that have been used to prevent Covid-19. These include isolating the infected, tracing their contacts and then getting them quarantined while they get tested.

Furthermore, in Africa's most populous state - Nigeria - teams that had been going into villages to vaccinate children against polio were quickly re-purposed to educate communities about the new pandemic.

This is a point that Dr Rosemary Onyibe, who had been working on the polio eradication programme, made in April: "Once I heard the news, I instantly thought: duty is calling. My expertise is needed to serve my community. We immediately mobilised the polio personnel then in existence, tracking contacts and conducting follow-up visits."

So, while hospital infrastructure in much of Africa is less developed than in other parts of the world, the continent's strength lay in its tried and tested community health systems.

But all this doesn't mean that people in Africa can afford to relax. "The slower spread of infection in the region means that we expect the pandemic to continue to smoulder for some time, with occasional flare-ups," Dr Moeti aptly noted.

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Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director-general and CEO.

Looming cash crisis threatening airline industry globally

GENEVA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has warned that the airline industry will burn through \$77bn in cash during the second half of 2020 (almost \$13bn/month or \$300,000 per minute), despite the restart of operations.

The slow recovery in air travel will see the airline industry continuing to burn through cash at an average rate of \$5 to \$6 billion per month in 2021. IATA called on governments to support the industry during the coming winter season with additional relief measures, including financial aid that does not add more debt to the industry's already-highly-indebted balance sheet. To date, governments around the world have provided \$160bn in support, including direct aid, wage subsidies, corporate tax relief, and specific industry tax relief including fuel taxes.

"We are grateful for this support, which is aimed at ensuring that the air transport industry remains viable and ready to reconnect the economies and support millions of jobs in travel and tourism. But the crisis is deeper and longer than any of us could have imagined. And the initial support programs are running out.

"Today we must ring the alarm bell again. If these support programs are not replaced or extended, the consequences for an already hobbled industry will be dire," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director-general and CEO.

"Historically, cash generated during the peak summer season helps to support airlines through the leaner winter months. Unfortunately, this year's disastrous spring and summer provided no cushion. In fact, airlines burned cash throughout the period. And with no timetable for governments to reopen borders without travel-killing quarantines, we cannot rely on a year-end holiday season bounce to provide a bit of extra cash to tide us over until the spring," said de Juniac.

IATA estimates that despite cutting costs just over 50% during the second quarter, the industry went through \$51bn in cash as revenues fell almost 80% compared to the year-ago period. The cash drain continued during the summer months, with airlines expected to go through an additional \$77bn of their cash during the second half of this year and a further \$60-70bn in 2021. The industry is not expected to turn cash positive until 2022.

Airlines have undertaken extensive self-help measures to cut costs. This includes parking thousands of aircraft, cutting routes and any non-critical expense and furloughing and laying off hundreds of thousands of experienced and dedicated employees.

"Government support for the entire sector is needed. The impact has spread across the entire travel value chain including our airport and air navigation infrastructure partners who are dependent on pre-crisis levels of traffic to sustain their operations. Rate hikes on system users to make up the gap would be the start of a vicious and unforgiving cycle of further cost pressures and downsizings. That will prolong the crisis for the 10% of global economic activity that is linked to travel and tourism," said de Juniac.

Dar losing out on U\$39bn global trade in bamboo, rattan products

By Smart Money Reporter

DESPITE having huge potential to cultivate and produce bamboo and rattan finished products the country is losing out on a global trade valued at an estimated US\$39 billion.

China based International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) said in its latest report that only Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda are engaged in commercial production of bamboo and rattan products while Tanzania remains missing.

INBAR which headed by the country's career diplomat, Ambassador Ali Mchumo has 47 member with its secretariat headquarters in China and regional offices in Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India, has 40 of its member from the Global South.

"Since its founding in 1997, it has been making a real difference to the lives of millions of people and environments around the world, with achievements in areas such as: raising standards; promoting safe, resilient bamboo construction; restoring degraded land; capacity-building; and informing green policy and Sustainable Development Goal objectives," the report stated.

INBAR said in its report that the industry value of US\$39 billion in 2018, dominated by China which is indisputably the world's largest



INBAR's director general, Ali Mchumo (C), and a Chinese model (L) display bamboo products.

producer of bamboo and rattan products. "However, it is far from the only country which profits from native bamboo and rattan," said the INBAR report which identified a large number of countries which trade in such products including European Union, Indonesia, Vietnam, the US, Philippines and Thailand.

INBAR which running phase two of a three year East Africa Project with Dutch and Chinese governments financing, said the many communities have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak this year. "In parts

of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda - all countries which are part of INBAR's ongoing Dutch-Sino-East Africa Bamboo Development Programme - farming activities have largely stopped or slowed down, and the lockdown-induced rural migration of people from cities has placed additional stress on families and resources," the report noted.

In recent months, the INBAR Bamboo Development Programme team has been providing a range of activities in these areas, to create jobs and to build awareness about COVID-re-

lated health and hygiene.

In Kenya, INBAR staff have been organising outreach programmes to educate the rural community on health and sanitation measures, and to provide skill-based training to support income generation from bamboo products.

"These capacity-building sessions have so far trained 390 young people, and have included teaching on bamboo nursery establishment, bamboo furniture making, rural bamboo housing construction, bamboo briquettes creation, and sustainable

bamboo plantation management," the report added.

The project team has undertaken similar initiatives in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, supporting rural communities to collect wild bamboo seedlings and manage bamboo forests. In Uganda, meanwhile, the team has focused on making bamboo furniture and bamboo beds, the INBAR report stated.

East Africa has abundant bamboo resources, both native and introduced from abroad. According to resource assessments conducted by INBAR in 2018, Ethiopia has 1.5 million hectares of bamboo; Kenya and Uganda also boast 133,000 and 55,000 hectares respectively.

"Fast-growing and versatile, bamboo can be an important source of income, as a useful material for making handicrafts and furniture, as well as a source of household fuel, animal fodder and construction material," the report explained.

Despite its advantages, the bamboo sector is currently not very well established in East Africa, and lack of knowledge about sustainable management and harvesting techniques has reduced the quality of bamboo stocks, the INBAR report revealed.

INBAR has been implementing the Dutch-Sino-East Africa Bamboo Development Programme since April 2020, with financial support from the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration. The programme has been designed in tandem with the National Bamboo Strategies which have been created by Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Miner commences Singida Gold Mine works, seeking DSE listing



Shanta Gold Limite's CEO, Eric Zurrin.

By Smart Money Reporter

AFTER years of delays, Shanta Gold Limited has commenced construction of Singida Gold Mine Project with a total investment capital of US\$26 million (over 60.3bn/-) to last the next 24 months of civil works.

In a statement last week, Shanta Gold which is listed at London Stock Exchange's alternative investment market said the beginning of construction work has also resulted into the updating of the project economics for the Singida Gold Mining Project.

The statement noted that the mine's reserve-based plan gives post-tax net present value eight percent of US\$73 million and an internal rate of return of 59 percent at US\$1,900 per ounces (approximate current gold spot price).

The company's release further added that average annual life of mine gold production of 32,000 ounces at an all in sustaining cost of US\$869/oz which increases the company's production to about 110,000 oz in the first full year of operation.

The project which is completely financed by the company's own resources said over 90 percent of ex-

isting reserves are only 120 metres below the surface at the project site with resources of 9.8 metric tons grading 2.11 gram per ton for 664,000 oz currently sit outside the project economics (but within the mining licences), giving significant upside potential.

Shanta's CEO, Eric Zurrin said, "The Singida Project has very attractive economics for Shanta with considerable upside through potential conversion of mineral resources currently outside of the reserve-based mine plan. The project will increase group production to over 110,000 oz per year while maintaining our attractive cost base."

The company which also owns New Luika Gold Mine in Chunya District of Mbeya Region also has advanced a number of financing discussions, including an initial public offer on Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange and local debt financing.

"Singida is hosted in a greenstone deposit lending itself well to upside exploration potential. Future exploration will target the extension of reserves and will be funded by cash flow from production at Singida. Successful future exploration could justify an increase in the size of the

plant to increase both throughput and production," Zurrin noted.

He pointed out that the Singida Gold Mine will have a major positive impact on Ikungi District adding that the company intends to roll out its well-regarded corporate social responsibility program into the surrounding villages which will lead to improvements in livelihoods, water, health and education.

Among early construction activities which started this month include Tanesco grid power connected to site; camp upgrade underway to accommodate 70 people for the initial construction team; and working group in place and discussions to be initiated with TanRoads to upgrade local bridges for the movement of plant and equipment.

Other activities include: Investment in water security advanced with access to wholly-owned boreholes; Tender for sterilization drilling contract in progress; While front end engineering design has also commenced with Shanta's engineering team continuing to complete detailed designs for elution circuit, water and sewer treatment plants in preparation for procuring the long lead items.

Green energy firms threaten KenGen's market dominance

NAIROBI

State-owned Kenya Electricity Generating Company's (KenGen) position as the dominant power producer in the country is likely to be clawed back in the near future by new private players who are making multi-billion-shilling investments, the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority has said.

In a new report, the regulator says the dominance of KenGen, which had a 1,796.4 megawatt (MW) annual capacity and supplies three quarters of Kenya's electricity, is being chipped away by new private firms, who are mainly active in the field of renewable and green energy.

"This dominance is mainly attributed to the previous power structure that was vertically

integrated but with increased unbundling and open access coupled with increased private sector participation, it is unlikely that this will remain the case in the near future," said Epra in its inaugural annual report for 2019 that captures trends in the Kenyan energy sector.

Even so, Epra noted that the structure and share of power generation still remains hugely

in favour of KenGen which continues to make huge investments. KenGen plans to more than double its electricity generating capacity to 4,270 MW by 2025. It had a 76 percent market share in 2018, while independent power producers (IPPs) accounted for 24 percent.

KenGen mainly generates hydro and geothermal power, while independent produc-

ers are mainly working in the thermal, wind and solar space. Lake Turkana Wind Power, a 310 megawatt installation that was officially commissioned in July last year, is the biggest private power producer. The Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation, owned 54.6MW solar power plant in Garissa was also commissioned last year. The plant is the largest

solar power installation in East and Central Africa.

Previously, independent power producers were mainly to be found in thermal or diesel production, but the country has been looking to cut back on this source due to high cost that has led to Kenya's electricity process being uncompetitive from an industrial production point of view.

Epango Graphite's EcoGraf signs agreement with South Korea firm

By Smart Money Reporter

ECOGRAF Limited which owns Epango Graphite Mine in Mahenge District of Morogoro Region has signed a collaboration agreement with a leading South Korean lithium-ion batteries recycling giant, SunEel Hitech Company Limited.

In a statement, EcoGraf Managing Director, Andrew Spinks said the agreement will enable SunEel evaluate its proprietary purification process to recover and re-use high-purity battery carbon anode material from production scrap and black mass from lithium-ion battery materials produced at their South Korean plant.

Spinks said SunEel is one of the major lithium-ion battery recycling companies and is well connected to the South Korean lithium-ion battery supply chain, which includes both electric vehicle and battery manufacturers.

SunEel currently processes 24,000 tonnes of lithium-ion battery materials per year, with plans to increase to 56,000 tonnes per year, through their South Korean hydrometallurgical plant to recover cathode metals. The processed material contains approximately 22 percent carbon anode material.

"The agreement sets out as tagged recycling program to recover the carbon anode and re-use the material in industrial applications, including lithium-ion battery market. If initial results are positive, SunEel will use their South Korean connections to assist in securing a strategic supply chain partner to support and participate in the product development and engineering phase to establish a carbon anode recycling facility," the company's statement added.

EcoGraf is pleased to support SunEel to achieve greater battery recycling by recovering the carbon anode materials. The company expects to tailor and customise the EcoGraf TM flow-sheet to minimise impurities remaining after their hydrometallurgical process, Spinks stated in his statement while adding that closing the carbon loop in order to achieve greater battery recycling, has the potential to contribute to lowering both the battery unit cost



EcoGraf managing director Andrew Spinks.

and carbon emissions for the EV market.

"Battery recycling is gaining greater importance with leading EV and lithium-ion battery manufacturers," the EcoGraf chief executive noted.

EcoGraf is building a vertically integrated business to produce high purity graphite for the lithium-ion battery market. The new state-of-the-art processing facility in Western Australia will manufacture spherical graphite

products for export to Asia, Europe and North America using a superior, environmentally responsible purification technology to provide customers with sustainably produced, high performance battery anode graphite.

In time the battery graphite production base will be expanded to include additional facilities in Europe and North America to support the global transition to clean, renewable energy in the coming decade.

To complement the battery graphite operations, EcoGraf is also developing the TanzGraphite natural flake graphite business, commencing with the Epango Graphite Project, which will supply additional feedstock for the spherical graphite processing facilities and provide customers with a long term supply of high quality graphite products for industrial applications such as refractories, recarburisers and lubricants.



Dr Leonard Akwilapo, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Commonwealth Scholarship awardees counselled to acquire rare skills

By Francis Kajubi

ELEVEN local students have been selected to attend master's degree studies in Britain through Commonwealth Scholarship Awards, financed by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Speaking at a pre departure briefing in Dar es Salaam last week, Program Manager from British Council, Mpoki Mwakilasa said the occasion was meant

to bring together departing scholars and alumnus to share experiences of life in Britain.

"The main objective of the pre-departure briefing is to furnish the scholars, with all the relevant information to assist their smooth transition to studying and living in the UK," Mwakilasa said.

He said so far, over 27,800 people who include 771 Tanzanians have benefitted from the the scholarship program since its inception in 1959.

"Commonwealth alumni around the global network include prime ministers and cabinet ministers, Nobel Prize winners, academics, diplomats and writers," he added.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Leonard Akwilapo who graced the event, congratulated the awardees and urged them to be good ambassadors of the country.

"You are not only representing yourself but also our country as a whole

hence you should remain committed to ensure positive and sustainable adoption of knowledge and skills to assist with development of the country," Dr Akwilapo advised.

On his part the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar expressed optimism that the beneficiaries will make the most of the opportunities presented by studying in the UK.

"It has always been extremely important for the UK to champion

Kigali financial hub enters contract with French public bank

KIGALI

Kigali International Finance Centre last week signed a pact with Bpifrance, the French public investment bank edging closer to realizing its ambitions of positioning Rwanda as a business and financial hub in Africa.

The latest agreement, signed last week on October 6, will see the two institutions partner to enhance the competitiveness of the business sector in both countries.

The cooperation agreement which was signed by Pascal Lagarde, Bpifrance's Executive Director in charge of International, Strategy, Studies and Development, and Nick Barigye, Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Finance Limited, sets the path for the two public institutions to support and promote business exchanges and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Among the features of the agreement includes working together to contribute to the development of a vibrant financial and pro-business ecosystem in Rwanda. The agreement also outlines areas of cooperation to include promoting the business development of French SMEs and midcaps operating or interested in Africa by structuring through the Kigali International Financial Center.

The two institutions also agreed to jointly develop projects, missions, and events in order to optimize the linkage between Bpifrance, Rwanda Finance Limited and other financial institutions in Rwanda in order to create business partnerships.

Kigali International Finance Centre's new partner is France's largest public investment bank dedicated to direct and indirect investments, including partnership with sovereign funds and major international institutional investors. This enables the financier to offer a wide range of international actions to foreign institutions

Bpifrance has experience in carrying out support operations with States and foreign institutions in Africa, Europe and Eurasia allowing them to create and develop their own tools for financing their economies. This has been through ways such as supporting innovative companies in their development and their projects and structuring support and project financing instruments.

The bank also has experience in developing a job-creating entrepreneurial ecosystem that promotes access to bank credit for Small and Medium Enterprises such as the creation and optimization of a guarantee fund, thus generating a real leverage effect in the financing of company projects. The bank is one of the main French investors with more than €2.5 billion invested directly or indirectly in the French ecosystem.

Officials of the two institutions welcomed the development noting that it would enable the development of opportunities for companies in the two nations with regard to innovation, exports and investment. Pascal Lagarde, Executive Director of Bpifrance said that it paves the way for productive exchange between the two entities.



Kigali International Finance Centre officials during the signing ceremony on 6 October in Kigali.

Safaricom regains lead in fixed internet connections

NAIROBI

Safaricom's share of the fixed internet connections rose to 33.5 percent in the three months to June, reclaiming control of the market from Zuku on increased demand for data as Kenyans stayed at home in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Communications Authority (CA) latest industry report shows that the Safaricom had 207,398 subscribers in the period under review while the Wananchi-owned Zuku had 201,605 or 32.5 percent of the market.

This is the second time that Safaricom has topped the fixed internet connections to homes and offices since it entered the market in 2017. Safaricom first took the top spot in the market in the three months to last September to hit 34 percent but Zuku reclaimed dominance in the three months to December.

This comes at a time Safaricom has ramped up investments in the business segment amid the Covid-19 restrictions

that increased demand for internet as employees worked from home and learning institutions adopted online learning.

"The number of data/internet subscriptions continued to grow due to increased demand for access to information online, coupled with transfer of more services to the digital space," CA says in the report.

"With the Covid-19 pandemic, many consumers continue adopt video-conferencing services as they work from home, access online entertainment and streaming Video-on-Demand services." In the period under review, the number of fixed internet connections grew 14.53 percent to 619,579 from 540,946 connections in March as telcos increased investment to match the increasing demand.

Safaricom had earlier said that the Covid-19 restrictions imposed in March after Kenya recorded the first infection led to a traffic surge for its data services as customers stayed at home taking solace in online movies and social media.



Evelyn Manu is a seasoned tax specialist with background in auditing and regulatory reporting. Should you have any questions, please contact her through evelynmanu@rocketmail.com

So banks do trade off 70 pct of impairment in saving 30 pct tax?

By Evelyn Manu

FOR a very long time, the banking industry faced challenging circumstances when it comes to impairment of bad debts. As part of their core activities, banks are engaged in issuance of loans hence they are prone to impairments.

In very simple terms, impairments in banks arise once conditions exist that portray some weakness on the assets - in this case a loan - hence posing a risk of non-recovery of the loan amount. These conditions are derived from both International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Bank of Tanzania regulations.

However, for over a span of two decades, banks have been clear losers in the struggle to get impairments allowed as deductible items for tax purposes by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). Even upon appeal filing at different stages, most cases have historically been decided in favour of TRA. Particularly, banks bear a heavier tax burden when the loans they cannot recover are not properly recognized as impairments for tax purposes thus attracting an additional tax at 30 percent.

It is often claimed by the taxman that, such impairments do not amount to losses because they are covered by securities. However, BoT regulations allow banks to issue both secured and unsecured loans to extents as guided under Regulation 6 of the Banking and Financial Institutions Regulations,

2014. Given the role banks play in the economy, it is important to allow access to loan facilities to individuals without security.

Even so with secured loans, circumstances upon issuance of loans might significantly change and affect the value of the security from which banks expect to recover loans they have issued. Under the circumstances described, impairments could be considered an inherent risk factor in the business of issuing loans.

One of the key issues at hand relates to the seeming goal post change in the interpretation of relevant income tax laws every other time a case is decided. Prior to the amendment of the Finance Act in July 2014, relevant provisions of income tax laws did not require banks to demonstrate any reasonable steps prior to deducting impairments for tax purposes.

Furthermore, the introduction of reasonable steps to banks in 2014 did not define what "reasonable steps" are and instead left it at the Commissioner's discretion to determine whether any steps taken were reasonable enough.

As a result, there are several cases where banks believe they took reasonable steps, but the taxman would reject their propositions on the basis that protective steps such as insurance, pension funds and public decommisioning could be utilized to recover the loans.

Another major issue relates to glaring inconsistencies in application of laws

guiding the treatment of impairments. While the specialist sections on loans in the Income Tax Act, including Section 18, 25 and 39 have mostly been used to make judgements regarding the treatment of impairments on loans, the very definition of loans remains ambiguous. In particular, Section 13 of the Income Tax Act recognizes loans as "trading stock," which would then require them to be treated quite differently from the practices set in Sections 18, 25 and 39.

Currently with the existing ambiguity, the fate of impairment treatment for income tax purposes is unknown to the banking industry with most cases continuously being ruled against banks, sadly with no clear learning points highlighted.

As businesses need to operate in a friendly and transparent environment, the key question arising from this regulation is whether banks are perceived to be negligently incurring losses from impairment just to save the 30 percent tax. In reality, banks lose a whole other 70 percent under such circumstances, hence convincingly refuting the possible assumption of negligence considering that impairment costs are established following consideration of the Central Bank and financial reporting standards.

Amidst all this confusion, lawmakers should quickly act to amend the applicable laws for clarity and avoid the current turbulence in order to improve the business environment for banks and their many clients.

Food provenance platform set to boost SA beef supply chain

JOHANNESBURG

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to reshape the future of the agriculture and food sectors, a top researcher warns there is now, more than ever, a greater global need for complete transparency and accountability in the local beef supply chain.

Anzill Adams, chief executive of newly launched BeefLedger SA, says Covid-19 has highlighted the need for the establishment of food provenance in the beef industry to enhance bio- and food security for 'ultimate consumer confidence and satisfaction.' Adams, who is currently completing his PhD in blockchain traceability in the Mzansi red meat supply chain, describes BeefLedger SA as "a much-needed tool for greater transparency and accountability."

With more than 20 years' experience in agricultural supply chain management, he is convinced that BeefLedger SA can ensure greater transparency and accountability. He says: "In developing the first ever blockchain-enabled traceability solution for the South African beef supply chain, it offers the industry a digital livestock identification and traceability system that can validate real-time 'farm to fork' product authenticity."

The University of Cape Town MBA graduate has previously held many top jobs in the agricultural sector, including coordinating the first land reform project in the South African wine industry on behalf of the government. He has also served as CEO of leading Stellenbosch and Paarl wine estates, and as a ministerial appointee to the Wine and Spirit Board.

"With the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in South Africa and the global advent of Covid-19, the implementation of a livestock identification and traceability system is a priority for the South African beef supply chain," warns Adams.

BeefLedger SA is an international joint venture with renowned Australian blockchain firm BeefLedger Ltd, which has already launched its food provenance platform in China. Speaking from Queensland, chairman Warwick Powell confirms that BeefLedger SA "will provide a solid basis for adapting a combination of well-understood operational frameworks and guidelines, mature technologies and leading-edge information systems to achieve best practice outcomes for the South African beef industry." Powell says: "This transparency will ensure the proper and proven certification at every stage of the beef supply chain."

The BeefLedger SA blockchain-enabled, credentialed traceability system will provide

users in the Mzansi beef industry with the value-added benefits of access to credible and authentic data, sales history, consumer feedback insights, streamlined payments and heightened food security. The system will also contribute towards better disease prevention and more effective biosecurity management processes. It has the potential to revolutionise the industry by supporting food provenance-driven value, preventing food fraud and creating more transparent markets for participants.

Integrated regulation between formal and informal sectors

Furthermore, Adams believes that BeefLedger South Africa's technology will enable a fairer and more sustainable beef supply chain. "Credentialed food provenance creates an integrated link between various stakeholders, including government, leading industry players and smaller communal farmers."

This as demand for beef in Africa is expected to grow significantly. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that the consumption of beef on the continent will increase by 200% between 2015 and 2050. With supply-side constraints, pressure for credentialed products is expected to grow. Estimates indicate that Africa has a cattle herd well over 260 million head as well as a goat herd of over 236 million head.

Interest in blockchain is rapidly growing across agriculture. Blockchain allows people to share recorded transactions in a digitised, decentralised data log that is stored on a network of computers rather than on a single database. For the agricultural supply chain, blockchain technology promises increased efficiencies through enhanced data management, lower transaction costs, optimised logistics, more robust traceability and enhanced food safety protocols.

According to Adams, the BeefLedger SA digital platforms and tools will enable meat industries and their supply chain stakeholders in South Africa to meet the aspirations and needs of 21st century consumers.

"The future vision of BeefLedger SA is to develop a digital framework in line with

international standards and obligations to implement LITS SA, the programme for food security and animal health in the broader meat sector covering lamb, goat, pork, beef, ostrich and poultry," he says.

"Horizontal diversification into other sectors, including the wine, seafood and mining industries will also be supported, with further integration planned into the Halal, Kosher, fair trade and organic food sectors where certified traceability is a brand validator and a non-negotiable necessity."

Pilot with SA beef industry leader confirmed

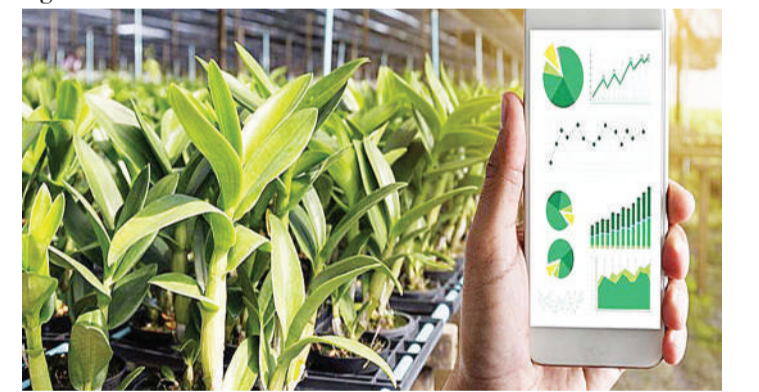
BeefLedger SA confirms that it has secured a pilot project for the development and commercialisation of an integrated blockchain-enabled credentialed livestock identification and traceability system with a beef industry leader.

With its head office in Paarl in the Western Cape, Adams is supported by a team of seasoned entrepreneurs with many years of business, financial and agricultural experience. Furthermore, Carey Miller, the chairperson of BeefLedger SA, brings over 35 years of working experience, mainly in financial services. Although he retired in 2016, he remains a non-executive director of various of the Prescient financial services group companies. Since then he has pursued interests in various businesses including those in the property, fintech, and agriculture sectors.

BeefLedger Ltd has recently won two Good Design Awards in Australia - the highest honour for design and innovation in the country. Through a design strategy connecting Australian producers and Chinese consumers, it became the first ever blockchain technology winners of the prestigious awards.

The group is led by Powell, an Aussie who first began his career in academia, teaching Chinese history and European cultural history in the early 1990s. Through this later work in global business development, Powell has experience in, among others, cattle and sheep production. He continues to teach courses in innovation, creativity, regional economic development and blockchain technology at top Australian universities.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



BeefLedger's application is displayed on a smartphone.

UK's strict Covid-19 rules slow Kenya's tourism recovery

NAIROBI

Two months ago, Kenya's skies were reopened for international travel. This was supposed to offer a lifeline for the ailing tourism and hospitality sector.

The resumption of flights, coinciding with the peak of the high season of the wildebeest migration, was meant to entice international travellers as well as local tourists to the Mara. The number of visitors in August was, however less than 10 per cent of the arrivals during a similar period in 2019.

With the low arrivals, the recent announcement by the United Kingdom (UK) requiring travellers who come to the region to quarantine for 14 days upon return to their home country has served further to deter visitors from coming into the country.

So stringent have the measures become that the UK government has also added monetary fines for those who fail to follow the laid out quarantine regulations. This includes travellers who have transited through the countries not exempt by the state.

"The travel restrictions from the UK and other source markets have had a negative impact on the industry as a whole as the numbers that would have travelled into Kenya especially during the peak season could have been better," said Barnabas Wamoto, Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport Hotel General Manager.

The number of international arrivals fell 91.2 per cent to 14,049 from 159,804. The United States maintained its status as the country's biggest market amid the Covid-19 pandemic, accounting for 2,768 tourists followed by the UK at 2,469. Uganda was third with 506 visitors. Data from the Tourism Research Institute shows that 6,368 or 45 per cent of the tourists came to visit friends and families while 3,685 were on holiday.

National carrier Kenya Airways on account of Covid-19 disruptions indicated in its latest financials that its net loss had increased to Sh14.33 billion for the first six months of the year and its passenger numbers dropped by 55.5



Tourists at the Kenya-Tanzania border wait to witness the wildebeest crossing on July 19, a few days after the government eased travel restrictions.

per cent to 1.1 million compared to a similar period last year.

Retreating revenue
During the review period, total revenue dipped by 48 per cent to Sh30.21 billion (\$279m) in line with the fall in passenger numbers. The halting of flights saw passenger revenue retreat

by 53 per cent to Sh20.23 billion (\$187m) as many passengers cancelled flights.

"We anticipated and hoped that business would bounce back almost immediately especially after ensuring that the hotel had put all measures in place in as far as compliance with the Covid-19 protocols is concerned," said

Mr Wamoto.

"So far, it has been a struggle as not all the airlines are fully back in operation and also those that are operational are pushing fewer numbers due to social distancing, financial constraints occasioned by the impact of Covid-19 to the airline and tourism industry respectively."

The hospitality sector, which has been forced to make additional investment in their safety and hygiene protocols, has decried the restrictions from its source markets. Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport Hotel which was the first to receive CovidClean Certification locally is struggling with low traffic as flights operate at limited capacity and tourists opt for alternative destinations.

"As an airport hotel, we are dependent on both domestic and international clients on transit. The numbers in both domestic and international travel have been extremely low and therefore the expected foot fall to our hotel has been compromised," he said. Kenya too has placed restrictions to those travelling

into her territory including the infamous PCR test taken a minimum 96 hours before a flight.

"In North America and Europe, the test is not available for everyone as they only run the test if one has signs of Covid-19. Those without symptoms requiring the test must seek out private testing which can cost as much as \$200," said Mohammed Hersi, Chairman of the Kenya Tourism Federation. In addition to the cost, most countries take seven to 14 days to release the results, making the test invalid to board a flight to Kenya.

According to Mr Hersi, other destinations including Zanzibar are opening up their borders with fewer restrictions and offering the test within their territories at subsidised rates, making it more affordable and appealing to tourists. "There are also other destinations coming up such as Turkey," said Mr Hersi. The European country is offering an alternative to Kenya's source markets at more affordable rates and with less restrictions.

WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: Fauci says his remarks were taken out of context in Trump ad

WASHINGTON

TOP U.S. infectious diseases expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said on Sunday he had not agreed to be featured in an ad by President Donald Trump's re-election campaign and that his comments were taken out of context.

The ad, released last week, discusses Trump's effort to recover from the coronavirus personally, as well as his administration's work to address the pandemic. The 30-second spot uses older remarks from Fauci in a way that suggests he was praising the president.

"I can't imagine that anybody could be doing more," the ad shows Fauci saying.

But those remarks are from a March interview, where Fauci, who has been director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984, was discussing the broader effort, including by the White House coronavirus task force.

"In my nearly five decades of public service, I have never publicly endorsed any political candidate," Fauci said in a statement.

"The comments attributed to me without my permission in the GOP campaign ad were taken out of context from a broad statement I made months ago about the efforts of federal public health officials," his statement added. Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh defended the ad in



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testifies during the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing in Washington, D.C., U.S., July 31, 2020. File photo

a statement on Sunday, saying the words from Fauci "are accurate, and directly from Dr. Fauci's mouth."

"As Dr. Fauci recently testified in the Senate, President Trump took the virus seriously from the beginning, acted quickly, and saved lives," Murtaugh's statement added.

Trump himself echoed that sentiment in a tweet on Sunday, saying: "They are indeed Dr. Fauci's own words. We have done a 'phenomenal' job, according to certain governors."

Fauci and Trump have not always agreed on how to handle the pandemic, which has infected nearly 7.7 million people in the United States and killed more than 214,000. Opinion polls show most voters disapprove of the president's handling of the crisis.

On Friday, Fauci described a Sept. 26 White House event,

after which several attendees including Trump, tested positive for the virus, as a "superspreader event."

ABC News said on Sunday it had asked the White House to allow Fauci to appear on "The Week," but the administration refused to make him or other members of the task force available.

Alyssa Farah, the White House communications director, said later on Twitter that Fauci had made other media appearances earlier in the week, rebutting the charge he was "muzzled."

China, Africa cooperation to set 'example of multilateralism'

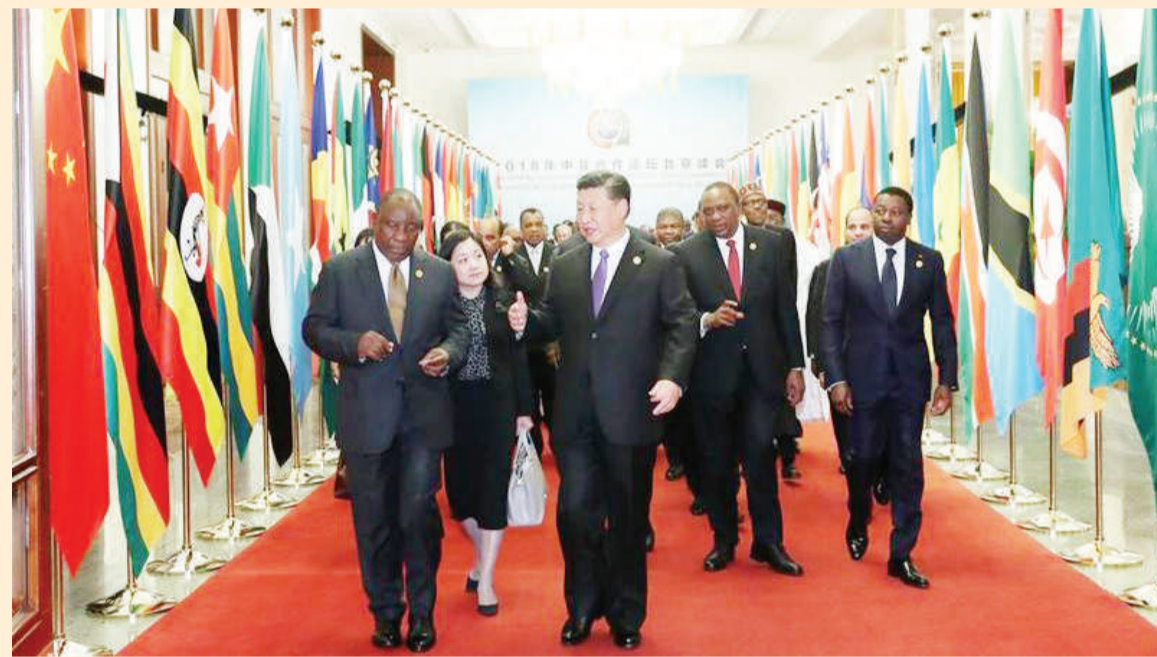
BEIJING

CHINA and Africa are ready to uphold the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, jointly cope with various risks and challenges, and let their cooperation shine as an example of multilateralism and mutual benefits, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Senegalese President Macky Sall said yesterday.

In a joint congratulatory message to mark the 20th anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the two leaders said that China and Senegal, the forum's Chinese and African co-chairs, would like to celebrate the moment of great and unique significance with African countries.

Xi and Sall said they are willing to work with other FOCAC members to stick to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, constantly enrich and improve the forum's mechanism, and give full play to FOCAC's leading role in China-Africa relations.

Under the joint efforts made by China and Africa over the past two decades, FOCAC has grown into an important and dynamic platform



Chinese President Xi Jinping (front row, right) and foreign leaders attending the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) head for the venue of the summit's opening ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. File photo

for China and Africa to carry out collective dialogues, as well as an effective mechanism for practical cooperation, and represents an important flag for South-South cooperation, the two leaders said.

China and Africa have all along adhered to the principle of putting

people first and committed themselves to the high-level development of the China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership, with FOCAC cooperation benefiting the people of both China and Africa, they said.

The two leaders recalled that at

the successful 2018 FOCAC summit held in Beijing, China and Africa agreed to build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future, charting the course of the future development of bilateral relations.

Noting that the COVID-19 pan-

demical poses a severe challenge to all mankind and has harshly impacted the world economy, Xi and Sall said that China and Africa are ready to further boost bilateral cooperation and make positive contributions to safeguarding global fairness and justice.

The two leaders also called for concerted efforts to better synergize China's two centenary goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, and advance the implementation of the results achieved at the FOCAC Beijing summit and the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19.

That, added the two leaders, will enable the two sides to lift the China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership to higher levels, and build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future, so as to create more benefits for the Chinese and African people and a better future for mankind.

They also expressed confidence that the FOCAC meeting to be held in Senegal in 2021 will further help the two sides achieve their common goals.

Xinhua

FT: EU leaders to insist on tough Brexit deal enforcement powers

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron and other EU leaders will insist on tough enforcement rules for any trade deal with Britain, warning that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bid to override the Brexit treaty has shown Britain's word cannot be trusted, the Financial Times reported.

EU diplomats said leaders at a summit starting on Thursday would call

on EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier to ensure that "level playing field" guarantees for European businesses competing with British companies are backed by the right for Brussels to take rapid retaliatory action if Britain breaches its commitments, the FT reported yesterday.

France and other fishing nations in the EU will emphasize their determina-

tion to preserve quota rights in British waters, leaving Barnier with limited space to tease out a deal, the newspaper reported.

The EU wants to secure consistent rights to fish in British waters, an important issue for France where coastal fishing communities are politically influential. Britain wants a deal more like that of non-EU member Norway, under

which quotas are set each year.

Johnson has set a deadline of the Oct 15 EU summit for agreement on a deal, and an EU diplomat said on Friday Barnier wants a few more concessions from Britain before entering the last intense phase of negotiations on a trade deal. Johnson told German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday that progress must be made in post-Brexit trade talks

with the European Union in coming days to bridge "significant gaps", in particular in the areas of fisheries and the level playing field, his office said.

Johnson repeated his belief that "while achieving a deal in the coming days would be beneficial for both sides, the UK was also prepared to end the transition period on Australia-style terms".

Agencies

Egypt and Russia to hold joint exercises in Black Sea soon – TV

CAIRO

THE navies of Egypt and Russia are preparing to hold joint exercises in the Black Sea in the near future, the Al Arabiya TV channel reported on Saturday.

An Egyptian military expert, Maj. Gen. Gamal Mazlum told TASS that it would be the first-ever Russian-Egyptian naval exercise.

"Egyptian forces will arrive to the Black Sea via the international transit straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles," he said. "In the course of the maneuvers, the sides will practice joint combat tasks according to advanced warfighting tactics."

The two countries' servicemen will also share their experience as part of the military cooperation between the two states, the expert said.

"Depending on their timing and location, naval maneuvers send a kind of signal to regional countries and the international community," Mazlum continued.

They can also be viewed as a response to certain states' attempts to destabilize the region, particularly the Eastern Mediterranean. Naval exercises underline the need for an effort to ease tensions in a region."

The Black Sea Fleet's press office reported on October 8 that Russian and Egyptian navies will hold joint drills in the Black Sea until the end of this year.

In Novorossiysk, the delegations of the Russian Navy and the Navy of the Arab Republic of Egypt held a three-day conference on preparing and holding the joint exercise Bridge of Friendship-2020.

During the drills, the warships of the Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet and the Egyptian Navy will practice measures with the support of aircraft to defend sea lanes against various threats.

Under the single scenario, forces will be deployed to organize communications and resupply at sea and the participants in the maneuvers will hold an inspection of suspicious vessels.

Agencies

Ethiopia plans more control measures to combat new locust swarms

By Bloomberg

ETHIOPIA, already struggling to suppress a desert-locust infestation that's the worst in decades, will escalate efforts to control the insects as it receives two new swarms a day.

Five of the Horn of Africa nation's nine regions -- including Oromia, Amhara and Tigray -- are heavily infested and the government expects to add five planes this week to supplement aerial control measures, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Unless we manage these swarms where they are, they will scatter to different areas and continue damaging livelihoods," Agriculture Minister Oumer Hussein told reporters on Sunday.

More swarms are expected to form in northeast Ethiopia, potentially moving to the eastern Ogaden region and agriculturally productive highlands, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization warned last week. The infestation is expected to continue until March, it said.

Ethiopia currently has only five planes and two drones to survey and spray the entire country, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. While the state treated about 57,000 hectares in September, government surveys show hundreds of thousands of hectares are infested.

Ethiopia has appealed for help from local and international organizations to fight the pests that have been ravaging pastures and farmlands across the region since the start of the year.

Locusts can cover as much as 150 kilometers a day and a swarm of about 40 million to 80 million locusts will destroy crops sufficient to feed 2,500 people for a year, according to the FAO.



Locusts that were roosting in trees overnight take flight in the morning in Samburu County, Kenya.

Countries should join hands to build community with shared future in cyberspace

CHINA proposed the Global Initiative on Data Security and three principles that should be followed in global digital governance, namely upholding multilateralism, balancing security and development, and ensuring fairness and justice, at the International Seminar on Global Digital Governance held on Sept. 9 in Beijing.

By doing so, it has provided solutions to global issues and shown its sense of responsibility as a major country, which accord with the common expectations from the international community.

"We underscore that all parties should step up dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, and join hands to forge a community with a shared future in cyberspace featuring peace, security, openness, cooperation and order," said the initiative.

"We call on all States to support this ini-

tiative, and confirm the aforementioned commitments through bilateral, regional and international agreements," the initiative continued.

It is a major issue faced by the international community to discuss ways to manage data security risks and promote global governance in the digital domain.

According to the latest statistics, the number of mobile Internet users has reached 3.5 billion around the world, and the digital economy now takes up more than 15 percent of the global GDP.

The explosive growth and aggregation of data, a key element of digital technology, like the discovery of oil, is providing a new source of energy for economic growth and industrial transformation.

At the same time, risks of data security concerning national security, public interests, and personal rights, challenges

brought about to the governance capacity of national governments by the frequent and massive cross-border data flow, as well as the compliance costs for global businesses pushed up by the divergence of data laws and regulations in different countries have all led to new requirements for global digital governance.

In the age of economic globalization driven by information technology, the endogenous driving forces for the development of digital technology come from open cooperation.

It suits the trend of times to uphold multilateralism, and develop a set of international rules on data security that reflect the will and respect the interests of all countries through broad-based participation.

Pursuing extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefits is

the right way forward for addressing the deficit in global digital governance.

Protection of digital security should be based on facts and the law and never go against fairness and justice.

However, U.S. authorities have recently brazenly stirred up an adverse current against the trend of the times and launched the so-called Clean Network initiative, attempting to repeat the country's hegemonic strategy on global Internet platforms.

In the name of "clean" network and under the guise of safeguarding security, the U.S. has been actually clearing away and preying on leading enterprises of other countries.

By acting in total disregard of international fairness and justice, deliberately setting up digital barriers, and splitting global cyberspace, the U.S. has seriously

disturbed and encumbered global digital cooperation and development and aroused public indignation, exposing to the world its greed and hegemonic mentality.

The Internet Society (ISOC) has recently announced a statement, expressing deep concerns over Washington's Clean Network program and policies the U.S. considers rolling out that would fracture the Internet into pieces.

"The Internet is a global network of networks, where networks interconnect on a voluntary basis with no central authority. It is this architecture that has made the Internet so successful. Today's announcement of the U.S. Clean Network program challenges this architecture at its very core," said the ISOC in its statement.

"If this approach were to spread further, the ability of the Internet to bring the

broader benefits of collaboration, global reach, and economic growth will be significantly threatened," the ISOC pointed out.

Countries have the right to protect data security according to law and protecting data security is essential for the sound growth of digital economy. Therefore, China put forward a concrete initiative for the world, and made the following suggestions:

States should handle data security in a comprehensive, objective and evidence-based manner, and maintain an open, secure and stable supply chain of global ICT products and services.

States should stand against ICT activities that impair or steal important data of other States' critical infrastructure, or use the data to conduct activities that undermine other States' national security and public interests.

People's Daily



He Xiaoting poses for a photo with a toy in her hands.

Poverty alleviation program in NW China's Shaanxi province helps lift handicapped residents out of poverty

THANKS to a poverty alleviation program, He Xiaoting, a 31-year-old Chinese woman who suffers from post-polio syndrome, has secured a job as a toy designer in a factory of her hometown and shaken off poverty.

"I dreamt of owning a doll when I was a little girl and now I can help more girls realize theirs," He said.

When she was young, He, a resident in Xingzhen township, Weinan, north-west China's Shaanxi province, had a high fever and has since been stricken with post-polio syndrome.

For all these years, she has been abnormally short and her hands smaller compared with her peers. She also has difficulty standing for long. Although He is now 31 years old, she is just as tall as a child of 12 or 13.

As her parents are seriously ill and couldn't work, He has plucked up the courage and shouldered the burden of supporting her family.

In 2016, He, who had been working for years in Xi'an, capital city of Shaanxi, returned to her hometown and applied for a job at the community factory in Xingzhen township shortly after the factory was established.

"My son is only two months old and I hope to find a job closer to my home so that I can better take care of him and my parents," she told the recruiters.

As a result of a poverty alleviation program jointly launched by Shaanxi province and east China's Jiangsu province, the community factory in Xingzhen township has helped lift 15 local impoverished households out of poverty.

The factory has also made 114 poverty-stricken households become better off by providing each of them at least 1,000 yuan (\$146.3) in dividends per year.

According to He, she can design a simple toy in three hours and may need 4-5 days for complicated designs. "As I'm new in the industry, I certainly need to spend more time and efforts than others," He explained.

After completing her own tasks, she also voluntarily learns other work in the factory. Since she is interested in all the jobs of the work flow, everyone in the factory is now familiar to her.

Due to her illness, He had to get around on a manual tricycle in her childhood. Her pleasant personality helped her get along well with her classmates, who would emulatively give her a hand with the tricycle.

Though she couldn't move easily, she would try her best to help her parents with domestic chores.

At the age of 15, He went to Xi'an alone on crutches to study in a vocational school. She had been down in spirits for some time due to the unfamiliar environment.

"I was on crutches every day. And I felt everyone on the campus was looking at me," He said.

Many students offered help to her, but she didn't want to always trouble others, recalled He, who disclosed that one day, she got the courage, which she didn't know how, to drop her crutches and start practicing walking on her own weak legs.

"I couldn't remember how many times I fell down. But I continued to practice walking by myself as long as I could stand up," she recalled.

Finally, she walked to the bus station on her own one day and then traveled around the city by bus. "I felt like I had won a huge victory and it was the happiest day of my life," she said happily.

After graduation, He first assembled circuit boards in an electronic component factory in Xi'an. She worked very hard there. Besides doing a good job with her own tasks, she would also learn to use design software after work.

During her time in Xi'an, He also studied accounting at a school for adults. She went to work during the day and took accounting courses at night. In her spare time, she would continue to study different kinds of office and design software.

He is really grateful that she could now secure a job as a toy designer near her home. Sometimes, she brings waste toy samples home, which can always thrill her son. In the eyes of her son, He is just like an "awesome magician".

The community factory has provided jobs for a total of 13 handicapped residents. By securing a job near home, these people have not only earned money, but become more confident in their daily life, said Gao Wuguo, secretary of Communist Party of China Xingzhen township committee.

"Taking advantage of Xingzhen's industrial transformation, we will encourage more companies to shoulder social responsibilities and help convert poverty alleviation resources to benefits, thus helping more impoverished and handicapped people secure jobs near their homes," Gao added.

People's Daily



I couldn't remember how many times I fell down. But I continued to practice walking by myself as long as I could stand up

Scientists voice concern, criticism as coronavirus resurges in multiple countries

BEIJING

THE latest infections across the world indicate that a resurgence of the coronavirus is likely occurring, which poses great challenges to global health and urges a more efficient response from countries.

The United States - ranking first in the world in terms of both case number and death toll from COVID-19 - has recently come under fire from academia. Journals including Nature and Science have started to take aim at the superpower's missteps in the pandemic. As of Sunday, India's COVID-19 tally continues to rise, with more than 7 million total confirmed cases and

over 100,000 deaths. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, massive tests are underway in the country.

Brazil, ranking third only after the United States and India in terms of case tally, has the second highest death toll from COVID-19 at more than 150,000, Johns Hopkins University's data show.

Nepal reported 5,008 new confirmed cases on Saturday, once again setting a record-high number of confirmed cases in a day since the outbreak. Similarly, Canada registered 2,558 new cases on Friday, also a record-breaking daily number. Its current national tally is more than 182,000. Earlier

this week, over 10,000 mink have died at farms in the U.S. states of Utah and Wisconsin after a series of coronavirus outbreaks. Farm workers are being directed to use protective equipment, local media reported.

The situation seems to become more worrying in Europe as many countries have experienced a continuous increase in daily case loads, pushing European governments to strengthen restrictions to contain the spread of the virus.

After Paris and its neighboring regions were put on top coronavirus alert level on Tuesday, France's public health department on Saturday reported 26,896 new con-

firmed cases, another new record of daily infections. According to French media, some health workers have been "traumatized" by the resurgence of COVID-19. "A lot of them will never get over it," said one of the nurses.

Since Oct. 3, Britain's daily case number has been continuously increasing to exceed the 10,000 mark.

Daily cases on Saturday in Italy and Germany surpassed 4,500. Romania, with a caseload of 3,517 the same day, marked a record number of daily new cases since its outbreak. Germany is making efforts to avoid a second lockdown and not to repeat its policies carried

out in spring, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday.

Apart from France's policy to upgrade city alert levels, Italy has made it mandatory to wear face masks in outdoor spaces, and the Spanish government has ordered a 15-day state of emergency to bring down infection rates in its capital Madrid. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has declared in late September that he would "not hesitate" to order further restrictions if necessary.

In the United States, the government has long been blamed for not responding effectively to the pandemic. Scientists have recently voiced dissatisfaction in several

academic journals and magazines. In an editorial published on Thursday, the New England Journal of Medicine said the United States "could have done better."

The editors, who signed the editorial, called the U.S. handling of the pandemic an "astonishing" failure, adding that "they (the leaders) have taken a crisis and turned it into a tragedy."

In an article published Wednesday, the multidisciplinary journal Nature chastised the U.S. president for holding mass rallies neglecting state health rules and downplaying the pandemic, which, according to the article, "damaged science." Science, on Wednesday,

WHO reiterates call for antivirus steps

By Chen Weihua

AS countries across Europe experience rapid rises in COVID-19 cases and reimpose some lockdown measures, the World Health Organization emphasized that countries need to apply all the tools to avoid rampant community transmission, with more than 37 million people worldwide having been infected.

Italy has imposed a nationwide outdoor mask mandate with fines of up to 1,000 euros (US\$1,160) for violators, and the Spanish government has declared a state of emergency in Madrid and the surrounding region.

Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said that in many situations new cases can be contained in the ways that many countries have demonstrated since the pandemic broke out.

Countries should focus on shutting chains of transmission through tools such as case surveillance, isolating cases and quarantining contacts, he said.

Unlike China and some other East Asian countries and regions, contact tracing and isolation are often not strictly enforced in many European countries. Surveillance measures are sometimes challenged as an infringement of privacy and civil rights.

Countries need to do everything possible to avoid letting transmission become rampant at the community level, Ryan said.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, also reiterated the importance of applying all the tools that are required.

She acknowledged that it is hard to strike a balance between reopening society and suppressing transmission, but she said it is important to engage and empower the public and enable people to take the measures needed.

Globally more than 37.2 million people have been infected by COVID-19, and more than 1.07 million have died, according to a tally kept by the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in the United States.

In India, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases passed 7 million on Sunday, although the number of new cases has dipped in recent weeks, even as health experts warned that mask and distancing fatigue is setting in.

The health ministry reported 918 additional deaths, taking the number to 108,334. However, some experts say India's death toll may be unreliable because of poor reporting and health infrastructure and inadequate testing.

Rising cases

Indian Health officials have warned of the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming religious festival season, marked by huge gatherings in temples and shopping districts.

In Brazil the number of deaths due to COVID-19 passed 150,000 on Saturday, but the rate of infections continues to slow.

Brazil, with a population of 212 million, accounts for the majority of deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean: 150,198 since the first fatality was recorded in March, and 5,082,637 infections, the health ministry said.

It is the second-highest national death toll, after that of the US, and the country has the third-highest numbers of infections after those of the US and India.

The Chinese embassy in Brazil on Friday delivered the second batch of anti-epidemic supplies sent by the Chinese government. **Agencies**

Trump claims he is 'immune' from coronavirus

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump claimed on Sunday that he is now "immune" from the coronavirus, though medical research has suggested it is possible to be reinfected with the virus.

"It seems like I'm immune, so I can go way out of a basement," Trump said in an interview on Fox News.

"It looks like I'm immune for, I don't know, maybe a long time, maybe a short time. It could be a lifetime. Nobody really knows," Trump added.

White House physician Sean Conley said on Saturday that the president, who tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 1 and was later hospitalized for three days before returning to the White House with continued treatment, is "no longer considered a transmission risk to oth-

ers." However, Conley did not disclose when Trump last had a negative test result.

A study published in September in the journal Nature Medicine, however, indicated that recovery from the coronavirus does not confer lifetime immunity. Before and after Trump's infection, a number of White House staff members have also tested positive for the virus.

Xinhua

US castigated over threat it poses to peace

By Liu Yinmeng

A CHINESE envoy to the United Nations on Friday refuted "baseless accusations" by the United States by listing what he called the "10 facts about US wrongdoings in disarmament and international security".

"Just now, the US representative spread political virus in the UN and smeared China on COVID-19, which is totally unacceptable," said Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN. "I must point out that shrugging off responsibility cannot cover the mistakes the US made in combating the pandemic, and cannot fool the international community."

In exercising China's right of reply, Geng responded to the comment made by the US representative at a meeting of the General Assembly's First Committee.

Also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee, the First Committee deals with international security affairs such as arms control, disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation.

During the committee's general debate on Friday, the US representative again made groundless accusations against China on COVID-19, claiming that Russia and China are engaged in a nuclear buildup, and that international peace and security are under grave threat, according to the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN.

The envoy said that China opposes an arms race, upholds multilateralism and implements its obligations under arms control treaties and agreements. It also supports dialogue and cooperation in the security area, Geng added.

"I have just one message: the US is the gravest threat to global strategic security and stability," he said, before listing the 10 facts.

First, the US is "obsessed with military buildup", Geng argued. He said the country ranks first in military expenditure, spending more than US\$700 billion in 2019, nearly 40 percent of the world's total for military outlays, and more than the next 10 countries combined.

The second point he made was that "the US is returning to its Cold War mentality".

"In its National Security Strategy Report and Nuclear Posture Review Report, the US blatantly defined China



Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN

and Russia as strategic competitors, hyping up external threats, and stirring up confrontation among major countries," Geng said.

Third, "the US is pursuing unilateralism", the envoy said. The country "withdrew from the INF Treaty and the JCPOA, unsigned the ATT, and adopted a negative attitude toward the extension of the New START Treaty, exposing its pure pragmatism on bilateral and multilateral arms control treaties and regimes," Geng said.

He was referring to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a nuclear disarmament pact the US and the Soviet Union signed in 1987; the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a 2015 nuclear deal struck between Iran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany; the Arms Trade Treaty, a multilateral agreement that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons; as well as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, a nuclear arms reduction pact the US and Russia signed in 2010.

Fourth, the envoy said the country "is seeking to free its hands".

"The US has been upgrading its nuclear arsenals, and lowering the threshold for nuclear weapons use. It has dodged its special responsibility for nuclear disarmament with the pretext of so-called trilateral negotiations, and even had discussions on resuming nuclear testing," he said.

'Political maneuvering'

Fifth, Geng argued that "the US is pushing political maneuvering" by following double standards on nuclear nonproliferation, abusing unilateral sanctions and serving its

Russia simplifies citizenship procedure for foreigners with Russian children

MOSCOW

FOREIGN citizens with adult able-bodied children with Russian passports will be able to obtain Russian citizenship via a simplified procedure starting October 12, according to the Russian official legal information website. Besides, foreigners applying for Russian citizenship will undergo compulsory dactyloscopic

registration starting yesterday.

The new law allows foreigners to obtain Russian citizenship via a simplified procedure, without a minimum residence time requirement, if they have adult able-bodied children with Russian passports - in contrast with previous edition that conditioned this option on disabled children only.

Besides, some restrictions on filing

inquiries on application for Russian citizenship will be abolished for Russian-speaking foreigners.

Foreign citizens and people without citizenship, applying for Russian passport, will now be required to undergo dactyloscopy. This measure aims to increase Russia's national security and prevent people involved in terrorism to infiltrate the Russian territory.



Simba Sports Club

Simba SC now to face Ndanda FC in friendly tie

BY SETH DENIS, TUDARCO

SIMBA SC is today expected to play a friendly match against First Division League (FDL) side, Ndanda FC, at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

The two clubs will use the game to shape up for their respective assignments in this season's Vodacom Premier League and the FDL.

Ndanda FC which previously featuring in the Vodacom Premier League was relegated to the FDL at the end of the previous season's league.

The squad took on African Lyon in Group A duel of the FDL, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend and ended in 1-1 draw.

The FDL Group A's first round game's results has left Ndanda FC placed sixth with just one point.

Ndanda FC will next be away to African Sports in Tanga on October 18.

Simba SC, Vodacom Premier League defending champions, currently holds the second spot in the domestic top flight with 13 points after playing five matches.

They will today miss some of their players and assistant coach, Selemani Matola, who were in the senior national soccer team which conceded 1-0 loss to Burundi in an international friendly game at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city last weekend.

The players are goalkeeper Aishi Manula, defenders Shomari Kapombe and Mohamed Hussein, midfielders Said Hamisi, Jonas Mkude and Mzamiru Yassin, and attacker John Bocco.

Both Simba SC and Ndanda FC are set to put impressive displays in today's friendly tie, which is set to kick off at 5pm.

Fans that would like to access the Azam Complex to watch the duel will pay 7,000/- for the VIP seats, whereas the rest of the venue's seats will cost 5,000/- each.

Bubble Kings: Lakers run past Heat for 17th NBA championship

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

THE ultimate anguish. The ultimate joy.

This season, for LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers, had it all. And it ended in the only fashion that they deemed would be acceptable, with them back atop the basketball world.

For the first time since Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago, the Lakers are NBA champions. James had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 on Sunday night to win the NBA Finals in six games.

"Our organization wants their respect. Laker Nation wants their respect," James said. "And I want my damn respect, too."

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who dealt with the enormous anguish that followed the death of the iconic Bryant in January and all the challenges that came with leaving home for three months to play at Walt Disney World in a bubble designed to keep inhabitants safe from the coronavirus. It would be, James predicted, the toughest title to ever win.

"We have a Ph.D in adversity, I'll tell you that much," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We've been through

a lot."

They made the clincher look easy. James won his fourth title, doing it with a third different franchise – and against the Heat franchise that showed him to become a champion.

Bam Adebayo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which got 12 points from Jimmy Butler – the player who, in his first Heat season, got the team back to title contention. Rajon Rondo scored 19 points for the Lakers, who put together the elite talents of James and Davis with this moment in mind.

And Davis, as white and gold confetti coated the floor around him, spent his first moments as an NBA champion thinking of Bryant. "All we wanted to do was do it for him," Davis said. "And we didn't let him down. ... I know he's looking down on us, proud of us."

With that, the league's bubble chapter, put together after a 4 1/2-month suspension of play that started March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic and came with a promise that it would raise awareness to the problems of racial injustice and police brutality, is over. So, too, is a season that saw the league and China get into political sparring, the death on Jan. 1 of commissioner emer-

tus David Stern – the man who did so much to make the league what it is – and then the shock on Jan. 26 that came with the news that Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other died in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers said they were playing the rest of the season in his memory.

They delivered what Bryant did five times for L.A. – a ring, and the clincher was emphatic. "You have written your own inspiring chapter in the great Laker history," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said. "And to Laker Nation, we have been through a heartbreaking tragedy with the loss of our beloved Kobe Bryant. Let this trophy serve as a reminder of when we come together, believe in each other, incredible things can happen."

Game 6 was over by half-time, the Lakers taking a 64-36 lead into the break. The Heat never led and couldn't shoot from anywhere: 35% from 2-point range in the half, 33% from 3-point range and even an uncharacteristic 42% from the line, not like any of it really mattered. The Lakers were getting everything they wanted and then some, outscoring Miami 36-16 in the second quarter and doing all that with James making just one shot in the period. **AP**

Captain John Komba: Unforgettable symbol of the Nyerere mourning period

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

WITH the coming 21st anniversary of the death of founder President Julius Nyerere, memories are likely to be drawn to the proper mourning period mid-October 1999, despite that it is not quite frequently that the songs are heard, unlike speeches.

What was remarkable about the mourning period, even as numerous artistes and actual choirs composed songs and they were aired over radios and television stations, there was an inimitable contributor.

It was retired military officer Capt. John Komba, a gifted vocalist, leading an independent military-cum CCM cultural troupe.

There was something penetrating and articulate about his singing, and it was with the death of Mwalimu that Komba's full potential as a lead vocalist and virtual sermonizer on the stage was brought out in the clear.

His songs were to the public mourning the death of Mwalimu what a hymn is to worshippers in a church or such other place, not as an additional element but the very rhythm of what was taking place, its innermost expression.

One could even say there was a fashioning of destiny tied up with the songs, first the image of the event of death, and then significance in life.

Up to that moment, Nyerere was honorific Father of the Nation for having been its undisputed leader, key mobiliser in the run up to independence.

In the compositions Capt Komba brought up for the mourning, another element was added, 'Ndugu Watanzania tumebaki yatima, kifo kimemchukua Mwalimu Nyerere...' where for a brief moment, as if in some trance, people were discovering that there is a truism in it.

Nyerere was not just a retired president but a father in the country's affairs, a virtual commander in chief of the armed forces even in his actual retirement.



The late John Komba

There is an anecdotal event registered by some people who were in Dodoma mid-1995 as Nyerere presided over the central committee and then NEC meetings to nominate the CCM candidate for the presidency.

A well placed aspirant, an immediate former prime minister who Mwalimu had rejected reportedly wanted to insist on his membership right to pursue the quest of being candidate, and let the matter be voted upon by NEC members.

It is said that the country's military solved the matter when its overall commander sought out the aspirant, impressively.

The grapevine says that the commander 'halted' in front of

the former premier, saluted him in crisp military fashion and told him bluntly: honorable (former prime minister) if you want to continue contesting for the presidency look for an army (that will be obedient to you), that is, in preference to Mwalimu.

The aspirant saw that the stakes had been raised a bit too high and threw in the towel, as they say in boxing, and the matter ended there.

He now understood who was in charge of the country's affairs, thus in this sense Capt Komba did not exaggerate in his 'sermon.'

What is however surprising – though not easy to ascertain – is how this event shapes up to the

death of Captain Komba slightly over 15 years later, early 2015.

It is uncertain that there is a link between them as the two events are separated by a decade and half thus it cannot be a causative link.

This was noticed when Ephraim Kibonde, a ranking presenter and close assistant to the Clouds FM director of programs Ruge Mutahaba, died a few weeks after the director died.

There is something that 'post-modernist' philosophy calls 'the law of attraction,' patterned on the classical laws of gravitation but focusing on human life, how a departed soul can attract another if the bond is too intense.

In some tribal customs excessive wailing for a departed elder or parent is held negatively as it can bring about an attraction effect where the one most pained joins the departed, as those in the other world also relish company, or affection of the most loved of their lives.

Capt Komba could have created such a link with Mwalimu but as a slow moving 'motion picture' while in Kibonde's case his presentation may be said to have been a virtual 'time bomb.'

While the career of the late Capt Komba was what can be termed as political entertainment, in the period of Mwalimu's death his role became akin to the traditional Griot singers in West Africa, not in extolling Mwalimu's achievements up to high heaven but in depicting the wretch and despondence that the nation remained without Mwalimu's guiding light.

Even if in terms of theology that is altogether faulty because it is divinity, not a man even of fatherly stature like Mwalimu who keeps a country, there is still an element of truth in what he said, as even after 21 years Mwalimu's words are repeated on radio and television not just as remembrance but as a cardinal aspect of civic education, broadly speaking. CCM cannot speak of itself sufficiently, yet.

...LeBron James has done it again, and did it his way

BY TIM REYNOLDS

HE went to Miami and became a champion.

He went back to Cleveland and won another title.

He went to Los Angeles and now the Lakers are back atop the basketball world.

LeBron James, love him or hate him, is in his own category now. He has led three franchises to NBA titles, something nobody has ever done. His legacy was complete long before Sunday night, when the Los Angeles Lakers became NBA champions for the 17th time by beating the Miami Heat and winning the title to cap a season like none other, in a bubble like none other.

But that legacy is just a bit shinier now.

"I guess, as Frank Sinatra would say, I did it my way," James said earlier in these playoffs.

That's not up for debate.

He's got four titles. He's a four-time NBA Finals MVP, the second to win that many. He's done it all with the NBA's biggest target on his back, with every action and every word scrutinized and often criticized.

James has become the epitome of



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) takes a shot over Miami Heat's Kelly Olynyk (9) during the second half in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

the independent superstar athlete, something many try to be but few even have a chance of pulling off. He does whatever he wants, whenever he wants, however he wants and makes it work. Bill Russell will forever have more rings and Michael Jordan will forever be

the choice of many as the NBA's greatest player. And that's OK with James, who has forged his own path.

"The game of basketball will pass me by," James said as the title loomed. "There will be a new group of young kids and vets and rookies throughout the

course of this game. So, I can't worry about that as far as on the floor. How I move, how I walk, what I preach, what I talk about, how I inspire the next generation is what matters to me the most."

He's never forgotten that he was once a broke kid from Akron,

Ohio. If he's not a billionaire yet, he's trending that way. He's on a Wheaties box now, saying its unveiling last week was "one of the best moments of my life." He founded a school and stays involved with matters there. He's actively trying to get more people, particularly Black people, to vote than ever before.

"I just hope I make my guys proud and that's all that mattered to me," James said. "I make my guys proud, make the fan base proud, my family back home, I can't wait to get back home to them. Akron, Ohio, we did it again – and that's what it's all about."

Oh, if that wasn't enough, he delivered a championship to a Lakers franchise that went 10 years without one and did so in a year when they needed it most, letting them cry tears of joy after all the tears of anguish that followed the death of Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash in January. **AP**

President Magufuli hails musicians

BY LYDIA SOSPETER, TUDARCO

PRESIDENT John Pombe Magufuli, who is also the forthcoming General Election's presidential candidate for ruling party, Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), has been recognizing various artistes' contribution in music promotion in Tanzania.

Magufuli yesterday handed over

a CCM cap to a popular 'Singeli' artiste, Abdallah Ahmed 'Dulla Makabila' at the party's campaign which took place at Kinyerezi in Dar es Salaam.

The President has been encouraging the musicians to continue performing well in the profession.

Other domestic musicians, who have been accompanying Magufuli in his campaigns and received

presents from the President, are Nasibu Abdul 'Diamond Platinumz', Rajab Abdul 'Harmonize', Ali Kiba, Kala Jeremiah, Snura Mushi 'Snura', 'Meja Kunta', Boniventure Kabongo 'Stamina', and Mrisho Mpotu.

The musicians appreciated the President's gesture and acknowledged his willingness to motivate them to actively promote

music.

They have been expressing their gratitudes on social media, saying they are delighted with the President's gesture.

The decision by the President to appreciate the musicians' contribution in the profession is set to motivate up-and-coming musicians to put more effort into their work.

Brazil cruise tells us little about how good they are

BY TIM VICKERY, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

Brazil's relationship with the World Cup is entirely binary. They have won five, lost the others – and there is nothing in between.

On Friday they set out on the road to what they hope will be World Cup win No. 6, and their first in 20 years, with a 5-0 win over Bolivia that was so comfortable that it serves more as a boost to morale than as a test of their virtues.

Bolivia coach Cesar Farias had talked up his side and their desire to meet any opponents on equal terms, but he is well aware of the reality. Bolivia's main aim is to pick up points at home, at the extreme altitude of La Paz. He left some of his best players at home to prepare for Tuesday's visit of Argentina, and set off to Brazil for an exercise in damage limitation.

The difference between the sides was a chasm. Brazil could easily have been two goals up in the first five minutes. After 14 minutes, Brazil had exchanged 118 passes, against Bolivia's three. It was attack versus defence, and goals were a mere question of time.

By half-time, amid a downpour in Sao Paulo, Brazil were two up with goals that shed light on how coach Tite is building his side post Russia 2018. The first came from a short corner on the right, played back for Danilo to whip in a cross that was powerfully headed home by Marquinhos. And the second came down the other flank, with left-back Renan Lodi reaching the byeline after an exchange with Neymar and squaring low for Roberto Firmino to tap in at the far post.

Marquinhos was a fixture in the team during the last set of qualifiers, but come the World Cup he was cruelly and surely mistakenly left on the bench. Come the fateful quarterfinal defeat to Belgium, Brazil clearly missed their quickest centre-back, and now it is impossible to imagine a Brazil side without him.

The position of the crosses from the full-backs is also significant. Tite's idea is for a more defensive right back, constructing from deep and also offering cover. On the other flank, Lodi is given license to bomb forward, with Douglas Luiz,

an extra defensive midfielder, to ensure that the space behind is not left as vacant as it was against Belgium. This also influences the position of the wingers. Everton on the right is expected to stay wide, while with Lodi overlapping, Neymar is free to wander infield.

And then there is Liverpool's forward Firmino. One of Tite's big Russia 2018 regrets is that he persevered with Gabriel Jesus as the striker. Since then the Manchester City striker, missing this time through injury, has been used in a wide role. Firmino's time in the position has been an overwhelming success, and Brazil won last year's Copa America on home ground.

That said, the structure of the Brazil side is very different from that of Liverpool, and there is a fear that Firmino and Philippe Coutinho seek to operate in the same space. But Firmino can look back at two centre-forward style goals in this game – he added the third just after half-time, arriving to turn home a low cross from Neymar. And Coutinho also got on the scoresheet, adding the last goal with a cute header after Brazil's left side worked well once more, Lodi slipping in Neymar for a well-flighted cross.

The right flank did not function as well; Everton looked uncomfortable in the role and gave way to Rodrygo of Real Madrid, who was heavily involved in the fourth goal, cutting in to feed Coutinho, continuing his run into the box and making contact with the cross, which was inadvertently turned past his own keeper by Bolivia centre-back Jose Maria Carrasco.

But with the outcome never in doubt it was all too easy. Is Firmino the right choice? Can he and Coutinho fire together? Can the absence of Richarlison from the starting lineup be justified?

On the road to Qatar, Brazil need these questions to be posed in a way that Bolivia were never able to do, and Tuesday promises a more rigorous examination. Brazil are away to Peru, the only clash in the opening rounds between teams who were both at the last World Cup. And of all the teams who played away from home in the opening round, Peru were the only one to avoid defeat. It looks like the one to watch.

South Africa coach Ntseki under fire after loss to Zambia

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa coach Molefi Ntseki was slammed by supporters on social media after a 2-1 home loss to Zambia on Sunday in an international friendly.

He was accused of being "tactically bankrupt", "clueless and directionless" and "lacking a strategy" in tweets when the home side conceded two late goals in Rustenburg.

Former national under-17 coach Ntseki was a shock appointment when England-born Stuart Baxter quit last year. Ntseki had never played for, nor coached, a professional team.

All the goals came from substitutes with Keagan Dolly putting the hosts ahead on 66 minutes behind closed doors due the coronavirus pandemic.

Kelvin Kampamba levelled on 78 minutes and Chaniza Zulu scored the match-winner four minutes later at the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace.

It was the second poor performance within four days by South Africa after they failed to protect a lead in a 1-1 draw with Namibia at the same ground.

While better results were expected against lower ranked opponents, it was the lack of South African fighting spirit that angered supporters.

Ntseki blamed the loss on a first-minute injury to Lyle Foster, which forced the Portugal-based forward to go off.

"The injury messed up our plan and our rhythm. We gave the ball away too cheaply and conceded a

lot of corners," he said.

"We were better in the second half but I detected a lack of confidence and belief among some of my players."

Serbia-born Milutin Sredojevic debuted as Zambia coach last Wednesday with a 1-0 win over Malawi in Lusaka and his team fell 2-1 to Kenya in Nairobi two days later. - 'Team spirit' -

"It was tough playing three matches in five days but one game is equal to 50 training sessions," said the former Rwanda and Uganda coach.

"I was particularly happy with the team spirit as I strive to lift Zambia from the doldrums after failing to qualify for the last two Africa Cup of Nations tournaments.

"This is a very young squad with an average age of 24 and my ambition is to make Zambia a force to be reckoned with again."

A brilliant pass from Percy Tau enabled Dolly to round goalkeeper Sebastian Mwangi and tap the ball into an unguarded goal to give South Africa an undeserved lead.

Kampamba equalised with a low shot that beat Darren Keet at his near post. Zulu finished off a cross to give Zambia victory.

Both countries are preparing for 2021 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers next month with South Africa due to face Sao Tome and Principe home and away while Zambia meet Botswana twice.

Meanwhile, 10-man Tanzania fell 1-0 at home against Burundi with Saido Ntibazonkiza scoring the only goal on 86 minutes in Dar es Salaam.

AFP

England faces financial reckoning despite billion-pound transfer window - Part 2

BY JAMES OLLEY, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

Where will the money come from?

Premier League clubs are insulated from the worst financial effects of COVID-19 thanks to the staggering income from television rights, currently worth £8.65bn (\$11.2bn) for the cycle 2019-22. However, around half of that money goes on wages and with other revenue streams suffering, the present status quo increasingly appears unsustainable. To compound the problem, the League had to pay £300m (\$390m) in rebates due to the disruption caused by the pandemic, with more to follow this season.

Fans not being allowed back into matches could cost £700m (\$910m), while clubs have scores of stadium contracts that will demand repayments. For example, at least one London Premier League club receives its money up front from licensing its catering. With no supporters to serve, a significant chunk of that money will have to be repaid.

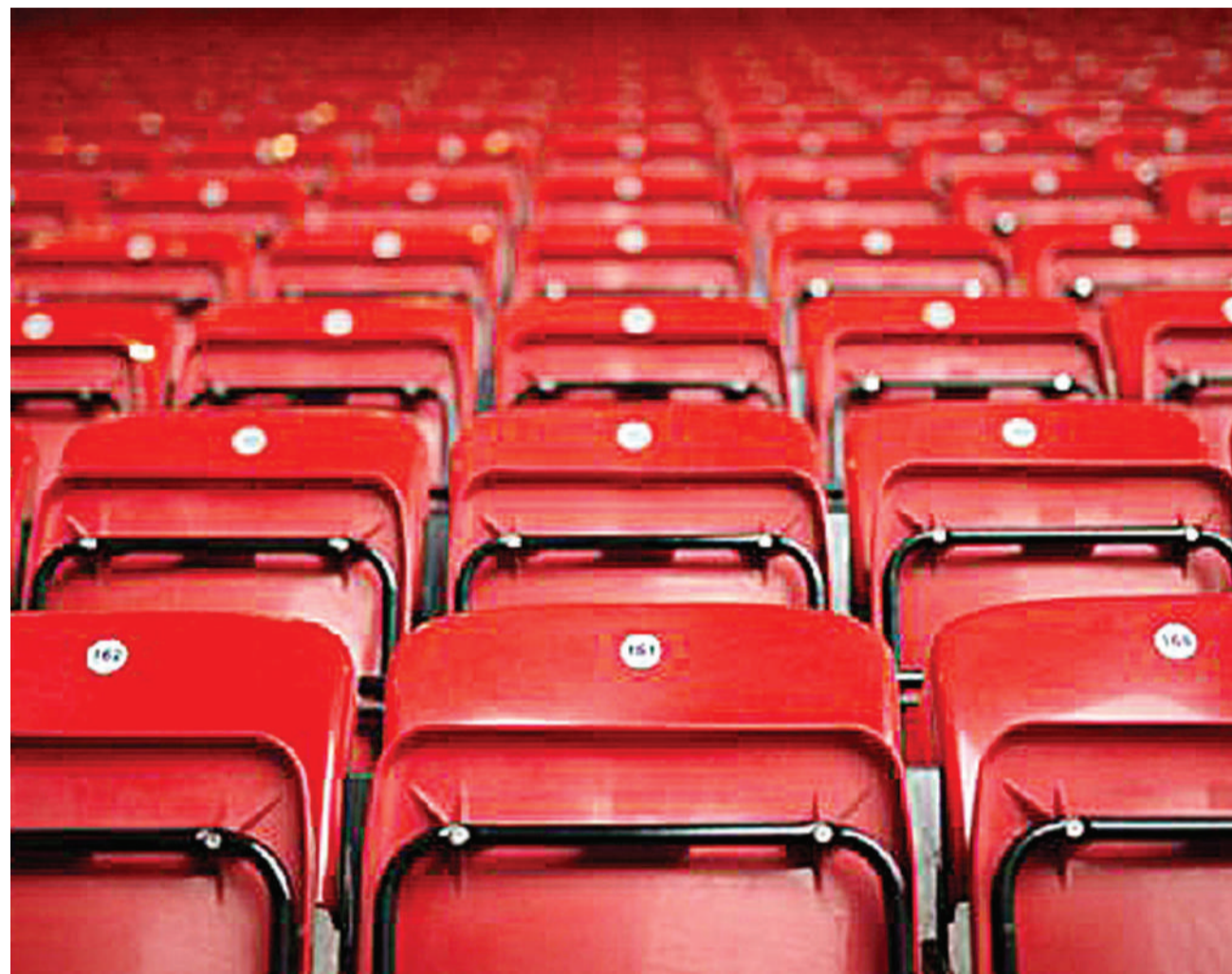
Sources have also told ESPN that there is no consensus among Premier League club executives over precisely how much responsibility the top flight should bear for acute struggles in the lower divisions. The real battle for survival is at League One and League Two level, also to a lesser extent in the Championship, with clubs in those leagues dependent on matchday income rather than television revenue. Some £250m (\$325m) is said to be needed to see out the season without seeing any clubs disappear.

Sources have told ESPN that a cash offer has been made by the Premier League to the EFL, but it contained a host of caveats including support for future rule changes – most significantly, the relaxing of visa rules post-Brexit to ensure an easier acquisition of foreign players – while some of the money was segregated as a loan and another part simply classified as an advancement of solidarity payments already in place. According to sources, this proposal does not even have uniform support among Premier League clubs, with chief executive Richard Masters facing a difficult task in convincing executives already looking at large holes in their own balance sheet to find cash to help others.

This summer's transfer window provided some evidence of the creativity required by Premier League clubs to balance their books while still investing heavily in recruitment. Many buying clubs pushed for season-long loans with options to buy, effectively deferring acquisition costs. Some clubs secured arrangements with private equity firms to maintain their competitiveness in the market – or avoid having to sell their best players – while others asked owners to dip into their pockets, as Arsenal did in the 11th-hour acquisition of Thomas Partey from Atletico Madrid for £45m (\$59m).

Private investment funds have offered another bridge to the world beyond COVID-19. ESPN reported in May how a £1bn (\$1.3bn) fund had been assembled and offered to the Premier League, but it was ultimately declined due to disagreements over how the money would be distributed and, more significantly, an overarching belief once again that government would ride to the rescue. It was originally anticipated that fans would return to stadiums at the beginning of October, but a nationwide increase in coronavirus cases forced a delay in that plan. Private financiers have begun to circle once again.

ESPN can reveal that American investment company TPG Capital, previously known as Texas Pacific Group, have made a cash offer in return for an equity stake – rumoured to be 25% – in the EFL. As part of the agreement, they would potentially take a seat on the board and therefore help decide which clubs would receive financial assistance on a case-by-case basis. The deal is similar in nature to the one struck by CVC Capital Partners with Premiership Rugby, when the firm took



Without fans in the stands, football clubs face a precarious financial future. (Agencies)

a 27% stake in 2018. Talks are ongoing between TPG and the EFL, but there is no broad support as yet.

Entrepreneur and former football agent Jon Smith is involved in bringing another group together, including banks from both sides of the Atlantic and American pension funds, offering £150m (\$195m) secured against the three remaining years of the EFL's current television contract, worth £50m (\$65m) per season.

"We proposed the interest would be paid by the Premier League, something that would cost them less than £20m (\$26m) but would stand as a clear indication they were helping the clubs lower down the pyramid," Smith told ESPN. "I'm fortunate enough to know [DCMS Secretary of State] Oliver Dowden as he is my Member of Parliament. He is a sizeably good human being who genuinely cares and is trying very hard in these most difficult times to be supportive."

"It would be good if the government could become the Lender of Last Resort while we sourced additional funds. And there is more money out there if required, a lot more. One fund in my orbit has over \$60bn [\$78bn] under management. Everyone in the game knows we are there, but they are continuing to say 'the Premier League owes the EFL' and in any case they expect the government will come and bail them out."

The prevailing consensus is that the government's mixed messaging continues to cloud the issue. As long as they refuse

to help, yet at the same time not rule out the possibility of future intervention, clubs will cling to the hope the state will come to their rescue because it is the cheapest and simplest option.

Can TV income save the system?

The Premier League clubs have one other source of optimism: future television income.

"There's going to come a moment in the not-too-distant future when the pressure on football collectively will build to the extent that wage bills become unsustainable," explains Smith. "And this is from someone who has always defended the players' right to earn commensurately from the income they bring to the game. But if the income drops, which it might, then there might have to be an obvious adjustment, and that's where the bottom could fall out."

"In two years' time, there will be another TV deal. What if Sky say 'we don't need to spend as much as last time'? Here's £2bn [\$2.6bn]. Look at BT's share price. Unbelievably, they could become a takeover target."

"I think the big clubs are hoping – and possibly with some substance – that it doesn't really matter because in two years, we've got Amazon, Google, Apple TV and the Qataris who could all make a play. It is possible that a dark horse could be beIN SPORTS, who follow up their Qatar 2022 World Cup success with Premier League rights, and that's if Jeff Bezos doesn't stomp

up £5bn [\$6.5bn] because he can!

"If one or two of them come in at the current levels, the player wages continue. If not, the whole wage structure in football, I guess, will change, led by government asking for prudence in the sector. It could go either way, or it could be a combination of all of that. But one thing is for sure: football is going to change in some shape or form, certainly in the lower leagues."

Premier League wages are estimated to be an average of £158m (\$205m) per club per season, with Manchester United above £350m (\$455m), Manchester City at £315m (\$410m), Chelsea at £314m (\$408m) and Liverpool at £310m (\$403m). Deloitte reported in 2018-19 that the 24 Championship clubs had a wages-to-turnover ratio of 107%, while clubs in League One and League Two voted in August for a salary cap, limiting League One clubs to £2.5m (\$3.2m) a year and League One to £1m (\$1.3m) a year.

One thing that all parties seem to agree on is that the storm is coming. One source close to the EFL claims there is a "common assumption" that "more than one and as many as eight" clubs will struggle to pay player wages at the end of this month if nothing is done. Some Championship clubs this week threatened to withhold PAYE payments (automatic salary deductions from employees for income tax and national insurance paid to the government) to HMRC in protest at the government's decision

not to allow fans inside stadiums when theatres and music venues are able to stage events.

"It is not the most subtle approach, but the underlying message behind it is 'you can provide financial support by being patient,'" said the chief executive of one EFL club.

The overall picture is confused by a lack of leadership. There are some within the game who believe the Football Association should be more prominent in discussions rather than the competitions it governs.

"Nobody is leading from the front," said Smith. "If anyone challenges the wages, [Professional Footballers' Association chief] Gordon Taylor will argue breach of contract, contraventions of European law. Nobody has the stomach for that fight. Where is the chairman of the FA [Greg Clarke] in all this? He's a good guy who cares for the game but surely this is his moment to raise his voice above the cacophony."

"The government can find the money, but they have so much else on their plate. Whole sectors – hospitality, theatre and conferencing to name but three – are on the brink of collapse. And that's of more significance right now to the Chancellor than propping up football, which has just spent £1.2bn (\$1.6m) in the transfer window."

Instead of this summer's spending spree pointing to a revival, it is evidence of a game that is yet to face up to the gravity of COVID-19's financial impact.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Brazil cruise tells us little about how good they are

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Women's football back in Africa as COSAFA tourney takes centre-stage

CAPE TOWN

THE 2020 COSAFA Women's Championship is to take centre-stage in South Africa's Nelson Mandela Bay from November 3-14 in what are expected to be the first women's internationals staged on the African continent since the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc with the football calendar.

The COSAFA also intends to stage its Women's Under-17 Championship concurrently with the senior competition from November 5-13, providing some much-needed international competition in this crucial age-group.

It is a welcome return to national team competition for the sides, who have endured a frustrating 2020, but with light at the end of the tunnel, the future looks a lot brighter.

The COSAFA Women's Championship will feature eight teams, split into two groups of four, who will battle it out for a place in the semi-finals.

Hosts and defending champions South Africa will be joined by Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Malawi, East African guest nation Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in what is a strong field.

The draws for both championships are scheduled for October 20 and will be streamed live on COSAFA.TV.

It is the third year in a row the senior tournament will take place in Nelson Mandela Bay, where the support in the stands has always been superb.

That will be an element that is missing this year with the competition set to take place behind closed doors due to COVID-19 restrictions.

South Africa have won the last three championships, and six out of seven in all, with only Zimbabwe breaking their run on home soil in 2011.

But with so many Banyana Banyana players now plying their trade abroad, it is likely to be a much-changed selection from coach Desiree Ellis.

Ellis steered the side to a narrow 1-0 victory over Zambia in last year's final, just months after they appeared at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France.

Zimbabwe took third place when they beat Botswana 3-0.

It proved a superb launchpad for many players, with the likes of Zambia's Racheal Nachula netting 10 goals in the competition which helped her win a move to Spanish side Zaragoza.

With so much talent in the region, there are bound to be keen eyes on the competition again from scouts around the world.

That will also be the case for the Under-17 competition, which has had to be scaled down this year and will feature six teams, including guests Tanzania.

The others are Botswana, Comoros, hosts South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

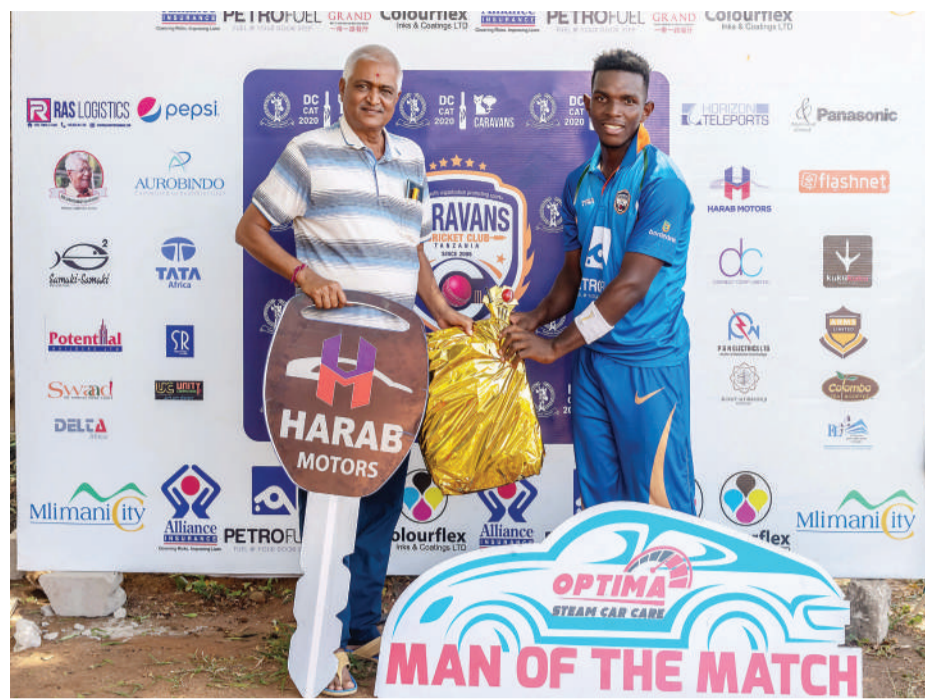
Guests Uganda claimed victory in last year's inaugural event in Mauritius as they defeated South Africa 2-1 in the final.

Zambia finished third after a 3-0 win over Botswana. This age-group is often the first international action for players and so provides a vital stepping-stone in their careers.

It will also be an important event for South Africa, and will be staged in between what are scheduled to be crucial qualifiers for the 2020 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup against Morocco.

The South Africans had edged regional rivals Zambia 3-2 on aggregate in the previous round and are just one step away from the World Cup.

Caravans cricketers maintain winning ways in 2020 Caravans T20 Cup tourney



Caravans Club's Ivan Ismail (R) is presented with man of the match honour by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman, Premji Pindoria, after the team's 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's game against Strikers A team, played in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Caravans club won the clash. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

YOUNGEST Ivan Ismail put solid displays with the bat as Caravans Cricket Club cruised to 11-run victory over Strikers A outfit in the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's duel, which took place at Leaders Club venue in the city on Sunday.

Caravans Club has in the process made it two wins out of two games to turn into a serious contender for silverware in Group B of the event.

The squad had earlier recorded 36-run victory over Annadil Burhani in

the first clash, which took place a day back.

Caravans Club went on to register 164 runs for six wickets in 20 overs after winning toss and electing to bat against Strikers A team.

Ismail's batting heroics were in view as the young batsman, slotted in as an opener, gave his squad a good start with his 60 runs which included three fours and five sixes.

Experienced top order batsmen, Hamisi Abdallah and Jitin Singh, boosted Caravans Club's quest for an imposing total, notching 31 runs and 29 runs respectively.

An early dismissal of one the side's prolific players, Kassim Nassor, had to some extent frustrated Caravans Club's efforts to set up a rather challenging target for Strikers A team.

Nassor was dismissed by Strikers A team's Suraj Pala with mere four runs to the former's name.

Strikers A side's Pala, veteran Virendra Kamania and Jatin Darji, took two wickets each to ascertain their squad's intention to prevent Caravans Club from ending their innings with a bigger total.

Strikers A squad faltered in the chase, ending their innings with 153

runs for the loss of five wickets in 20 overs.

They had successfully dealt with an early dismissal of opener Riken Patel given fellow opener Darji showcased his aggressiveness to notch 50 runs that consisted of three fours and three sixes.

Skipper, Kishen Kamania, batting at number three, gave the team hope with his 67 runs which consisted of six fours and three sixes.

Strikers A team's efforts to get down to successful chase were dealt a blow after experienced player, Ashish Kamania, had faced early exit.

Vikram Rathore and Pala forged an unbeaten partnership, with Rathore scoring nine runs not out, which nevertheless did little to change the course of the tie.

Virendra ended one run short of double digit figure, failing to make his presence felt during the chase in the process.

Nassor ended with two wickets and saw to it Caravans Club successfully foils Strikers A team's chase.

Annadil Burhani notched their first win

in the competition, recording seven-wicket victory over Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in the group's other clash, which took place earlier at the venue.

The DCC posted 102 runs for nine wickets in 20 overs after they had won toss and elected to bat, with Assad Aziz ending as the top run getter with 48 runs.

Annadil Burhani in response mounted a successful chase, dropping seven wickets in 13.1 overs.

Mufaddal Seifuddin's solid performance, which had the batsman notching 63 runs not out, was instrumental in the team's successful chase.

The competition, which is an annual feature, is hosted by Caravans Club in cooperation with regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Petrofuel Company, Color Flex Inks & Coatings, Grand Restaurant and Alliance Insurance Company are sponsors for the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

Taifa Stars coach seeks to work on finishing woes

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has disclosed he will seek to find solution to his squad's finishing weakness.

Taifa Stars' finishing woes were in view when the squad hosted Burundi national team in an international friendly tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend and ended with the visitors winning 1-0.

The coach noted his team played well, they though struggled to make forays into their opponents' penalty area and score.

"We severally made our way into Burundi's penalty area but we ended up having one shot on target, therefore we are not sharp when it comes to finishing," he stated.

He disclosed the two teams played well but Taifa Stars were let down by poor finishing.

"I have seen where we have ended, given when you see a team play out well from the back you know something has been done, I have seen the weakness and I will work on it."

"If we can make our way into our opponents' area and end up failing to score, I believe we will work on the weakness."

Taifa Stars wasted several chances via skipper, Mbwana Samatta, midfielder Said Ndemla, defender Shomari Kapombe, midfielder Idd Selemani 'Nado' who failed to fully exploit two opportunities, and striker Simon Msuva. Taifa Stars ultimately ended up



Senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' forward, Simon Msuva (R), negotiates his way past Burundi national team's players when the sides met in an international friendly match, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Burundi cruised to 1-0 victory over Taifa Stars. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

losing 1-0, with Burundi's forward, Said Ntibazonkiza, netting the all important goal for the squad on the 84th minute.

Stars are preparing for

a double header against Tunisia in the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

Taifa Stars meet Tunisia in Tunis on November

13 before the return game in Dar es Salaam on November 17.

Tunisia are in first place with six points followed by Libya who are

second with three points but ahead of Tanzania on head-to-head rule while Equatorial Guinea are bottom with zero.

The 2021 Africa Cup of

Nations finals were postponed in June by CAF from January and February 2021 to January and February 2022.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

