

National Pg 3
'Schools should grow more fruit'



National Pg 4
Seeking workplace gender equality



National Pg 5
Improving sanitation, hygiene



National Pg 6
Contractors tasked pay back loans



President Samia leads mourners in Dar at Teddy Mapunda funeral

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday led mourners in Dar es Salaam in bidding farewell to the entertainer and media stakeholder, Teddy Mapunda (pictured) who passed away on Tuesday.

The event that took place at Karimjee Grounds close to the State House and was attended by retired president Jakaya Kikwete and the Regional Commissioner, Abubakar Kunenge.

Leading prayers in the requiem mass, Padre Joseph Matumaini from St Joseph

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Govt hiring 9,675 teachers, medics

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday announced 10,675 employment opportunities for primary and secondary school teachers and health workers.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Umyy Mwalimu, said the ministry has obtained an employment permit from within the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance).

Of the total, 2,726 job openings are for health attendants in municipal, district hospitals and health centres, she said, noting that fairness in the recruitment process will be observed.

The remaining 6,949 employment slots are for primary and secondary schools' teachers, she said, cautioning applicants over common seeking the paying of bribes to pursue a promise of job placement. Those who come into such situation should inform the minister personally for proper measures to be pursued against civil servants involved in such rackets, she said.

Minister Umyy said the job application window was open from Sunday 9th of



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday symbolically handing over to former President Jakaya Kikwete a house the government has built for him in the city in keeping with the country's laws. Photo: State House

ISANZU HOSPITAL

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DISEASES

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ACIDITY SOIL

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Germany inks 56bn/- conservation 'extra'

By Guardian Reporter

GERMANY has provided an additional 56bn/- (euros 20m) funding to enhance the protection of wildlife and biodiversity in national parks and game reserves.

This funding is directed to emergency funding for conservation of biodiversity support in Tanzania, based at the Tanzania Wildlife

“Poaching went down rapidly during the past five years partly in view of collaboration between the ministry and conservation partners

Management Authority (TAWA) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), partly intended to cushion effects of decreased revenues due to fewer tourist arrivals.

An embassy statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday explained that the global pandemic had caused havoc in the tourism sector, noting that it was under immense pressure and revenues from national parks went down.

This additional funding will serve as emergency funding to support Covid-19 repercussions in managing the national park around the Julius

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Police nab four over teacher-student 'nest'

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

POLICE in Chunya District have detained four teachers of Isangawana Secondary School in the district for allegedly being found having sex with girl students at the school.

They were arrested on Saturday and placed in detention by the order of the district Defence and



Security Committee headed by district commissioner Simon Mayeka (pictured), who went to the school to check on the matter on the spot.

The teachers are claimed to have been caught having sex with the students following a trap set for them by the school headmaster, Tipso Gideon and the Kipembawe Divisional Officer Kassim Kirandomala who succeeded to catch one teacher in live event in the teacher's rented room.

Teachers being held include Samson Njonanje, Ramadhan

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“Applicants should be ready to work in the districts they will be assigned, while just selection will be assured and no inducements entertained, she reiterated

May and the curtains close on May 23rd, with applicants submitting requests online through ajira.tamisemi.go.tz

Employment opportunities laid out are meant to fill in gaps of teachers and health cadres personnel for various levels, thus needing certificate, diploma and degree holders for the various levels, she stated.

Applicants should bear in mind that when applying they must be ready to work in whatever duty station will be assigned to the applicant and no transfer will be issued as employment opportunities are geared towards filling staff shortages in the respective councils, the minister emphasised.

Eligible applicants are those who graduated in teacher training colleges from 2012 to 2019, with primary school applicants being those with certificates and diploma with qualification in special needs education.

Physical education and early childhood education are also relevant, as those to be graded in III-C must poses a Bachelor in education degree majoring in English, History and Geography.

For secondary schools, the minister said the gaps to be filled are Education degree holders and Post Graduate Diploma in Education holders majoring in Physics, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry.

Apart from the specific qualification,

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Govt hiring 9,675 teachers, medics

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the general requirement for applicants is that one must be a citizen below 45 years of age, show a national identification number, birth certificate and copies of academic credentials, among other aspects.

Health sector cadres' posts relate to medicine degree holders from recognized universities with one year internship, and registered with the Medical Council of Tanganyika as medical doctors and dentists.

Also diploma holders in clinical medicine, clinical assistant certificate, Diploma in Clinical Dentistry and Clinical Assistants Certificate can apply for a section of the posts.

Others are Pharmacist Degree holders with one-year internship and registered with the Pharmacy Council, a Diploma in Pharmaceutical Technology and those with Certificate in Pharmaceutical Technology.

Listed opportunities also cover holders of diploma or certificate in Health Laboratory Sciences, Diploma in Radiology

or Radiography, undergraduates in nursing, diploma in nursing and midwifery, along with holders of a certificate in nursing and midwifery.

Other job placements relate to needs for physiotherapists, those with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Health Science or Advanced Diploma in Social Work, in Sociology, Psychology, Social Protection, Guidance and Counseling, as well as in Theology, Divinity, Child Protection, Social Policy, Early Childhood Development and Social Gerontology.

Yet other relevant fields include Nutrition, Home Economics and Nutrition, Food Science and Technology, while Food Science diploma holders also have a slot in the job openings listed.

Elaborating on NIDA numbers, the minister said the office handling applications has directed that applicants must have their NIDA numbers.

Applicants should be ready to work in the districts they will be assigned, while just selection will be assured and no inducements entertained, she reiterated.

MORE THAN JUST KEEPING WATCH



A banana dealer in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, transports her goods to the market in style at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa



Samia leads mourners at Teddy Mapunda funeral

FROM PAGE 1

Cathedral nearby said Teddy left a huge legacy in the society as she contributed a lot to people with disabilities as well as orphans.

"There is life after death," the priest underlined, elaborating that "it should not be the routine in saying farewell, we should also prepare ourselves."

"There are those who ask at

what age a person ought to die," he posed, as the late entertainer was only 46 upon her death, pointing out that Christ was put to death at the age of 33.

The bereaved daughter, Telvina Mapunda, reading her mother's brief life history, said she was born on January 21 1975 in Dar es Salaam.

The briefing said she received secondary education at Jangwani

Secondary School and went to a university in the UK and then in Scandinavian countries, and obtained a degree in business and marketing.

The late Ms Mapunda worked as director of Serengeti Breweries and later initiated Montage Co., specialised in organizing various social events.

"My mother used to assist orphans, provide business

education to youth and employed 40 youths in her company," Telvina said, noting that the deceased suddenly became unwell at the Iftar she had organized.

She died at 11.50pm following a cardiac arrest, on the basis of an affirmation by staff at the Aga Khan Hospital she was rushed after collapsing and fainting.



Jerome Materu (2nd-R), a health affairs manager with the Occupational Safety & Health Authority (OSHA), pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting a trophy and a certificate to Tanzania Breweries Ltd's Dar es Salaam plant manager. The company emerged winner in the Industry Sector category in a recent Safety Week commemoration competition held in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Germany inks 56bn/- conservation 'extra'

FROM PAGE 1

Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), the Selous Game Reserve and especially the Serengeti, it said.

The German government has been among key partners for Tanzania in protecting wildlife and has spent close to 300bn/- (106m euros) in this sector in the past years five years.

The statement affirmed that saving and protecting Tanzania's worldwide unique nature and wildlife has been and will be at the core of Germany's development cooperation.

"This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of successful Tanzanian-German cooperation. For 60 years, Germany is standing firmly at Tanzania's side as a stable partner for development cooperation, it said.

"Germany is committed to work hand in hand with the government and thus supporting the ongoing efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in protecting the rich treasures of Tanzania's fantastic nature," it observed.

Germany has been a key

bilateral partner for Tanzania, with the relationship rooted in the friendship between founder president Julius Nyerere, and Prof Bernhard Grzimek, legendary president of the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS).

Tanzania and Germany have been close partners in conservation ever since, surmounting challenges, to enable Tanzania to successfully conserve the Serengeti for future generations, enlisting the respect and support of German conservationists and naturalists.

Poaching went down rapidly during the past five years partly in view of collaboration between the ministry and conservation partners.

Yesterday, German ambassador Regine Hess met with the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Damas Ndumbaro for a visit at the Serengeti.

They also paid respects to the hardworking men and women for years working in TANAPA, TAWA, FZS and the aid agency KfW who worked closely together in protecting the country wildlife heritage.

FROM PAGE 1

Shabani, Yose Elisalia and Dotto Salande who was caught last with a girl in a room rented by one of the teachers.

The headmaster told members of the committee that the incidents started last year and he pursued various steps, including calling the named teachers to write down statements and referred them to the school board for further action.

Police nab four over teacher-student 'nest'

On March 18r the board summoned the teachers but some were forgiven except one the board opted too direct his case to the District Executive Director for procedural action.

"I, as the school board secretary was directed to send this one to the DED so as to be removed from the school, but instead he was promoted and sent to Mtanila

secondary school nearby," he said.

The school board chairman Lutangilo Nsemwa said accusations against the teachers came light in 2016 without tangible evidence to enable pursuits against them.

Despite being summoned for explanations they continued with their improper behavior so the school authorities decided to set

a trap.

At that time the present headmaster there, but after he was promoted to the post, he took some two years to start instilling discipline among the staff.

For his part, divisional officer Kirandomala said misunderstanding among the teachers arose at the school as

the matter was being pursued, with the teachers kicking up dust for being tracked on their behavior. The referred teacher said these were false claims to spoil his reputation, meanwhile as the teaching environment there was beginning to sag under the pressure.

DC Mayeka ordered the police to arrest and detain the four

teachers for further steps and called upon other teachers to stop these acts that go against teaching ethics, meanwhile as the teachers were immediately suspended to give way to legal processes.

Some of the girl students who were found to have been involved in having sex with teachers were also placed in custody and had written statements taken. A total of 18 girl students were found to have had sex with teachers, the divisional officer added.



Zanzibar House of Representatives Speaker Zubeir Ali Maulid (R) serves himself iftar hosted by CRDB Bank in Zanzibar at the weekend. Others include CRDB managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-R) and board chairman Dr Ally Laay (3rd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia hands over JK house built by govt

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday presented a residential house to former fifth phase president, Jakaya Kikwete built in Kinondoni District in Dar salaam.

The house was built by the government through Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) in implementation of Section 12 of Political Service Retirement Benefits Act (Cap 225) as Revised in 2020, which, among others benefits for the upkeep of retired national leaders, directs for building residential houses for them.

Speaking after handing over the house, president Samia congratulated

retired president Kikwete for getting the new residence and assured him that the government will continue taking care of him as well as other retired national leaders according to the law.

She said the government will also improve the said law and assured widows/widowers of the said leaders were also taken care of.

She also directed the Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Mohammed Mchengerwa to begin preparations in regard to benefits of the immediate former president, the late Dr John Magufuli.

For his part, Mchengerwa said the

house built for Kikwete was the third, after similar houses built to retired presidents the late William Mkapa and Ali Hassan Mwinyi and that the house for the First President and Father of the Nation, Julius Nyerere was built and handed to him Tanzania Peoples defence Forces (TPDF).

Fr his part, retired President Jakaya Kikwete who was accompanied by his spouse Salma Kikwete thanked the government through the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) for implementing the legal requirement and also thanked President Samia for handing him the house.

Schools empowered to become fruit growers, future exporters

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arumeru

THE future of Agricultural goods exports seems to be focused on fruits and in respect to that, Tanzania is investing heavily in establishing tree farming in local Primary and Secondary Schools to prepare the institutions for this beckoning lucrative deal. The initiative was hatched by the Apex Institution for the country's Private Sector (TAHA) in association with the Brussels based International Development Organization (TRIAS). The two organizations target combat effects of climate change through massive fruit tree planting exercises but at the same time prepare the country to become future leading exporters of fruits to international markets where the demand keeps rising.

Anthony Chamanga is the TAHA Chief Manager in-charge of Development and he said: "There are many benefits derived from trees, including shade, fresh air and nutrition but we are going beyond that, we want to transform trees into profitable investments!" Chamanga was speaking in Arumeru District, over the weekend, where TAHA conducted tree planting exercises at Chem-Chem and Kimandafu Primary Schools, where he also promised that his organization will secure market outlets for fruits grown in schools.

It wasn't just tree planting but the event also featured environmental training sessions by the Head of TAHA Production Department, Hilliard Mollel and expert nutritionist Rosalia Aloyce and on proper ways of handling tree seedlings, soil types and how to water the seedlings as well as fruits management.

TRIAS Projects Manager, Lilian Makoi revealed that they have been planting an average of 38,000 trees per annum with the number expected to increase this year.

"Today alone, we have distributed and planted 270 seedlings in the two schools; at this pace soon we shall replenish the country's green cover and combat global warming and related climate change effects," stated Makoi.

She pointed out that, apart from their nutrition and commercial potential, fruit trees were also more effective in absorbing carbon gases from the atmosphere as well as aiding the rain cycle.

TAHA on the other hand, has also been

introducing school gardening programs, a new project which has facilitated creation of school gardens in some six Secondary and Primary Schools in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mara, and Simiyu regions where pupils and students are taught best farming skills to enhance yields and provide them with improved nutritious meals.

The project executed with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has so far enabled the students to receive necessary good agricultural practices (GAPs) training, especially on how to grow leafy vegetables with high nutritious values as well as steaming process that retains nourishment, healthy for their diets.

Experts see great potential in the country's horticulture industry described to be in position of generating up to US\$ 3 billion per annum, with official reports from TAHA indicating major achievements gained from the horticulture industry, including increases in yields of fruits and vegetables by up to 300 percent as well as the topped export earnings from US \$ 64 million in 2004 to over US \$ 780 million as of now.

Tanzania is currently exporting horticulture produce valued at more than US \$ 780 million, however the industry's current potential is estimated to be more than US \$3 Billion a figure which is soon going to be realized with the opening up of new markets abroad.

While fresh cut flowers are the flagship of Tanzania Horticulture Industry, globally it is the fruits that really spell the trade, with the Avocados currently commanding great demand and market value of US\$ 13 billion. Avocado consumption per capita in the United States alone is said to have increased by 400 percent between 1990s and 2017 and counting.

In that respect therefore TAHA seems to start cultivating fruit trees right from grassroots level by introducing seedling in local schools.

"We envision seeing constant Horticulture production in Tanzania for domestic and global markets. This calls for tireless efforts to ensure strong collaboration with a range of stakeholders on identifying buyers, market standards, and quality requirements, entry approaches as well as market trends," the TAHA Chief Executive, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi had previously stated.



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UNHCR FIELD OFFICE KIBONDO
INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE
Job Opening ID 25537

UNHCR Field Office Kibondo invites qualified internal and external candidates to apply for the following position: -

Job Opening ID: 25537
Position Title: Assistant Field Officer National Officer(NO)
Category: Fixed Term Appointment
Type of Appointment: Attractive salary (NA) and entitlements according to UN Staff Rules and Regulations
Remuneration: Kibondo, Tanzania
Duty Station: 1 year
Duration: 01 June 2021
Start date: 10 May 2021
Issue Date: 31 May 2021
Closing Date:

ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING AND WORK RELATIONSHIPS
The Assistant Field Officer is supervised by the Field Officer. S/he may receive indirect guidance from other sections and units relevant to the Tanzania programme(s). UNHCR Manual, programme and protection objectives, Operations Plans, UN and UNHCR financial/budgetary rules and regulations will guide the work of the incumbent.

The incumbent will supervise two General Service Field staff(G6) members under Field Office Kibondo. S/he will also keep track of cases of detention, register applicants for voluntary repatriation and family reunion. S/he has daily contacts with staff in the field office and with the functional units at UNHCR offices in Tanzania. S/he also has close liaison with a range of local civilian and military authorities and counterparts in NGOs and UN agencies to discuss matters of common interest.

All UNHCR staff members are accountable to perform their duties as reflected in their job description. They do so within their delegated authorities, in line with the regulatory framework of UNHCR which includes the UN Charter, UN Staff Regulations and Rules, UNHCR Policies and Administrative Instructions as well as relevant accountability frameworks. In addition, staff members are required to discharge their responsibilities in a manner consistent with the core, functional, cross-functional and managerial competencies and UNHCR's core values of professionalism, integrity and respect for diversity.

Duties

- Assess the needs of persons of concern in the AoR and formulate project submissions in collaboration with district authorities and implementing partners.
- Promote and monitor the implementation of assistance projects.
- Report regularly on rate of flow of new arrivals and estimate expected influx based on interviews with persons of concern.
- In co-ordination with implementing partners, assist with the reception, registration and provision of assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR.
- Assist in the preparation of monthly sectoral reports and submit material for preparation of periodic project monitoring reports and year-end reports.
- Submit recommendation for protection interventions to the designated officer.
- Negotiate with local authority counterparts, partners and populations of concern.
- Perform other related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Education & Professional Work Experience
Years of Experience / Degree Level
1-year relevant experience with Undergraduate degree; or no experience with Graduate degree; or no experience with Doctorate degree.

Field(s) of Education
Law, Political Sciences or other relevant field.

Certificates and/or Licenses
UNHCR Protection Learning Programme
UNHCR Operations Management Learning Programme

Relevant Job Experience
Desirable
Field experience. Knowledge of refugee law. Good knowledge of UNHCR's programmes.

Functional Skills
PG-Experience with coordinating with Implementing Partners (Government/INGO/NGO/Corporate)
PG-Resource Planning, eg. FOCUS, Global Focus Insight
IT-Computer Literacy
BU-PeopleSoft EPM/Budget
FI-PeopleSoft Financial Management
PG-Programme Management (project formulation, programme cycles and reporting standards)
PG-Results-Based Management
UN-UN/UNHCR Financial Rules and Regulations and Procedures
PG-UNHCR's Programmes
EX-Experience in an international capacity

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Knowledge of English and Kiswahili.

Competency Requirements
All jobs at UNHCR require six core competencies and may also require managerial competencies and/or cross-functional competencies. The six core competencies are listed below.

Core Competencies
Accountability
Communication
Organizational Awareness
Teamwork & Collaboration
Commitment to Continuous Learning
Client & Result Orientation

Managerial Competencies
Judgement and Decision Making

Cross-Functional Competencies
Analytical Thinking
Political Awareness
Stakeholder Management

The Expression of Interest for the position should be shared online through the following means:

INTERNAL(UNHCR/UN Agencies) Candidates to apply	Main Menu – Self Service – Recruiting – Careers Choose Country - Tanzania(Assistant Field Officer)
EXTERNAL Candidates to apply	https://www.unhcr.org/careers.html VACANCIES - Choose Country-Tanzania(Assistant Field Officer)

Please note that UNHCR does not charge a fee at any stage of its recruitment process (application, interview, meeting, travelling, processing, training or any other fees).

Shortlisted Candidates will be required to sit for a test.

In case of difficulties with application process please contact email: tandava@unhcr.org

Due to the volume of applications only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified female and candidates with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Pemba activists look for new strategies in the war against GBV

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

STAKEHOLDERS in the fight against gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse in Pemba have joined hands to discuss new strategies to deal with the vices in the society that continue to be a threat each passing day.

Speaking at a meeting organized by Tanzania media Women Association-Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) that incorporated magistrates, officials from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Police Gender Desk and Community Development Officers, they said there was a need for every concerned institution to work together in closely following up cases in order to obtaining timely judgments.

Wete Regional Magistrate Abdalla Yahya Shamhun said in case the society would agree to transform and report these incidents in time and others involved to be accountable it will the beginning for their eradication.

He confessed in the existence of shortcomings in some officials dealing with the cases in the courts and stressed over the need for all government organs to stand firmly against some magistrates who want to mar the cases for their own self interests.

He said: "We confess the existence of shortfall in our ranks, but if right from the beginning the police, doctors and others send witnesses in the right sequence, there wouldn't be any magistrate who can mar the cases."

Meanwhile the Magistrate said cited Micheweni District in North Pemba region to be leading for cases being dismissed due to refusal by witnessed to testify in court.

"There are very many cases we intend to dismiss through lack of witnesses," he added.

Talking on witnesses, the Deputy Registrar of the High Court in Pemba Abdul Razak Ali said witnesses fail to attend court sessions due to lack of fares which

the courts are bound to provide, for reasons that the courts do not get such funds in time, adding that the problem is caused by both sides.

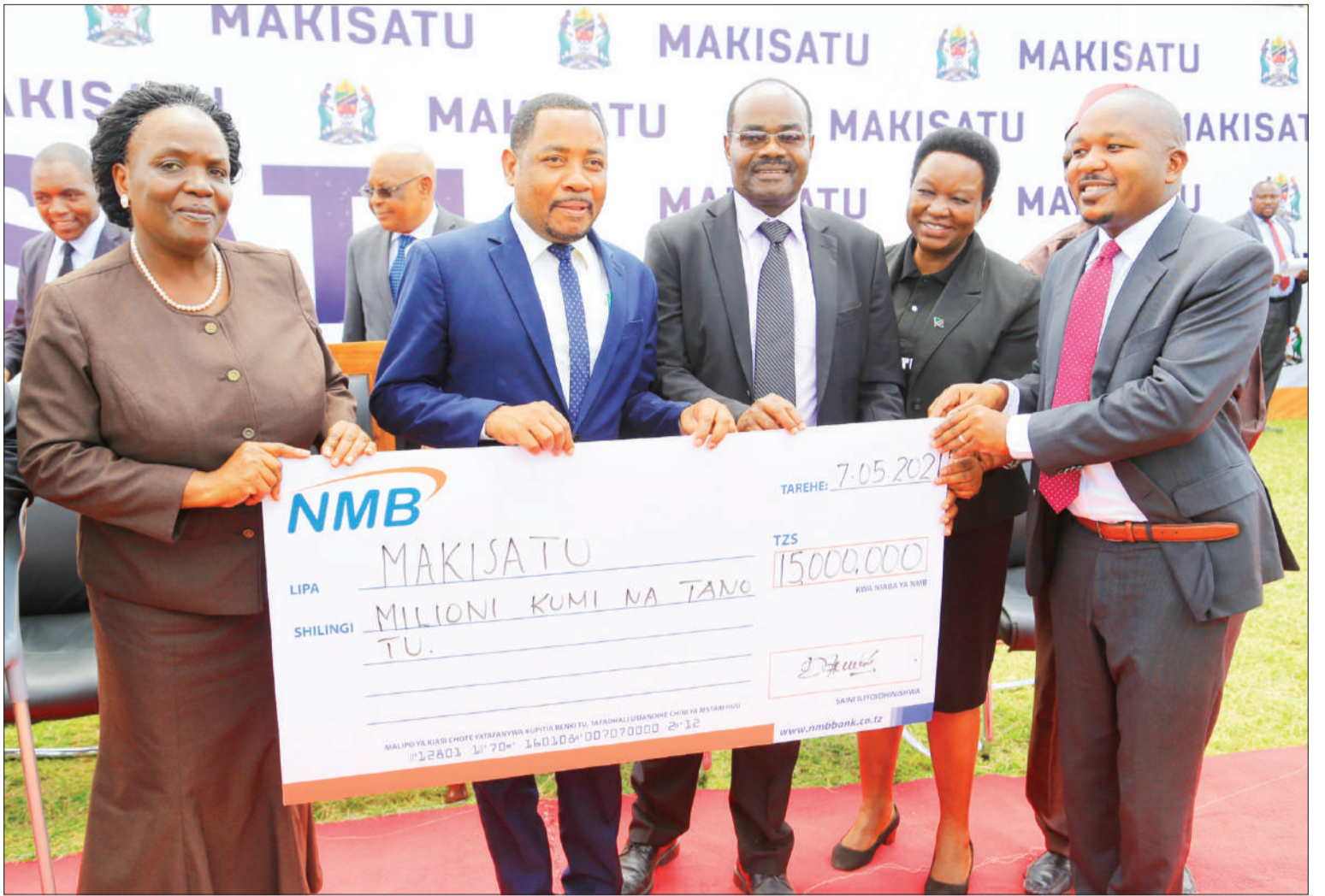
For his part the Wete Police Gender Desk Coordinator ASP Fakh Yussuf said police officials dealing with these cases are faced by various challenges including lack of the budget to enable them making follow ups of the incidents, hence hindering them to respond to such incidents in time.

ASP Fakh also called upon the society to have in place a procedure in taking quick steps by arresting suspects to avoid the possibility for their running away after committing the vile deeds.

"The society should not wait for the police to arrive to arrest the suspects, instead they should detain them soon after commission of the crime," he added.

For her part Salma Abdalla Hemed, an activist against GBV and child abuse said the cases take very long time to be finalised, hence dismissing them is a challenge that discourages them in their continual collaboration in following up the cases.

“We confess the existence of shortfall in our ranks, but if right from the beginning the police, doctors and others send witnesses in the right sequence, there wouldn't be any magistrate who can mar the cases”



NMB Bank PLC treasurer Aziz Chacha (R) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday presenting to Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (L) a dummy cheque for 15m/- meant to sponsor a science, technology and innovation competition now in progress. Those witnessing the event include deputy minister Omari Kipanga (2nd-L) and permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwiliapo (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Media advised to devise effective gender policies to uphold equality at workplaces

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA)-Zanzibar has urged media organizations in the country to have strong in-house gender policies so as to promote equality and address violence at workplaces.

TAMWA-Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa made the remarks at the weekend during the stakeholders' virtual meeting which aimed to discuss media freedom and the importance of having the best laws to govern and stimulate the development of the industry.

The meeting was organized by Internews-Tanzania bringing together media stakeholders from various parts of the country.

According to her, as Tanzania joined others recently to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, it was now high time to think and focus more on eradicating violence against women journalists in both Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland.

"Majority of media houses don't have gender policies in their organizations, instead they just operate normally, which poses great risk to women workers who remain back always as they face several challenges including sexual corruption," she said.

Dr Mzuri said that by having a strong gender policy which is well supervised by the organization's management and well known to every worker, women journalists

would be working comfortably as well as acquiring top management positions.

Harous Mpatani, executive director of Zanzibar Legal Service Centre (ZLSC) wanted the government and stakeholders to continue promoting access to information because it is a constitutional right.

"Zanzibar has also ratified several international agreements which promote access to information, so all these agreements should be respected," he said.

Hassan Issa, one of the senior journalists in the Isles raised concern over the lack of solidarity among media practitioners something creates gaps and

discrimination.

In his opening remarks, deputy permanent secretary, Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture, Arts and Sports Khamis Abdalla Said called for cooperation between stakeholders and the government so as to bring positive changes in the media industry.

He also said that the government is also working to review some media laws which will also need views and recommendations from stakeholders. "The government has heard your concerns and is now going to review some laws, so make sure that you propose to the ministry so as to come up with the best law which will stimulate the development of the industry," he said.

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said it will soon embark in paying compensation to all the people whose areas were taken for strategic projects for the construction of Msalato airport and the 112.3km four-lane Dodoma City outer ring road.

In addition, a total of 12.7bn has been allocated and submitted to the works and transport Ministry for the compensation payment for the Outer Ring Road and 14.5bn/- for compensation in regard to Msalato Airport.

Addressing Msalato and

‘Compensation for owners of land taken up for Msalato airport project to be paid soon’

Matumbulu Ward residents here, Works and Transport Minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho said the compensation will be paid will be paid in accordance to the law and stressed that everyone eligible will be paid.

"I have come here today to tell you that you should not be worried over compensation payment, the funds are now available and you will be paid according to the law's

requirements, and complaints will be entertained for those who will not be satisfied with the payments," he said.

Earlier Dr Chamuriho told the Infrastructures Parliamentary Committee that the Outer Ring road will be built in two parts - the first one will involve Nala - Veyula - Mtumba - Ihumwa Dry Port (52.3kms) and the second will begin at Ihumwa to Ihumwa Dry

Port - Matumbulu - Nala (60ks) and that already contractors have been found.

He said when completed, the two projects will help in creating opportunities to woo investors in economic and social development for the people of Dodoma and the nation in general.

He called upon the people in the areas to be affected by the projects to give their cooperation

to simplify the compensation exercise as planned.

For his part the Chairman of the Committee Selemani Kakoso called on the Ministry to supervise the contractors to ensure the projects are completed in time as per agreements entered.

He also called to the residents involved to ensure they cooperate with the contractors and stop the habit of sabotaging the

infrastructures.

Earlier, submitting his report to the Committee, TARADS Chief Executive Officer Eng Patrick Mfugale said the the outer ring road construction will also involve the construction of other projects that will directly involve the communities, including four health centres, four water wells and five ambulances.

For his part, the Dodoma member of parliament Anthony Mavunde thanked the government for starting the implementation of the projects whose completion will speed up the development of the city of Dodoma.



INVITATION FOR APPLICATION TO REGISTER AS SECONS & SCRAP MATERIAL DEALER

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Geoffrey Mwambe (4th-R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), cuts ribbon in Tabora municipality at the weekend to launch investment guidelines for Tabora Region. Those looking on include Jenista Mhagama (to his right), Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), and Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (2nd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (L), Zanzibar's Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, exchanges greetings with UNICEF's representative in Tanzania, Shalini Bahuguna, in Zanzibar at the weekend. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Firm improves health and learning through better water, sanitation, hygiene in schools

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are fundamental child and human rights. Good and reliable WASH is a critical precondition for providing a safe school environment that supports equal opportunities for high-quality education and the healthy development of children

LIXIL toilets (SATO) has handed over 21 toilets at Kerezange primary school in Kitunda ward, Ilala municipality in Dar es Salaam so as to improve the sanitation conditions and support smooth teaching and learning environment in the area.

Speaking at the handover ceremony held yesterday at the school, Dar es Salaam regional health officer Enezaeli Ayo noted

that lack of toilets in schools also affects children's development in class.

He said the existing toilets do not meet the needs and the government is doing its best to address the challenge with support from stakeholders.

"Sanitation is one of the catalysts for the development of education in the country, good toilet infrastructures support the health and good attendance of students in schools, so I urge other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the improvement of toilet and washing facilities in schools," he said.

Justine Mbowe, SATO Tanzania Manager said they have supported four schools to improve toilets in partnership with the 'House is Toilet campaign'.

"Our vision is to reach all citizens, especially those of low status by providing them with better toilet service that does not smell but also needs a little water which is friendly even in the environment," he said.

According to Mbowe, the company's goal is to improve sanitation and reach more than 100 million people by 2025.

Maria Gilaida, head-teacher at the Kerezange primary school commended SATO for the support saying that the toilets are going to bring relief to children and teachers who have been struggling to access the service for years. "We really thank SATO for touching vulnerable people and communities, these modern toilets are a huge relief to us (teachers and students," he added.

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

MEMBERS of Zanzibar House of Representatives (ZHR) say members of the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board are supposed to resign for being faced by a scandal for issuing of licences to eight firms to import alcoholic drinks instead of three in violation of Sections 28(k) and 33(1) of the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Act (No 9 of 2020).

The call was spearheaded by Representatives Suleiman Makame Ali of Ziwani, Nadir Abdulatif (Chaani) and Shibu Hassan Kiduara when contributing to the Budgetary estimates for the office of the Second Vice President for FY 2021/2022.

Suleiman said the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board was in the violation of the Act that was passed by the House early last year.

He said when the law was being enacted, he was a member of the Member of the House Permanent Committee and discussed for over days the government's recommendations in the Bill due to its importance.

He added that before it was endorsed by ZHR, the Bill's recommendations were discussed at various stages that in the end place a ceiling to three the number of firms to be issued with licences to import alcohol in Zanzibar.

"Hon. Speaker, when we pass laws for our country, we also want

Zanzibar Reps now call for resignation of liquor board

these laws to be respected, and nobody should go against the laws' stipulations," Nadir said.

He said the Chairman of the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board Abdulrazaki had no authority to bypass the law by issuing ten liquor licences instead of three.

He said all licences that were issued in violation of the law should be revoked immediately and the Board dissolved due to its failure to abide by the law.

He said Section 33(1) of the Act

says licenses for the import of alcoholic drinks will be given to not more than three importers on laid down conditions, including the importer must be a Zanzibari, must be a tax payer, must have a warehouse and vehicle(s) for distribution," he added.

For his part Rep. Shaib Hassan Kaduara said it was saddening to see the Board has failed to abide by the law making it difficult for the government to reach the targets it had set for the country.

Adhere to standards, seek certificates of origin, TRA tells traders in Kagera

By Correspondent Mutoyoba Arbogast, Bukoba

THE Business community in Kagera Region has been urged to adhere to standards, seek certificates of origin so as to enable them to easily grab international markets.

Alex Mwambeja, TRA taxpayers' education service officer for Kagera Region made the call recently when speaking during the training provided to journalists so as to enable educate the public correctly on issues of tax.

According to Mwambeja having a 'certificate of origin attests that the product has met several criteria to be considered as originating in a particular country, something which will enable the entrepreneurs to trade freely to a member country, without paying customs or duties.

Mwambeja said the product is

regarded as a member state, only if raw materials made up from outside of the community do not exceed 60 pc of its value, adding that in Tanzania, Certificate of Origin is obtained from TCCIA offices and Customs.

He named the jurisdiction of customs that are main and minor stations, airports and ports, custom stations, and Post parcel offices.

He insisted the traders should know that all products which are eligible for VAT, should pay for that within 21 days since the arrival, and if not so the products will be auctioned by TRA.

"For those who are crossing borders to and fro, shouldn't carry money or anything changeable for example a cheque equivalent to, or more than US\$10,000, unless it is declared and shown to Customs officers, contrary to that the money will be confiscated, and the owner

taken to court," he explained.

Mwambeja insisted that traders and entrepreneurs should have all necessary documents which are actual purchase invoice, packing list, airbill/bill of lading and import/export permits, and all required documents for restricted products such as animals, plants, arms, and ammunition.

However, Mwambeja warned unscrupulous traders to stop engaging in illegal business which includes transporting prohibited items as the government was closely monitoring the practices.

Phineas Bashaya, chief executive officer of PHD Media Link, commended the participants for their readiness and appealed to TRA to prepare a trip for journalists to the busiest Mutukula border in Misenyi District so as to learn practically various things including the circle of trade.

RTI (www.rti.org) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. With a worldwide staff of more than 4,000 people, RTI offers innovative research and development and multidisciplinary services.

VACANCIES

School & Community Inclusive Education Specialist – Mtwara, Ruvuma, Iringa trainings, assessments, evaluations and surveys as they arise.

Job Summary:

The School and Community Inclusive Education Specialist is responsible at the regional level for building the capacity of GoT counterparts to plan and implement inclusion and community engagement activities. He/she will be Regional Lead for Outcome 3: Increased community support for safe and inclusive learning environments (in and outside of the school); Coordinate with the Teaching and Learning Specialist (TLS) to build the capacity of Regional and Local Government Authority (LGA) staff to support classroom-based inclusion activities – including training, teacher-support and materials; Where appropriate support eKitabu with respect to special needs schools.

Application process

Please follow the link provided below or visit RTI International Careers page for more information about job opportunities. <http://m.rfer.us/RTIvW59on>

Monitoring & Evaluation Learning Officer - Zanzibar

Job Summary:

The Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Officer is responsible at the regional level for building the capacity of GoT counterparts in evidence based planning and budgeting using data from the School Information System (SIS) and the Decentralized Periodic Learning Assessment (DPLA) as well as to gather and report data necessary for measuring success of Jifunze Uelewe. Regional Lead for Outcome 2: Strengthened capacity of local and regional governments to sustain improved learning outcomes. Build the capacity of the Regional Secretariat (RS) to plan and deliver regional activities, based on monthly implementation plans using DPLA, SIS, and other data sources. Build the capacity of Regional and Local Government Authority (LGA) Education offices to use SIS and DPLA data to set and communicate expectations for school performance. Strengthen the capacity of Regional and LGA Education offices to assess and document the annual material replacement needs.

Application process

Please follow the link provided below or visit RTI International Careers page for more information about job opportunities. <http://m.rfer.us/RTIp6B9p0>

Monitoring & Evaluation Learning Officer – DSM

Job Summary:

The Monitoring Evaluation Officer (MEL Officer) is responsible for the management and implementation of the Jifunze Uelewe monitoring, evaluation and learning systems and procedures including review of the program performance indicators, development of data collection tools, Management of continuous professional data base (CPD), data visualization and interpretation to increase data use for decision-making and communicate results of the programme. He/she will also support the data analysis for learning activities including

Application process

Please follow the link provided below or visit RTI International Careers page for more information about job opportunities. <http://m.rfer.us/RTI2pH9oo>

Administrative Assistant – Ruvuma, Morogoro

Job Summary:

This position is responsible for assisting the Teaching and Learning Specialist in managing general activities of the Office Administration. He/she will handle logistical arrangements for meetings and workshops, request for workshop supplies, arrangement of travel and lodging accommodation of participants in the Regions. Ensure all activities follow RTI's Finance and Administration (F&A) policies and procedures. Assist the project and staff in organizing official business appointments in the Regions. Assist in the collection/collation of data or information needed including collection and encoding of Attendance.

Application process

Please follow the link provided below or visit RTI International Careers page for more information about job opportunities. <http://m.rfer.us/RTICKx9oq>

Senior Driver (Operations Assistant), DSM

Job Summary:

To provide secure driving services, ensure proper use and maintenance of the RTI international office vehicle(s), assist in providing other related logistics support; facilitating travel, events and shipment to the Regional Office under the supervision of the Office Manager. The Driver Cum Logistics Assistant will provide operational and logistical support to ensure the smooth implementation of Regional Office activities. Drive project/office staff members, consultants and other visitors on project/office business. Maintain complete records of vehicle usage, adhere to Government traffic rules and regulations, and report any issues to the supervisor. Provide monthly reports on vehicle mileage, fuel consumption, repairs, maintenance and keeping an updated vehicle folder and other related logistics files.

Application process

Please follow the link provided below or visit RTI International Careers page for more information about job opportunities. <http://m.rfer.us/RTIP8f9p1>

The application deadline is **May 22, 2021.**

We regret that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

*No applicant will ever be asked for any payment either to secure a role with RTI International or as a follow-up to having been awarded a position with RTI International. If anyone ever approaches you asking for any such payment, please immediately email ethics@rti.org

We are proud to be an EEO/AA employer M/F/D/V

PUBLIC NOTICE
WANTED

Mr. KELVIN KILIAN CHUMA
The above-mentioned and pictured; is wanted by Police and Derm Electric (T) Ltd for **THEFT ALLEGATION Under RB. No. KJN/RB/1866/2021 "WIZI."**
Reward will be given to whoever reports his whereabouts with Proof.
Kindly report to Police Mabatini Kijitonyama Dar es salaam/ nearest police station or Telephone Number +255 22 2774507/+255 763 090 480

Local contractors urged to pay back loans to CAF

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Arusha

THE government has urged local contractors to pay back loans they get from Contractors Assistance Fund (CAF) for its sustainability so that can benefit others.

The call was made over the weekend in Arusha by the Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Mwita Waitara when he was closing the two days Consultative Meeting between the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) and local contractors of the northern zone.

CRB introduced the fund dubbed Contractors Assistance Fund (CAF), to give loans to local contractors of all classes up to 100m/- to enable them to execute construction projects and pay back.

He commended CRB management for the introduction of the fund which he said if contractors will utilize it efficiently could be a major bridge to their success in their profession.

Waitara said it is unpleasant to witness some of the local contractors who were benefited from the fund refuse to pay back the loans as required in the contract they signed something that might kill the fund and deny others the opportunity to access loans.

“My dear colleague I must tell you the truth if you are trusted by people try to be honest and honor the contract you have signed when you take loans, frankly speaking, this trend will kill the fund within a very short time you must change this trend,” insisted Waitara

Speaking about the implementation of big projects, Waitara said the government will continue to set aside some projects to build the capacity of local contractors but they have to be honest and faithfully so that they execute them within agreed time and quality.

“When you are awarded construction tenders by the government you must be patriotic

to adhere to agreed standards because it is the people's money so do it to attract the government to award you more tenders,” he said

Waitara commended CRB for arranging regular consultative meetings with local contractors which build their capacity to enable them to execute strategic projects in the future, advising the board to continue with more consultative meetings with local contractors because that is the only platform they get feedback from them and plan the way forward.

He directed CRB to inspect all projects that are executed by local contractors and insist them to complete within the agreed time and quality so that government and other client trust them.

“Am happy to hear from the registrar that recently you will visit different projects that are executed by local contractors, you must also visit the project in Kilosa District and speak to your fellows that they must complete the project as soon as it is required so that you build trust,” he said.

The CRB Registrar, Eng. Rhoben Nkori told the deputy minister that they have arranged to visit different projects that are implemented by local contractors which were awarded by the government as a move to build their capacity

He added that CRB will address all challenges that hinder local contractors to implement force account projects so that government can award them of that nature.

Engineer Nkori said it is unpleasant to see local contractors are awarded special projects to build their capacity but they fail to complete them within agreed time and quality.

“I urge you to be honest when you are awarded tenders because it is the crucial moment for you to show your ability to your clients and government that you are able to do otherwise you will cause trouble to others when they apply for construction tenders,” said engineer Nkori.



Mulubadaw ward extension officer Flavia Ninga (R) shows Manyara regional co-operatives registrar Venance Msafiri (L) at the weekend quality wheat seedlings planted in Sayuni Amcos chairman Paulo Bunge's farm. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

Over 3,000 residents in Bukoba to benefit from a new water project

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

OVER 3000 residents in Bukoba Municipality in Kagera Region are set to benefit from water supply service under the project which is implemented by the Bukoba Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (BUWASA).

BUWASA liaison officer, Julieth Shangali said during the councilors' meeting in the municipality that the implementation of the project will bring relief to the residents who have been grappling to access the precious liquid for many years.

She said that the second phase project of laying water pipes network will now reach new customers in all 14 wards in Bukoba municipality.

According to her, the project's major aim is to ensure that all areas with no access to water in the municipality are reached with the service so as to, among other things, stimulate economic growth.

“The contractor, MS MBESSO Construction Co. Ltd VS COSMOS Engineering Co. Ltd is at final touches before handing over the 2.5bn/ worth project which will benefit 3000 new water users,” she said.

Shangali said the project, contract number ME011/2016/2017/W/CONTR/16, started in 2017, will serve Buhembe, Nyanga, Nshambya, Kahororo, and Nyakato wards, scheduled to be completed in 2018, but due to some challenges, the contractor applied for more time and now will complete in December 2021.”

After completion of the project, BUWASA will be serving a total of more than 90,000 water users in 18,000 households.

Currently, the municipality enjoys the supply of 18 million litres of water a day from Lake Victoria, the first phase project

which cost 31.6bn/-.

However, some customers have advised BUWASA to reduce the costs of installing and connecting water so as to enable a high number of people to enjoy water availability and the authority to get more income.

Shangali responded by saying the costs which they charge are friendly and affordable and a customer is allowed to pay in installments.

John Sirati, BUWASA CEO said the authority will soon commence a 24bn/- project to deal with wastewater by having a strong sewage system in the municipality.



Serengeti district commissioner Nurdin Babu assists a resident of Machochwe village at the weekend in carrying a bucket of water shortly after launching a 220m/- well whose construction was funded by Serengeti Breweries Ltd and which is expected to benefit 12,000 people. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) is set to introduce varieties of biopesticides that are being generated from natural plants and animal tools.

The authority is currently performing efficacy evaluation to check the effectiveness of the biopesticides in containing the targeted pests as well as diseases.

TPHPA Research Scientist, Ramadhan Kilewa said that the initiative was also in efforts to overcome the challenge of high concentration of pesticide residues in crops in the country,

TPHPA to bring in new biopesticides to curtail notorious pests and diseases

unveiling that some of the country's key economic cash crops have been rejected at international markets due to pesticides residues.

He added, the timely innovation also targets to curtail mass production of highly hazardous pesticides that damage human and the environment, noting: “The biopesticides that are currently under different levels of trials in Arusha and Kongwa District, Dodoma Region, are expected to play a vital role to help accelerate

external crop market.”

He informed that all of the East African countries (EAC) have agreed to embark on a crucial exercise to invent different biopesticides in order to meet demands set by international agricultural crops markets.

“After being verified and registered for use, we're also planning to start training the agriculture extension officers on how professional to produce the biopesticides from varied natural plants, just through simple local

procedures,” he stated.

He detailed that the authority was currently encouraging local industries to use alternative chemicals with less hazardous impact.

Operating under the Plant Health Act No 4, 2020, he briefed that the authority was now at the forefront on the management of disposal of obsolete pesticides and empty pesticides containers in a move to ensure human, environmental, and animal health.

UK, Indian COVID-19 variants detected in South Africa - govt

JOHANNESBURG

Eleven cases of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 and four of B.1.617.2 variants have been detected in South Africa, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said last week.

According to Mkhize, the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa confirmed four cases of the B.1.617.2 variant, which was first detected in India, have been detected in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal and all the person had a recent history of travelling from India.

Of all the 11 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant which was first detected in the UK, eight were detected in the Western Cape (with two having a history of travel from Bahrain), one was detected in KwaZulu-Natal and two were detected in Gauteng.

Mkhize said the British variant was spreading in communities.

“The B.1.1.7 variant has been detected in community samples and this therefore suggests that community transitions has already set it,” he said.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) said that work focusing on the variants is being done.

“We would like to assure the public that the institute is focusing their resources and research efforts towards understanding the variants and what the potential implications are for South Africa,” said Prof Adrian Puren, the NICD's acting executive director. South Africa has so far recorded 1,594,817 COVID-19 cases with 54,724 deaths.

Meanwhile, police in Siaya County have launched investigations into a case where a nurse is alleged to have defiled a Form Two student in Gem, Wagai sub-county.

According to a statement from

the county's Health Department, the incident took place last Sunday and was reported by the victim's parents to the area chief the following day.

Gem Sub County Police Commander Charles Chacha indicated that the officers have launched a probe to unravel what transpired. “We only got to learn about this from social media. We traced the parents and took the child to hospital on Monday evening,” he said.

The suspect, according to Mr Chacha, is a nurse based at Malunga dispensary, which is located in Malunga West Sub location in the newly created Gem-Wagai Sub County.

The police boss noted that preliminary findings indicate that the nurse was caught in a compromising situation with the 17-year-old girl in his vehicle, which was parked near a thicket.

The report on the incident from the county department of health revealed that the nurse was nearly lynched by an irate mob that caught him in the act.

The report further revealed that the suspect had been warned twice to stop grooming the minor.

According to the report, the nurse managed to escape from the mob after he drove off with the student still in his vehicle.

“The victim was taken to a hospital within the sub-county on Monday for medical examination and later sought further tests at the county referral hospital in Siaya,” said Mr Chacha.

Cases of defilement have become common in Siaya County.

Recently, a police officer based in Sigomre was reportedly caught by the mother of a Form One student while defiling the minor in his house. **AGENCIES**



Tanzania National Roads Agency CEO Patrick Mfugale (L) briefs members of the Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee in Dodoma at the weekend on the implementation of a project involving the construction of ring roads in the capital city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Extension officers to be trained on proper fertiliser use in areas with high acidity soil

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

AGRICULTURAL researchers are planning to train the extension officers in regions with high acidity soils over proper types and application of fertilizer.

It has been unveiled that farmers within regions with high acidity soil were realizing low yields due to poor knowledge on the types of fertilizers needed in such areas.

According to special country-wide soil research conducted by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), 10

regions have high acidity soils, of at least 21.4 percent.

The regions include Mbeya, Songwe, Kigoma, Mtwara, Geita, Kagera, Tabora, Katavi, Mtwara, and Lindi.

National Coordinator for Soil Research at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Dr. Sibaway Mwanga yesterday revealed to the Guardian during an interview in Dodoma Capital City that in the regions in question uses of fertilizers must go in accord with recommended agricultural lime applications.

"The survey established that in the regions farmers are failing

to yield bumper due to poor knowledge on application of needed fertilizer. For instance, most of them are ending up harvesting seven sacks of maize per hectare instead of 30," he detailed.

He expressed that the farmers within the regions have often been using UREA and DAP types of fertilizers which are unfriendly to acidity soils.

"The proper fertilizer which suits in areas with high acid concentration is CAN, which must also be applied in reflect with agricultural lime applications," he insisted.

He informed that the

institute was with a series of strategies aimed at imparting the farmers from across the country with helpful knowledge over kinds of soils as well as application of proper fertilizers.

Dr. Mwanga briefed that the regions of Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Coastal, Songea, Ruvuma, Singida, Shinyanga, Manyara, and Rukwa have soil acidity rate of 46.2 percent.

"In these regions, there's no need for the application of agricultural lime when putting fertilizers, but farmers must use non-acidifying fertilizers like CAN," he directed.

AU appoints Ghana ex-President John Mahama as its high envoy to Somalia

By Special Correspondent, Mogadishu

THE African Union (AU) has appointed former Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama as its high representative to Somalia, to help mediate between stakeholders who have failed to agree on an electoral calendar and on who should manage the polls.

AU Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat made the announcement in a statement on Saturday, saying Mahama will work with Somali stakeholders to reach a mutually acceptable compromise towards an all-encompassing resolution to the elections stalemate in the shortest possible time.

"In fulfilling his mandate, Mahama will be supported by the peacekeepers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) to ensure mediation efforts and the peace support operation work together seamlessly," he said.

The AU hopes the appointment will ensure democracy in Somalia and help curb the threat to the stability of the country and the region as a whole.

Parliamentary elections were initially to take place in 2020 and the presidential election in February 2021, but both were delayed due to squabbles among stakeholders and disagreements on modalities for voting.

Somali military force members supporting anti-government opposition leaders gather before leaving to their bases in Mogadishu, Somalia, on May 7, 2021.

Initially, Federal President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo and the Lower House of Somalia's bicameral parliament preferred a one-man, one-vote universal suffrage.

There were some who preferred an indirect election whereby delegates selected from

clans would elect members of Parliament.

But discussions between President Farmaajo and the presidents of the five Federal Member States (FMS) - Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Puntland, Southwest and Jubbaland - as well as the Mayor of Mogadishu in Dusamareb, an upcountry town in Central Somalia, an agreement was signed on September 17, 2020, paving the way for an indirect election to be held in the Horn of Africa nation in 2021.

However, squabbles emerged when the parties started to discuss on how to implement the agreement, particularly when Puntland's leader Said Abdullahi Deni and Ahmed Mohamed Madobe of Jubbaland opposed Farmaajo's position.

A number of attempts to solve the impasse produced no tangible outcomes, even after the Federal Government of Somalia and FMS held meetings in the capital, Mogadishu.

On April 12, a dramatic change occurred when the legislators of the Lower House of Parliament, popularly known as Golaha Shacabka (Peoples' Hall) convened and voted for the extension of Parliament's terms and Farmaajo's tenure, while urging the National Independent Election Commission to hold a one-man, one-vote election in not more than two years.

The move technically abolished the indirect electoral modality enshrined in the September 17 agreement.

The two-year extension granted to Farmaajo immediately generated a heated opposition from Puntland and Jubbaland as well as other political stakeholders like the Coalition of the (opposition) Presidential Candidates (CPC) that includes former Somali presidents Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud and ex-Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire.



INVITATION FOR VARIOUS BIDS BIDS FOR LONG TERM AGREEMENT (LTA)

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan is operating in Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Kigoma, Rukwa, Dodoma and Mwanza regions. In addition, Plan also supports Burundian and Congolese refugees in Kigoma region through Child Protection and Education in Emergencies programs.
- Plan International Tanzania is therefore issuing this invitation for tenders to interested suppliers for provision of various services as indicated the below;

S/No	Tender description	Tender number	Location
1	Provision of Transportation and Courier Services	PIT/CO/FY21/52	Country Office, Plan International Tanzania, Dar es Salaam
2	Supply of Office Sundries	PIT/CO/FY21/53	Country Office, Plan International Tanzania, Dar es Salaam
3	Provision of Fuel Card Services	PIT/CO/FY21/54	Country Office, Plan International Tanzania, Dar es Salaam
4	Provision of Asset Auction Services	PIT/CO/FY21/55	All Offices, Plan International Tanzania
5	Provision of Clearing and Forwarding Services	PIT/CO/FY21/56	Country Office, Plan International Tanzania, Dar es Salaam

- Interested eligible bidders are invited and must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to Tenders@plan-international.org. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
- Bidders are hereby requested to send their bid documents by email to electronic.bids@plan-international.org before 11PM, Monday 24th May 2021. Marked 'the tender description and number.
- Late bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

Tender Panel
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
P O Box 3517 Dar es Salaam
Telephone : + (255) 22 2773264/+ (255) 22 2773272



REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FINANCE AND PLANNING

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE (ISPDRMNRG)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN) OPEN COMPETITIVE BIDDING - INTERNATIONAL (OCB-INTERNATIONAL)

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES ISPGR/DRMNRG/ZNZ/AFDB/G01/OCB-INT/2021

- This Specific procurement notice follows the General Procurement Notice for this project which was published in the UN Development Business (UNDB online) and the African Development Bank's Internet Website (www.afdb.org) on 30th November, 2017.
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has received financing from the African Development Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Institutional Support Project for Domestic Resource Mobilization and Natural Resource Governance (ISPDRMNRG). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of ICT Equipment and Accessories.
- The President's Office Finance and Planning now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, installation and commissioning of ICT Equipment and Accessories.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of;

Project Coordinator ISP-DRMNRG,
President's Office Finance and Planning,
P.O. Box 1154,
12Keneth Kaunda Road
71402 Urban West,
Vuga,
Zanzibar.
Tel: +255 777 468 886/+255 777 470 557
E-mail: caliphansaid@yahoo.com or alimwalim@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS

S.No	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY
1	Rack Server	Pieces	13
2	Storage Server	Pieces	2
3	SAN Switch	Pieces	2
4	Switch 'A'	Pieces	7
5	Switch 'B'	Pieces	5
6	Switch 'C'	Pieces	2
7	Router	Pieces	8
8	Firewall	Pieces	6
9	Laptop IOS	Pieces	5
10	Laptop PC	Pieces	25
11	Computer Desktop (AIO)	Pieces	100
12	Projector	Pieces	5
13	Display Screen	Pieces	5
14	Printer Coloured	Pieces	5
15	Printer Black/White	Pieces	5
16	Photocopy Black/White	Pieces	5
17	Android Tablet and iPad	Pieces	30
18	Server Rack	Pieces	4
19	Server UPS	Pieces	4
20	KVM Switch	Pieces	3
21	Monitor	License	3
22	Windows Server Datacenter 2019	Pieces	1
23	Software	Pieces	3

- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **USD One Hundred Only (USD: 100.00)** or equivalent in a free convertible currency. Payable in Cash, Banker's Draft, or Banker's Cheque to the Bank Name: The People's Bank of Zanzibar Ltd, Name of Account: Ministry of Finance Revenue **Account, Branch: Forodhani, Account Number: 0403898000.**

- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the African Development Bank Standard Bidding Document: Procurement of Goods.
- All bids in one original plus three copies, properly filled in and enclosed in a plain envelop must be delivered to the above office on or before **10:00am on 10th June 2021** and must be accompanied by a security of **USD Ten Thousand Only (USD 10,000.00)** or equivalent in a free convertible currency.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **10:00am on 10th June 2021** at the offices of **President's Office, Finance and Planning, Conference Room, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1154, 12Keneth Kaunda Road, 71402 Urban West, Vuga, Zanzibar.**
- Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids, bids not received, and not opened and not read out in a public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

MONDAY 10 MAY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Elders' plight points to need for more systematic reforms

TANZANIA is gradually being pushed to become a welfare state on account of the plight underlining the condition of various sections of the population, the latest expression of which came from elders of the city of Dar es Salaam, specifically those who do not live with a viable pension. As most of the population is engaged in agriculture and informal sector activity, elders tend to be dependent on families and wider social amenities, which often reduces them to beggars. This isn't just in seeking medical care where the rule about free treatment is scarcely observed, but even in seeking habitually delayed terminal benefits.

The depth of the crisis can be imagined from remarks by President Samia Suluhu Hassan responding to elders' demand that they receive a minimal pension as it is the case with their Zanzibar fellow elderly citizens. She said that the matter was examined in the past to see how the government could pay 30,000/- per month to each elder and it got cold feet, figuring out how to pay two million elders that sum of money per month, that is, over 60bn/- per month and hence around 720bn/- per annum. For starters 720bn/- was the total amount of local funds in the country's budget in 1998, foreign funds at 400bn/- thus 1.1trn/- total.

While elders are issuing this appeal, and the president says the government will find it difficult to pay 30,000/- to each elder, the leadership of the trade union confederation was asking for 900,000/- minimum wage. Since the government will not be in a position to meet even an additional 100,000/- without upsetting its investment projections and employment

expectations as a whole, it shows that no welfare gesture is possible on that side either. The elders said they ought to be considered for loans, but adding the group along with women and youths who are struggling to make it in life poses intense difficulties.

What the government is trying to do in that regard is to ensure that free primary and secondary school education remains in place, widen the construction, equipment and staffing of health centres all over the country, and auxiliary programmes like piped water and irrigation projects all over the place. On this basis it is clear that welfare demands are becoming an onerous burden on the shoulders of the government and risk displacing pillars of national unity when the demands get louder. At the same time, efforts to make a living by trade activities yield little, as yields earlier stood on misplaced government expenditure.

That means even traders want a new deal from the government, meanwhile as farmers complain on the lack of markets, while it can't be said that the level of consumption in the country is high enough for us to say we have to rely on exports. The key issue is how to create an adequate internal market for the crops and fruits we produce, for the industries we seek to build so that close to 800,000 people entering the job market each year. That is why reforms that President Samia has promised ought to go far so that land enters into the circulation of money, people wishing their money rise in value in the future scramble to purchase land from peasants, and from hundreds of thousands of urban dwellers. This shall insert large amounts of money into the economy, vastly widening consumption and jobs, and huge increase in taxes.

Red Cross Day should let in solidarity across generations

TANZANIA Red Cross, recognised as the leading humanitarian organisation led by volunteers in the country, is legally mandated and capable to provide disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery services in all branches, guided by the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross.

TRCS is involved in care and maintenance program for approximately 100,000 refugees from DRC and Burundi where comprehensive health care, water and sanitation services are provided. This programme is implemented in Western Tanzania - Kigoma region. The main activities include provision of comprehensive health services (preventive and curative services), reproductive health services, nutrition services, HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counseling and Testing, Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission) services and clean water supply and sanitation services.

Disaster preparedness programs are implemented in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Tanga and Mtwara. The activities aim at capacity building of TRCS volunteers/staff/branches and that of communities living along the coast to enable them prepare to respond to various disasters and emergency situations. Main activities include conducting First Aid/Disaster Preparedness and Response trainings, Water/Beach safety trainings, community sensitization about disaster management and risk reduction, supporting establishment of community

based early warning systems and branch capacity building. Tanzania Red Cross Society also responds to various disasters and emergency situations such as floods, drought, earthquakes, and accidents. The Tanzanian Red Cross Society conducts immunisation campaigns specifically aimed at children, as well as sexually transmitted disease prevention campaigns. Initiatives have been launched to clean up and secure the water networks for many households.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world's largest humanitarian network and is guided by seven fundamental principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, universality and unity.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is an annual celebration of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. World Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated on 8 May each year. This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, who was born on 8 May 1828. He was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

The idea for an 'annual action that could take hold in the whole world ... that would be a major contribution to peace' was introduced just after World War I. This initiative, known as the "Red Cross Truce", was studied by an International Commission established at the 14th International Conference of the Red Cross.

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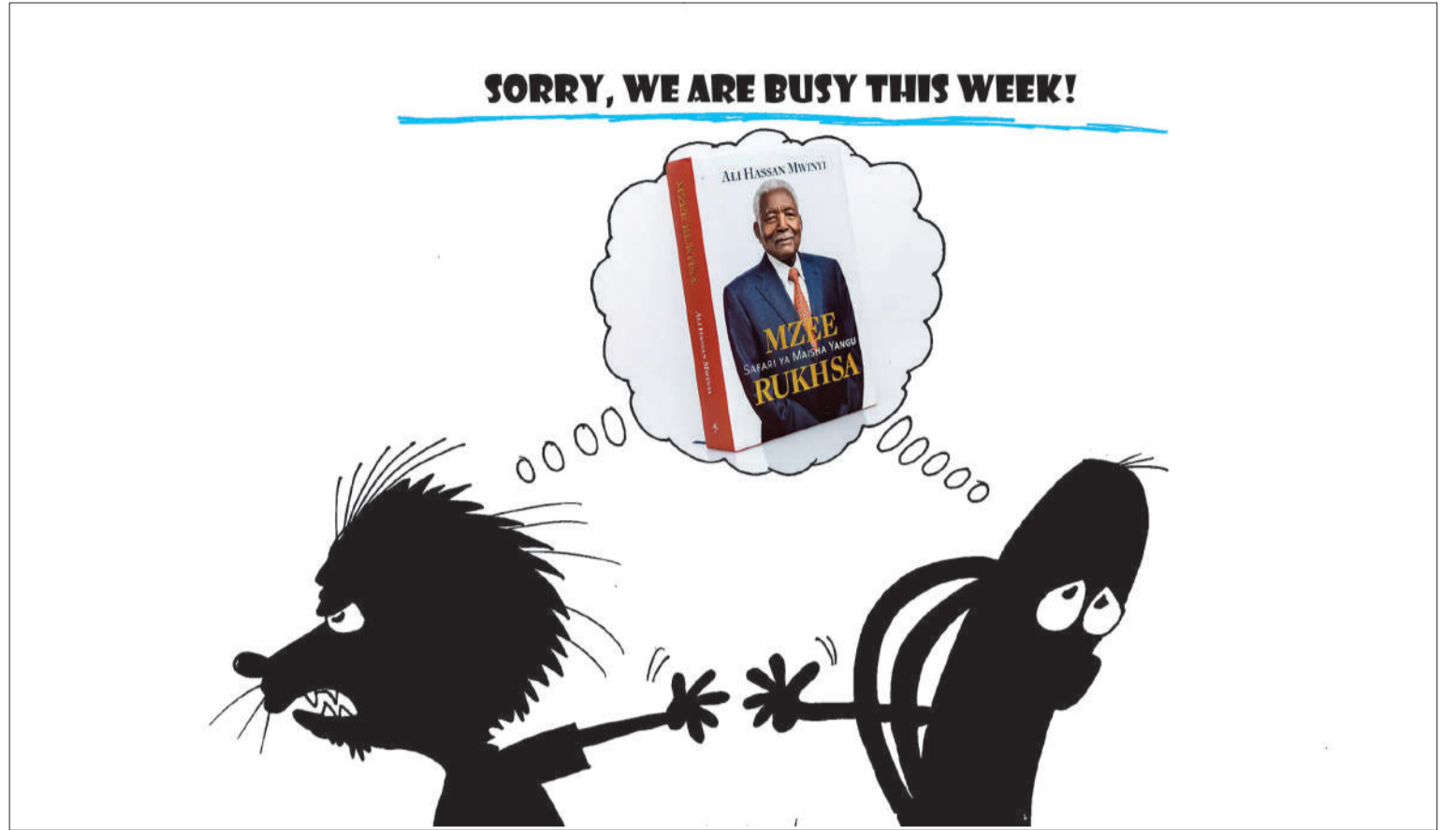
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SORRY, WE ARE BUSY THIS WEEK!



Ethiopia at democracy crossroads ahead of the elections next month

By Abdi Ismail Samatar

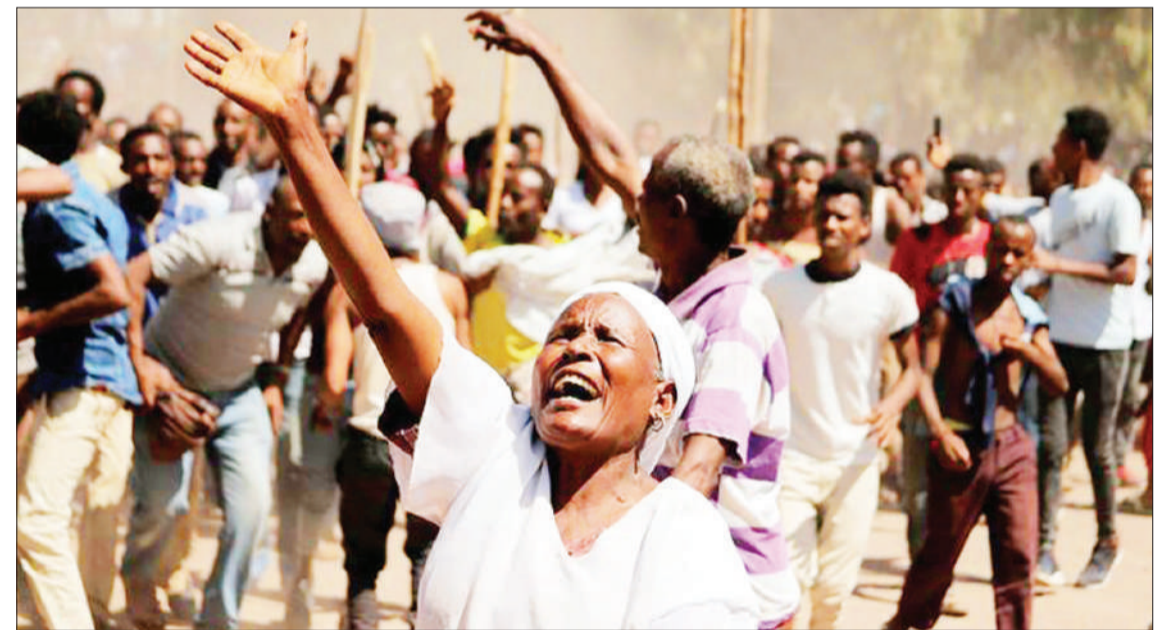
ETHIOPIA'S Covid-delayed elections take place on 5 June 2021. But the country has a fraught history when it comes to democratic elections. A free and fair election will transform Ethiopia's ossified authoritarian political culture, regardless of whether Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed loses or wins. For the Nobel peace laureate, an honourable loss is better than a fraudulent win.

Ethiopia has a mythical image as an African country not colonised by a European power, except for a brief few years in the late 1930s when it was invaded by Italy. Like all myths, the Ethiopian version is partly valid but conceals much else.

Ethiopia had a feudal society in which the majority of the population was treated as serfs and subjected to indignities comparable to those characteristic of colonialism. The Ethiopian empire was led by Amhara or Tigray Christian monarchs who treated other cultural groups as savages. Among those subjugated were the Oromos, who constituted the largest cultural group. However, the old order was supplanted when Abiy Ahmed became the country's first Oromo Prime Minister in 2018.

Abiy's Cabinet promised democratic reforms the likes of which Ethiopia had never seen. It allowed all opposition parties to return home and participate in the democratic transformation. In addition, the prime minister signed a peace treaty that ended the bloody frontier war with Eritrea. Abiy was awarded the Nobel peace prize for these remarkable achievements. The challenge now faced by Ethiopia is whether the prime minister and the opposition will be able to maintain the new democracy.

The challenges The progressive changes were accompanied by divisive political tendencies that fed sectarian ideologies and deepened communal fragmentation. First, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which had dominated Ethiopia since 1991, realised that Abiy would not suffer their manipulation. Consequently, the TPLF retreated to its province, mobilised the population, and held a provincial election not sanctioned by the federal government as the national election had been delayed



for a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The election held in Tigray was subsequently annulled by the federal government.

The tension between the government and the TPLF escalated and the Ethiopian Defence Force's main garrison in Tigray was taken over. This caused alarm in Addis Ababa, where it was feared that other provincial elites might follow the example of the TPLF and plunge the country into an existential crisis. The prime minister immediately ordered the defence force to quell the insurrection. Federal forces based in the neighbouring Amhara region mounted a counterattack, which gave the struggle a cultural twist as the Amhara elite had a grudge against the TPLF, which had dominated the country for two decades.

The war escalated and the TPLF used the population as human shields while in some areas the Ethiopian forces engaged in a scorched earth policy. Meanwhile, the TPLF forces fired missiles into Eritrea, claiming that its forces had already entered Tigray. Prime Minister Abiy initially denied all the allegations, but others confirmed the massacre of civilians and Eritrea's intervention.

While Tigray was burning, another crisis was brewing in Oromia and other regions. The Oromo political establishment began to fracture shortly after Abiy had become prime minister and the oldest political front, the Oromo Liberation Front, began to challenge his legitimacy and accuse him of hijacking the struggle of the Oromo people. Another major Oromo political activist, Jawar Mohammed, initially endorsed Abiy's leadership, but broke ranks with

him and formed an opposition party called the Oromo Federal Congress, while other activists established the Oromo National Congress. Similar centrifugal forces have been at play in other regions, while ethnic-political and regional fragmentation has intensified the mistrust among rival elite factions and increased instability.

A tipping point or a tragedy The regime claims that it has not stymied the opposition parties from registering their supporters for the vote or to campaign freely, but other sources contest this and critics have registered several concerns. First, they point out that Abiy's party, which controls the regions, is using government resources for the campaign while other parties have to rely on their own means. This gives the governing party an unfair advantage. Second, the opposition claims that, like the old regime, the government is buying votes, particularly in the countryside, as the old regime did. Third, it is believed that the ruling party will rig the election if it feels that it might lose the poll.

Finally, there is growing concern about the effect of the increasingly close relationship between Abiy and Isaias Afwerki, the autocratic Eritrean leader. This bond has led to reasonable speculation that Abiy might be considering the autocrat's three decades tenure rule as a model worthy of adopting.

Since Ethiopia never had a democratic political culture, the idea of compromise is not part of the elite's political imagination. Ethiopian politics is therefore a zero-sum game and trust in the constitution and the justice system is very low. Given this tradition,

the political fragmentation of regions and communities, and the close association between Abiy and the provincial leaders, the opposition is unlikely to accept defeat in any election.

To assuage the opposition's fears and enhance the credibility of the election, Abiy must seriously engage the African Union and the international community by bringing in as many neutral monitors as possible. Monitors should be present in every region from now until the election is held on 5 June 2021. Their presence will boost public confidence in the poll and ensure that every party has a fair chance of winning.

A free and fair election will transform Ethiopia's ossified authoritarian political culture, regardless of whether Abiy loses or wins. A loss will bring him an enduring historical credit among his people, which is worth more than any Nobel Prize, and historians will count him among Africa's transformational leaders. Such an honourable loss is better than a fraudulent win.

By contrast, a sham win may flatter the egos of aspirant politicians but could be a cataclysmic historical benchmark for Ethiopia. A deceitful win will deepen mistrust among the already fragmented elite and could lead to the country's breakup. A discredited win will require the imposition of authoritarian rule, which will keep Ethiopia in the position which it has been for the past two centuries. The final challenge is the opposition's perverse claim that Abiy's party cannot fairly win the poll, thus pre-empting the will of the people.

Whatever the outcome, challenging times lie ahead.



The reality about chasing your dreams

Motivational speakers love advising us to follow our dreams, yes, we ought to. They usually claim that dream chasing is easy since achieving our dreams only requires us to think positively, find what we love, visualize living the life of our dreams, and work hard. As well, they claim dream chasing is fun and adventurous.

I used to believe these ideas. However, I discarded them after I started chasing mine about two years ago and realizing that dream chasing is boring as I always force myself to work, and things seldom work out as I expect. Furthermore, I doubted these ideas after a large percentage of my friends gave up on their dreams.

I started my career journey in 2018, and I made friends with many people in my field of expertise. A year later, 98% of these folks gave up.

These folks also gave up because they found the journey boring, tough, and scary, although they believed the idea that dream chasing is fun and

adventurous. This is a shocking truth many people realize when chasing their dreams. I was also shocked after realizing that the journey isn't easy, but I decided to keep working and see what will happen. However, sometimes, I feel like turning in the towel.

As well, I usually become extremely anxious when I think about failing to achieve my dreams despite working hard, and I often ask myself whether I'll continue working on my career path in case I don't achieve the intended dream after ten years.

Chasing my career dream has thus enlightened me about the shocking truths of dream chasing. After working in my field of expertise for a while, I noticed that following dreams doesn't guarantee success, and I discovered that anxiety and doubt are part of the journey.

Anyway, besides these truths, you'll realize more sad truths when you start following your dreams. For instance, you'll discover that several people, including your closest folks, will doubt

your ability to achieve them.

Another sad truth you'll realize is that you'll have to be your own motivator because most people will encourage you to give up. The people who love you will encourage you to get a safe and secure job, and they'll tell you that dream chasing is for the extraordinary.

The chances of achieving our dreams increase if we know such facts about dream chasing because we'll prepare ourselves for them, and we won't be shocked when we encounter them. However, the chances are slim when we think it's easy to chase and achieve dreams because we'll expect the journey to be fun and adventurous, and we'll quit after realizing its toughness.

However, dream chasing is not easy, don't embark in the journey of pursuing your dreams if you think dream chasing is easy because you'll give up, and you'll end up being depressed. Only follow them when you are ready to endure obstacles, discouragement, and work persistently despite not seeing progress.



Hope for rare species as villagers remove invasive umbrella trees in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

Walk in the forests of Tanzania's East Usambara Mountains and you may be lucky enough to hear the metallic call - peedoopeedoo - of one of the world's rarest birds, the Long-billed forest warbler (*Artisornis moreaui*). This species lives nowhere else on Earth and, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, there are fewer than 250 mature individuals.

Conservationists fear the bird will be silenced forever by the steady march into its territory of invasive umbrella trees. These trees also threaten other local species of endangered birds, reptiles, insects and plants. But now there are glimmers of hope, thanks to a project that has supported local villagers to remove umbrella trees and replace them with indigenous species.

The project was implemented by Nature Tanzania in collaboration with the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and the village authorities in Mbomole and Shebomez villages in Muheza district, Tanga region.

Its activities took place in the buffer zone around Amani Nature Reserve, Mbomole village forest reserve and community forests. While the project officially ended in September 2019, activities continue thanks to the villagers' commitment and ongoing support from a local organisation called Amani Friends of Nature.

A spreading problem

The umbrella tree (*Maesopsis eminii*) arrived in Tanzania in the 1930s, when colonial foresters introduced it in plantations as a timber tree.

It became particularly widespread in the East Usambara Mountains after the Amani Forest was harvested in the 1980s.

But large-scale planting created a huge source of seeds and, since then, the tree has become one of the area's dominant species, helped on its way by hornbills and fruit bats that disperse its seeds.

This is a problem for the East Usambara Mountains because they are part of what scientists call a biodiversity hotspot, meaning they have large numbers of species including many that are found nowhere else in the world.

The invasive umbrella trees pose a threat there as they grow fast, outcom-



White tailed crested flycatcher's nest
INSERT:
The long-billed forest warbler (*Artisornis moreaui*) found in Amani Nature Reserve feeding chicks
Photo: Markus Lilje - Amani Nature Reserve

petentive plants, and reproduce within just a few years.

The umbrella tree is especially abundant in the village forest reserves and community forests in the buffer zone around Amani Nature Reserve, as well as on farmland. It most favours forest edges and open gaps in the forest that result from tree cutting. But by growing in these places, the tree threatens local species that prefer those habitats to life under the forest canopy.

This includes chameleons, insects such as butterflies and the critically-endangered Amani flatwing damselfly, African violets and several endangered bird species.

A 2008 study stated, for example, that the abundance and diversity of bird species were both higher in natural forest than in areas where the umbrella tree was common.

The study said the tree threatened the critically-endangered Long-billed forest

warbler in particular, as the bird favours gaps in the forest that the tree's fast growth rapidly closes.

Other local bird species affected by umbrella trees include the Amani sunbird and Usambara hyliota, both of which are endangered, and the Uluguru violet-backed sunbird.

But there are still many questions about how the umbrella trees affect other species and how best to reduce the risk these trees pose.

"We don't have enough funds to conduct research on this invasive tree that drives away some endangered species," says Fikiri Maiba, the Chief Conservator of Amani Nature Reserve. "We are looking for international donors involved in nature conservation, critically endangered species or endemic species that can support us with funds so that we can carry out research."

Maiba says a research budget of at least USD 1mil-

lion is needed because, apart from the umbrella tree, another 13 other exotic and invasive species are affecting the ecological balance of the Amani Nature Forest Reserve.

Taking umbrellas down
In August 2018, Nature Tanzania and partners began working with local communities in a project that aimed to improve the Long-billed forest warbler's prospects of survival by removing umbrella trees. Victor Mkongewa, one of the authors of the 2008 study on local birds, was hired to manage the project, which was funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

The project established experimental plots in the Shebomez village community forest, Mbomole village forest reserve and at Emau, a suburb of Shebomez.

Nature Tanzania and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group started training villagers on forest conserva-

tion and highlighting the importance of Long-billed forest warbler to local incomes.

Mkongewa points out that Long-billed forest warbler and other rare species attract birdwatchers from around the world who spend money in local communities. "Ninety percent of Amani residents benefit from bird tourism," he says.

As well as raising awareness, the project also set out to increase the warbler's habitat. It incentivised farmers to participate by training them in agroforestry. The project also provided thousands of seedlings of cinnamon, clove and black pepper plants for farmers to grow.

"Men were involved in cutting down invasive trees and removing logs, while women planted indigenous trees and uprooted umbrella tree seedlings in those plots," says Subira Amiri was one of the women who worked on the plots in Mbomole village forest reserve.

In just over a year, the participants removed umbrella trees from 2.1 hectares of forests and replanted some 3,874 seedlings of 24 indigenous tree species. The planted trees are growing well and other species are returning.

"We are very happy with what we have achieved by planting trees, because right now chameleons and bird species are coming back into the forest," says Amiri.

Wildlife bouncing back

After the project ended in September 2019, Victor Mkongewa and other local people established a non-governmental organisation called Amani Friends of Nature to continue the work of battling the invasive trees. Under Mkongewa's leadership, the group planted another 700 indigenous trees last year.

Amani Friends of Nature is also doing censuses of birds and chameleons in the experimental plots, as well as monitoring bird nests in those areas, says Martin Joho, an ornithologist with the organisation.

Joho says this will allow them to assess the impacts of removing umbrella trees and gain a better understanding of the ecology and breeding habits of different species in disturbed and undisturbed

habitats.

So far, the results are promising. According to Mkongewa, the number of chameleon species in all of the experimental plots has increased from three in 2019 to 24 in 2020.

This includes the East Usambara pygmy chameleon, the Usambara three-horned chameleon and the Giant East Usambara blade-horned chameleon, all of which are endangered species.

The number of bird nests has also increased, from just 2 in 2018 to 14 in 2020. Species nesting in the plots include White tailed crested flycatcher, Collared sunbird, banded green sunbird, Olive sunbird, Little greenbul, Red-capped forest warbler and Sharpe's akalat.

Mkongewa says it is still too early to assess the impact on the critically-endangered Long-billed forest warbler, as the indigenous tree seedlings planted after removal of umbrella trees had not grown mature enough to provide suitable habitat for the bird.

But he says the presence of its close relative, the Red-capped forest warbler, suggests the rarer bird will also recolonise.

"Our efforts over three years to restore natural habitat for critically endangered species and other endemic species have started paying off," says Thomas Peter, one of the farmers from Mbomole village who has been removing umbrella trees. "Natural vegetation and biodiversity have improved and we have managed to see new species, like the four-horned chameleon."

There is still much work to do. Mkongewa warns that if the umbrella trees continue to spread, the Long-billed forest warbler and other rare and endangered species in the East Usambara Mountains will continue to be affected and will ultimately disappear.

But if the Amani Friends of Nature and local communities can sustain their progress, future generations may also hear that metallic peedoopeedoo call and may even catch a glimpse of the elusive bird that makes the call.

This story was produced with the support of Internews' Earth Journalism Network (EJN)

Motive behind recent escalation of protracted conspiracy on Ethiopia by Western powers

By Solomon Dibaba

It is very interesting to note that Ethiopia's allies in the western hemisphere are hundreds of times concerned about the relief and rehabilitation and human rights situations in Tigray only. All these situations are also visible in areas affected by TPLF's atrocities but Tigray appears to be the only case in the priority of concerns for the western powers these days.

The Shene- TPLF- Sudan and Egypt conspiracy network is now being assisted by escalated pressures by the US-EU alliance on weakening the political order in the country and to discourage Ethiopia from completing GERD and also from conducting the 6th National Election which is just at the corner. Contrary to the recent UNSC Statement on the situation in Ethiopia, some western officials are surprisingly busy trying to pressurize Ethiopia to enter into a political dialogue with the defunct TPLF.

The officials seem to deliberately gloss over the fact that TPLF has conducted unconstitutional election about six months back and has also issued a non-recognition manifesto on the legitimacy of Federal Government of Ethiopia which in turn annulled both the election and the legality of the regional government.

A valid dialogue is understandably needs to be conducted between two legitimate political entities with a view of resolving outstanding differences and points of disagreements. In the first place TPLF has conducted a massacre on a restive Northern Command and its leaders are facing the courts of law accused of treason on the country while its fugitive forces are still engaged in a blood shed on honest Ethiopians in Tigray. Besides, its lackeys are killing citizens based



on ethnic identities. So, what is the justification for the suggestion made by western officials to start a dialogue with TPLF?

To begin with, the very idea of dialogue with politically dead organization like TPLF emanates from utter disregard to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and its peoples. US national interest and its quest for national security can be understood as a foreign policy priority for the nation but it should not be pursued at the expense of Ethiopia who is striving hard to ascertain peace and economic development in the country.

Indeed current trends indicate that the issues of relief, human rights violations in Tigray are being used by some western countries as a window

of dressing for their desire to reinstate TPLF as a political force and to dictate the trends in political developments in Ethiopia as part of their desire to control the entire Horn of Africa and in tune with their political interests and ideological priorities.

Speaking of the dialogue with TPLF, THE Ethiopian government has repeatedly called for dialogue only to be rejected by TPLF which was hoping to control the entire country through a nationwide military putsch. In addition, the government has dispatched religious leaders and prominent elders in the country to make peace with TPLF which was again rejected.

The point now is why are the western powers calling for a dialogue that was categorically rejected by

TPLF? Is this some sort of a change of attitude by few TPLF leaders who are on the run or a political call to disrupt the political system of the country contrary to the recent UNSC Statement which clearly indicated what is to be desired. While only a month is left for the conduct of the national election, the ideas of a dialogue is absurd and irrelevant.

The major western countries called for investigation into the human rights violation in Tigray which was accepted by the Ethiopian government which deployed the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to work with the UN Human Rights Commission. Ethiopia and Eritrea have already started to process the withdrawal of Eritrea forces from Tigray.

Regarding relief and rehabilitation operations in Tigray, the government is already supplying more than 70 per cent of relief food while a handful of NGOs and relevant UN agencies

are providing less than 30 per cent of the supplies. What is the point of issuing a barrage of statements of concerns on the need for relief support in Tigray while their relief support is just at the minimum?

Apart from the official conspiracies that are run by the so called western developed countries, the international media consortiums and their local representatives are busy misinforming the world about every issue that is related to Ethiopia depicting the country as a hotspot of horror and misery.

The country is facing the most heinous conspiracy theory in the history of the country. Even during the period of the Derge, they have never formed a joint conspiracy against the government that claimed to follow Marxist-Leninist ideology. They are cooperating with every source of information they think is good as long as it contributes to the defamation of the peoples and government of Ethiopia.

These media companies excessively report and are busy discrediting the gains of the national reform program that is underway in the country. While a lot of development programs are going on in the country, they choose to exclusively report on the situation in Tigray and GERD. They never accent anything positive on Ethiopia but are ready to capitalize on unfounded rumors and false information without caring for any level of verification from government authorities. They violate almost all principles of professional journalism as long as it serves their defamation campaigns.

It is clear that the western partners of Ethiopia will find it very difficult to see strong and self-sustained country of independent citizens. Ethiopia prefers to work in partnership with these countries but they prefer to keep the country as dependent as ever to make

Ethiopia stay in their political orbit of influence.

Recently a group of 5 American senators appealed to the US representative for Horn of Africa Affairs to do all he can to disrupt the 6th National Election to be held in Ethiopia in utter arrogance to create chaos and total confusion in the country as part of their desire to seek weaker Ethiopia that would be humbled and made subservient to the sole interest of the US. US officials who profess that their country is the hallmark of democracy are calling for the disruption of legal and official democratic election in a partner country.

It is very dangerous to underestimate the scope of the current conspiracy on Ethiopia. The form of the conspiracy could take the form of political assassination attempts on the leadership of this country as previous international experience of many countries show.

Addressing the peoples of Ethiopia on the occasion of Easter, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed has noted that Ethiopia will successfully resurrect from mountains of falsehood and lies that are being fanned on the country in witness of the entire world.

The destiny of this is not and cannot be determined by any level of influence from elsewhere. Those who wish or dream of seeing Ethiopia disintegrate into banana republics may do everything at their disposal but their dreams will just remain as dreams.

Incidentally The Council of Minister has drafted a proposal to be submitted to the HPR for the designation of Shene and TPLF as terrorist forces pursuant to Proclamation 1176\ 2020. This would totally rule out the proposal by western powers to pressurize Ethiopia to conduct dialogues with terrorist organizations operating in foreign lands and within Ethiopia.

By Kayode Komolafe

COVID-19 lessons from India

With effect from yesterday, the federal government has banned from Nigeria passengers who have been to India, Brazil and Turkey in the previous 14 days. Stiff penalties would be placed on the airlines that break the rules. The regulations are subject to periodic reviews.

This is a wise step to take in the light of the surge of coronavirus infections in those countries. The disease caused by the virus, COVID-19, is ravaging those countries more than other parts of the world.

The government is rightly following science on this matter. The Academy of Medicine Specialities in Nigeria advised the government to take proactive steps to prevent transmission of variants of the virus from the epicentre of the pandemic. The Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 also recommended the travel bans.

Remarkably, Lagos State government is also on alert against the third wave of COVID-19 being triggered by the importation of mutants of the virus by inbound passengers. It is important that the state government is determined to enforce the federal government's regulations in this respect. Lagos has a long list of countries which are being monitored for the transmission across borders.

From the particular case of India, where a humanitarian disaster looms, Nigeria should learn some urgent lessons.

The unfortunate situation of India has again shown that a country that had displayed remarkable bravery and capacity in the fight against COVID-19 could easily be overwhelmed by the



pandemic.

India is the largest producer of vaccines; but now it does not have enough for its population as unprecedented figures of infections are recorded daily in the country. About 70% vaccines globally are produced in India. The Serum Institute of India (SII) has been producing AstraZeneca vaccine for 64 low-income countries including Nigeria within the framework of the COVAX programme of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

One of the grim implications of the situation in India is that the exports of vaccines to poor countries would be disrupted. The management of the pandemic in those countries would, of course, be negatively affected.

India's overall medical capacity is relatively higher than many third-world countries. Yet medical oxygen has become a luxury in that country. The oxygen cylinders available to patients in critical conditions are not enough. Patients are taken out of the hospitals to join the queue for improvised oxygen cylinders at some production centres.

India has been a destination for medical referrals from Nigeria. In the pre-COVID time, Nigerians who could afford the exorbitant costs sought medical attention in private hospitals and other facilities in India.

In fact, few months ago India was rated as one of the countries managing the COVID crisis fairly well. For instance, only in March Indian participants spoke proudly about the management of the COVID crisis in their country at a webinar organised by the Kaduna-based think tank, the Gusau Institute, and the Monohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) of India. Such an upbeat mood about tackling coronavirus has since vanished given the reality on ground in India.

The situation was not helped by a political leadership that prioritised politics over public health based on false assurance.

In terms of the risk factors, a few parallels could be drawn between Nigeria and India. Although Nigeria's estimated population of 210 million is hardly comparable to India's 1.4 billion, yet the fact remains that Nigeria has the largest population on the African continent.

The recent surge in India was partly fuelled by mass gatherings which have tragically turned out to be super-spreaders. In most cases these events had the imprimatur of government.

More infectious mutants are also found in India. The uptake of vaccines has also been relatively slow despite the fact the country exports vaccines to other countries.

Lockdowns are difficult to enforce in a country in which about 90% of the workforce is self-employed. A majority of those working earn daily incomes. There is hardly any social safety net for the poor majority in India. Until the surge last month, India avoided national lockdowns. Complacency set in and the consequence is the wider spread of the virus. The infections of the variants have proportionally caused more deaths than the first and second waves.

The poor members of the Indian society relying wholly on the underfunded public healthcare system are more vulnerable. India spends a meagre 3.9% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health.

The private hospitals are better developed, offering quality services. But those who lack health insurance cannot afford the huge costs of private hospitals. When public health is underfunded at normal times, the society becomes more vulnerable during epidemics. Little surprise that the India public healthcare has failed to be resilient because it has not been socially equipped for the purpose.

Experts have also explained that age, air pollution and obesity could also be some of the risk factors in India.

So the moral of the Indian COVID story for Nigeria is that the hope on the medical and pharmaceutical options could be dashed because of some insurmountable factors. What is needed in emergency may be unavailable in practical terms.

The country should, therefore, upscale the efforts at prevention.

For instance, if faced with a surge in hospitalisations, Nigeria does not have enough medical oxygen for the patients in critical conditions who may

need it. Some efforts are being made in Lagos to produce medical oxygen. However, there is hardly any indication of national preparedness in case the need for this life-saving substance arises in the course of the pandemic.

Universally, a standard cure for the disease is still awaited. Vaccines are available, but the morality of its distribution is questionable. The rich countries seem to ignore the axiom of the pandemic that "no one is safe until everyone is safe." Incidentally, about 20 world leaders echoed this scientifically loaded fact in a joint statement made on March 31, 2021. Yet the myopia of vaccine nationalism is still prevalent among some rich countries. The rich are, of course, reserving the vaccines for their populations. Hence while the United States has vaccinated over 100 million of its population, Nigeria is yet to vaccinate two million of its population. Given the slow rate of vaccination, the journey to the land of herd immunity may be longer than imagined at present.

The matter is made worse by the social viruses undermining the campaign for vaccination. These are the viruses of misinformation, conspiracy theories and vaccine hesitancy. The sociology of vaccination is such a complex one in which even some scientists join in spreading the misinformation to discourage unsuspecting members of the public.

Therefore to avert more deaths in the event of a third wave, Nigeria cannot rely on the capacity for treatment or vaccination. The country's strength should be in prevention by emphasising stricter adherence to the protocols -avoiding crowds, wearing of masks, social distancing, hygiene etc. In the matter of COVID-19, prevention is not only better than cure, it is also cheaper and more readily available.

The presidential steering committee and state governments should intensify the campaign for all to embrace the culture of observing the precautions.

Complacency is noticeable on

the part of the general public. Many people seem to have forgotten about the precautions. Members of the public simply ignore the warnings given by the health authorities about spread of the virus.

With the reported falling rate of infections, it is tempting to behave as if the pandemic is over. A few months ago, the figures of infections and deaths were also dropping in India. Today, India reports the highest figures of infections in the world. So the current statistics should not be an excuse to be careless about the virus.

This is no time to lower the guard in the fight against COVID-19.

For Solutions, Look More Inward
Not a few people must have felt the pains of the parents of the 17 students of the Greenfield University in Kaduna. The bandits holding the students captive had threatened to kill them if their parents failed to pay ransom, after they had killed five of their colleagues. Some of the parents of the Greenfield students and those of the Forestry Institute, also in Kaduna, were at the National Assembly yesterday to cry for help.

While the anguish of those helpless parents continued, there were other reports about insecurity from various parts of the country.

It is urgent that the Nigerian state should demonstrate its presence. The public yearning for that presence is palpable. The people need to feel secure for them to believe that the state is present.

It was, therefore, expected that government should engage the people with greater empathy and a deeper sense of accountability. Steps should be taken to keep the public confidence.

Although President Muhammadu Buhari is yet to speak to the nation as many Nigerians expect, the meeting of the National Security Council which began last week continued yesterday and the senate has scheduled a meeting with the service chiefs tomorrow. The House of Representatives tried to calm down those whose children are in captivity.

It is the interest of the government and the people to prevent anarchy.

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

Build capacity of your workers on PPRA, RC tells public institutions

SIMIYU regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka has called on public institutions in the region to ensure that they build the capacity of their employees on the rules and regulations of public procurement to increase efficiency in carrying out their duties.

RC Mtaka (pictured), made the remarks here over the weekend when opening three-day training on public procurement and Tanzania National e-Procurement System (TANePS).

Organized by Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), the training brought on board 92 participants from different fields—members of tender boards, heads of user departments, staffs from Procurement Management Units (PMUs), lawyers, internal auditors from all district councils in Simiyu Region.

Mtaka said public institutions have faced many challenges regarding public procurement processes. He said the main reason was that the executives involved in public procurement activities did not have a clear understanding of the rules and procedures for conducting such processes.

"It is very important to take part in this kind of training when you are at work. The challenge is that some government employees, having submitted their certificate and fortunately got a job, then no longer attend any training while at work. This causes a lot of problems in the implementation of projects, as the supervisor or executive of a public institution is not aware of the important things," said Mtaka.

He called on the region's staff to ensure that they make good use of the training provided by PPRA, to ensure value for money available to projects undertaken in the region aimed at bringing development to the people.

He however directed public parastatals in the region to ensure they provide funds for their staffs who are to attend the Annual Public Procurement Symposium, to be held in Dodoma from May 26-27, 2021 and in Arusha from June 1-3, 2021 as it is a unique opportunity to bring together various public procurement stakeholders to discuss, share experiences, learn and find solutions to the challenges they face.

Commenting on the implementation of construction projects using the 'Force Account' system, Mtaka advised PPRA to



find a better way to evaluate projects undertaken within five years and advised the government on how to improve the use of the system,

especially the issue of quality.

"We probably avoided the cost, but we came to the challenge of quality. We will make a good assessment, for

the next five years of 'Force Account', PPRA helps us come up with well-analyzed advice, maybe this process is good for certain types of projects and

what it is," he said.

He also thanked PPRA for selecting the region as one of the regions that had received this important opportunity for training and asked it to return as soon as possible.

PPRA Chief Executive Officer, Eng Leonard Kapongo, said that the training was 100% funded by the government through PPRA, underfunding, through the 'Public Finance Management Improvement Program' (PFMRP). Thus, participants did not contribute to the cost of training.

He said participants in the training would have the opportunity to discuss challenging areas in project management, including using the Force Account system and understanding how best to seek solutions.

"It is our hope that, after this training, participants will make good use of the education they receive to ensure they effectively manage public procurement processes, so that every project implemented adheres to the rules and procedures of public procurement with a view to bringing development to the people," said Eng Kapongo.

PPRA has conducted the training in 14 regions, including Ruvuma, Njombe, Iringa, Kagera, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Geita, Rukwa, Katavi, Tabora, Mbeya, Dodoma, Songwe, and Mara regions. The authority has said it plans to conduct similar training soon in Mwanza Region.

Participating executives had the opportunity to be educated on the Public Procurement Act Chapter No.410, the various methods used in public procurement, the entire public procurement process, Documents, and various Public Procurement Guidelines prepared and issued by PPRA.

Insurance firm to expand its wings across Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

ASSEMBLE Insurance Company is set to increase penetration in the country's market outlets, in new drive to serve more Tanzanians with better, diverse and competitive services.

Firm's managing director, Violet Mordichai revealed this over the weekend when speaking during iftar gathering organised for its stakeholders in Mwanza.

The event is part of the company's move towards introducing the new brand identity, Assemble Insurance Company Limited (Previously known as AAR Insurance) to the Mwanza stakeholders along with thanking them for the support they have provided the company, as well as highlighting the improvement associated with the name

changing measures.

Assemble Insurance Company Limited is currently in Dar es Salaam and branches in the cities of Arusha, Mwanza, and Dodoma and in Zanzibar, serving more than 50,000 members and beneficiaries.

Violet said that the company also plans to open more branches in other regions in the country, noting:

"There're many institutions, stakeholders, and individuals contributed in one form or another to make the company spread its roots to Tanzania. The very efforts sowed the seed of success, which passed through multiple necessary transitions.

"I would like to wholeheartedly take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude to all our Mwanza customers, institutions and all stake-

holders for showing trust in us and for your boundless support to this company. This is a huge and historical step for the company, and we wouldn't have achieved this without you," she said

According to Violet, AAR Insurance Company was known in providing health insurance services, but now with Assemble Insurance, the company will provide both health and non-health insurance services, hence the company name Assemble' it reflects the collection of various types of insurance services that will be provided under one umbrella.

For his part, firm's board of director, Dr Edmund Mndolwa, assured the stakeholders that the company will continue offering the best quality and unique services that will meet and exceed customer needs.

He said: "It's our promise that Assemble Insurance will always support the efforts to achieving 100 percent universal healthcare coverage, providing the best insurance services while complying with laws of the land."

"I would like to assure you that, by joining and being a part of Assemble Insurance Company Limited, you are in safe hands, and we will always strive to provide you with better insurance services, with ASSEMBLE your future is protected," Dr Mndolwa said.

The iftar gathering comes after the official launch of the new brand Identity of Assemble Insurance that was held in Dar es Salaam Region last month. The event was the culmination of enormous collective effort which began 35 years ago, when AAR Insurance started its operations in East African.

UK parliamentary committee recognises AfDB's efforts in responding to COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has welcomed a report published by the UK House of Commons' International Development Committee on Britain's support to the African Development Bank Group. The report was prepared by the Sub-Committee on the Work of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI).

The report recognises the Bank's effectiveness in responding to the pandemic and encourages the British government to work with it to ensure that momentum is not lost in 2021.

It notes: "We are heartened by the evidence of concerted and determined efforts on the part of the African Development Bank to mitigate the worst effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and support the response of individual countries. We also welcome what appears to have been wider enhanced coordination between development institutions in the face of the pandemic."

The UK is one of 28 non-regional members and shareholders of the African Development Bank Group. The report recognises the quality of the UK's engagement with the Bank and acknowledges the Bank's performance in supporting the UK's development priorities in Africa. It also found that the Bank compared well with other development institutions, both in Africa and beyond. Sub-Committee Chair Theo Clarke, said: "Since its inception, the African Development Bank has offered valuable financial assistance to developing countries across the continent."

Dr. Tamsyn Barton of the ICAI spoke positively about the Bank's progress in decentralizing its operations – which the UK has encouraged – and about recent policy capacity improvements, as well as the importance of the strong relationships the Bank has established with African governments.

Overall, the report reflects the UK's appreciation on its ability to work with the Bank to deliver funds to all parts of the continent. Debbie Palmer of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office said: "We can leverage... funds through our support [for the Bank]. We can reach places that we otherwise may not be able to reach with our bilateral funds. We can support regional investments in the large, cross-country infrastructure projects that Africa desperately needs and that the African Development Bank is investing in."

Through the report, the UK Parliament is encouraging the British government to ensure that it is up to date with capital for the African Development Bank as the UK's "important development partner." It states that one possible action which could improve the prospects for funding African infrastructure is faster disbursement of the African Development Bank's paid-in capital. It notes: "We urge the Government, through its position as UK Executive Director, to consider encouraging this and other possible routes to maintaining financial support for Africa's infrastructure development."



Assemble Insurance board of directors Dr Edmund Mndolwa cuts a cake to officially introducing the new company to Mwanza stakeholders at an iftar at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Covid moment' offers transformation on a plate to advertising industry

By Jarred Cinman

The ad industry and the marketing industry as a whole - has a less than stellar track record on the transformation front. A lot of focus has been on shareholding and 'optics'. Shareholding is important but invariably enriches a handful of individuals and optics are entirely the wrong motivation. Looking like you care about having a diverse company is very far away from actually having one.

In some ways, the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated impact on the economy has placed issues of transformation on the backburner for many organisations. As usual, the people who end up carrying the greatest burden of this setback are the very people transformation programmes and laws are meant to help.

Women's careers have been more severely impacted, and many of the worst impacted industries have more female workers. People of colour, who remain poorer within developed countries and fill many of the poorer countries in the world, are more vulnerable to job losses and have less access to medical care. The ability of rich countries to stockpile the Covid vaccine is as vivid an example of inequality as you could hope to find.

But perhaps the most pernicious impact of this pandemic on issues of diversity and transformation is that it is far easier to paint these matters as being of less importance. As with a world war or a huge natural disaster, when people and businesses are fighting for survival, who has time to think about complex, long-term and systemic issues? Equal pay: be glad you're getting any pay! Unfair power distribution: we just need to get things done around here, snowflake.

The ad industry - and to a lesser extent the marketing industry as a whole - has a less than stellar track record on the transformation front. A lot of focus has been on



shareholding and "optics". Shareholding is important but invariably enriches a tiny handful of individuals and optics are entirely the wrong motivation. Looking like you care about having a diverse company is very far away from actually having one. Time and again when I speak to people of colour in the industry I hear stories about a veneer of change papering over the same inequity.

And so this "Covid moment" is an important one. It can either take us years back in our efforts to change or it can be the opportunity for change many have been waiting for.

Fluid job market

This is a nice way of saying "a lot of people lost their jobs" last year. In some recent hiring we've done we have been amazed at how many superb candidates there are out there at the

moment. For the first time in a very long while it feels like there is some real competition to find work and stay put - at least until the storm clouds pass. This is not only a boon for employers - which it is - but it is also a chance to reshape our staff complements without having to jump through impossible financial hoops or choose from a thimbleful of options.

It's no secret that the pressure to change has created a windfall for certain senior individuals of colour in the industry. The legacy of apartheid combined with a lack of regard for this industry among many black parents has meant older, more experienced black talent has been fairly rare. This has allowed those people of colour who stuck it out in an industry that did everything to break them down to capitalise on that scarcity. There

are some fantastically talented and expert leaders out there, make no mistake, but there are also a lot of people trading on the demographic dividend. That is an obvious consequence of making an arbitrary physical trait - like skin colour - a key part of your hiring criteria.

But things have shifted. As agencies have downscaled, so have many slightly younger people had to search for new roles. These are the next generation of black talent, comparatively plentiful, which means a more normal meritocratic dynamic has kicked in. Thanks to Covid this means the talent pipeline looks a lot closer to the make-up of the South African population. And that is a chance for companies to make meaningful change and for excellent people of colour to snatch up roles as things rebuild.

The new geography

While it's true that quality of internet and computer equipment varies widely, and is linked to affordability, another major change that Covid has brought is to remove the daily commute from many employees' lives. For the people cleaning and making coffee in agencies, this isn't a win. But for anyone who lives far out of Sandton or Woodstock or De Waterkant, the ability to work from afar has been a dramatic game-changer.

It was not uncommon 12 months ago for employees from less fortunate backgrounds (often people of colour) to commute hours into and out of work. This also came with spiralling transport costs, an impact on family life and on psychological wellbeing.

It has proven to many managers and businesses that a talented copywriter or strategist or designer or coder can work from anywhere with an internet line. It has also enabled single mothers and women more generally to balance their parenting commitments and work in a whole new way.

Our industry has a chance to lock this in - and in doing so to become an attractive employer of a whole class of fabulous people not having to make insane compromises to work in it.

Following on from what I said above, remote working demands a different model of management, work and accountability. For some, the lack of oversight and communal workplaces isn't working. But for many, this is the flexible, outputs-based, anti-office-politics world they may never have even dreamed possible. It feels like a fairer social contract - no one knows what car you drive, your clothes and appearance matter less, your ability to work the room limited. If the research is to be believed this working model is closer to what many young people want - freedom and a chance to prove themselves on their own terms.

Diversity, ultimately, goes beyond gender and race - although those two domains have needed the most urgent attention. But a workplace, in particular an office, is a petri dish in which discrimination flourishes. Whether it's sexual orientation or introversion or physical appearance or disablement or age, we humans are gifted at othering. In theory, a less physical environment means that's just harder to do.

A much more pronounced version of this is already in play in online gaming where avatars stand in for people of all ages and description and what matters is how you play, not who you are. Work can never be quite so egalitarian but this new style is an improvement.

There are two huge caveats to what I'm saying. First, none of this is to deny the facts I began with. Women, people of colour and poorer people have been hit hardest in this pandemic and for many their lives are not blossoming with opportunity. At best I am pointing to some ways in which we could leave this trauma with long-term improvements. Whether we will or not is uncertain.

By Susan Booysen

Cyril Ramaphosa's evidence nevertheless illuminated the intersection of governing party and government - and how in cases of clashes of interest it has been (and is likely to continue to be) the party that prevails.

South Africa's dual system of government, partocracy in confluence with constitutional multiparty democracy, was at the centre of President Cyril Ramaphosa's fables of renewal and resurrection at the Zondo Commission this week.

The inputs revealed that the African National Congress (ANC) accepts that it has committed mistakes of corruption and capture, but that the ANC as a political party is not opening up to public scrutiny of its inner workings in relation to government - even if, in Ramaphosa's words, the way in which the ANC functioned as political party "had an impact on how corruption happened".

Ramaphosa's under-oath evidence at the Zondo Commission of Inquiry shone light, modestly, on questions that have been dogging South African politics for close to two decades. Few of the expositions were new; they tended to offer confirmations of known political praxis. The details nevertheless illuminated the intersection of governing party and government - and how in cases of clashes of interest it has been (and is likely to continue to be) the party that prevails.

Coming from the president of the ANC and South Africa, under oath and under unparalleled public scrutiny, even obfuscated details of South Africa's confirmed dual system of party and constitutional government - which I also detail in my book, *Prevarious Power* - were revealing.

When it came to the interface of party and government, and the shadow ANC structures like the ANC Political Committee (subcommittee to the National Executive Committee) ruling over Parliament,

Ramaphosa's Zondo show: Platitudes, fables of renewal and resurrection



President Cyril Ramaphosa during working visit to European Union, on November 14, 2018.

Ramaphosa laboured to string together words that would not discredit his party. His work as leader of government business at the height of State Capture did not bring him closer to transparency. It was a facilitative, rather than an executive role, he explained. It took deft verbal footwork to answer questions honestly yet remain true to the über power of the ANC, the platform for his own power. Both Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo and evidence leader Paul Pretorius allowed him the leeway.

When it came to the Ramaphosa forte, explanations that a new ANC is rising, he thrived. He recounted the fable of the dying eagle that rejuvenated itself and soared to new heights. He was aided by encouraging questions from Zondo; Pretorius even advised him on intra-organisational discipline and legal matters as they apply to members of volun-

tary organisations.

Ramaphosa fumbled his way through explaining why it took the ANC roughly five years from the time of revelations of Gupta influence in government politics and Cabinet appointments, to the point of the Gupta Leaks, for ANC public representatives to start investigating. Ramaphosa's flashes of discomfort extended into his explanation of vote-buying in the ANC, which entered the Zondo conversation on the back of considering patronage as a distortion of the democratic system. He would merely confess that "we have talked about it". He averred that the ANC's new, streamlined digitised system means membership is no longer subject to human manipulation. He blossomed again when the platform allowed him the space to talk about the political will to rid the ANC of patronage.

Many blank spaces remained after the two days of Ramaphosa's "evidence". A selection of the broad strokes tells the tale delivered by a president who had to be careful not to implicate himself or his party by acknowledging illicit or immoral activities by reference to the specifics of deeds and names.

There was confirmation that members of Parliament are but mere party political agents, subject not to the will of the people but to the ANC's Political Committee. This committee controls, among others, the caucus, chief whip and the speaker. It is the political party that interprets how the will of the people will be represented in Parliament. Individual MPs are only to use their own consciences in rare cases. Ramaphosa confirmed that the ANC MPs, along with other ANC employees, pay their monthly portion-of-salary contributions to

their deploying agent, the "cash-strapped" ANC.

The ANC party politically has been benefiting from contributions from several state-owned enterprises (SOEs), including Telkom and Prasa. The president's response was, "I agree, that should not happen" (unless money is given across the board to all political parties).

Before Ramaphosa's appearance, the commission had heard a mass of testimony that the SOEs had been captured thoroughly and their states of disrepair and distorted finances probably rendered them cash cows for a hungry ANC. Their board appointments were patronage machines. The president acknowledged that "some things happened". He added that there had been "massive system failure".

On both days of his testimony the president referred to the new Political Party Funding Act as revolu-

tionary. It came as an obvious relief that this instrument is on display as evidence of an initiative to remedy much of the ANC's funding excursions into the state coffers. The president explained the delay in promulgating this act - from adoption by Parliament in 2018 to his signing it in 2019 and promulgating it, finally, in 2021 - in terms of intra-ANC and interparty consultation and persuasion processes that had to run their course. He reckoned this act "will save our democracy".

Indirectly the ANC had accessed funding via procurement processes that offered massive gratitude donations. Bosasa was a case in point. The president opined that everything is wrong if a business wants something in return for a state contract, and that it is "a matter that should make us take a second look".

The ANC president conceded that the ANC's functionaries in the time of election campaigns knew that the ANC elections war room was a Bosasa project, but implied that this reality had passed him by. "It never really fully occurred to me" (that Bosasa was funding ANC election campaigns). He added: "I should have been aware." Bosasa, according to Ramaphosa, was "one of those anomalous" happenings.

The Gupta wedding plane landing at Waterkloof "raised eyebrows but it happened and that is how it happened". He agreed that the Guptas donated to the ANC, but was uncertain whether they had funded the ANC's 2012 Mangaung conference - the event that launched his ascendancy into the presidency.

Ramaphosa fumbled his way through explaining why it took the ANC roughly five years from the time of revelations of Gupta influence in government politics and Cabinet appointments, to the point of the Gupta Leaks, for ANC public representatives to start investigating. The president receded into the platitudes of "I accept and accede" and "at that level there was a dropping of the ball". "We were blinded by the events of the time", and "we should have been more alert".

BUSINESS



Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and Samia Suluhu Hassan at Nairobi State House, last week.

NON-TARIFF-BARRIER

AFA keeps tough terms on Tanzanian maize despite Uhuru directive

NAIROBI

Kenya is yet to relax strict conditions that it imposed on maize coming in from Tanzania even after President Uhuru Kenyatta issued a two-week ultimatum to have stocks held at the borders cleared.

A day after Mr Kenyatta directed Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya to ensure speedy clearance of the stocks, sector regulator Thursday issued a statement highlighting the conditions that will be adhered to before clearing the maize.

Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) said each consignment has to meet the maximum permissible aflatoxin levels of 10 parts per billion, a basis upon which maize from Tanzania and Uganda were barred from entering Kenya.

The guidelines also comprise other stringent requirements such as registration of all importers through the AFA's IMIS system and presentation of a copy of the certificate of registration to the inspector at the border point.

Traders will also be required to issue certificate of conformity from a

competent authority in the exporting country as evidence of the safety of the consignments and the produce will not be subjected to any further analysis. However, a sample may be taken randomly for confirmatory tests. These requirements look set to further delay the clearance of the stocks at the border and test the newly refreshed Kenya-Tanzania ties.

"The inspector shall issue a release order for each consignment that has met the above requirements to accompany the consignments to the point of offloading," said AFA yesterday. Mr Kenyatta said normal trade relations on grain should resume to ensure that business people do not suffer losses caused by the restrictions put in place two months ago.

"On the maize that is stuck at the border I have given you (CS Agriculture) two weeks to ensure that the stock is cleared," said President Kenyatta. Mr Kenyatta made the announcement on Wednesday during a joint session of Kenya and Tanzanian business community in Nairobi, which was attended by the visiting Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Female-owned investment firm Crystal Partners is launched in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Newly launched female-owned and led South African investments entity Crystal Partners is the latest investment company to open in South Africa and aims to be the premier partner of choice for global and local companies that are wanting to establish and expand their footprint in Africa. Crystal Partners is the alternative investments arm of Beryl Group - a pan-African investments company.

Kgomotso Motshidi, Executive Director of Crystal Partners explains that the launch of the new investment company coincides with the growth of entrepreneurship in Africa. "It is undeniable that Africa is the next frontier in terms of growth and entrepreneurial development - that is why it is timely for Crystal Partners to cement its place in the market."

Officially launching in Johannesburg on 27 April 2021, Crystal Partners is a majority black female-owned and led

investment entity. In an official press statement, Dr Keitumetse Mothibeli, CEO of Crystal Partners provides insight into the inspiration and meaning behind the name of the new company.

"In the literal and figurative sense, crystals signify the embodiment of clarity, but also, the formation of crystals speaks to a process of robust refinement to produce beauty and strength in one. That symbolises who we are as a company - we are not afraid to make bold moves in the marketplace." Crystal Partners is focused on providing and supporting business leadership that will have a positive social impact both in Africa and globally.

The new investment company's leadership team consists of Dr Mothibeli is flanked by Tumediso Lobelo who is an authority in business development and is a digital innovation advocate, as well as Kgomotso Motshidi, who amongst other highlights is a technologist, entrepreneur, and strategist.

MILESTONE

Minister Biteko salutes Azania Bank for 18.5bn/- Geita Gold Refinery loan

By Guardian Reporter

A modern gold refinery which has been bankrolled by an over 18.5bn/- Azania Bank Limited's loan is a major milestone in ensuring that the country's gold has value addition before going to the market.

Minerals Minister Dotto Biteko said in Geita last week when he visited Geita Gold Refinery that the state of the art refinery is a big boost to the country's gold mining industry. "We should appreciate that mining and in particular gold has been a major commodity contributing to the country's economy. But for a long period of time, our gold has faced challenges of quality in the market, this factory will help change such a story," Biteko said.

He said the factory which is due to commence production activities this month, will also ensure that gold from artisanal and small scale miners will have an assured market the factory with capacity of 440 kilograms of pure gold a per day. Biteko said the government has been working hard to attract investments in value addition of the country's minerals much of it has been exported abroad crude which earns the country less compared to purified minerals.

"I would like to congratulate this local investors for coming up with such a modern refinery that will also offer jobs and expertise to Tanzanians," he noted saying



Minerals Minister Dotto Biteko takes a close look at modern mining equipment installed at Geita Gold Refinery when he visited the factory last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

banks in the country should emulate Azania's example by giving Tanzanians loans to invest in profitable projects such as mining.

He revealed that an exercise to seek a qualified investor to put up the refinery started in 2016 when 34 companies submitted bids but all failed to meet conditions which led to a second tender with 16 companies participating. "I congratulate this local investor for the good job," Minister Biteko added while challenging other local investors to make use of banks to tap the country's vast mineral potential.

Speaking at the event, Geita Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel said after getting the investor, his office gave him all the support to ensure that the refinery project is located in prime area with all necessary infrastructure and resources.

"This investment is a major milestone in the country's mining history because our gold which was being lost or sold while raw, will now be refined before going to the market," Gabriel said adding that the refinery will help Geita Region attract more investment both local and foreign.

One of Geita Gold Refinery Directors, Dr Athumani Mfutakamba said after getting the investor, his office gave him all the support to ensure that the refinery project is located in prime area with all necessary infrastructure and resources.

"The factory has capacity to refine up to 4,000 kilograms per annum which will earn the country one billion US dollars per annum in forms of taxes, loyalty, fees but also buy raw gold from artisanal and small scale miners," Dr Mfutakamba said while promising that over 95 percent of workers will be Tanzanians.

ALERT

NEMC issues ultimatum to illegal sand miners along Msimbazi River in Dar

By Francis Kajubi

ILLEGAL sand miners who have invaded Msimbazi River basin in Dar es Salaam have been warned against possible arrest and prosecution because they are degrading the environment and threatening infrastructure. The sand is widely used for construction purposes.

National Environment Management Council (NEMC)'s Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka issued the warning on Saturday when he led a delegation to visit the most affected areas of the river which is badly inundated as a result.

Dr Gwamaka said illegal sand miners are threatening infrastructure such as bridges and roads because their activities are leading to soil erosion by widening the river bed which also threatened people's lives as residential houses are exposed.

"The council is appealing to residents along the river basin avoid doing illegal sand business that perpetuates environmental degradation. From today's inspection, NEMC has learnt that there is a serious problem which needs urgent action as houses are collapsing, cemeteries destroyed," he noted.

According to him, NEMC's first task is to restore the river bank and rectify its flow course because



NEMC director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka.

illegal mining has shifted it. "We have seen the situation is very bad. There are about three hundred graves that have been washed away as a result of illegal sand mining," noted saying as a result of soil erosion, even factories are facing the risk of collapsing.

Dr Gwamaka had earlier received complaints from the residents about how the problem started and how it is being

handled by local government officials. He blamed small scale sand businesspeople of neglecting conservation for the sake of profit making.

Rajab Nassoro Chairman Mongolandege Ward in Ilala City told the NEMC chief that they as local government officials do not issue permits to sand miners along Msimbazi River but have been warning them to stop the

malpractice or risk prosecution.

"Some permits to clear the river of waste are issued by higher authorities without our involvement hence the crisis," Nassoro said adding that those coming to clear banks of debris also end up mining sand illegally. "It's been hard for us to stop this malpractice," he lamented while urging NEMC to come down hard on the defaulters.

CRISIS

African leaders seek vaccine-making sites

ADDIS ABABA

Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal are among countries calling for the establishment of full vaccine-manufacturing plants to prepare for future pandemics after Africa found itself at the back of the queue for Covid-19 shots.

While many developed nations are well advanced with their vaccination rollouts,

most African countries are almost out of initial supplies and the continent accounts for just 2% of global administered shots, data from the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show.

There are fewer than 10 vaccine manufacturers in Africa, based across Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal and South Africa, according to the World Health Organisation.

And most of those carry out packaging and labeling rather than manufacturing. That makes the continent ill-equipped to source and supply doses in times of crisis, as this pandemic has demonstrated.

"The only way to ensure vaccine equity is to produce more vaccines where they are needed," Rwanda President Paul Kagame said this week. "So long as Africa remains

dependent on other regions for vaccines, we will always be at the back of the queue whenever there is scarcity."

Among the biggest barriers to local manufacturing are intellectual-property protections. Almost 100 developing countries led by India and South Africa have petitioned for a waiver and the sharing of recipes for Covid-19 doses, but that's been

opposed by some nations and the drugmakers themselves. The US unexpectedly changed its stance to back the proposal this week, opening the door to negotiations between members of the World Trade Organisation.

The campaign "is understandable given past and present experience of waiting in line to get life-saving medications and vaccines,"

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of WTO, said at a conference last month. WTO members "must increase vaccine production now and also look for pragmatic outcomes" to the intellectual-property protection issue.

Vaccine manufacturing needs both significant financing and specialised skills to build factories that can be certified as free from

contamination, said Stavros Nicolaou, chairman of South Africa's local pharmaceutical manufacturers industry association. "These skills and expertise are in limited supply on the continent," he said. "It is possible to build further fill-and-finish capacity, but this requires local manufacturers having guaranteed off-takes and ongoing demand."

SOCIAL BEBENEFIT

Thousands to benefit from SBL's 220m/- water supply project in Serengeti District

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 12,000 residents of Machochwe Division of Serengeti District of Mara Region heaved a sigh of relief after Serengeti Breweries Limited handed over a water project worth 220m/- last week.

The solar powered project has water pump capable of producing 7,500 litres per hour which SBL's Corporate Director, John Wanyancha said will also help serve thousands in the district. Wanyancha said under SBL's 'Water of Life' initiative, the brewer has already financed similar projects in Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Tanga, Ruvuma, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Dodoma Regions supplying over one million people with clean and safe water.

"SBL has a policy of supporting the wellbeing of the community with Water of Life being one of our four priority areas that the company financed," he said while describing other priority areas as provision of skills for life, environmental sustainability and promotion of responsible drinking.

The SBL Corporate Director further noted that Machochwe Project will not only improve residents' health but also boost economic productivity as time spent fetching water gets spared.



SBL's corporate director, John Wanyancha.

"Particularly girls and women will no longer need to spend long hours to fetch clean water which gives them an opportunity to at-

tend classes but also engage in income generating activities," he noted.

Speaking after officially receiving

the project, Serengeti District Commissioner, Nurdin Babu paid tribute to SBL management and employees for providing

the much-needed support to his community.

"We as government appreciate very much the role being played by Serengeti Breweries in supporting development projects in the country that lead to a healthy and productive society," Babu said. He advised the beneficiaries to make better use of the project so that it lasts longer but also help them fight against poverty by engaging in productive income generating activities.

Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, SBL is the second largest beer company in Tanzania, with its beer brands accounting for over 25 percent of the market by volume. SBL has three operating plants in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi.

Since the creation of SBL in 2002, the business has grown its portfolio of brands year on year. The majority stake acquisition by EABL/Diageo in 2010 has seen increased investment in international quality standards leading to greater job opportunities for the people of Tanzania.

SBL Brands have been receiving multiple international awards and include Serengeti Premium Lager, Serengeti Lite, Pilsner Lager, Pilsner King, Tusker Lager, Tusker Lite, Kibo Gold, Guinness stout and Senator.

WINDFALL

Fintech bright spot Africa catches up in bumper funding year

JOHANNESBURG

Fintech companies in Africa raised more capital despite the Covid-19 pandemic, standing in contrast to their emerging-market peers such as Latin America that saw a decline.

The continent saw fintech funding, including mergers and acquisitions, grow to \$1.35 billion last year from \$1 billion in 2019, according to a report by BFA Global's Catalyst Fund and Briter Bridges published on Thursday. While Indian and Latin American fintech companies still raised more money than those in Africa, their volumes fell from the previous year as they battled to close later-stage deals.

"The numbers of pre-seed and seed deals in Africa are increasing," the report said. "While Latin America and India are seeing a growing number of mega-deals African markets are only beginning to see a few such late-stage deals."

Investors also see opportunity among its large unbanked population of 350 million, which accounts for 17% of the global total. Most investments on the continent flowed to Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa, according to the report, which surveyed 177 startups and 33 impact investors across emerging markets.

Growing interest

The region's fintechs haven't yet raised funding through an initial public offering but they have enjoyed fast growing merger-and-acquisition activity, with international companies including Visa, Network International Holdings and Stripe growing their interests in the region.

Nigeria has especially benefitted from the financial-technology boom that has put much of Africa at the cutting edge of the revolution in mobile money. In 2020, Stripe paid \$200 million (R2.84 billion) to acquire Nigerian startup Paystack.

Flutterwave, based in Lagos and San Francisco, raised \$170 million this year, becoming Nigeria's second fintech startup with a valuation above \$1 billion, after Interswitch. Of the \$105 billion received by fintech firms in 2020, \$76 billion flowed to the US.

In Latin America, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay and Colombia made up 99% of regional fintech investment, while India, Singapore and Indonesia were the most popular destination for funds in South Asia and Southeast Asia. India netted \$3 billion for fintechs alone.

"After the initial shock of the pandemic wore off, many investors continued to close deals, albeit remotely," the report said. Investors preferred to pour cash into payments over other product categories, it said.

ued at 53m/- to several public schools in Dodoma Region. The bank's Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi said the donation is part of NMB's Ibn/- allocated from its profits made through its commercial activities last year.

"Our support goes to three main sectors which are education, health and relief aid when disaster strikes the community," Mlozi said adding while naming some of the beneficiary schools as Chiwondo, dabalo, Igamba, Msanga Primary Schools and Chamwino District Hospital.

Dodoma City Mayor, Professor Davis Mwamfupe commended the bank for the support saying its will help reduce shortage facing public schools and institutions in the capital. "It's high time that the public should support NMB's activities because it is truly a people's bank," he noted.

BOOST

By Guardian Reporter

SCIENCE and technology innovators in the country are an important factor to speed up growth and the journey towards graduating into a semi industrialised economy by 2025.

NMB's Chief Treasurer, Aziz Chacha said in Dodoma on Friday after handing over a 15m/- cheque to Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako that the bank backs state efforts to identify and nurture young blood in the field of science and technology innovation.

"NMB has been supporting innovation in science and technology through sponsoring the competition but also by giving them loans to enable them translate their ideas into goods and services," Chacha said.

He said some innovators have big ideas which if funded can offer employment to thousands of people hence commercially viable for NMB to finance. Chacha added that NMB has been working with Ministry of Education which organises the competition annually because it understands the importance of the initiative.

Bank backs science and technology innovation competition with 15m/-



NMB's treasurer chief, Aziz Chacha.

"NMB has also been supporting education, health and other community projects as part of giving back to the public which supports our business activities," he stated while pledging continued support to the community.

In a key note address, Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako thanked the bank's leadership saying its valuable support to government's development plans is exemplary.

"This contribution will go a long way in improving the competition and we thank NMB for the support," Prof Ndalichako said adding that the bank has been supporting the completion annually which helps identify new talent.

She pledged that the government will continue allocating the budget annually to help identify new talent which is needed to spur growth of the country. "The competition involves youths from primary schools, vocational colleges, universities and also those in the informal businesses," the Minister added.

Meanwhile NMB donated 450 desks, 60 chairs and tables all val-

EMPOWERMENT

Ecobank Tanzania allocating 10pc of commercial loans to women-led businesses



Ecobank Tanzania's managing director, Charles Asiedu, speaks at a past event in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Reporter

FEMALE owned and led businesses are a target of Ecobank Tanzania's recently launched flagship 'Women's Programme Ellevate' to empower them with financial and value-added solutions that will help their businesses reach full potential.

Ecobank Tanzania's Managing Director, Charles Asiedu said in Dar es Salaam last week that the growth of women-led and women-focused businesses have been long hampered by a range of impediments, including access to finance.

"We have specially designed Ellevate to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs through the provision of

comprehensive, customized and tailor made solutions which include favourable lending rates, smart cash management enablement and a suite of value-added services such as leadership training, mentoring and networking opportunities," Asiedu said adding that the bank is allocating a minimum of 10 percent of its commercial banking loan portfolio to women's businesses.

He said small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for about 90 percent of all businesses in Africa and women own about a third of all registered African SMEs with one-in-four (25.9 percent) of adult women in Africa start or manage a business. Asiedu further noted that

however, women have not enjoyed equal access to high quality, demand driven financial services and it is estimated that women-owned SMEs face a US\$42 billion financing gap. "Women-led businesses are a largely underserved market and Ecobank Tanzania is determined to help them reach their potential, grasp business opportunities and become both scalable and sustainable," he added.

The Ecobank Tanzania chief further noted that the financing will enable women led businesses play a major role in the country's social and economic development, in addition to creating millions of jobs needed by youth.

WORLD

Blinken admits some US actions undermine global order

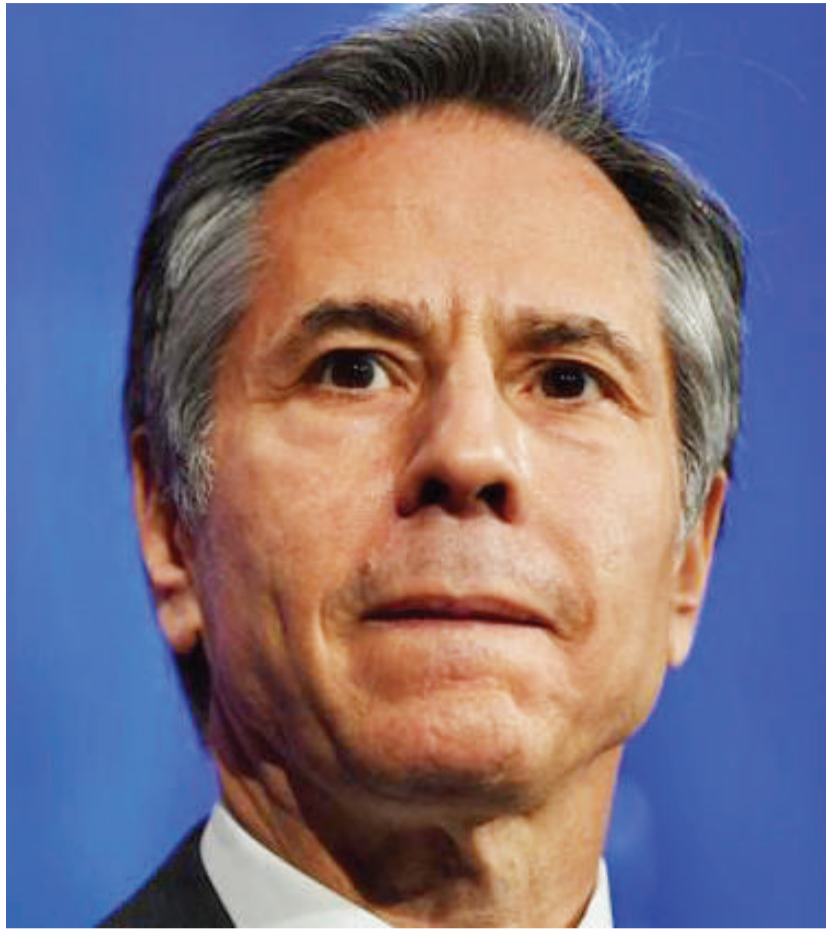
WASHINGTON
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday that some US actions in recent years have undermined the rules-based world order.

"I know that some of our actions in recent years have undermined the rules-based order and led others to question whether we are still committed to it," Blinken made the remarks at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Multilateralism.

During the administration of former

US President Donald Trump, the United States announced its exit from some international agreements, such as its withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal, a landmark agreement signed in 2015 between Iran and six major countries.

The United States decided to quit the Paris Agreement in June 2017 and formally withdrew from the climate change deal on Nov 4, 2020, making it the only nation among nearly 200 signatories that has abandoned this global agenda on combating climate change.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

China's Sinopharm vaccine to play greater role in helping defeat COVID-19

GENEVA
WORLD Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced Friday that China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine has been validated for emergency use.

This makes it the first Chinese vaccine that has been officially recognized by the WHO. This also means that the China vaccine can play a greater role in helping defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sinopharm's vaccine is the first COVID-19 vaccine developed by a developing country that has been validated by the WHO, and the sixth vaccine that has been approved for emergency use globally.

Ghebreyesus said the WHO has included this vaccine on the emergency use list because of its "safety, efficacy and quality."

Indeed, this vaccine has been proved to be effective with solid data to support this. Just as Mariangela Simao, WHO assistant director general for access to health products, pointed out the vaccine's efficacy for symptomatic and

hospitalized disease was estimated to be 79 percent, for all age groups combined.

"The addition of this vaccine has the potential to rapidly accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries seeking to protect health workers and populations at risk," she said.

A small detail can show the vaccine's convenience for storage and use.

The vaccines carry a vial monitor, a small sticker on the vaccine vials that can change its color when the vaccine has been exposed to heat, which can directly tell whether the vaccine can be safely used.

A WHO press release also noted that the Sinopharm vaccine is easy to store, making it highly suitable for low-resource settings.

As the world is racing against time to beat COVID-19, the Sinopharm vaccine offers countries more choices with its accessibility and affordability, helping the world overcome the vaccine divide.

The WHO has repeatedly urged some developed countries to stop over-purchasing vaccines or imposing vaccine export restrictions. United



WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly criticized some developed countries for hoarding vaccines and striking private deals with vaccine suppliers, as some developing countries are struggling to get access to vaccines. China has, so far, provided vaccine assistance to more than 80 developing countries, helping them solve their urgent needs and saving

many lives.

Once on the WHO list of emergency use, the Chinese vaccine can help accelerate the promotion of global vaccine coverage, which is crucial to international cooperation on controlling the pandemic as soon as possible.

Last but not least, the validation of the Sinopharm vaccine by the WHO has also greatly boosted the confi-

dence of developing countries to strengthen their research and development capabilities to seek solutions for major domestic and global health problems.

As the WHO chief noted, "this expands the list of vaccines that COVAX can buy, and gives countries confidence to expedite their own regulatory approval, and to import and administer a vaccine." *Xinhua*

EU tells Biden to export vaccines now, worry about IP later

LISBON

EUROPEAN Union leaders urged US President Joe Biden to lift restrictions on exports of COVID-19 vaccines to address the desperate needs of developing countries before embarking on complex discussions about whether patent waivers might also boost supply in the longer term.

Gathering in Porto, Portugal on Friday and Saturday shortly after the US suggested suspending intellectual property rights to boost the supply of COVID-19 shots, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italy's Mario Draghi appealed in unison to the US president to fol-

low the EU example and start shipping significant numbers of vaccines. They argued that any patent waiver will only increase supply in the long term and the world needs a faster solution.

"I hope that now that large parts of the American society have been vaccinated we will come to a free exchange of components and opening of the market for vaccines," Merkel told reporters in Berlin after dialing in remotely to the summit talks. "Europe has always exported a big part of its production to the world and that should now become the regular case."

Vaccine manufacturers in the EU have exported about half of the 400 million shots



they've produced whereas the US has gobbled up nearly all of the doses produced on its soil. According to the Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker, the US has now fully vaccinated a third of its population while in India, where the virus is raging out of control, only 2.5 percent of the population is fully immunized.

EU

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said on Saturday at the end of the social summit of the European Union (EU) held in the Portuguese city of Porto that leaders of the EU countries understand that there are "more pressing issues" than patent waiver on vaccines against COVID-19.

Speaking to journalists, von der Leyen said this topic "is important," but will be discussed "in the long term, not in the short or medium term."

According to her, Europe should not "lose sight of the main urgencies," which are "production of vaccines as soon as possible and how they will be

distributed in a fair and equitable way."

The EU executive stressed that "the European Union is the pharmacy of the world."

Argentina

Argentina on Saturday reported 170 more deaths from COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, raising the nationwide tally to 67,042, the health ministry said.

Meanwhile, 18,024 new infections were reported, bringing the national count to 3,136,158, the ministry said.

A total of 5,285 patients have been hospitalized in intensive care units, with a bed occupancy rate of 68.3 percent nationwide and 75.3 percent in the city of Buenos Aires.

100th anniversary of CPC a milestone in China's development, says former Singaporean FM

SINGAPORE

THE 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is a milestone in China's development, said Singapore's former Foreign Minister George Yeo.

When talking about the CPC, one needs to review the history of the Chinese revolution, "which is the greatest revolution in human history," Yeo (pictured) told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"I've been watching Awakening Age (a TV series on the founding of the CPC), reviewing the debates in China after Xinhai Revolution in 1911, and finally the creation of the Chinese Communist Party," Yeo said.

The revolution in China was full of twists and turns, but all the time the CPC has been learning and finding a way forward, harnessing the unity, the energy and the creativity of the Chinese people.

A key achievement of the CPC is to elevate the status of women in society.

"The result is that Chinese women today is probably the most liberated among all Asian women," he said.

Worldwide, a very exciting chapter is being revealed in human history, and it represents a new internationalism, he said.

Now many countries are going to the Moon and the Mars. "There do people fight each other or cooperate with each other? As a challenge to all human beings, this requires a new thinking," he added.

Today China is possibly the most digital society in the world, Yeo said, citing applications of e-commerce, facial recognition, artificial intelligence and digital currency.

Moreover, China aims to raise its urbanization rate to 65 percent during the 2021-2025 period, according to the recently published 14th Five-Year Plan.

Other countries will watch and learn what China does, he said, and likewise, China can learn from other people's successes, as "we can only find the way to the future by learning from the experiences of others."

It requires a very lively party which is very open to the world and to new ideas, and takes a lively interest in the experiences of others and learn from them, said Yeo.

Xinhua

Car bombing at Kabul school kills 58, injures over 150

KABUL

EXPLOSIONS caused by a car bomb and mortars outside a school in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday killed at least 58 people and wounded over 150, mostly female students, officials said, in an attack President Ashraf Ghani blamed on Taliban insurgents.

A senior security official told Reuters on condition of anonymity that most of the casualties were students coming out of the Sayed ul Shuhada school, and many were badly wounded in hospital.

Footage on TV channel ToloNews showed chaotic scenes, with books and school bags strewn across a blood-stained road, and residents rushing to help victims.

"It was a car bomb blast that occurred in front of the school entrance," an eyewitness told Reuters, asking not to be named. He said all but seven or eight of the victims were schoolgirls going home after finishing their studies.

At the Sayed ul Shuhada high school, girls and boys study in three shifts, the second of which is for female students, Najiba Arian, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Education, told Reuters. The wounded were mostly female students, she said.

A spokesman for the interior ministry, Tariq Arian, said the death toll was at least 30 with 52 injured.

At a nearby hospital, staff wheeled in injured students while dozens of distressed relatives searched for their sons and daughters, according to a Reuters witness.

"I do not know what country we are in ... We want peace and security," a grieving relative of one of the victims told Reuters.

Kabul has been on high alert since Washington announced plans last month to pull out all US troops by Sept 11, with Afghan officials saying the Taliban have stepped up attacks across the country following the announcement.

Libya armed groups raid hotel where presidency met

ARMED groups in Tripoli on Friday stormed a hotel where Libya's new Presidency Council meets, the council's spokeswoman said in a social media post, underscoring the continued risks to the unity government.

Unverified images on social media showed armed, uniformed men standing at the entrance to the Corinthia Hotel, but Presidency Council spokeswoman Najwa Wahiba said nobody from the council was in the building.

The groups have voiced anger at the Government of National Unity's Foreign Minister, Najla el-Mangoush.

The Presidency Council, which functions as head of state, was chosen through a United Nations-facilitated process that selected a new Government of National Unity that took office in March, replacing rival administrations in east and west.

Unity Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibeh has worked to win support from Libya's many rival factions, forming a large cabinet that included an array of ideological and regional figures.

However, both the Presidency Council and Government of National Unity have faced both internal criticisms and challenges to



Mohamed al-Manfi (right), head of Libya's presidency council, and new interim Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh. File photo

their authority.

In eastern Libya, commander Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA) still hold sway nearly a year after their 14-month offensive to seize the capital collapsed.

In Tripoli, the armed groups that pushed Haftar back from the capital with Turkish support still control the streets.

Foreign mercenaries remain entrenched on both sides of the heavily fortified front line, despite international calls for the warring sides to pull them from the country.

Last week, Foreign Minister Man-

goush repeated the call for all foreign fighters to leave while standing next to visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Turkey says its military presence in Libya is different to that of other foreign forces because it was invited by the previous UN-recognised government and it will not withdraw until others do.

Before the hotel was stormed on Friday, an operations room for the Tripoli armed groups said on social media that it had met to discuss "irresponsible statements" by Mangoush and later called on the GNU to formally reject Haftar.

Agencies

Biden says confident to hold summit with Putin in June

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden said on Friday that he is confident that a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin could be arranged in June, downplaying the impact of Russian-Ukrainian border tension to the summit.

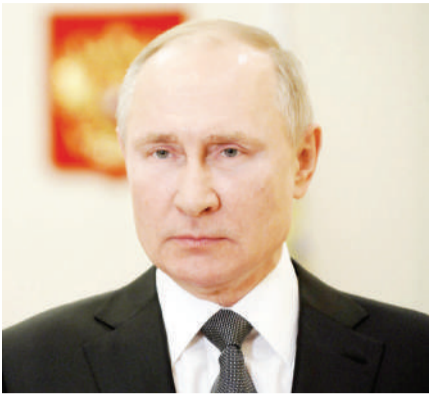
"I'm confident we'll be able to do it. We don't have any specific time or place. That's being worked on," Biden told reporters in the White House when asked about meeting with Putin in June.

He also suggested Russia's military buildup along the border with Ukraine would not change his intention to meet with Putin.

"It does not impact my desire to have a one on one meeting ... He (Putin) had more troops (at the border) before. He has withdrawn troops. There are still troops amassed, but significantly less than he had a month ago."

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said later in a daily press briefing that the discussions between two sides over the summit's location, timing, and agenda are still underway.

She added the United States and



Russia would continue to disagree over multiple issues while noting these disagreements would not need to be resolved before the summit.

Biden said earlier this week that he expected to meet with Putin during the upcoming trip to Europe in June, when he will attend the Group of Seven Summit in Britain and then the NATO Summit in Brussels, Belgium.

Relations between Washington and Moscow have been adversarial in recent years. The two were bitterly divided over Ukraine, human rights, cybersecurity issues, and they mutually accused the other of domestic political interference.

Indian states impose stricter lockdowns as deaths hit record high

NEW DELHI / YANGON

INDIA on Saturday reported its highest ever single-day COVID-19 death toll, as cases continued to rise and states imposed stricter lockdowns.

India's health ministry reported 4,187 fatalities over the past 24 hours, taking the overall death toll to just under 240,000. Cases rose by 401,078, increasing the total since the start of the pandemic to 21.9 million.

Tamil Nadu, known for its automobile manufacturing, said it would move from a partial to a full lockdown on Monday, stopping public transport and shutting state-run alcohol retailers.

Neighbouring Karnataka state extended a total shutdown late on Friday. The state capital Bengaluru is a major tech hub, home to major offices of companies.

While cases in the country's northern and western areas have borne the brunt of the pandemic, southern states including Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have seen infections surge.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka on Saturday approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in Sri Lanka, as the island nation battles a third wave of the virus, while suffering a restricted supply of vaccines from neighboring India.

Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle, the minister overseeing the fight against the epidemic, said in a statement the government would order 5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

The island nation reported 1,914 new cases and 19 deaths in the past 24 hours, according to federal health data, and its total number of active cases is higher than any point since the pandemic began. Infections surged after crowded celebrations for traditional New Year last month.

New Zealand

New Zealand will lift its partial suspension of a "travel bubble" with Australia from midnight on Sunday as fears of a COVID-19 outbreak in Sydney eased.

New Zealand had blocked travel to and from New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, on Thursday after a couple in Sydney with no links to high risk professions or people tested positive for COVID-19.

The cases prompted a reinstatement of some social distancing measures around Sydney, and a campaign to get more people tested, as authorities scrambled to determine the source of infection.

However, state health officials on Saturday reported a second straight day without a new case, allaying concerns about a wider outbreak in the city.

Meanwhile, New Zealand recorded three new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, said the Ministry of Health in a statement.

According to the ministry, the three new cases of COVID-19 were recent returnees in managed isolation facilities, while there was no new case of COVID-19 in the wider New Zealand community.

The total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country reached 2,284.

Japan

The Japanese government said on Friday that it will tighten restrictions on Japanese nationals and residents arriving here from India, Pakistan and Nepal, amid concerns over highly transmissible virus variants wreaking havoc, particularly in India.

The stricter measures will come into effect from Monday, the government said, and will involve requiring passengers arriving from either of the three countries to stay in quarantine facilities designated by the government for six days.

Sweden's pandemic strategy questioned as COVID-19 cases top one million

STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN reported 1 million confirmed COVID-19 cases as of Thursday with 6,526 new cases detected in the past 24 hours.

It has also recorded 691.52 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants over the past 14 days, making it the hardest-hit country in the European Union, according to data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on Thursday.

Many schools were still shut down following the outbreak of the pandemic last year, and teachers and parents were critical of the way the government handled the pandemic, local media reported.

HIGH FATALITY

The death toll from the virus has reached 14,158 as of Thursday in Sweden since the pandemic started, according to data published by the Public Health Agency's press conference. Sweden has accelerated its vaccination program in the last few weeks, and yet the national count of COVID-19 cases is believed to top a million, as Sweden may be testing more extensively than other countries, the Swedish Public Health Agency said.

Karin Tegmark Wisell, head of the department of microbiology at the Public Health Agency, admitted the number of infections in Sweden has been underestimated and that one in four Swedes may have antibodies.

Senior citizens have fallen easy victim to the virus, not the least among death cases. Up to date, 9,609 of death cases in Sweden were found in people aged 80 or older, according to data from the Public Health Agency. The high death toll is a result of cluster outbreaks at nursing homes, especially during the first wave, critics said.

UNIQUE ROUTE

Except senior residents, other Swedes



A blue sign reminding people to keep a distance is seen in a subway train in Stockholm, Sweden, on Feb. 10, 2021. (Xinhua)

could go about their daily affairs pretty much as usual, while their elderly relatives and inhabitants had to endure strictly enforced lockdowns.

The government has taken measures to prevent the virus from entering nursing homes, and demanded distance education for high schools and university students since March last year.

Restrictions on the size of crowds in public places were also put in place. Nevertheless, the Swedish strategy was based on advice rather than curfews. The Swedish authorities took a different attitude towards the usage of facial masks.

The Public Health Agency believed masks could create a false sense of security and even increased the risks of infection if not handled properly. The public were asked to wear face masks when using public transport in January this year, yet this is still not mandatory in Sweden.

In March last year, Dagens Nyheter newspaper revealed that a leaked email showed that a Swedish state epidemiologist took a positive atti-

tude toward "a slow spread of infection among school children and their parents to build up herd immunity."

LESSONS LEARNED

In June last year, Ebba Busch, leader of the Swedish Christian Democrats, criticized the government's strategies. "In February, thousands of Swedes were allowed to land at Arlanda airport from areas that already had a large spread of infection.

Then they were allowed to go straight out into the community," Busch said. However, government ministers denied that this was part of Sweden's strategy when testifying before the Committee on the Constitution last month.

They also insisted that the government never had a formal strategy and that the restrictions were imposed on an ad-hoc basis based on advices from the Public Health Agency.

Six months after Busch's criticisms, King Carl XIV Gustaf vented his frustration in his traditional Christmas interview with Swedish

Television. By then Sweden had reported 7,000 COVID-19 deaths.

"I think we have failed. We have a large number who have died and that is terrible," he said. A commission of inquiry set up by the government in June last year was more specific in its criticism.

In the first report released in December, the commission concluded that nursing homes were "ill-prepared and equipped to deal with the pandemic" and that these problems had been known for a long time.

"The current government -- as well as previous governments -- bears the ultimate responsibility for these shortcomings," the report said.

The government presented a plan that all adults in the country will be offered vaccines before mid-September.

By Thursday, a total of 2,769,411 individuals, or almost 34 percent of the adult population, had received at least one dose of vaccine. Just over 794,000 individuals, or 9.7 percent of the adult population, were fully vaccinated.

At the press conference on Thursday, the Public Health Agency warned that the situation might worsen despite the vaccinations and asked all Swedes to strictly follow the authorities' advice on the prevention of the pandemic. **Xinhua**

Xi leads China's open economy as consumer expo opens

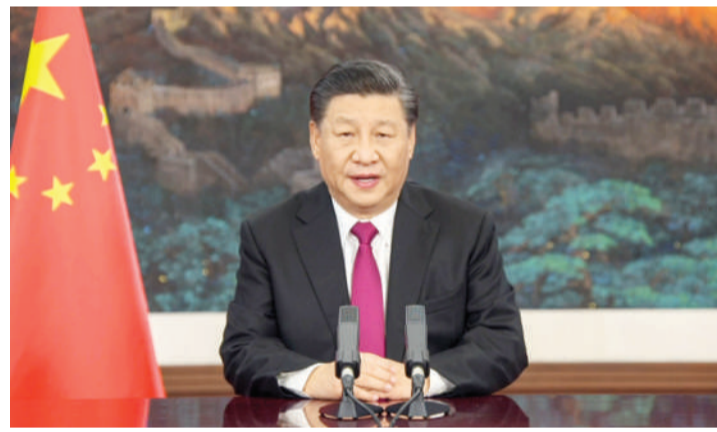
HAIKOU

THE inaugural China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) kicked off on Thursday in Haikou, capital of the southern island province of Hainan, pooling global high-end consumer brands to tap into the second-largest economy's market potential.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the expo. He said the expo, serving as a global platform of displaying and trading high-end consumer products, is conducive to all countries sharing opportunities provided by the Chinese market and conducive to global economic recovery and growth. The CICPE will also enable China to offer the world more quality consumer products, Xi said.

China is ready to give play to the advantages brought by the Hainan free trade port in comprehensively deepening reforms and putting up the highest-level opening-up policies on a trial basis, he added.

From the Canton Fair in Guangdong, the import-themed expo in Shanghai, the fair on trade in services in Beijing, to the CICPE, China has taken holding high-end international expos as one of the most effective ways to share its development opportunities with the rest of the world.



Chinese President Xi Jinping

The CICPE, the first-ever expo focusing on consumer goods held by China, is expected to attract more than 200,000 visitors from home and abroad.

A CHORD OF FREE TRADE

Listed as a new annual expo at the national level, the CICPE has attracted 648 overseas companies and 1,365 brands from 69 countries and regions. Slated for May 7-10, the expo covers 80,000 square meters, including 60,000 square meters of international exhibition space featuring products including cosmetics, automobiles, yachts, and garments.

The event is the first international expo held in Hainan since

unilateralism, and protectionism sentiments are rising, the very first China International Import Expo (CIIE) is witnessing the strengthening of business ties and increasing support for free trade.

Held in 2018 in Shanghai, the first CIIE attracted the participation of more than 3,600 companies from 172 countries and regions, with intended deals worth 57.8 billion U.S. dollars. At the expo, China announced a slew of opening-up measures, including further cutting import duties, relaxing market access for foreign investment, and implementing the system of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list, which have all taken place.

Despite disruptions by the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the third CIIE was held as scheduled and sealed higher deals than the previous events, with the intended one-year purchases of goods and services totaling 72.62 billion dollars.

Also, in 2020, the country hosted the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, sending another clear signal of its unwavering determination to open up wider to the world. **Xinhua**

Israel faces widespread criticism over Al-Aqsa mosque clashes

By Bloomberg

ISRAEL faced international criticism after clashes between police and worshippers at the Al-Aqsa mosque following protests over the potential eviction of Palestinians from a neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

The clashes continued Saturday night, the holiest night of the Muslim holiday of Ramadan.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates condemned Israel earlier Saturday. And envoys from the so-called Middle East Quartet said they're closely monitoring the situation and had "serious concern" about the possible evictions inflaming an already tense environ-

ment.

"We call upon Israeli authorities to exercise restraint and to avoid measures that would further escalate the situation," the envoys said in a joint statement. The Quartet is made up of nations and international entities involved in mediating the Israel-Palestinian peace process, including the EU, Russia, the US and the United Nations.

Separately, the US said late on Friday it was "extremely concerned about the ongoing confrontations in Jerusalem," noting that they've resulted in "scores of injured people."

"We call on Israeli and Palestinian officials to act decisively to deescalate tensions and bring a halt to the violence," State Department spokesman



Israeli security forces remove a burning barricade erected by Palestinian protesters in Jerusalem's Old City on Saturday.

Ned Price said.

In a statement, Bahrain's foreign minister called on Israel to immediately stop any further provocation of the people of Jerusalem. Israel's

plan to evict people from Jerusalem "violates the resolutions of international legitimacy, and undermines the chances of resuming the peace process to achieve security and stabil-

ity in the region."

'End All Attacks'

The Emirates called on Israeli authorities to "take responsibility for the de-escalation, to end all attacks and practices that lead to continued tension," according to a foreign ministry statement.

The UAE also stressed "the need to preserve the historical identity of occupied Jerusalem, calm down and exercise utmost restraint to avoid the region drifting into new levels of instability."

Bahrain became the second Gulf nation to normalize ties with Israel last year after the United Arab Emirates announced a similar plan.

The government's statement came after the US said it's "extremely concerned" about ongoing confrontations in Jerusalem, including on the Temple Mount and potential evictions in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods.

Israel's foreign ministry said Friday that some Palestinians were presenting a private real estate dispute as a national cause in order to incite violence in Jerusalem.

The Quartet envoys said they were "alarmed by the provocative statements made by some political groups, as well as the launching of rockets and the resumption of incendiary balloons from Gaza towards Israel, and attacks on Palestinian farmland in the West Bank."

"All leaders have a responsibility to act against extremists and to speak out against all acts of violence and incitement, they said, reiterating their commitment to a negotiated two-state solution.

Yanga shun Simba SC clash



Some of Yanga's supporters leave Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium once they had been informed of the cancellation of a Vodacom Premier League clash pitting Yanga against Simba, which was set to take place at the venue on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA have refused to honour their Vodacom Premier League match against Simba SC, nicknamed 'Dar Derby', which was set to take place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Initially, the match was scheduled to kick off at 17:00 but the kick off time was later pushed forward by two hours by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The federation stated the decision happened because of a directive by the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports and the relevant authorities.

It is a move that has not been well received by Yanga, who insisted they will stick to the initial plan.

"Yanga's management is disappointed with the pushing forward of the kick off time of the game against Simba from 5pm to 7pm," read a statement released by club.

The side noted: "The changes are against the rules, article 15 (10) of the rules governing the game in the country states 'any changes regarding the kick off should be communicated to both teams 24 hours earlier.'"

"Yanga management will not agree on the kick off time communicated and will honour the initial time, 5pm."

"The management has further challenges TFF to run the league in accordance with the set rules and guidelines."

True to their word, the team entered

the pitch and warmed up, preparing to play at 17:00.

They then selected their starting 11 for the game, who were Metacha Mnata, Adeyum Saleh, Shomari Kibwana, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Abdallah Shaibu, Mukoko Tonombe, Feisal Salum, Tuisila Kisinda, Said Ntibazonkiza, Yacouba Songne, and Michael Sarpong.

However, there were no match officials and the opponents, who had opted to abide by the time changes.

With Yanga standing their ground, the organisers had no alternative but issue statement noting the game has been postponed.

"The Vodacom Premier League clash pitting Yanga against Simba SC has been postponed," Simba posted on their official social media platforms.

"We take this opportunity to thank our fans who filled the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, ready to support us."

In the first round, Simba held Yanga, the 27-time Mainland Premier League champions, to a 1-1 draw.

Forward Michael Sarpong netted Yanga's opener from a spot kick they won when Simba center back Joash Onyango fouled Yanga winger Tuisila Kisinda within the box.

Sarpong rose to the occasion, sending Simba goalkeeper Aishi Manula the wrong way.

In the second half, Onyango, also featuring for Kenya's Harambee Stars, managed to head in a corner after the break to ensure spoils were shared.

Match forfeiture as a prism to map out the colours that make up city rivalry complex

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

REFUSAL by officials of Yanga to put the team on the ground following a rescheduling of the much awaited city derby with archrivals Simba SC was a massive letdown for millions of fans in the city and around the country waiting for the duel.

Many radio stations in the city had little else to talk about since early hours of the morning if not indeed all of the past week, which was driven to an anti-climax when it was belatedly discovered that the fixture would mess up a presidential function in the city.

It was the launch of a book on the life second phase President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, and the President could not be available before 4pm or thereabouts, and the function crossed the half hour into the game fixture.

There are several points of debate which were being raised by pundits at the material time, first the fact that it was the ministry responsible for sports that raised the issue of rescheduling the match to a late start.

It appears that this gave the Jangwani Street side its battle horse, that it was a sporting decision rather than a political one, as it wasn't announced by the police or central government beyond the sports hierarchy, and presumably that includes the ministry.

As it was within the sport hierarchy, all the more ag-



Yanga's keeper, Farouq Shikhalo (R), makes a save during his squad's Vodacom Premier League clash against Simba SC in Dar es Salaam recently.

grieved club needed to do was to identify which club the top official supports – or which faction in the club itself.

In that case it was a question of factional loyalty, that the club was saying 'no' to the Tanzania Football Federation or the National Sports Council, as the minister is taken to have been 'advised' by this or that official.

Examined closely, all this was a red herring to hide the more effective explanation of match forfeiture, namely to postpone or cancel the match for as long as it is manageable, given the fact that the Jangwani Street club side can scarcely be said to be comfortable in tackling Simba at the moment, even if that means three points are lost.

It will be a matter of blaming the leadership for points, and not for a loss.

There have been surprising instances where Yanga have shown up for an encounter with Simba at the final of the Mapinduzi Cup in Zanzibar, but on other occasions either side

has failed to show up when it feels it stands to lose or has no reason to believe it is likely to win.

Yanga had won over Simba in a previous encounter and drew at the end of the year, and in the circumstances prevailing at the time, saying 'no' to a Mapinduzi event could have been misunderstood.

It depends on the balance of psychological forces and if there was any specific leverage from higher authorities for the team to field for the tourney.

This cancellation of the match was another occasion of pretending not to have understood why the match should be pushed forward, where there are no relevant technical reasons.

One explanation if that the pre-match meeting had already set out all arrangements, for instance if players will be returning to their hotel camps by 8pm and the dinner be ready within half an hour or so, and all of a sudden this is pushed to two hours later due to the ministe-

rial directive.

Yanga pundits kept reading the matter in a sporting modality rather than its political side, in that by its very nature it couldn't have been predicted the President was going to be too busy to be present at the function by say 3pm so as to allow the fixture to proceed by 5pm.

There is another argument by Yanga pundits that at any rate the match had nothing to do with the book launch event, and thus no reason can be forwarded to justify pushing forward the match starting hour.

This is at best a sort of ingenuity, as the club knows like everyone else that when it comes to the two city giants meeting, there is no serious public function that could be going on and be taken seriously, as all ears and eyes would be on what is happening on the ground.

There is no question that having the derby starting at a moment that the function was scheduled to be continuing would disrupt it mentally from the start, as concentration would be directed to when the match starts, who is on the lineup, who are the match officials and the sort.

This may even have been noticed and thus belatedly cancelling the 5pm start.

There is another aspect that may also come up but it isn't yet visible, that there is a relaxed political atmosphere which enables different stakeholders to test the depth of the water in various areas.

It was a point raised at the book launch, when one opens windows, it isn't just fresh air that enters. Flies, too.

Coastal Union will not face relegation, insists coach



Coastal Union

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COASTAL Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda, has said that he believes they will continue taking part in the Vodacom Premier League next season.

Mgunda has led 11th-placed Coastal Union in a total of 28 matches, winning eight, registering draw in nine and losing 11.

Mgunda turns out to be the first coach, whose team ended Yanga's unbeaten streak in this season's Vodacom Premier League.

Coastal Union edged Yanga 2-1 win in the top flight tie, which took place at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Mgunda said they are currently gearing up for their remaining matches and they will remain in

the league.

He noted: "We are still fighting at the moment because we are in preparation and it is clear the league is tough, we are also fighting to get positive results."

"We are not in any competition at the moment other than the league and the youngsters are ready for the competition so I believe we can do well and we

are ready," he said.

Coastal Union crashed out of this year's Federation Cup's round of 16 stage, given they lost 2-0 to fellow top flight club, Mwadui FC.

Coastal Union will take on Simba SC in a Premier League clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 11.

In the two squads' first top flight meeting,

which took place in Arusha, Simba walloped Coastal Union 7-0.

The May 11 game will therefore be a revenge mission for Coastal Union as they lost three points in the first game.

It will be a struggle for Tanga club to stay in the league, which has Simba holding on to the first place with 61 points and seeking to defend the league title.

Athletes should concentrate on early preparations for Olympic Games-call

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE government has directed the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) to ensure domestic athletes start preparation for the Olympics, All-Africa Games and Commonwealth Games early on so that the country can do well in the competitions.

Speak Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hassan Abbas, issued the comments

when he met the TOC officials.

Abbas stated there should be various strategies that will facilitate participation and victory for the country in the competitions.

"Early preparations provide an opportunity for the country to prepare well for the competitions, I urge you to start now," Abbas noted.

The Olympic Games will be held in Tokyo later this year, the Commonwealth Games will be

held in August, next year in the UK and the All-Africa Games will be held in Ghana in 2023.

The meeting was also attended by the Director of Sports Development, Yusuph Singo, and the Acting Executive Secretary of the National Sports Council (NSC), Neema Msitha.

Abbas moreover called on sports betting companies to be part of sports promotion in the country and they are ought to contribute to the development of

national teams.

"The government's goal is to invest strategically in sports, to have a direct plan to support our national teams financially, I believe if we work closely together we can bring about positive change in the sports industry," he noted.

He said the challenges the companies face would be addressed through various forums and channels between the government and the companies.

He stressed there is a need for companies to join forces with the government and support sports.

Tanzania Sports Betting Association (TSBA)'s Chairman, Jimmy Kenneth, called on the government to address some of the challenges including the presence of unregistered betting companies in the country that cause the country to lose revenue.

Abbas promised to work on the issue.

Biko Sports' representative,

Goodhope Heaven, thanked Abbas for hosting meeting and showing the determination to not only supporting the sports industry in the country but also being ready to effectively play part in solving their challenges.

Stakeholders have expressed their willingness to support national teams, while urging the government to put more emphasis on a friendly tax-paying environment.

Five-star Flick raises the bar for next Bayern coach Nagelsmann

BERLIN

HANSI Flick landed a ninth consecutive Bundesliga title for Bayern Munich on Saturday, but his youthful replacement Julian Nagelsmann has already been warned what to expect as head coach of next season's new-look squad.

Bayern secured the Bundesliga title before they even kicked a ball on Saturday.

Borussia Dortmund's 3-2 win over second-placed Leipzig sent the title back to Munich ahead of Bayern's evening home game against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Flick will sign off with the 56-year-old the hot favourite to succeed Joachim Loew as Germany's next head coach after this summer's Euro 2020 tournament.

He won seven honours in his 18 months in charge, including two Bundesliga titles and the Champions League.

Flick also became the first Bayern coach to win all six available titles available from one season in 2019/20.

Bayern have lost just eight matches under Flick in all competitions.

His record raises the bar high for Nagelsmann, who at 33 has forged a reputation as one of Germany's best young coaches.

It will cost Bayern 25 million euros (\$30 million) to buy Nagelsmann out of his contract at RB Leipzig, who he steered to last season's Champions League semi-finals.

Nagelsmann stands to reportedly earn around eight million euros (\$9.7 million) for each year of his Bayern contract, which runs until 2026.

However, his first task next season will be to win over stars like captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who is two years older than his new head coach.

- Beckenbauer warning -

Even top scorer Robert Lewandowski is only a year younger than Nagelsmann, who has already received a blessing from a Bayern legend.

"Bayern have made a good choice there. Definitely," said the club's honorary president Franz Beckenbauer.

However, the 75-year-old warned, "It's clear that the team will test him. That's just the way it is. He knows that. He has to be prepared for that."

From next season, Bayern can wear a fifth star on their shirts having now won 30 titles since the Bundesliga started in 1963/64.

The Bavarian giants have been German champions 31 times, but their first title win, in 1932, came in the pre-Bundesliga era.

As well as a new star above their badge, there will be a new coach at the helm.

At 1.90m (6ft 3ins), Nagelsmann makes his presence felt on the sidelines and will not be afraid of ruffling the egos of Bayern's stars.

During matches played behind closed doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Nagelsmann's voice can often be heard barking instructions at his players or remonstrating with the referee.

- Squad clearout -

He has reportedly already begun preparing next season's Bayern squad and, according to Sport Bild magazine, has proposed signings across the board.

However, club president Herbert Hainer has ruled out any new big-money transfers this summer and a clearout is likely.

Winger Douglas Costa, 30, will return to Juventus when his loan deal expires.

Veterans Javi Martinez and Jerome Boateng, both 32, have not been offered contract extensions, while David Alaba, 28, has rebuffed Bayern's attempts to keep him and is expected to sign for Real Madrid.

AFP

Real, Barca, Juventus defend Super League in face of UEFA 'threats'

MADRID

REAL Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus on Saturday defended the aborted Super League project in the face of "threats" from UEFA.

The three clubs are the only ones from the original 12 yet to renounce the proposed competition that would guarantee its founding members involvement every season, instead of having to qualify.

The nine clubs who have dropped out -- Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan and AC Milan -- were on Friday given a financial penalty by UEFA for their involvement.

UEFA also said it would take "appropriate action" against the three clubs who still support the Super League project.

In response, Real, Barca and Juventus said in a joint statement "the founding clubs have suffered, and continue to suffer, unacceptable third-party pressures (and) threats."

"This is intolerable under the rule of law," they added in a joint statement.

They said the Super League had been launched "with the aim of providing solutions to the current unsustainable situation in the football industry".

The Super League was announced on April 18 but two days later it collapsed as the six Premier League clubs withdrew after angry protests from supporters pressure from the British government.

AFP

Bayern eye decade of dominance after ninth straight Bundesliga title

BERLIN

BA Y E R N Munich already have their eyes on a decade of Bundesliga dominance after winning the league title for the ninth successive season on Saturday, celebrating their success with a 6-0 thrashing of Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Robert Lewandowski scored a hat-trick to leave him on 39 league goals this season -- one short of Gerd Mueller's all-time Bundesliga record -- as the champions swept Gladbach aside at the Allianz Arena.

"We wanted to show on the pitch that we are German champions," said Lewandowski, who will "keep stepping on the gas" in chasing Mueller's record. "Today was a great game, we played really well and scored a lot of goals."

The emphatic victory leaves Bayern 10 points clear of second-placed RB Leipzig, whose 3-2 loss at Borussia Dortmund sealed Bayern the title, with two games left.

The players learned they were champions again while still warming up following Dortmund's victory.

"It was a bizarre situ-



ation. We were just getting ready, when we realised that we were champions," said Bayern captain Manuel Neuer.

Board member Oliver Kahn has already challenged Bayern to secure a 10th title in a row.

"We watched the Leipzig game together, the atmosphere was great," said Kahn. "You don't get used to it, it's an incredible achievement. Now we can do something next season that no team in the world has ever done: become champions 10 times in a row."

Kingsley Coman struck the post before Jamal Musiala's pass picked out Thomas Mueller to slot in his 11th league goal of the season, then Lewandowski volleyed home his second on 34 minutes.

Kingsley Coman made it 4-0 before the break, then won a penalty which Lewandowski converted in the 66th minute to leave him one goal short of Gerd Mueller's historic mark, before Leroy Sane added a late sixth.

Julian Nagelsmann,

the 33-year-old coach who will leave Leipzig to replace Flick at Bayern next season, offered a terse "congratulations on a deserved title" to his future employers.

- Sancho double -

Earlier, England winger Jadon Sancho netted twice as Dortmund's win lifted them into the Champions League places, but Eintracht Frankfurt can retake fourth spot if they beat Mainz on Sunday.

Even without injured striker Erling Braut Haaland, Dortmund were 2-0 up early in the second half thanks to goals from Marco Reus and Sancho.

Leipzig fought back through a Lukas Klos-

termann header and Dani Olmo's equaliser, only for Sancho to grab the winner.

The two clubs meet again on Thursday in the German Cup final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

"We showed a lot of morale, the game had absolutely nothing to do with the final in Berlin, but of course we want to win on Thursday too," said Reus.

Dortmund hope to have Haaland back from a thigh problem before the final, and even with their top-scorer watching from the stands, the hosts still raced into the lead after less than seven minutes.

Reus span out of Lukasz Piszczek's pass,

sprinted behind the defence and took a beautiful back-heeled ball from Thorgan Hazard before sweeping his shot past Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi.

Dortmund goalkeeper Marwin Hitz did not come out for the second half after being injured colliding with his centre-back Manuel Akanji just before the break and was replaced by Roman Buerki.

Dortmund doubled their lead just six minutes after the interval with a superb piece of skill from Sancho, who cut inside after a Raphael Guerreiro pass and fired in off the far post.

The visitors pulled a goal back on 63 minutes when Emil Forsberg floated in a corner and Klostermann steered his header past Buerki.

Leipzig drew level when South Korea striker Hwang Hee-chan broke clear of Dortmund defender Mats Hummels and squared for Olmo who tapped home from close range.

However, Sancho snatched all three points when he flicked the ball to Guerreiro, took a return pass and slotted in to hand Bayern the title.

AFP

Five-goal Inter celebrate Serie A title with record 14th consecutive home win

MILAN

WITH thousands of fans celebrating outside the San Siro stadium and a guard of honour onto the pitch, Inter Milan celebrated their first Serie A title in over a decade with a 5-1 victory over Sampdoria giving Antonio Conte's side a record 14th successive home win.

Saturday's match took place behind closed doors because of coronavirus restrictions but thousands of 'Nerazzurri' supporters celebrated outside the San Siro.

"The satisfaction is immense," said Conte.

"It's natural that we and our fans are now so desperate to celebrate something that we'd been waiting for so long to do.

"We're happy to bring this joy to them."

Sampdoria players formed a guard of honour as the newly-crowned champions took to the pitch after sealing their 19th 'Scudetto' and first since 2010 last weekend.

Claudio Ranieri's ninth-placed Sampdoria did not spoil the party with Keita Balde scoring the only goal for the visitors after 35 minutes.

"Inter played on the wings of enthusiasm," said Ranieri. "They played a great match."

Ranieri, who led Leicester to the 2016 Premier League title, said his Genoa side had wanted to mark the occasion with a guard of honour.

"I told the players it would be nice to celebrate as they do in England and they immediately agreed with me," he said.

Inter's top scorer Rom-



elu Lukaku and other players who played a key role in the title success stayed on the bench with Conte opting to start with some players who had been less present during the season.

Roberto Gagliardini opened the scoring after just four minutes latching onto an Ashley Young cross.

Alexis Sanchez added two more in a 10-minute first half spell, either side of Balde sending scoring off a rebound.

Substitute Andrea Pinamonti added another after the hour with Lautaro Martinez completing the rout from the penalty spot with 20 minutes to go to seal victory against a side Inter had lost against earlier this season, just one of two defeats.

Since losing against Sampdoria, Inter have gone 18 games without defeat and have now won 14 games in a row at home for the first time.

The entire team celebrated under the 'Curva

Nord' tribune usually occupied by Inter fans.

"We continue to do exceptional things, we have 85 points and haven't lost since the away game against Sampdoria," said Conte.

"The boys continue to impress, and it's a real pleasure to watch them play. We've brought back credibility to this club."

- Napoli move second - Napoli beat Spezia 4-1 to move second, 15

points behind Inter, and keep in the Champions League chase, but Lazio's hopes of elite European football took a knock with a 2-0 loss at Fiorentina.

Napoli are one point ahead of three teams -- Atalanta, Juventus and AC Milan -- who are tied on 69 points before they play this weekend.

Lazio are sixth, five points off the top-four having played a games

less.

Dusan Vlahovic scored twice for Fiorentina to bring his tally to 21 goals this campaign, and push the Tuscany side away from the relegation zone.

"There are a lot of regrets," said Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi. "In the changing rooms the faces were sad, now we have to gather strength and start again."

Gennaro Gattuso's Na-

poli had lost 2-1 to Spezia at home in January, but hit back against the relegation-threatened side to extend their unbeaten run to 12 consecutive games.

Polish midfielder Piotr Zielinski finished off a Giovanni Di Lorenzo pull-back after 15 minutes and then provided the cross for Nigerian international Victor Osimhen to score the second eight minutes later.

Osimhen completed his first Serie A brace before the break off a Lorenzo Insigne free-kick to bring his tally to seven goals in as many games.

The 22-year-old has scored a total of 10 goals in 21 games played this campaign, having been sidelined with injury.

Roberto Piccoli pulled a goal back for Spezia after an hour but Osimhen was on hand to roll the ball across for Hirving Lozano. The goal was confirmed after a VAR viewing.

Napoli lost all-time record goalscorer Dries Mertens to an ankle injury in the second-half just seven minutes after the Belgian came off the bench.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bayern eye decade of dominance after ninth straight Bundesliga title

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Soccer stakeholders blame TFF for abandonment of Dar Derby



A section of Yanga's supporters troop out of Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium once they had been informed of the cancellation of a Vodacom Premier League clash pitting Yanga against Simba, which was set to take place at the venue on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FINGERS are pointing at Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for causing the abandonment of a Vodacom Premier League match between Simba SC and Yanga, nicknamed 'Dar Derby', which was slated for Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The much awaited derby could not take place in the day after TFF announced the change of kick off time from the initial 5pm to 7pm.

The announcement did not go well with Yanga officials and the side's supporters who blamed TFF for failure to follow procedures.

The TFF communicated the change of kick-off time to both clubs on the match day, which is a clear violation of the league's rules and regulations.

The visitors, Yanga, protested the decision saying the teams should have been informed of the change 24 hours before the initial kick off time according to the TFF rules.

The Jangwani Street based side arrived on the pitch at 4pm and left some minutes after 5pm, while Simba came in at 6pm and started their pre-match warm up routine.

Sports analyst, Michael Msemakweli, said TFF should be blamed for causing the match postponement.

"The rules are clear that if there is a change of time, stakeholders in this case are Simba and Yanga, and should be consulted and the decision announced before 24 hours of playing," he said.

He said what happened on Saturday is unacceptable, inconceivable and

painful to Tanzania football and he suggested that TFF should bear the costs.

"People paid their hard earned money to watch the highly publicized derby, but without having any iota of shame and fear, someone decided to postpone the game, TFF has to pay back the money," he said.

He also advised TFF to be open on why the game's kick off time was shifted without following proper rules.

He opined: "Maybe the game playing time was shifted from the initial 5pm to 7pm due to some serious security issues, but TFF should have consulted clubs and inform the public

in a good and acceptable manner."

He disclosed: "I'm sure if TFF used the clubs to communicate to their fans, people would have waited and watch the game."

Other respected football pundits, Edo Kumwembe and Oscar Oscar, also took to their social media pages to accuse TFF for failing to act professionally and in accordance with the rules.

Meanwhile TFF through its information officer Clifford Ndimbo yesterday issued a media statement, saying the federation has directed Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) to come up with a complete report on what led to

the postponement of the match.

The federation also called for patience among soccer lovers as they are working hard to establish the root cause of the postponement of the match.

The TFF moreover said they will engage Simba and Yanga to have their views.

The Saturday clash was expected to be a battle of tactical superiority.

The two sides are separated by four points at the top of the 18-team league table.

Simba are positioned at the summit with 61 points from 25 matches, while Yanga are placed second with 57 points from 27 matches.

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

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88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

AFC works to maintain FDL position

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA Football Club (AFC), currently playing in the First Division League (FDL) and was striving to win promotion to the coveted Premier League, is now relegated to holding on to the FDL until next season.

After drawing 1-1 with Fountain Gate FC of Dodoma in the FDL encounter played at CCM Gairo venue in Morogoro last week, the AFC will now face Alliance FC of Mwanza at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha next Saturday.

The AFC has yet to feature in one clash on the outfit's home venue.

The side is expected to win the next weekend game so that it may get the opportunity for taking part in play offs, battling to remain in FDL.

Amasha Masenga, AFC's secretary general, said what is left for AFC is to ensure that the team does not drop to Second Division League but remain in the FDL.

The Arusha Football Club currently sits sixth in the FDL placement after notching 18 points.

Fifth-placed Fountain Gate FC has 23 points.

Geita Gold FC of Geita is leading the First Division League with 34 points ahead of Pamba FC of Mwanza, slotted second with 33 points.

Transit Camp FC of Dar es Salaam is placed third, having collected 30 points, whilst Kitayosce FC from Tabora is placed fourth after posting 27 points.

In the seventh position stands the Rhino Rangers also from Tabora with 17 points, followed by Mwanza's Mbao FC, place eighth with 10 points.

Mwanza's other side Alliance FC is placed ninth with five points, Singida United FC which has faced relegation to Regional Champions League, is tagging but without a single point.

The 2020/21 FDL is drawing to an end this coming weekend with a number of matches on the clock.

In Arusha, AFC will play host to Alliance FC, Fountain Gate FC is to face Geita Gold FC, Pamba FC will confront Transit Camp FC and Kitayosce FC will take on Rhino Rangers.

These matches will be staged at different venues across the nation.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM firm, BQ Contractors, has reaffirmed its commitment to support wheelchair tennis in the country despite some challenges the sport's players face.

Silas Bura, the company's official, said although the company and other local businesses are facing challenges as a result of the many problems industries are facing globally, the BQ Contractors will continue supporting tennis especially wheelchair tennis.

He said: "As a home-grown company that champions sports sponsorship, BQ Contractors takes keen interest in the development of sports in the country and it remains a dedicated partner to the sports fraternity."

"We will continue supporting wheelchair tennis in the country, our aim is to see to it that the sport is played by many people in the country, we are happy that our father (John Bura) takes keen interest in tennis and recognizes the potential of local wheelchair tennis players, he loves the sport and treats all wheelchair tennis players as his own



Female wheelchair tennis players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently.

children," he said.

He also disclosed that Bura worked hard in the formation of Wheelchair Tanzania Tennis (WTT) Association as the aim is to see the sport win recognition in the country.

Bura issued the statement at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam on Saturday when he saw off two local players and coach to Portugal for this season's BNP Paribas World Team Cup qualifiers.

The BQ Contractors sponsored

two air tickets for the players and the firm also paid for all expenses for the team while International Tennis Federation (ITF) paid for the coach's air ticket.

The players who made the trip are Novatus Temba and Hamisi Juma while Riziki Salum is the head coach.

The Portugal event will take place from May 10-16 at Vilamoura Tennis Academy and will be used as qualifiers for BNP World Team Cup which is slated for Olbia Sport Centre Geovillage in Sar-

dinia, Italy, from October 4-10 this year.

Coach Salum promised that the two will fly the country's flag high at the event.

"We are well prepared for the event, it won't be easy, but my players are ready for the challenge as the aim is to qualify for the world cup," he said.

He thanked BQ Contractors and ITF for their gesture, which he described as welcome.

Over 300 players will represent their nations for the chance to be crowned BNP Paribas World Team Cup champions.

Teams from the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia/Oceania will face off to join the automatic qualifiers at the World Group event.

Automatic qualifiers for the men's World Team Cup World Group event are Great Britain, France, Japan, Argentina, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, United States of America (USA), Republic of Korea and Brazil, with

four qualifiers and two wild cards completing the 16-team field.

The women's showpiece's automatic qualifications entails Netherlands, Japan, Great Britain, South Africa, China P.R., USA, Thailand and Colombia, with four qualifiers completing the 12-team field.

The quad's participants are Japan, Israel, South Africa, Great Britain, USA and Canada, with two qualifiers completing the eight-team field.

Juniors' showpiece consists Australia, Great Britain, Turkey and Brazil, with four wild card nations completing the eight-team field.

Tanzania's wheelchair tennis team has in the past competed at BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Turkey and Italy.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is International Tennis Federation (ITF)'s flagship tournament for wheelchair tennis. Teams compete at the event through qualification at zonal level.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

