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Basic education curriculum up for rigorous review at symposia

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

PUBLIC participation on the improvement of basic education curriculum kicked off in Dar es Salaam yesterday with more forums set to take place across the country. Presiding over the first event in the commercial capital, Education, Science and Technology minister

Professor Joyce Ndalichako (pictured) said the input gathered from stakeholders will be used to write new preschool, primary and lower secondary education curriculum. "We want the new curriculum to address issues raised in the current one including competence of school products as well as job creation after

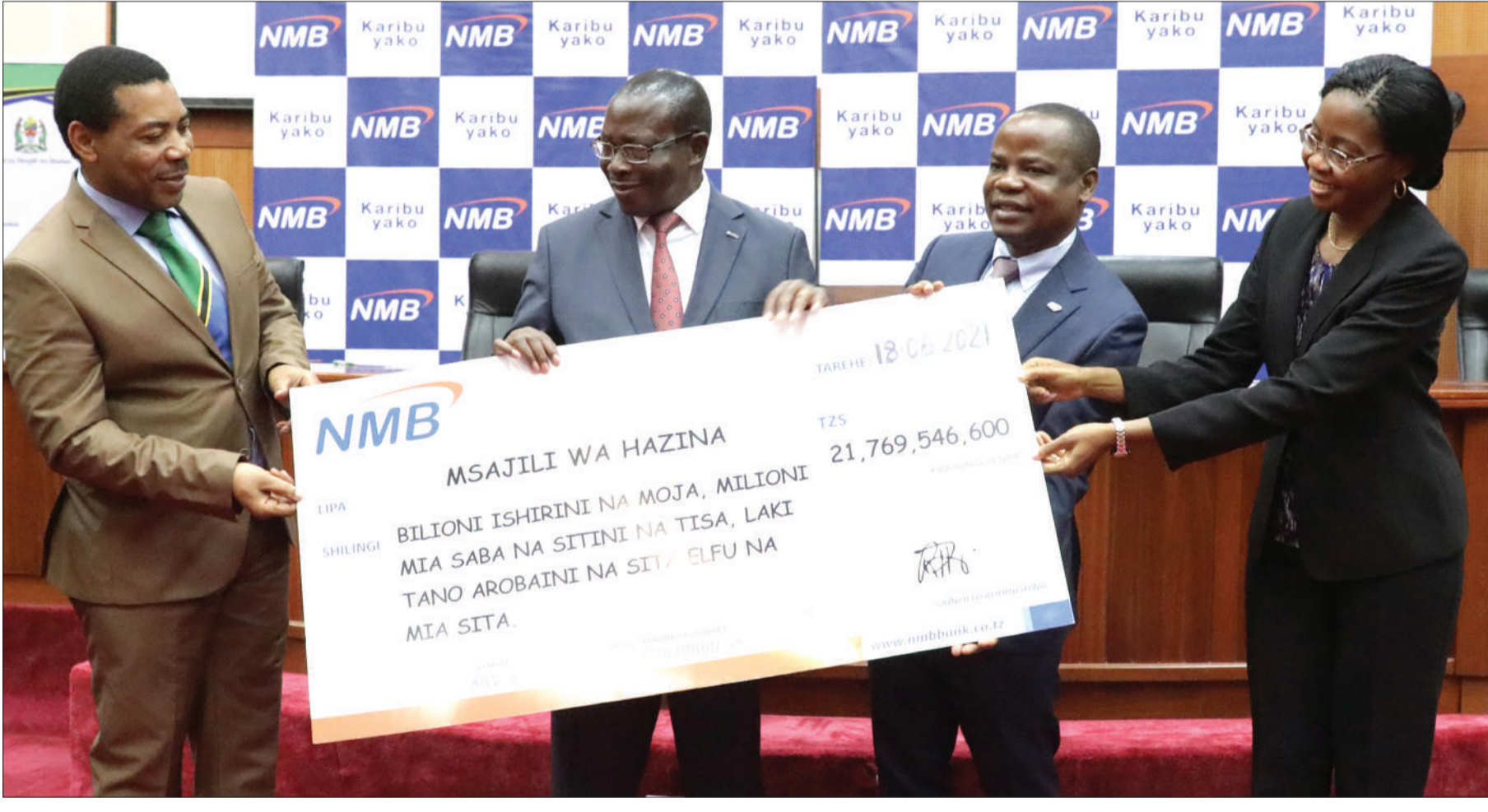
school," she said. The minister stated that the forums are being held in implementing President Samia Suluhu Hassan's recent directive to review the curriculum so that it focuses more on problem solving skills as opposed to exam-tied schooling. The Tanzania Institute of Educa-



tion (TIE) will take note of suggestions from participating stakeholders and in other forums for use in final product for rolling out new curriculum for kindergarten up to form four, she said. "We need to ensure that our curriculum provides skills and knowledge that will lay a solid foundation

for quality education," she emphasised. A good curriculum at lower levels of education is vital as it helps to build a strong foundation for higher education. Well prepared pupils grow to university, with strong skills needed for development, she fur-

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured in Dodoma city yesterday receiving a dummy cheque for over 21.7bn/- from NMB Bank Plc board chairman Dr Edwin Mhede (2nd-R) and CEO Ruth Zaipuna (R) as the bank's dividend to the government. Left is Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Top appointees for office skills, diligence drills

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

FROM now onwards, civil servants appointed to hold higher public office will have to undergo induction to shape them so that they serve diligently. Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), said this at the launch of the board of directors of Uongozi Institute in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

“Those who will be appointed later shall undertake the course,” he said, noting that the aim is to ensure that all appointees observe ethical norms that are in accordance with the public service code of conduct “and no one should be above the law.”

The move aims at curbing unpolished behaviour among public office holders, he stated, elaborating that the tailor-made course will be offered by Uongozi Institute, with lately appointed permanent secretaries, regional commissioners and regional administrative secretaries starting to attend the course in the next two weeks.

“Those who will be appointed later shall undertake the course,” he said, noting that the aim is to ensure that all appointees observe ethical norms that are in accordance with the public service code of conduct “and no one should be

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‘UNQUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS HOLD PUBLIC POSTS’

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

STATE officials in charge of human resource management in various government ministries, agencies and departments promote unqualified individuals to senior positions they do not deserve, the National Assembly heard yesterday. Deogratius Ndejemi, the Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) told the House that this is the reason some government officials hold senior positions in acting capacity for years without being confirmed. He said that a recent investigation

found 1,664 unqualified civil servants acting in various senior positions across the country. The deputy minister made this affirmation when

responding to Kibamba MP Issa Mtemvu who sought to know when the government will confirm civil servants acting in various positions, as this situation

was derailing service delivery. The vetting process takes a long time as the government prepares a database for those who have been

verified to be confirmed, the MP furthered. In his response, the deputy minister acknowledged

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Asymptomatic malaria a risk in disease control



By Special Correspondent

PEOPLE infected with malaria but without exhibiting any symptoms pose a hidden risk to control efforts, new research has shown.

Researchers from the Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Radboud University Medical Centre, and University of California, San Francisco, found that asymptomatic children in the Uganda study were the biggest source of malaria parasites transmitted by mosquitoes.

This could provide a new opportunity for control efforts by targeting this infec-

tious reservoir, says the study published in The Lancet, a UK medical journal.

Malaria presents a major health threat globally, with 94 per cent of cases on the African continent alone, according to the World Malaria Report 2020 published by the World Health Organisation (WHO). In 2019, there were by estimation 229m cases of malaria worldwide.

The disease is passed to a human through the bite of an infected female Anopheles mosquito, causing infection with the parasite. The predominant and most deadly parasite, Plasmodium falciparum, accounts for over 75 per cent of mortality worldwide and is highly prevalent in Uganda.

Malarial parasites depend on a life cycle in which they constantly move back and forth between humans and mosquitoes. Successfully interrupting transmission of the disease can involve clearing parasites from human 'hosts' using anti-malaria drugs.

The research team set out to investigate patterns of malaria infection in order to understand more about transmission in the area. The study involved two years of regularly testing more than 500 people for evidence of malaria parasites. The genetic make-up of parasites was determined, as well as their ability to infect mosquitoes.

The researchers found that individu-

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Basic education curriculum up for serious review across Tanzania

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ther observed.

"The suggestions that you're giving today should equip pupils with knowledge and skills that can better their personal lives and the country at large," she said.

The exercise is important and thus participants should be keen and thorough. Opinions given will be used to prepare not just a curriculum but the future of Tanzania, the minister intoned.

Education stakeholder Richard Mabala, a native of Great Britain who taught at Mzumbe Secondary School in the 1970s and helped to nurture young writers, said that the government has made the right move to initiate the process of improving

the curriculum.

What is needed is to map out guidelines for providing learners with practical knowledge, he stated.

He reiterated his longstanding opinion that for Tanzanian education to produce competent outputs, "Kiswahili should be made the only language of instruction in schools so that learners fully grasp what is taught instead of memorizing concepts presented in English."

Rose Funja, an expert from Tanzania Bora Initiative said that this is the right time for curricula to be reviewed because the new ones will give learners a chance to do practical studies at lower levels of education. This will make the learning process easier at higher level, she added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with visiting Singaporean business magnate, entrepreneur and philanthropist Kuok Khoon Hong, who is Wilmar International Limited's co-founder, chairman and CEO, at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Wilmar International is a Singaporean food processing and investment holding company that provides management services to its 400-plus subsidiaries. Founded in 1991, it is one of Asia's leading agribusiness groups. Photo: State House

Top appointees for office skills, diligence drills

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above the law."

All those appointed and did not attend the induction course are obliged to attend so as to drill their conduct, he asserted.

Commenting on the new board, he said it was the third board since the institute was started in 2010.

The board was after the appointment of Dr Stergomena Tax as head of the board of the institute last month.

The new and diverse board consists of nine directors experienced in sustainable develop-

ment issues, including public policy and administration, education, economics and finance, as well as international development issues.

Dt Tax, who is executive secretary of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) its on the board along with Dr. Laurean Ndumbaro (Permanent Secretary of the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance) as chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively.

Other directors are Ritta Swan who is Ambassador of Finland,

Prof. Penina Mlama (University of Dar es Salaam), Iina Soiri (specialist at the Embassy of Finland in Pretoria), David Walker (former Director of the European School of Administration in Brussels) and Susan Mlawi (former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports).

Others are Dr. Hamisi Mwinjivua (former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy), and Prof. Samuel Wangwe, principal research associate for the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and at the

economic research consortium, REPOA.

Recognising the role of the institute and displaying his faith in the new board, Mchengerwa said that supporting leaders and preparing leaders to transform their organizations is what is expected of the Uongozi Institute. "We are confident that this new board will steer the institute in carrying out its mandate, and in realizing its vision of prosperous, equitable and sustainable Africa," the minister declared.

He expressed satisfaction over the institute's achievements and

positive image whilst acknowledging the challenge that the new board needs to address.

With the strong foundation already laid down, the new board can now focus on the Institute's growth and sustainability, to enhance its agility and resilience, he stated.

He cited three areas to be addressed, namely that the products and services produced and delivered must be of high quality, adequate resources furnished to implement the institute's agenda, and the institute's achievements and impact be well-communicat-

ed to strengthen its reputation.

For his part, Uongozi Institute CEO Kadari Singo said that the strong foundation of the institute's services and products shows that strides have been made towards its goal of becoming a centre of excellence for leadership development.

He showered praise on the calibre of previous and current board directors. They have aided and will continue to aid the institute's efforts to help Tanzania and African leaders strengthen their ability to serve organizations and nations, he added.



Shaka Hamdu Shaka (L), CCM's Ideology and Publicity secretary, and other mourners pay their last respects to long-serving university don and political science guru Prof Mwesiga Baregu (77) at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's Kunduchi parish in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The body was due to be transported to the deceased's home village in Bukoba, Kagera Region, later in the day for burial. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Unqualified individuals hold senior public posts'

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this to be big challenge as employers in government institutions promote unqualified civil servants without permission from the permanent secretary as required by the law. This makes the civil servants stay on acting positions for a long time, he stated.

"We have directed employers and they are now



"But as said in the first answer we have 1, 664 unqualified civil servants," he specified, urging employers to promote qualified civil servants upon receiving permission from the permanent secretary.

bringing the names of those who have been acting for more than three years so that we can verify who is qualified so that they are confirmed.

"But as said in the first answer we have 1, 664 unqualified civil servants," he specified, urging employers to promote qualified civil servants upon receiving permission from the permanent secretary.

"May I call upon employers to stop employing someone because of some reasons or just because of being a friend but promote someone who is qualified," the deputy minister implored, saying that this will help in vetting and confirming civil servants who act for more than six months.

Ndejemi said the ministry has started gathering information for setting up a database to be used in confirming them.

In the process, around 2300 names will be listed for vetting and in the second week 2400 names will be placed for vetting again, to find qualified individuals to be promoted, he elaborated.

After this procedure is in place, whenever someone is promoted but is unqualified, the ministry will directly post someone else to make decisions. This will help to address the problem of promoting unqualified civil servants, he added.

Asymptomatic malaria a risk in disease control

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als who were asymptomatic were unknowingly responsible for most mosquito infections in the study. People with symptomatic infections were responsible for less than 1pc of mosquito infections and appeared to play a negligible role in sustaining transmission, for instance in children with asymptomatic malaria.

School-age children, aged five to 15 years, were responsible for over half (59per cent) of the infectious reservoir, followed by the under-fives (26per cent) and people aged 16 and older (16per cent).

Most notably, the researchers found just four children were linked to 60per cent of the infected mosquitoes studied.

Dr John Rek, co-author from IDRC, said that these findings are a real eye opener in the fight against malaria. "We found that infections in school-age children drive malaria transmission. Some children harboured billions of malaria parasites in their bloodstream without experiencing symptoms."

LSHTM co-author Professor Sarah Staedke said that school-age children are an important reservoir of malaria parasites

that could be easily targeted for control interventions, such as chemoprevention through intermittent preventive treatment.

"This would benefit individual children, may reduce malaria transmission, and could help sustain malaria gains if intense vector control measures are interrupted," she stated.

Preventing rebounds of malaria depends on understanding transmission among asymptomatic cases as particularly important in areas where malaria control has been successful. But there is a risk that malaria might

resurge when control measures are relaxed or withdrawn, the study noted. It similarly underlined that asymptomatic children keeping malaria circulating at relatively low levels could be sufficient to cause infections to quickly rebound if control efforts are not maintained. In other parts of Uganda, when intense malaria control with indoor residual spraying was halted, infections rebounded within weeks.

Principal author Professor Teun Bousema from Radboud University Medical Centre, said that the study demonstrates

that even when malaria appears under control, "there is a reservoir of infected individuals who can sustain the spread of this deadly disease. Unless their infections are targeted, malaria can quickly return."

Overall, the findings provide evidence that asymptomatic infections are an important source of onward transmission to mosquitoes. Many malaria infections that contribute to transmission are initially below the level detectable by conventional diagnostic tests, including microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests.

Although the findings are insightful, the study authors acknowledge limitations such as including the length of time between participant sample selection and mosquito feeds, meaning they did not routinely measure infectiousness in the first few weeks of asymptomatic infections. They also noted that trial participants had exceptionally good access to care, whereas in other settings people with symptomatic malaria infections might develop more transmissible infections if treatment is not administered quickly.



Embattled former Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (3rd-R) and his co-accused pictured yesterday being led to the Arusha Resident Magistrate's Court in connection with the string of charges they are facing. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Sabaya, co-accused deny armed robbery charges

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FORMER Hai District Commissioner Lengai Ole Sabaya and his co-accused yesterday denied charges of armed robbery after appearing at Arusha District Court.

The suspects have since been remanded at Kisongo Prison.

Senior State attorney Tumaini Kweka told Arusha district magistrate Salome Mshasha that the prosecution had completed investigations and was ready to read the charges before the suspects.

State prosecutor Tarsila Gervas alleged that the former DC, alongside his co-accused, on February 9, this year raided Said Saad's shop and held the owner at a gun point.

According to the prosecutor, the incident occurred at Bondeni Street in Arusha.

The prosecutor, further, told a full-packed court that Sabaya and his bodyguard Sylvester Nyengu and Daniel Mbura committed another armed robbery offence by roughing up Sombetini ward councilor Bakari Msangi, handcuffed him, walking away with 390,000/-.

The court also heard that the former DC and his co-accused beat up and stole a phone and 35,000/- from Ramadhani Ayoub.

According to the prosecution, investigations into other four charges such as money laundering, economic sabotage, corruption and leading a criminal gang are yet to be completed.

Ole Sabaya was greeted by jeers and heckles from a multitude of Arusha residents who flocked the court to catch a glimpse of the former DC.



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Government urged to conduct financial structuring

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

MTAMA Member of Parliament Nape Nnauye yesterday urged the government to conduct a credit rating to evaluate the country's ability to borrow and service debts which will give a picture on how to fund major strategic projects.

Speaking during a debate

on the 2021/22 national budget, Nnauye said by doing this the country will have a better picture on the way forward on how to fund the projects, borrow and service the debts.

"We need to conduct credit ratings so that we have a clear picture on the way forward but also better plan what should be done to sustain the middle income status,"

he said. A credit rating is an evaluation of the credit risk of a prospective debtor, predicting their ability to pay back the debt, and an implicit forecast of the likelihood of the debtor defaulting.

The MP lamented delays by the government to confirm a Tanzanian national who has passed interviews for Director General of the Tanzania

International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER) following resignation of the French national.

According to Nnauye there were three candidates who applied for the position and a Tanzanian national has emerged successful but the government has remained mum since the company wrote a letter seeking concert

from the government to confirm the individual.

Nnauye said it is time for the government to use the companies which it has shares such as Puma and Tipper to import fuel to make the shilling strong.

Opposition special seats MP Jesca Kishoa said the government should Change laws to allow the CAG to au-

dit companies in which the government has less than 50-percent shares.

The legislator proposed the formulation of a public investment company which will be responsible for overseeing the companies where the government has shares.

Special seats MP Kabula Shitobelo advised the government to stimulate businesses

in the private sector which he said is in a bad state.

The MP gave an example of the hotel industry in Dar es Salaam and Arusha saying it is on the verge of collapsing.

"Bad enough the most affected group are women, therefore there is a need to rescue the sector because a lot of people have lost their jobs," he said.

Female education consortium wins prestigious award for easing poverty

By Special Correspondent

A consortium of non-profit groups that aims to reduce poverty in Africa through educating more girls and empowering women has won a Princess of Asturias award.

The Campaign for Female Education, or CAMFED, was chosen in the International Aid category, a foundation named after the heir to the Spanish throne, King Felipe VI's daughter Leonor, announced Wednesday.

The jury of the prestigious prizes noted that since it was founded in 1993, CAMFED has contributed "to a social transformation" that has benefited millions of girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa.

With 330 employees and around 150,000 volunteers, the non-governmental organization invests in the education of girls in Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia by creating a network in which former beneficiaries of its work become supporters of the education and employment of new recipients.

That strategy of intergenerational help "has promoted a systemic change that is based on the pillars of equity, social justice and commitment to leadership," the jury said.

The foundation's International Aid award is the sixth announced this year from a total of eight.



Patrobas Katambi (L), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment and Youth), Deogratius Ndejemi (C), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), and Dodoma Urban legislator Anthony Mavunde exchange in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Deputy minister: More women than men get economic empowerment funding

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has issued loans and bonds worth 4.34trn/- to 6,037,462 women by December 2020

through various programmes aimed at eradicating poverty, the National Assembly was told here yesterday.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment) Patrobas

Katambi said that out of the number, 3,079,105 which is equivalent to 51 per cent were women and 2,958,357 (49 per cent) men.

The deputy minister said during the period, a total of

10,844,589 jobs were created.

The MP asked to what extent the various economic empowerment programmes aimed at eradicating poverty helped women across the country.

The minister said in response

that out of the mentioned figures, 3,079,105 have benefited from the programmes which is equivalent to 34percent and all from Dar es Salaam and 2,032,209 equivalent to 66percent and are all from outside

Dar es Salaam.

The minister said the NEEC will continue to put in place various strategies to take women out of poverty which will facilitate operations of the council but also eradicate poverty.

The minister added that women economic programmes focus on increasing women's skills, decision-making power and access to economic resources.



Kigamboni district administrative secretary Dalmia Mikaya (2nd-R) presents a gift to Nasra Omary, a pupil of Dar es Salaam's Ufukoni Primary School, during the commemoration of the Day of the African Child Day held in the city earlier this week. Left is Victoria Huburys, the Dar es Salaam Zone manager of the National Council for People Living with HIV and Aids (NACOPHA). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Traders' ID challenges long addressed – govt

Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has said it has addressed challenges which emerged since the introduction of smalltraders' identification cards.

Moreover, the government has now designed IDs with features which were issued in March, this year which will allow them to access loans from the financial institutions.

Deputy minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, David Silinde told the parliament here yesterday that the major challenges were for the petty traders to access loans from the financial institutions.

Silinde gave the statement in Parliament yesterday when responding to Grace Tendega (Special Seats-Chadema) on what measures the government will have to address the issue of capital for the petty traders which has been among the major challenges for them to prosper.

He said March this year, the government evaluated the process of issuing the identity cards so that they have in place a system and a mechanism whereas the improved version will not only allow the petty traders to operate in a conducive and pleasant environment but also qualify for loan access.

The Deputy Minister said the evaluation was based on qualification, process of issuing, registration and use of the identity

cards. It was clear that there were challenges which have been worked out by the district and municipal councils.

The recommendations, he said, have been worked out including having a passport size photo and names on every identity card, the features which were not there before.

Moreover, he said, the expiry date of the identity card has remained one year, the only changes being commencing on a date one has been issued with contrary to previous when it was January of every year.

Silinde said the pricing of 20,000/- has been set as per the current economic survey which shows it is affordable by the entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Minister said the money collected from the identity cards payment are channeled through the main government coffers and they are allocated according to government priorities.



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EAC states urged to engage diplomatic missions abroad to promote regional economic potentials

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Liberata Mulamula has urged the East African Community (EAC) to actively engage partner states' diplomatic missions abroad to promote the trading bloc's economic potentials.

Addressing the EAC secretariat on Thursday when she visited the trading bloc's headquarters in Arusha, Mulamula said the engagement would equip EAC Ambassadors with deeper insights on the integration process.

She added that such engagement must not necessarily be physical given the cur-

rent COVID-19 pandemic, and that EAC Ambassadors were supposed to implement economic diplomacy not only for their respective Partner States but for the entire region.

"Therefore, it is very important to establish mechanisms for regular briefings for Partner States Diplomatic Missions on key projects and programs which have been implemented as well as those to be implemented," she said.

The long serving diplomat said that foreign policy coordination with diplomatic missions would enable EAC to promote regional activities and market East African cooperation abroad in areas such as trade, investment, tourism

as well as cultural issues.

She underscored that such coordination would further ensure maximization of combined and harmonized efforts in addressing regional needs at international fora and coordination of EAC programs and projects.

In her keynote address at the consultative forum on Economic Diplomacy for High Commissioners of EAC Partner States accredited to Tanzania and the EAC, Mulamula emphasized the importance of EAC Partner States working together at international forums saying that there were more chances of success in joint initiatives.

She added: "When we work

together, our voice on the global arena counts. When it comes to candidatures for positions on international organizations, we should not be competing for the same amongst ourselves as EAC Partner States."

Mulamula also challenged the EAC Secretariat to spearhead sensitization of the people of East Africa on the integration process through strategic partnerships with the media in the region.

"There are many good things happening in the region on the political, social, economic and cultural fields but most people are not aware that the foundation for all these achievements were laid

in Arusha," she said, adding that the Community needs to put more effort in awareness creation around the integration.

She stressed the importance of engaging the private sector in resolving Non-tariff Barriers to trade and in formulating a joint regional response to COVID-19.

EAC Secretary General Dr. Peter Mathuki disclosed that it was the desire of the Summit of EAC Heads of State that the Community works for the people of East Africa because it belongs to them.

Dr. Mathuki, who has so far held consultations with five Heads of State since he assumed office at the end of

April this year, further said that the Summit also wished to see the people of East Africa living in solidarity and fraternity because they were one people.

The Secretary General reaffirmed his commitment to involving the private sector and other stakeholders in the integration, adding that the creation of jobs for the youth was also a priority for the Community.

Chairperson of the EAC High Commissioners to Tanzania and the EAC, Amb. Dan Kazungu urged the EAC Organs and Institutions to uphold service delivery to the people of the region who he said deserved the

best.

Kazungu, who is also the Kenyan High Commissioner, called for close cooperation between the Secretariat and Partner States to ensure smooth movement of goods and persons across the region as enshrined in the Common Market Protocol.

EALA Speaker, Martin Ngoga urged the Council of Ministers to attend the Assembly's sessions on a regular basis especially when critical matters come up for debate.

He said EALA Members wanted to engage the Ministers on budgetary and other critical issues affecting the Community.

Stakeholders told to come up with plan to increase coffee production

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has urged coffee stakeholders in the country to come up with a strategy to increase the crop's production that earns the country much foreign exchange.

The call was made here on Wednesday by Songwe Regional Commissioner, Omary Mgumba when officiating the 11th 2021 Coffee Stakeholders Conference.

He said the country's coffee production was still not so good, pointing out in 2019 production reached 68,000 tonnes while Uganda produced 400,000 tonnes.

"I believe, through this sitting we shall together discuss how we can find solutions regarding small production, as even in my area, Songwe Region production is dropping, farmers abandon coffee farming, hence we should come up with a strategy that can reverse the trend," he said.

He cited other problems plaguing the coffee sector as including

price fluctuations, lack of capital for farmers due to their inaccessibility to loans from financial institutions.

Mgumba called upon the coffee stakeholders to use the platform to listen all that will be raised and submit recommendations on what to be done to reverse the situation.

"Coffee is among strategic crops that is supposed to develop and contribute to government's efforts in providing job opportunities, to spur economic growth and increase farmers' income."

However, he said the private sector was the engine for the country's economic growth and that the government will continue to give accord it priority to attain revolution in the agriculture sector.

He assured stakeholders that the government will continue to work together with it to transform the agriculture sector, saying the Phase VI Government vows to develop contract farming to protect investors' capital in agriculture.



Flaviana Charles (R), chairperson of the ten-member transitional committee detailed to oversee the upcoming (June 21) elections of the National Council of NGOs scheduled for Dodoma city, updates journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the process. She is with committee members Dr Astronaut Bagile (C) and secretary Francis Kiwanga. Photo: Correspondent Muhidini Msamba

Ministry refutes claims on irregular importation of eggs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has refuted claims that there is irregular importation of eggs from abroad something which affects the price and market of the locally produced eggs.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Minister Mashimba Ndaki, Tanzania's eggs market is good and there

were no eggs which have been imported as it is spreaded by some people on social media.

"On June 14 this year, the Ministry saw a message circulating on social media about the influx of eggs into the country from abroad to the extent of causing a drastic drop in egg prices to 4000/- per tray," Ndaki said. According to him, after seeing the message, on June 16 this year, the ministry launched

an investigation in 26 regions in the country and some districts to ascertain the availability of eggs where it was found that there is no importation of eggs but rather shortage of the product a situation which has led to the rise of its price to 12000/- per tray and not drop of price.

"The information disseminated is not true because the government has banned the importation of poultry and

poultry products due to the threat of bird flu in the Globe. The Ministry has been issuing special permits for the importation of chicks and non-fertilized eggs for production. Therefore, these false reports should be ignored," he said.

The minister further said that the ministry is also working to address shortage of chicks in the country and by September this year, the situation will be

stabilized. On swine fever, Ndaki said the ministry has been making great efforts to control it and that until end of April this year, most regions in the country had no cases of the disease.

He named some of the strategies taken to control the disease as educating pig farmers on the best principles to adhere while engaging in the business.

"On January 23 this year, I informed the public on the out-

break of swine fever in Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga and Dodoma regions and instructed Regional Commissioners, district and council directors to oversee the implementation of the control and prevention measures which were set up by veterinary experts, I thank them very much for the way they managed the job," Ndaki said. He added: "In June this year in Morogoro Municipality

there were cases of 14 pigs that died of Swine fever and laboratory tests verified this."

According to the minister, already significant efforts have been taken to control the disease in the municipality which included banning pig and pork trade as well as educating pig farmers and other stakeholders on ways to prevent the disease such as avoid entering in the pigs sheds.

AREF secures EUR125 million first close with SEFA, CTF investments

By Special Correspondent

THE Africa Renewable Energy Fund II (AREF) has achieved its first close at €125 million, following a joint investment of €175 million from The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and the Climate Technology Fund through the African Development Bank (AfDB).

AREF II, a successor to the original Fund, is a 10-year closed-ended renewable energy Private Equity Fund with a \$300 million target capitalization.

The Africa Renewable Energy Fund II, managed by Berkeley Energy, invests in early-stage renewable energy projects, thereby not only de-risking the most uncertain phase of power projects, but also promoting increased green baseload in Africa's generation mix.

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and the Climate Technology Fund will each contribute roughly €8.7 million to mobilize private-sector investment into Africa's renewable energy sector. The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa will also contribute financing to the AREF II Project Support Facility, which funds technical assistance and early-stage project support to improve bankability.

Other investors include the UK's CDC Group, Italy's CDP, the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and SwedFund. "We are proud to be associated with Berkeley Energy and other like-minded investors, and look forward to AREF's continued success and leadership in promoting sustainable power development on the conti-

ment," said Dr Kevin Kariuki, the African Development Bank's Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth.

In 2012, the African Development Bank selected Berkeley Energy, a seasoned fund manager of clean energy projects in global emerging markets to set up AREF. AREF II has a sharper strategic focus than its predecessor on "green baseload" projects that will deliver firm and dispatchable power to African power systems through hydro, solar, wind and battery storage technologies.

Luka Buljan, Berkeley Energy's Managing Director, said: "We are very excited to have reached this milestone with strong support from our backers. The catalytic tranche from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and the Climate Technology Fund will assist in mobilising private institutional investors up to full fund size of €300 million. We now look forward to concluding the fundraising and delivering projects that will provide clean, reliable and affordable energy across African markets."

"AREF is intertwined with the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa's history and success, and we have worked closely over the last decade to create precedents in difficult markets and challenging technologies.

We look forward to continued collaboration to accelerate the energy transition in Africa," said Joao Duarte Cunha, Manager for Renewable Energy Initiatives at the African Development Bank and Coordinator of the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa.



Practical training in dairy processing and nutrition under way at Tango college in Mbulu District, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Over 100 entrepreneurs to be linked to established enterprises, industries

By Francis Kajubi

MORE than 100 small and medium entrepreneurs will be linked to established enterprises and industries by KCB Bank Tanzania to learn new innovation and operational skills so that they can acquire knowledge and courage of borrowing and investing more in their businesses.

Through its 2jijiri Youth Programme, KCB is intending to empower 118 young wom-

en and men who have graduated in the mid of this week from a number of courses offered under the programme.

The 2jijiri Youth Programme features short termed-courses of between two and six months covering food production, tailoring, graphic designing, truck mechanics, cosmology and hair dressing and hotel management.

KCB Bank Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs

Christina Manyenye, said the programme that started earlier this year targets at encouraging youth to acquire skills that bring about self-employment competence.

KCB had offered a full paid scholarship at the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in Dar es Salaam for 163 youth to undergo entrepreneurship training in the mentioned areas from which 118 managed to graduate as the rest 45 dropped on

the way for various reasons.

"I would like to see all of you go and explore all the opportunities out there. We are planning for a mentorship, coaching and industry attachment for all of you so that you can learn from established small and medium enterprises owners," said Manyenye.

According to her, the bank has for over 20 years now led in driving digital innovations by designing products that

brings a commendable customer experience that has resulted in making it win a good market share of the banking sector within the East African region SMEs being part of it.

In its third phase the programme targets at equipping youth in the regions of Mwanza with 46 entrepreneurs, Arusha 46, Morogoro, Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro 30 entrepreneurs. In its first phase the programme was dedicated to women entrepreneurs in Dar

es Salaam whereby 115 benefited from the programme.

Clarifying on the mentorship and industry attachment as part of the programme for the entrepreneurs, KCB Head of Treasury Paschal Machango said the bank will work with the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

"We are also planning to equip youth with required skills for the construction industry. We generally aim

at empowering about 4,000 youth with entrepreneur skills in the next three years. KCB keeps pace with technology changes that have become rapid in recent years.

Consumer behaviour has changed significantly especially at this time of COVID-19 pandemic eruption and our bank has been working day and night in finding digital solutions that will keep our customers abreast to the digital world," said Machango.



Implementation of Dar es Salaam's rapid transit road infrastructure project under way along the Mbagala Rangi-Tatu stretch of Kilwa Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

AU chairperson mourns passing of Zambia's founding president

ADDIS ABABA

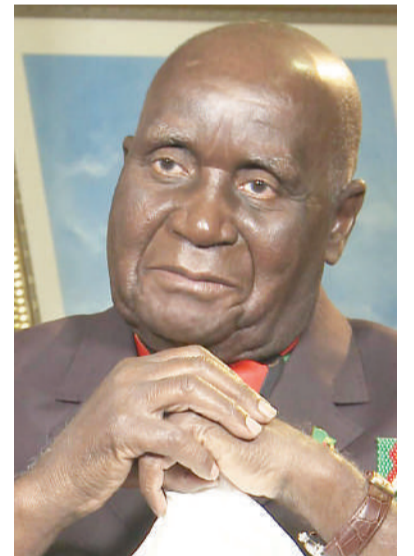
CHAIRPERSON of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat has expressed his deep condolences on the passing of Zambia's first President Kenneth Kaunda.

"It is with an indescribable sense of loss that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat learnt of the passing of Kenneth Kaunda, the first president of Zambia and one of the Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)," said an AU statement.

During the commemoration of this year's African Day, the AU honored Kaunda, who was 97 years old, with a special award for the role he played in and the immense contribution he made to the liberation of Africa and its people.

"Africa has lost one of its finest sons," the chairperson said.

Muhamat said Kaunda's championing of the Frontline States to defeat Apartheid and white minority rule in Southern Africa laid the foundation for regional integration today. Zambian President Edgar Lungu



has announced a 21-day mourning period for the former president.

"On behalf of the entire nation and on my own behalf I pray that the entire Kaunda family is comforted as we mourn our First President and true African icon," Lungu wrote on his Facebook page on Thursday.

Born in 1924, Kaunda led Zambia's independence struggle and served as the first president of the country from 1964 to 1991.



It is with an indescribable sense of loss that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, learnt of the passing of Kenneth Kaunda, the first president of Zambia and one of the Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

Kampala urges EAC to engage private sector to enhance regional integration

By Guardian Reporter

UGANDA has reaffirmed its commitment towards the East African Community (EAC) integration and urged the Secretary General to revitalize the Community's strategies by engaging more with the private sector and

other stakeholders to enhance integration.

Uganda's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Richard Kabonero expressed his country's commitment yesterday in Arusha when he paid a courtesy call to the Secretary General of EAC Dr Peter Mathuki.

The Secretary General and envoy discussed a wide range of issues geared at moving forward regional integration in East Africa.

The Ugandan envoy was emphatic that the EAC was making remarkable and irreversible progress on the integration agenda.

"It is a critical that the EAC Secretariat involves the private sector especially as we move closer to the latter stages of integration," said Amb Kabonero.

The High Commissioner commended the efforts of the EAC's towards the inclusion of Democratic Republic

of Congo into the EAC as Summit directed.

"Admitting the DRC to the EAC presents an opportunity to increase trade flows and it may play a key role in promoting stability in the region," he said.

Speaking on the COVID-19 status in Uganda, the High

Commissioner informed the Secretary General on the new steps Uganda was taking including re-imposed lockdown that included the closure of schools and the suspension of inter-district travel to help beat back a surge in COVID-19 cases in the East African country.

Amb Kabonero urged the Secretary General to take keen interest in making sure that EAC comes up with a common approach to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic as opposed to the current situation where each country is coming up with its own protocols.



Former National Assembly Speaker Anne Makinda (C, foreground), recently named Chancellor of Dar es Salaam's Hubert Kairuki Memorial University, pictured yesterday proceeding to the venue of the event where she was officially welcomed to her new position. She succeeds former Prime Minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim in Dar es Salaam. Flanking her are HKMU council chairman John Ulanga (L) and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Kairuki Health and Education Network, Kokushubira Kairuki. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Makinda appointed as new chancellor of Hubert Kairuki Memorial University

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE new Chancellor of Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU), Anne Makinda has reminded the public the importance of respect and ethics among universities students and staff especially those which provide education in medicines.

Makinda made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the ceremony to welcome her as the new Chancellor of HKMU in colorful ceremony held at the university grounds in Mikocheni Dar es Salaam.

She said universities especially private ones should change challenges they face to be opportunities in order to increase efficiency so that they can be able to compete in the market.

She said trainings and certificates alone are not enough to introduce the university graduates somewhere if she/he is not adhering to ethics and regulations in their daily activities when serving the society.

"Respect is the tool to make your university one of its kind, even success also comes from ethics and respect because when you are at work you are supposed to treat people with kindness and respect," said Makinda.

"Sometimes I meet students of this university and see how respectable and ethical they are so in your teaching don't forget to tell students about the importance of respect and ethics because these are important things in

their lives," she said.

She said despite the fact that some of graduate from health colleges and universities don't have employment there is still need to train more and more so that they can go to rural areas to treat their fellow Tanzanians.

Makinda advised HKMU to create other sources of income instead of relying on school fees as the only source and she also thanked the university management for her appointment to succeed Dr Salim Ahmed Salim. "When you retire you need to rest but I received this appointment because I believe through HKMU it is God who has chosen me to take this position. I also know the history of this university you have passion to your work and you love each other, you are doing better since the death of the founder Professor Hubert Kairuki," said Makinda.

She said the good system which was introduced by the late Kairuki is the foundation of success of the university.

The Chairperson of Board of Directors of Kairuki Health and Education Network, Kokushubira Kairuki asked the government to give grants to private universities so that they can run smoothly.

"I believe graduates from private universities including HKMU serve our communities so we ask the government to help us with grants and our new chancellor is influential and has vast experience in management, we believe through you we can have a bright future," said Kokushubira.

'Lack of inclusive policies source of stigma among autistic children'

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THERAPISTS have cited lack of inclusive policies as the reason to why children with autism and hyperactive brain disorders are less acceptable in the society.

Speaking at the International Children's Day here on Wednesday an occupational therapist, Brenda Shuma explained that African communities tend to

hide their children with disabilities at home, particularly those suffering from brain disorder.

The day is marked on June 16, every year and in Kilimanjaro Region, the day was marked with more than 25 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in collaboration with the Moshi Municipal Council (MMC).

Shuma said most parents were unaware that the condition could be treated by special treatment, including rehabilitation.

tion.

The therapist, who doubles as the executive director of the Gabriella Children Rehabilitation Centre (GCRC), described autism as a developmental disability that starts appearing in children at the ages of three.

Autism children often have intellectual disability requiring specialist support, though some can have normal intelligence and live a relatively normal life.

According to her, the disability may impact the child's ability to communicate and interact with others effectively and may have Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), a situation that makes the child or youth's brain to be active above normal.

"We need to give such children the skills that will make them productive in society and enable them to enjoy their lives," she said.

She added, "Issues such as art and craft and cookery, could be taught to improve their competitiveness in the market, including gardening and livestock keeping".

She pointed out that her organisation has been working with several groups of young children with disability teaching them entrepreneurship skills. "We want more children with disability hidden in their homes to come out to attend

our programmes," she insisted.

Speaking on behalf of the government at the event that went together with a series of activities including poems and poetry with different messages on children's rights, sports events, dancing and different speeches from children demanding for their rights, among many others, the Moshi District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Angelina Marko said that children rights abuses are on increase in

Moshi Municipality.

"Children's rights abuses are on increases in Moshi municipality, and the government is working closely with some non-governmental organisations to curb the problem," she explained.

The DAS further urged for the need to ensure that community leaders, government and other stakeholders joined forces to promote children's rights.



Moshi district administrative secretary Angelina Marko (2nd-L, foreground) inspects items made by children with autism and other mental health conditions at Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre during celebrations held in Hai District to mark the Day of the African Child (June 16). Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Stakeholders told to come up with strategies to up coffee production

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has urged coffee stakeholders in the country to come up with a strategy to increase the crop's production that earns the country much foreign exchange.

The call was made here on Wednesday by Songwe Regional Commissioner, Omary Mgumba when officiating the 11th 2021 Coffee Stakeholders Conference.

He said the country's coffee production was still not so good, pointing out in 2019 production reached 68,000 tonnes while Uganda produced 400,000 tonnes.

"I believe, through this sitting we shall together discuss how we can find solutions regarding small production, as even in my area production is dropping, farmers abandon coffee farming, hence we should come up with a strategy that can reverse the trend," he said.

He cited other problems plaguing the coffee sector as including price fluctuations, lack of capital for farmers due to their inaccessibility to loans from financial institutions.

Mgumba called upon the coffee

stakeholders to use the platform to listen to all that will be raised and submit recommendations on what to be done to reverse the situation.

"Coffee is among strategic crops that are supposed to develop and contribute to government's efforts in providing job opportunities, to spur economic growth and increase farmers income."

However, he said the private sector was the engine for the country's economic growth and that the government will continue to give it priority to attain revolution in the agriculture sector.

He assured stakeholders that the government will continue to work together with it to transform the agriculture sector, saying the Phase VI Government vows to develop contract farming to protect investors' capital in agriculture.

For his part, Tanzania Coffee Board (TTB) Chairman Prof Aurelia Kamuzora said the conference will discuss the reasons behind coffee farmers opting to sell their coffee in Uganda by advising the government to remove obstacles to benefits farmers from their crop.



Coffee is among strategic crops that are supposed to develop and contribute to government's efforts in providing job opportunities, to spur economic growth and increase farmers income

Bank launches campaign to empower entrepreneurs with business skills

By Guardian Reporter

NBC Bank has launched its 'Twende Sawa' campaign aimed at empowering small-scale entrepreneurs and take them to the new heights in terms of business.

Speaking at the launch of

the campaign, NBC Retail Banking director Elibariki Masuke said that the campaign is meant to make the bank close to small-scale entrepreneurs and take them to the new heights in terms of business.

Masuke said there are im-

provements that the bank has been making to achieve the goal of being closer to small businesses owners.

"We have expanded the scope of our bank branches in the country through NBC Wakala and have set up a digital account-open-

ing system, simplified the opening of accounts where one only needs his national ID to be registered. With this campaign we target traders from all regions of the country," said Masuke.

For his part, the Head of Retail and Small Custom-

ers Unit, Raymond Urassa, who is also the manager of Kua Nasi Account, said the account was specific and friendly to small businesses.

"We at NBC are aware that small businesses need to grow through our bank as

a platform. That's why we have eliminated monthly operating deductions, we offer entrepreneurs profit with the money they invested. We provide check books at the lowest cost they will need but have also reduced the cost of cash withdraw-

ing through this account." He asserted that with the account small business owners can open a Kua Nasi Account at all branches across the country but also through the bank's agents which are also available at a nationwide level.



‘Investing in climate-resilient water, sanitation in Africa just cannot wait’

By Special Correspondent

MORE than 220 million children and their families in Africa are water insecure. The impact is staggering: 58 per cent of children in Eastern and Southern Africa and 31 per cent of children in West and Central Africa live in areas of high, or extremely high, water vulnerability. These children are more likely to miss school to fetch water. They are more likely to suffer malnutrition and stunting when droughts and floods impact agricultural food production. And they are more likely to get sick when communicable diseases and infection spread due to lack of sanitation and contaminated water quality.

In addition to its impact on children's health and well-being, water insecurity also limits economic growth and forces people to migrate.

As climate change leads to unpredictable and extreme weather patterns, and as population growth increases stress on water resources due to increased water demand and competition, the situation will only get worse.

The reality is stark: Investment in climate-resilient water infrastructure in Africa currently stands far below the levels necessary to ensure water security for the continent's people. The African Development Bank estimates that US\$64 billion should be invested annually to meet the 2025 Africa vision of water security for all; but the actual figure invested stands between US\$10-US\$19 billion per year.

Urgent action is needed to transform the investment outlook for climate resilient water and sanitation services in Africa.

The COVID 19 pandemic has brought an added sense of urgency, with billions of people lacking access to handwashing facilities at home.

That is why UNICEF and the Global Water

Partnership in Africa are issuing this joint call to action:

We are calling on governments, development organisations, donors, businesses, and civil society to gather behind the urgent need to accelerate investment in climate resilient water and sanitation services in Africa.

As the development community convenes for the 14th annual European Development Days, our message is clear: Investment in water governance, as well as water and sanitation services must be prioritised at the highest political level by Heads of States and Government, with leadership and commitment to reverse the current inadequate investment trend.

Development partners, donors, and the private sector have an opportunity to provide technical and long-term financial commitments through public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable water and sanitation investments.

Civil society can play a key role in working with communities to support and advocate for climate-resilient water and sanitation programmes, especially in the areas of high-water vulnerability.

Finally, the European Commission has an opportunity to prioritize water governance, water and sanitation services, and hygiene, as part of the comprehensive strategy with Africa in the EC programming cycle for 2021-2027.

Working together to transform the investment outlook for sustainable climate resilient water and sanitation services is an opportunity to not only ensure water security on the continent, but also contribute to a peaceful, prosperous, stronger and equitable Africa, now and in the future.

African experts call for innovative financing to boost green transition

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

SUB-SAHARAN African countries should explore innovative financing models to promote climate resilience for communities and their natural habitats, experts have said on Monday ahead of Africa Climate Week that starts Tuesday.

The climate experts and policymakers who spoke at a virtual forum said that Africa's green aspirations can be realized, subject to robust financing, friendly regulations and technology transfer.

Fatima Denton, director of the Ghana-based Institute for Natural Resources in Africa with United Nations University (UNU-IRNA), said the continent required smart investments and revamped policies to hasten green recovery.

"Africa should leverage new financing and policy tools to strengthen adaptation to climate change and hasten green and inclusive recovery from Covid-19 pandemic," said Denton.

Senior policymakers, scholars and campaigners participated in

the virtual forum organised by the Brookings Institution, a U.S.-based think-tank, and United Nations University prior to the start of Africa Climate Week.

Denton said that climate change remained an existential threat to Africa's sustainable future, adding that a host of fiscal and regulatory tools can be harnessed to boost resilience of communities and ecosystems.

According to Denton, the continent should leverage investments in clean energy solutions, climate smart agriculture,

digital technology and green transport to reduce its carbon footprint.

She called on multilateral lenders to provide financing, technical support and capacity building required to stimulate low carbon development in Africa amid vulnerability to climate induced disasters.

Jean-Paul Adam, director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management with UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), said that a shift from fossil fuels

combined with research and community engagement is key to realizing a green future for Africa.

According to Adam, African countries were spending 5 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to respond to climatic shocks hence the need for them to scale up investments in adaptation to ward off economic losses.

"Domestic resources mobilization should be part of the climate resilience and green recovery objective for the con-

tinents," said Adam.

Vanessa Ushie, manager of Policy Analysis Division of the African Natural Resources Centre of African Development Bank (AfDB), said that climate financing should be at the heart of the continent's post pandemic recovery pathways.

According to Ushie, African countries should address the financing, knowledge and technical gap that has derailed green transition through partnership with industry and multilateral.

She called on governments

to invest in nature-based solutions to the climate crisis in Africa, adding that women-led interventions have proved effective in boosting the continent's green transition.

Aloysius Uche Ordu, senior fellow and director of Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution, said the continent should tap into home-grown interventions like increased uptake of clean energy, carbon tax and biodiversity protection to spur green recovery.

Antibiotics ‘valley of death’ bridged by local link-ups

By Special Correspondent

SMALLER companies at the heart of innovation on new antibiotics can boost their chances of getting promising drugs to market by forging close links with partners in developing countries.

This is one of the messages in a report by non-profit organisation the Access to Medicine Foundation that highlights how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) developing antibiotics face a fight to avoid bankruptcy.

The world has grown increasingly reliant on such SMEs following the departure of many large companies from antibiotic development, the report says, with new antibiotics and antifungals desperately needed amid rising resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when organisms such as bacteria and parasites adapt and stop responding to medicines, which makes infections more difficult to treat.

The report notes that 5.7 million people die yearly from lack of access to the right antibiotics, mainly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and 700,000 from drug-resistant infections. It says 55 antibiotics are currently in late-stage development.

"When SMEs fail, their pipelines are frozen, leaving new drugs stranded on the lab bench," the report warns. "If the loss of such promising products continues, the pandemic of drug-resistant infections will pose a bigger global health emergency than COVID-19."

Fatema Rafiqi, a research programme manager in antimicrobial resistance at the Access to Medicine Foundation said: "SMEs are the key innovators in the arena. Seventy-five per cent of the late-stage pipeline is associated with those enterprises."

While fresh incentives and innovative subscription-based models for drugs are needed, says the foundation, smaller drug makers can take steps in the meantime to minimise risks and unlock new funds.

Partnerships with hospitals, organisations and manufacturers in LMICs could accelerate drug development and access to local resources and

expertise in places that urgently need the drugs, analysts say. And such link-ups could help save SMEs from the "valley of death", where early research funding dries up prior to financial returns.

Although it is a "fragile" market, various players are moving in the right direction, says Rafiqi. The report cites several US-headquartered antibiotics developers that it says follow a partnership approach in countries like India and South Africa, as well as China. This enables clinical trials with a higher number of relevant participants in places with some of the highest AMR rates.

"Those partnerships can then lead to partnerships with local generic manufacturers, and manufacturing and distribution centres. That can facilitate quicker access," said Rafiqi. It can also be a springboard to doing the same in other countries, she added.

Biotech Bugworks, for example, has partnerships in India and South Africa, with the potential of expanding accessibility to other countries in South-East Asia and Africa if products can be successfully moved through the pipeline.

The report notes that India offers good potential for partnerships, given its own investment in its domestic pharmaceutical industry.

Jehangir Cama, an industry research fellow working on antimicrobial research and development at the University of Exeter, UK, said: "The report importantly stresses the need for equitable access to both old and new drugs." With the world in discussions over how to enable access to COVID-19 vaccines, it needs to be highlighted more for antimicrobials, he says.

"Working with LMICs will be particularly helpful for matters such as patient recruitment for clinical trials," added Cama. "LMICs have a high burden of resistant infections, and these are exactly the areas that will likely need new antimicrobials first."

Parallels have already been seen in the way that the Serum Institute of India was authorised to supply COVID-19 vaccines developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca, he points out.

Seamus O'Brien is director of research and development at the not-for-profit Global Antibiotic



Simanjoro district executive director Yefred Myenzi pictured at Losinyai village yesterday launching the survey of more than 300 residential and commercial plots. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), a reviewer on the report. He says partnerships are promising, though link-ups can be a challenge because SMEs may lack resources or local knowledge.

Drug development, O'Brien believes, must also be backed by appropriate incentives, and supported by gov-

ernments and the global health and development sectors. "It is of utmost importance that companies exploring partnerships with low- and middle-income countries are further supported through pull initiatives and reimbursement schemes to ensure new antibiotics are not stalled in their development and commercialisation," he said.

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**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Nation holds its breath in hailing Dr Kaunda, Mwalimu's alter ego

AFRICAN countries, especially the southern Africa circuit, are collectively and individually immersed in the mourning Dr Kenneth Kaunda, the founder president of Zambia and one of the foremost regional allies - not to say personal friends - of Mwalimu Nyerere. In many regards Dr Kaunda was an alter ego to the Father of the Nation, an illustration of the same spirit and public or leadership outlook, but with clear variations, not disparities, arising from their different political conditions, strategic positions. Dr Kaunda is a father figure to the vast majority of the current adult generation, all but our more venerable elders.

Making a rapid account of the life and work of the deceased Zambian statesman, one elderly observer of the political scene contributing to international media broadcasts in our language recalled that Mwalimu's acceptance of multiparty democracy, at the time that he made that announcement, was contributed to by President Kaunda's influence. Mwalimu was visiting Zambia in one of his many post-retirement missions and had frank talks with the Zambian president, then still in office, and they agreed on the need for multiparty democracy. It can be gauged that this would assist ANC President Nelson Mandela in his often difficult negotiations with post-apartheid authorities, to organise the first properly democratic polls there.

Up to that point Dr Kaunda and Nyerere had passed through smoke and fog in seeking to bring light to the difficult post-independence condition in Africa, first with racial despotisms in Southern Africa, and a flurry of coups and bestial conduct of rulers in various countries.

To this end, Mwalimu and Nyerere first pacted on the Nigerian-Biafran conflict, where they rejected the principle of non-interference in each other's affairs, to insist on principles of human-

ism as necessary for peace and unity in Africa. They were roundly howled, but divinity listened; despite grave tensions up to 1992 and beyond, Zambia is peaceful.

Mwalimu and Kaunda were most noticed as bosom friends during the half decade or so of Frontline State meetings, from 1975 to 1980 when Zimbabwe became independent. Mozambique had only rapid talks to reach an accord after a coup in Portugal removed the 40 year old fascist dictatorship, and diplomacy had little role in the transition, but the Nyerere-Kaunda alliance was pivotal in moral encouragement and clear strategic support for Frelimo, the liberation party in Mozambique. It was Zimbabwe that was accessible to plenty of diplomacy, where Mwalimu by and large gave the key signals with President Kaunda at his side.

The point of difference that has been emphasised by commentators between Nyerere and Kaunda was that Nyerere peacefully retired, while Kaunda accepted multiparty democracy, and underestimating opposition influence and potential impact of longevity, thrust himself into the polls.

The rest, as they say, is history, but in a sense the 'tiende pamodzi' helmsman remained the most principled leader that the country has had for the post-independence generations, and those who poured scorn on the elder statesman had their own round of opprobrium after that period. It is also useful to remember the touchline of the personal philosophy of the pastor's son who rose to become Zambia's national independence leader, that he avidly cherished the term 'humanism.'

We have ingratiated ourselves with revolution for rather too long, if with fewer consequences than elsewhere in Africa. In a word, let us all imitate Dr Kaunda, become humanists.

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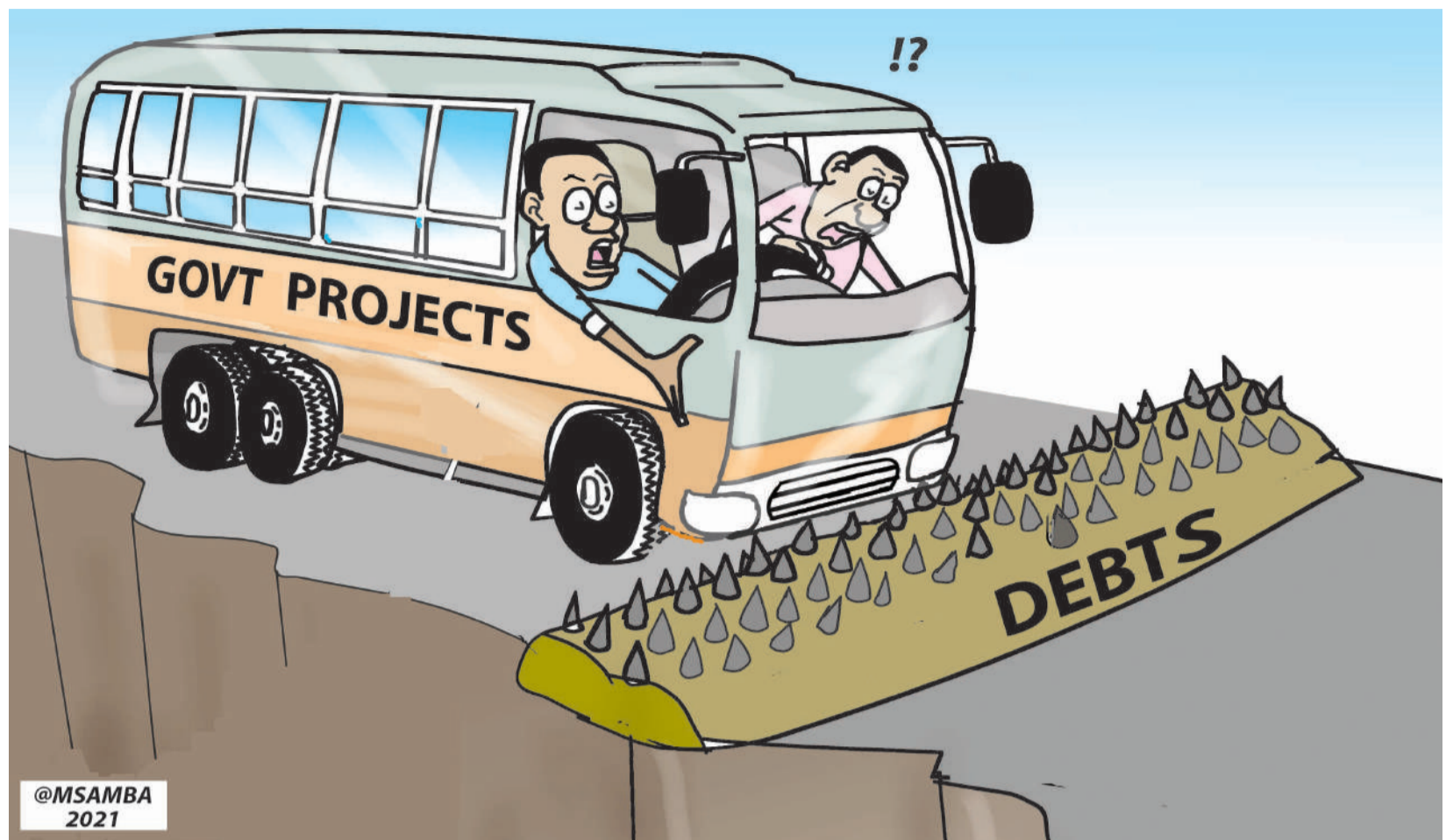
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Rethinking Zimbabwe's public pension scheme

By Eddie Cross

TWENTY five years ago, we launched the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) with fanfare and hope.

Its board was made up of government, employers and employee representatives and we hoped it would help us provide security for those who retired from active employment.

It joined the many private sector retirement funds, which existed and were meant to augment, if not eventually, replace this system.

When I was just 17 years old and was starting my first real job, my father took me to his insurance broker and made me take out a retirement annuity with Old Mutual.

Every person needed this, he said, to ensure that they had something to live on when finally, they left active employment.

Over the next 50 years I faithfully maintained a stop order on my bank account in favour of the Old Mutual -- with another four policies taken out as I got older on the advice of my personal broker.

As my career developed, I was appointed to a position with a major corporate entity and when I signed up, the company secretary informed me that they had a pension scheme for their staff and whatever I contributed they would match.

In addition, they informed me that my contributions were tax deductible.

As I rose through the ranks until I became CEO, my contributions grew, taken off at source, we never took it into account -- it was just my pension.

Over my entire working life, I paid into the Old Mutual about US\$1.4 million dollars -- today my pension from the Old Mutual is worth about US\$20 a month.

In the past 20 years' hyperinflation has wiped out the entire savings of my generation.

Back to NSSA. I have calculated that over the past 25 years' workers and their employers have paid perhaps US\$12 billion into this organisation. Of this sum only US\$2 billion remains as assets and it is not because they have paid out pensions in one form or another.

The country is littered with NSSA-funded projects that are not performing and in many cases, are totally unproductive.

It is a testimony to failed investments and corruption with massive overheads.

The welfare of its subscribers is the last thing on their mind.

We have got the whole issue wrong, both in the private and public sector.

The question is what to do. We are a poor developing country and cannot afford the luxury now taken for granted in the wealthier countries,



of social security for life, unemployment benefits and other forms of assistance.

Whatever we do has to be paid for from our meagre national resources and we have to make sure that every dollar counts. So where do we go from here?

First let's all agree that the status quo is simply unacceptable. Most employees regard NSSA contributions as just another tax. To employers it is a pain in the butt involving more complex payroll computations and yet another unproductive expense.

If it was made voluntary, no-one would subscribe.

Had I invested my pension contributions on the stock market or bought property with my savings, I would be quite well off, instead we cannot even pay for a basket of groceries with my entire Old Mutual pension.

Looking around the world I see a thousand permutations of arrangements to try and give working people a decent pension and dignity in their old age.

We cannot emulate the great majority because we simply do not have the resources.

The fact is that one workable solution is right under our noses - the way in which the state pays out pensions to the civil service.

We have over 300 000 pensioners retired from the civil service -- more than I think are actually there because our life expectancy is so low, but that is another issue.

We should be carrying out proof of life tests on a regular basis.

I think that for the private sec-

tor we should be looking at the German model.

In Germany pensions for private sector workers and management are paid by sinking funds established for each sector of the economy.

These funds are financed by joint contributions by both workers and employers.

The funds are not allowed to invest any surpluses but instead maintain three months cover for all expenses in the form of social support.

Zimbabwe, with its established system of national employment councils for each sector of the economy, could use these to administer similar arrangements but also by working the NEC system into NSSA.

Each industrial sector would have an employment council to negotiate working conditions with their employees.

These councils would be financed (as at present) by a small levy on salaries but in addition each NEC would create a fund to be lodged and administered by NSSA.

Each NEC would negotiate social support in the form of medical assistance, pension rights and unemployment or retraining grants.

These payments would be paid out by NSSA using the funds collected by each NEC.

All NEC's would be members of NSSA and would have elected representatives sitting on employers and employee councils with a summit body representing the two subsidiary bodies.

NSSA would not be allowed to

invest surplus funds in anything except short term financial assets that are interest bearing.

The funds held by each NEC being purely for the purpose of social support.

Target pension rights should be about 60% of the salary of the last post the person had held prior to retirement.

Should any NEC move either into deficit or surplus -- the NEC Council would adjust the levy.

To help support such a system, the assets accumulated by NSSA in the past 25 years should be managed to support the new system of social support.

In addition, all Pension Funds presently run by individual sectors such as the Mining Industry Pension Fund for example, would also be managed by the NEC Council and revenues used to support the new system. Some form of accommodation for workers who do not have NEC cover, would have to be organised and managed by NSSA.

I am aware that the Ministry of Finance wants to move ultimately to a system supported by savings.

South Africa has such a system and the PIC there is the largest wealth fund in the country.

Singapore is generally regarded as the best example of such a fund and it has played a key role in financing the development of the local economy.

However, such a system (as we have learned) requires low inflation and long term stability and I am not sure we can offer either.

Under such conditions I would stay with what we have got in the public sector.

Refugee Day builds the concept of understanding for their plight

WORLD Refugee Day is an international day which is organised every year on 20 June by the United Nations. It is designed to celebrate and honour refugees from around the world. The day was first established on 20 June, 2001, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

The event aims to acknowledge and recognise the strength of the refugees who have fled the conflict and persecution of their country in the hopes to find sanctuary and live a better life. World Refugee day builds the concept of understanding for their plight in which shows one's resilience and courage in the rebuilding of their future.

The day is an opportunity for everyone to experience, understand and celebrate the rich diversity of the communities of refugees. Events such as theatres, dance, films, music and other events around the country aims to allow a great range of the refugee community organisations, voluntary and statutory organisations, local councils, schools, to host events during the week in order to honour the cause.[4]

A refugee is an individual who leaves their country due to the ramifications of war, conflict persecutions and violence that they have faced within their home country. Through undertaking the process of crossing international borders, some refugees are often found to leave everything behind carrying only the minimal clothing and possessions, with the plan to find safety and haven in a different country.

The 1951 Refugee Convention

acknowledges a refugee as an individual who is unable to return to their country of origin owing to the founded fear of being affected by their race, religion, participation of a social group or in different political opinions.

Refugees play a role in the globe as when they are positioned to have access to the legal employment opportunities in their host country, they are able to utilise their knowledge to assist in filling the gap of a country's labour market. These inclusions in society create a more diverse in culture and multiculturalisation which provides the community with the opportunity to learn from each other.

Majority of the refugees come from backgrounds where they have been formally employed and can assist their new country in contributing to the security of the country as well as their revenue. Through having refugees in a country, the hosts also need to prepare for an increase in the cost of services such as access to healthcare of education which is provided by the government.

They are also able to create the ability to contribute to society by acting as a mediator in different intercultural exchanges, this means that the country will be able to experience a more effective socio-cultural diversity within the community. African Refugee Day had been formally celebrated in several countries prior to 2000.

The UN noted that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June.[10]

Call for political belt-tightening to prevent drought becoming the next pandemic

BHUBANESWAR

“DROUGHT is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic and there is no vaccine to cure it.”

“Drought has directly affected 1.5 billion people so far this century and this number will grow dramatically unless the world gets better at managing this risk,” said Mami Mizutori, United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Mizutori was speaking before launch of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction’s (GAR) Special Report on Drought 2021, released today Jun. 17.

Climate change, overuse and conversion for agriculture, cities and infrastructure, which also drive drought and desertification, have already degraded one fifth of the planet’s land area.

This damage harms the livelihoods of almost half the planet’s population. As of 2018, 170 countries were affected by desertification, land degradation and drought according to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Desertification and Drought Day is celebrated every Jun. 17 by UN member nations. The 2021 theme calls for investing in activities that protect and restore natural ecosystems to boost the recovery from COVID-19 for communities, countries and economies worldwide.

“A land-centred approach to COVID-19 recovery can change the world,” said Executive Secretary of the Bonn-based UNCCD Ibrahim Thiaw. “So far, the world’s largest economies have already spent \$ 16 trillion in post-COVID recovery efforts. Investing a fifth of that amount, collectively, per year, could shift the world’s economies to a sustainability trajectory. Within a decade, the global economy could create close to 400 million new green jobs, generating over \$ 10 trillion in annual business value,” he said.

The scale of the land degradation challenge

Since 2015, when only three countries had comprehensive, effective drought-response plans, today 73 countries are working with the Desertification Convention developing a policy to ensure drought is survivable, not a disaster. At the start of the 2021-2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration over 115 countries have pledged to restore one billion hectares of degrading land by 2030 at a cost of \$1.67 trillion.

While this is progress, it is clearly not enough. As of 2018, 70 countries are affected by drought regularly, costing lives, while 170 countries were affected by either desertification, land degradation or drought or both.

A report by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, released early June, draws a stark picture if current land-use policies are not changed. Between 2015 and 2050 without land restoration measures, and combined with farming intensification, soil productivity is projected to go down on 12 percent of the global land area.

To meet growing food demand, cropland expansion by about 20 percent or 300 million hectares of land would be cleared by 2050 at the expense of natural ecosystems. As a result, global biodiversity would decline six percent with 32 gigatons of carbon released to the atmosphere and marked decline in soil health and its ability to hold water would lead to increased drought and floods.

India’s drought deaths

In a country of 1.4 billion, 70 percent of its rural households still depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, 8 out of 10 farmers are small and marginal and with 60 percent of cropland depending on monsoon for irrigation, drought can kill, quite literally.

Abinash Mohanty, re-



In India’s Eastern Ghats indigenous communities direct a perennial hill stream under the rural employment programme to run through the middle of their village helping them access household water needs at their doorstep. Downstream water is collected in a pond for farm irrigation and bathing cattle.

searcher-author of a 2020 study mapping India’s extreme climate hotspots, told IPS that “more than 68 percent of the Indian districts are currently drought hotspots.” The study, from Delhi-based research non-profit Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), finds the Indian subcontinent has witnessed more than 478 extreme events since 1970 whose frequency has accelerated after 2005.

Post-2005 period, 79 districts in India witnessed extreme drought events year-on-year affecting over 140 million people. With microclimatic zones shifting across various regions due to global warming, drought events are becoming more intense, some parts of India which were historically otherwise, are increasingly drought-prone, even flood-prone areas are becoming drought-prone, Mohanty’s study finds.

A summer of extreme heat-waves followed by a deficient monsoon is turning out

deadly droughts as in 2018. As drought’s stranglehold creeps over more and more land in India, agricultural uncertainties are claiming rural livelihoods and lives.

Crops fail year after year and rural farmers make desperate bids to dig deeper borewells and take on untenable debts in hope that one good crop could salvage it all. These skyrocketing farm costs and their inability to pay off debts have forced many farmers, share-croppers and daily-wage farm labourers in India to take their own life over this last decade.

In 2019, many as 10,281 persons involved in the farming sector (5,957 farmers and 4,324 agricultural labourers) have committed suicide, accounting for 7.4 percent of total suicides according to the government’s National Crime Records Bureau.

Activists say this is a huge under-estimation. A majority of the 32,559 daily wage earners’ suicides are none other than migrant rural farm workers driven out to urban centres. Stigma forces fami-

lies to not reveal suicides, and on the other hand local governments declare suicides as deaths for health, spurious liquor or other reasons.

Solutions exist if there is political will

More than five billion hectares of land around the world can be restored with a combination of restoration and protection – an improvement in land management.

“These are not utopian scenarios,” Thiaw said, “it is fully within our abilities to reach this most ambitious scenario. But it takes determination among the world’s leaders to do so.”

Speaking at the GAR 2021 pre-launch hybrid media briefing, Head of Geneva-based UNDRR, Mizutori told journalists, “Science tells us the prevention cost for drought or any other disaster is much lower than reacting after. Putting that extra dollar in resilience by governments is not happening because politicians see their policies more in the short span of their election cycles.”

“And there is no glory in

prevention. When successful in preventing a hazard becoming a disaster, you really can’t show it,” she said. “Which is why we (UNDRR) are now saying, for complex disaster like drought we need a comprehensive governance system, (firm) rules and regulations.”

India builds drought resilience with pandemic migrant returnees

When India went into a complete lockdown in March 2020, a mass reverse migration of an estimated 23 million migrant labourers (this estimation varies widely) returned to their rural homes, they were immediately employed under the rural job guarantee programme. From March 2020 till March 2021, 3.44 billion person-days of work was generated, 44 percent higher than the corresponding period pre-pandemic. A good chunk of this mass labour was employed in building rural water conservation and irrigation infrastructure.

That such community-built

drought adaptation assets are effective, is established by a country-wide 2021 study by Delhi-based non-profit research organisation Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). As per government records, over the last 15 years, more than 30 million water conservation-related ecological assets have been created totalling some 50 water structures in every Indian village. Calculations show that these structures have potentially conserved roughly 29,000 million cubic meters of water in this period and have the potential to irrigate some 19 million hectares, the study says. Maintenance of half of these water structure have been neglected however, cutting utility long-term.

“Droughts are among the most complex and severe climate-related hazards encountered, with wide-ranging and cascading impacts across societies, ecosystems and economies,” Mizutori said.

“Droughts are disasters but they do not have to be devastating,” she said.

By Sheng Yulei,

RECENTLY, a cargo train loaded with 104 TEUs of 240 commercial vehicles departed Zhengzhou, central China’s Henan province, and were later loaded onto a container ship at Qingdao Port, east China’s Shandong province before being exported to Iran.

Despite the negative impacts from COVID-19 on global shipping industry, ports in Shandong province are offering efficient whole-chain logistics services reaching every corner of the world, contributing to the building of a new development paradigm.

Ports are fundamental and pivotal facilities, as well as important pillars for economic development. Chinese President Xi Jinping once stressed the strategic importance of the ocean in China’s pursuit of high-quality development, urging progress in the construction of world-class sea ports, a modern maritime industry system, and a green and sustainable marine ecological environment to push for the building of maritime power.

The Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. established two years ago is now serving as a playmaker of the logistics industry. Regarding maritime transport, it has opened new sea routes, expanded shipping capacity, and reinforced transfer capability; in terms of land transport, it has launched train services, built land ports and exploited cargo resources. With 19 land ports and

China builds world-class smart, green ports



Container terminal of Weihai Port under the management of Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. File Photo

72 combined sea-rail routes, the group has established a broad channel of international logistics, which has forcefully protected the smooth operation of

the industrial and supply chains. Thriving ports lead to prospering trade. Currently, the Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. is accelerating the development of

emerging businesses, such as shipping finance, to expand its pivotal role. It has also launched multiple cold-chain express routes to Southeast Asia and re-

inforced its handling capability of basic commodities. At present, high-end cold-chain logistics, cross border trade, and bulk commodity distribution centers

are under construction, while freight trains are running busily between the province and Europe, bringing products from thousands of miles away to more and more Chinese families.

Cities and industries are interdependent. Establishing interaction between port construction and urban development, Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. is magnifying its influence with port-industry-city integration. It has joined hands with 16 cities in Shandong province to develop featured logistics park and chain-style industrial parks. By placing headquarters of ports in downtown areas, it is investing in port-centered projects to promote local economy. Besides, Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. is also advancing overseas port projects such as the Port of Vado in Italy.

By tackling a series of technical problems and building a whole set of technical standards, a technical team from Qingdao Port under the management of Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. has independently built a fully automated terminal, becoming a successful case of industrial internet application in port scenarios.

Shandong Port Group Co., Ltd. is also working to apply new transport methods, building home ports of offshore wind farm, as well as demonstration ports of green energy and low-carbon development.

Xiplomacy: China-Africa solidarity, cooperation raise hope of overcoming Covid-19 globally

THURSDAY marks the one-year anniversary of the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19, which has delivered an important message to the world that countries must stand together to rein in the devastating pandemic before it causes further harm.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, when addressing the summit on June 17, 2020, said that in the face of COVID-19, China and Africa have enhanced solidarity and strengthened friendship and mutual trust, reaffirming China's commitment to its longstanding friendship with Africa. As the war against the coronavirus continues, especially when new waves of COVID-19 infections hit some parts of the world, the China-Africa solidarity throws light on the right way to fight a common enemy of mankind.

RUSH TO WHERE NEEDED

During the extraordinary summit last year, Xi said people and their lives must be put front and center, and that China and Africa should do whatever it takes to protect people's lives and health. As the developing world is still facing

a huge vaccination gap due to a dire shortage of vaccines, China has been trying its best to supply vaccines to where they are most urgently needed, having donated vaccines to more than 80 developing countries. China has pledged to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good. Currently, more than 30 African countries have received or will receive Chinese vaccines.

In Cameroon, Antoinette Fatimatu, a 38-year-old nurse who conducts COVID-19 tests at the Yaounde General Hospital, said the most difficult part of her job is to tell people they are positive for COVID-19. "I have seen people die within days after I test them positive.

I need protection and can't wait to be vaccinated," her colleague Judith Maya told Xinhua. In April, Cameroon received its first batch of COVID-19 vaccines when 200,000 doses of China's Sinopharm vaccines arrived. In Zimbabwe, 65-year-old Deborah Birch, who has an underlying condition, took her first jab of a Chinese vaccine in March.

"I am confident that I have taken the Chinese vaccine," she said. China also supports its own vaccine manufacturers in transferring technologies to other developing coun-



Members of the Chinese medical expert team communicate with local frontline health workers at a COVID-19 testing facility in Juba, South Sudan. File photo

tries and carrying out joint production with them.

Last month, Egypt received from China the first batch of raw materials to locally manufacture the Sinovac vaccine with the target of producing 40 million doses within a year.

STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

China and Africa have stayed committed to fighting COVID-19 together. After the Chinese city of Wuhan reported its first infections, leaders of more than 50 African coun-

tries offered sympathies and provided support to China's anti-virus fight.

The goodwill and kind gesture by African countries have been returned with China's ensuing support. In February, Equatorial Guinea became the first African country to receive Chinese vaccine aid.

In March, China agreed to expand and modernize the Juba Teaching Hospital so as to offer better medical services in South Sudan, a country that has suffered from years of conflict. At the Yaounde

Gynaeco-Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital of Cameroon, Chinese medical team members have been helping with medical training for local staff.

"From the start of the pandemic until now, we feel the presence of the Chinese medical team alongside the Cameroonian team to effectively contain this pandemic," Nsom Mba Charles, deputy director-general of the hospital, told Xinhua.

Data showed that 46 Chinese medical teams in Africa have been mobilized for Af-

rica's response efforts. China also sent 15 ad hoc medical expert teams to Africa and swiftly set up a cooperation mechanism for Chinese hospitals to pair up with 43 African hospitals. In December 2020, construction of the Chinese-aided headquarters project for the Africa CDC commenced.

Fantahun Hailemichael, project coordinator at the African Union, said the landmark project, presently progressing smoothly, is a generous gift to the 1.3 billion people in Africa. "The Africa-China partnership is very strong and we hope it will last for a very long period of time.

This will continue because it's based on trust and mutual interest. It can not be shaken by events or circumstances," Hailemichael said.

COMMUNITY OF HEALTH FOR ALL

During last year's summit, Xi called for building a China-Africa community of health for all and pledged that once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit.

Last month, at the Global Health Summit, Xi said that confronted by a pandemic like

COVID-19, we must champion the vision of building a global community of health for all and tide over this trying time through solidarity and cooperation.

To Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar, China has demonstrated its tangible commitments to assist Africa, as China has really been offering the continent therapeutics, epidemic control information and vaccines.

"China has walked its talk with African countries and other developing countries around the world in an effort to manage this pandemic," Adhere said, noting that China is also the first country to assist Africa with local production of vaccines.

"I think the spirit of shared humanity that is being fronted by China is something that is very progressive and has seen a lot of valued acceptance and resonance around the world," Adhere said, adding,

"Countries cannot act in compartments. They must be willing to shed off the tag of nationalism and begin to speak in a language that resonates with the cross-border challenges that we're facing today."

Xinhua

Kenneth D. Kaunda: A great son of Africa who fought for independence

By Olusegun Obasanjo

TONIGHT, I was welcomed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the sad news of the death of the first president of the Republic of Zambia and a founding father of the nation, His Excellency Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

In this moment of great loss to Zambians and indeed all Africans, I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the Kaunda family, President Edgar Lungu, and the government and people of the Republic of Zambia.

The demise of President Kaunda at the grand old age of 97 years brings to an end the pioneers and forefathers who led the struggles for the decolonisation of the African continent and received the instrument of independence.

Let all Africans and friends of Africa take solace in the knowledge that President Kaunda has gone home to a well-deserved rest and to proudly take his place beside his brothers such as Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal, Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, Ahmed Sékou Touré of Guinea, Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Côte d'Ivoire, Patrice Lumumba of Congo, Nelson Mandela of South Africa... to name but a few.

All of them, without exception, were nationalists who made sacrifices in diverse ways. Some, like Patrice Lumumba, untimely lost their lives soon after independence.

We are consoled that God granted President Kaunda a long life to witness the progression of Africa through five decades of proud and not-so-proud moments.

In December 2015, I visited President Kaunda at his home in Lusaka in what was to be our last meeting.

As we discussed just about everything, from family to politics in our two countries and indeed in Africa generally, I asked him if the Africa that we have today is the Africa for which he and his contemporaries strug-

gled and fought. President Kaunda was visibly pained in his response and at some point he broke down and wept.

It was obvious to me how disappointed he was about some of the challenges that have plagued our continent for decades since independence.

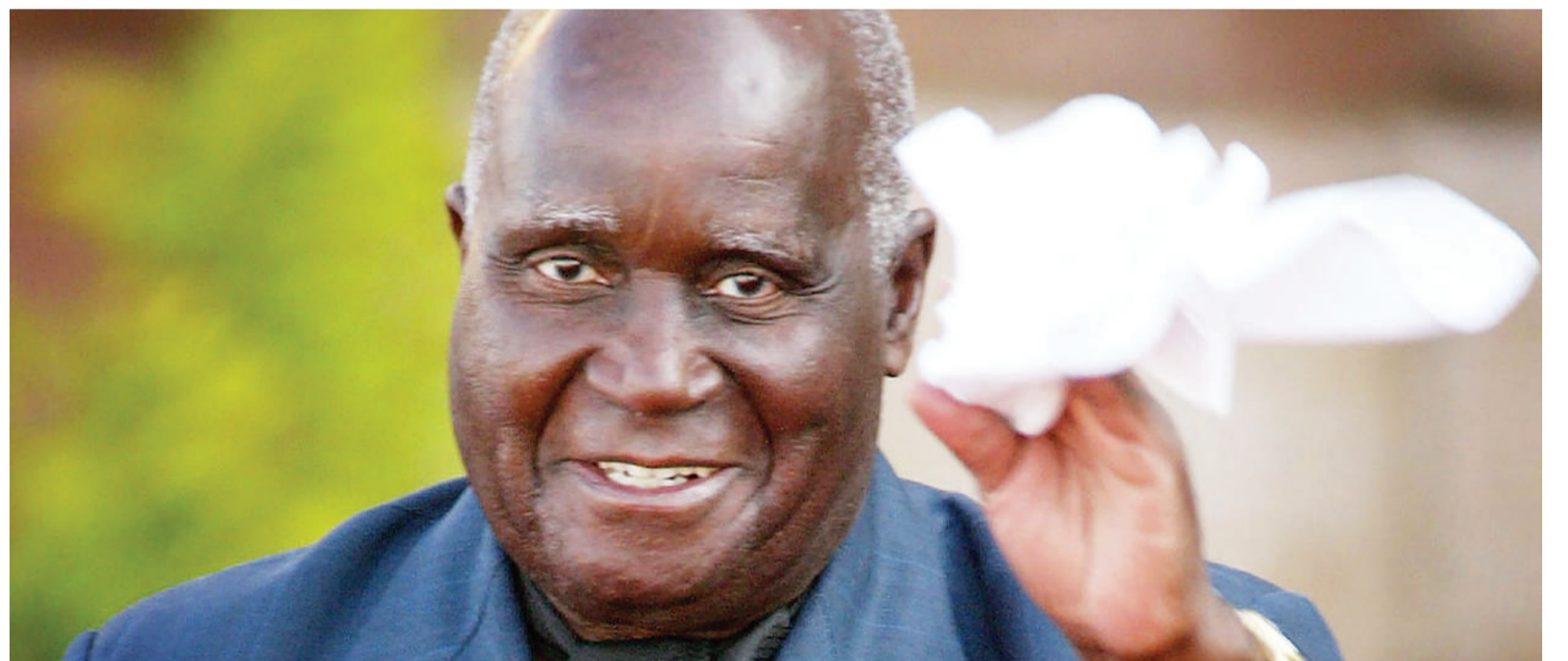
As we mourn President Kaunda, my prayer is that the death of this great African son and leader will remind us of the sacrifices that he and his contemporaries who fought for Africa's independence made.

Let it remind us of the vision that they had for Africa; their hopes and aspirations; their

dream for a free, strong, united and prosperous Africa. Let us, African leaders and people, never let the labour of these heroes be in vain.

Rest well, KK. Africa is free and will be great.

DM



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Poaching declines in Tanzania following prosecution of ivory trafficking ringleaders

By Lucy Taylor

ONCE known as the world's elephant killing fields, Tanzania appears to have halted the worst ivory poaching within its borders, making more than 2,300 arrests of poachers and traffickers over five years.

Investigators say that by the beginning of 2020 they had identified and penetrated at least 11 organised wildlife trafficking syndicates and arrested 21 "kingpins" – the high level leaders and organisers of the illegal trade, who profit most from it.

One of those, Yang Fenglan, a Chinese businesswoman known as the 'Ivory Queen', appealed her conviction at Tanzania's High Court last month.

Conservation groups, including the wildlife trade monitor TRAFFIC, said Tanzania previously suffered poaching on an "industrial scale", leading to a 60% decline in its elephant population in just the five years between 2009 and 2014. The figures, from a government census, equate to a loss of more than 60,000 elephants. The IUCN categorises the African savanna elephant as Endangered.

The government says thanks to the work of a National Taskforce on Anti-Poaching (NTAP), which unites the wildlife and security sectors to target criminal networks, less than a quarter the number of poaching incidents were reported in its National Parks in 2019 than five years earlier. A government report sets out the specifics of 2,377 arrests.

Elephant populations in Tanzania have risen from 43,000 in 2014 to 60,000 in 2019, according to a presidential statement. More recent figures from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism state that the number of elephants in the Serengeti Ecosystem has risen from 6,087 in 2014 to 7,061 in 2020.

Director of Public Prosecutions Sylvester Mwakitalu said that investigators and prosecutors have received a lot of training on wildlife cases in recent years.

"We have done a lot, including a rapid reference guide towards wildlife and forestry crimes, enhancing prosecution-led investigation and parallel investigation principles."

The national figures given in the government report appear to correspond to other data which suggest that Tanzania is no longer the epicentre of ivory poaching in Africa.

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), a London-based NGO, said in December 2020 that its analysis of ivory seizures suggested that poaching had shifted from East Africa to Central and West Africa in the past five years.

Its "Out of Africa" report said that 87 tonnes of ivory seized worldwide between 1998 and 2014 was linked to Tanzania, making the country the global hotspot for ivory poaching during those years. But it said the picture changed between 2015 and 2019, when just less than five tonnes of seized ivory could be linked to Tanzania. By contrast, the figure for Nigeria during those years was more than 30 tonnes.



A decade ago, a wave of poaching swept across Africa. Poachers killed more than half of Tanzania's elephant population between 2009 and 2014.

The report was compiled using analysis of seizure location, DNA analysis of the ivory, shipping route and the nationality of the suspect.

Mary Rice, Executive Director of the EIA, said that the work of the anti-poaching task force in Tanzania, supported by NGOs including the PAMS Foundation, was "instrumental" in tackling the problem.

"Tanzania now is no longer seen as a major exit for ivory. It doesn't mean it's gone away completely. But the multi-agency approach was instrumental because we all know from lessons learned and from good examples in other places that having a multi-agency approach is the only way to deal with these problems, because one agency can't deal with them alone."

"[The traffickers] are fleet of foot, they exploit loopholes and weak governance, and so having international co-operation is key."

She said that EIA's undercover work across Africa suggested that trafficking gangs had been forced out of Tanzania to other countries.

"One [ivory] trader actually told our [undercover] guys that they had moved to Mozambique from Tanzania because it was becoming more difficult to operate in Tanzania because they had cracked down. The impact of the work that the task force were doing and beyond was having a positive impact."

"We haven't heard of huge numbers of elephants being poached in Tanzania since around 2014 or 2015. There are always going to be a few, but we haven't heard of any big numbers."

Tanzania is developing a strategy of "zero poaching", according to the report. It says that the National Taskforce on Anti-Poaching (NTAP) had identified and "blacklisted" a total of 3,541 suspects involved in the illegal wildlife trade at different levels since 2015.

But its primary focus has been on those at the highest levels of poaching. The report gives some details of the kingpins identified in its investigations, saying that on average each commanded about 5 to 10 people, consisting of collectors, transporters and middlemen.

It says those at the highest levels often consist of both Tanzanians and foreigners, making them the most complicated syndicates to identify, locate, arrest and prosecute. Arrest reports suggest that alongside Tanzanians, both Chinese and West African criminal networks are at play in the country, but that the 'leading players' are Asian criminal networks, which purchase illegal products locally and export them to Asia.

The EIA's Mary Rice said it was right for investigators to target traffickers as well as those actually doing the poaching, as often poachers are "abused and exploited". But she cautioned that it can be easier for countries to target foreigners than their own citizens.

"It's easy for countries to go after foreigners, and it feels easier for them to come down like a ton of bricks on those, which they should, but they do not seem to be doing it to their own [citizens]. And that seems to be the missing link, because none of the activities conducted by the 'Ivory Queen' or any of the other networks, could take place without the complicity of Tanzanian, or Nigerian or Malawian nationals, or nationals of whichever country they are operating in. You don't see as many of those going through the court system."

As well as 14,000 pieces of ivory, Tanzania's joint task force also seized 25 rhino horns, 29 hippo teeth and 29 "big cat" skins in five years, as well as hundreds of live animals and thousands of tonnes of timber.

Director of Public Prosecutions Sylvester Mwakitalu told Mongabay that other countries could learn lessons from Tanzania's strategy. He said: "Each stakeholder plays their part, from investigators to prosecutors to the judiciary. We also benefit from strong pieces of legislation and political will."

Producing honey in Tanzania: CEO outlines the journey of Swahili Honey

By Special Correspondent

WHEN Tanzanian businessman Joseph Kadendula, CEO and co-founder of Central Park Bees and its retail brand Swahili Honey, decided to set up an apiary, he had no knowledge of bees. What he did have was an innate passion for entrepreneurship and was fascinated with farming; for the rest, he trained himself using Google and YouTube.

"I've been an entrepreneur since 2005. I originally sold mobile phones that I would purchase in bulk, adding a margin for resale. This helped me to gather some capital that I used for farming, which was always my main interest," says Kadendula.

After obtaining his bachelor of commerce degree in international business at the University of Dodoma, he began farming in earnest with onions, tomatoes, capsicum and cucumber in an area outside the capital Dodoma. It was the existence of too many middlemen that eventually led him to question the viability of this business venture.

"There were so many people between the production of the crops and the client. There was very little direct access for the farmer to the market and I felt like I had no control," he remembers. While on a trip to China to procure farming equipment in 2013, Kadendula saw the prominence of honey in this market. Back home in Tanzania, most local honey was sold on the side of the road as a way to earn a little extra income.

Kadendula wondered if honey could be commercialised and, without any honey production in place, bought



Central Park Bees buys honey from about 1,300 small-scale farmers in Tanzania

his first processing machine. Next came the search for commercial beehives. Having no luck in Tanzania, Kadendula imported his first hives from neighbouring Kenya.

"The beehive supplier provided some training and that's where I learnt the basics of beekeeping. I spent a lot of time doing research online and watching YouTube videos to see what others were doing."

In 2014, he started selling honey in the local market. It wasn't long before Kadendula made better profits than he'd ever made with crop production. He approached his brother, Christopher Kadendula, and a friend,

Charles Kazaura, and Central Park Bees was founded in 2015.

Demand-driven expansion

Central Park Bees has been adding equipment gradually for the processing of honey, always being guided by market demand. "Honey processing equipment is incredibly expensive. We didn't have the capital to buy all of them at once. We are still using that first machine I bought back in 2013," notes Kadendula.

"We let demand drive our expansion. We do not want to invest a lot in capacity, only to spend more on marketing to find the market for

the product."

From day one, however, they realised the company would not be able to meet the demand from its own apiary. The plan was to establish a network of farmers to form part of the supply chain. "We gave ourselves two years to get that network in place. At the same time, we focused on establishing the brand, designing the packaging, finding the clients and setting up our distribution model," explains Kadendula.

The company imported beehives from Kenya only once. The second time around, Kadendula secured a supplier in China at a far better price. And within

those first two years, Central Park Bees brought the hive production in-house. The company would empower the smallholder farmers with training, granting them equipment loans and giving them access to quality hives. They followed up with these farmers on the management of the bees and proper harvesting techniques and is first in line as the buyer of the raw product.

In Europe and the US, establishing a beehive has input costs such as procuring a queen or purchasing a swarm. Not so in Tanzania. "Generally, in most parts of Africa, you merely put the hive and beeswax in place

and the bees will come," says Kadendula. This makes beekeeping a viable option for smallholder farmers.

Local and international customers

By the end of 2016, Central Park Bees had a network of 200 farmers producing honey. Its certifications and registration for local sales were in place. By the following July, it entered the market officially with Swahili Honey and today works with around 1,300 farmers. It has been able to focus on its core business of honey processing and sold the hive production workshop to another entrepreneur who runs it independently. Last year, it shifted 270 tonnes of Swahili Honey, largely exports to other African countries and the Middle East but also to the local market.

The product can be found throughout Tanzania and Central Park Bees uses third-party logistics companies and five main distributors to ensure its products reach the shelves of not only supermarkets but also smaller independent shops. "It was just too expensive to cover the distribution as well as the collection of payments ourselves. It was just not feasible."

The company hopes to expand its export reach but is waiting to finalise its Fairtrade and organic certifications. These credentials are becoming increasingly important to the consumer. Kadendula adds, "We are already benefiting from the increasing importance placed by consumers on the traceability of a product. We love to tell the story of where our honey comes from and of our farmers.

We share the full experience from hive to table."

Maintaining consistent quality is at the top of Central Park Bees' priority list. Working with so many smallholder farmers can be a challenge but Kadendula believes they have the correct processes in place. The support it provides to the farmers also assists in addressing another challenge: maintaining the loyalty of the supplier farmers. "Of course, we have competitors that try and poach our farmers. We need to remain able to focus on its core business of honey processing and sold the hive production workshop to another entrepreneur who runs it independently. Last year, it shifted 270 tonnes of Swahili Honey, largely exports to other African countries and the Middle East but also to the local market."

Diversification for growth Initially, the founders used their own capital to bootstrap the business. Over time, it has looked towards international investors, competing in start-up pitch competitions instead of local funding options such as bank loans.

"Still today, it is difficult to get a loan from the banks. We had to rely on external investors; one from the US and one from Italy. They have also provided us with some subsequent soft loans when we require it for working capital," he reveals.

This year, the company is launching its first additional product: a peanut butter and honey mix. Next will be energy bars that combine Swahili Honey with peanuts, cashews and sesame seeds.

"Honey is just one part of it. We are now looking at the bigger picture. The machines are in place to start production," says Kadendula. "We are working hard to improve sales to attract more investors so that we can expand even further."

For people with disabilities, Covid-19 lays bare the weaknesses in social safety nets

UNITED NATIONS

PEOPLE with disabilities were particularly hard hit by the social and economic impacts of efforts to control COVID-19.

At the start of the pandemic, lockdowns, curfews, disruptions in transportation and a halt in tourism sent economies spiralling. In the Caribbean, people with disabilities began experiencing severe delays in public and disability assistance.

"They were relatively small amounts that a lot of people with disabilities rely on to purchase food and other essential supplies, so if this was delayed imagine the great strain and the hardship that it placed on people. It proved that if during times of crisis our social safety nets cannot function, there is a lot of work to be done," President of Saint Lucia's National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities, Merphilus James told IPS.

James, who is also the President of Disabled People's International North America and the Caribbean is also calling for a review of public assistance for people with disabilities.

"Most of our members rely on these payments, which in most cases are not reflective of the current cost of living," he said, noting that the United Nations Social Policy Brief on the Disability Inclusive Response to COVID-19 recommends advanced disbursement of public assistance grants, to ensure people with disabilities have time to procure food other supplies.

"It's inexcusable to have delays in the payments of public assistance stipends in times like these."

Governments were able to streamline the payment process and for countries like Saint Lucia, donations were received from religious groups, supermarket chains and the National Emergency Management Organisation.

UN officials say lessons like these underscore the importance of protecting people with disabilities in emergencies.

The 14th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities took place over three days this week, guided by the theme, "Building back better: COVID-19 response and recovery; Meeting the needs, Realising the rights and Addressing the socio-economic impacts on persons with disabilities."

"Persons with disabilities are among those most adversely impacted by the pandemic, with disproportio-



Prosthetic leg fitting at the office of Saint Lucia's National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities - the first prosthetic limb manufacturing centre in the Eastern Caribbean.

tionate loss of lives and impact on health as well as livelihoods," said Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with support from the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN Women, recently undertook a series of case studies on the socio-economic impact of

COVID-19.

The results have been described as 'discouraging.'

"Once again, studies demonstrate that persons with disabilities are being left behind. Be it with regard to equal access to healthcare, social protection, data collection, participation, information and international response, or in terms of the situation of those living in institutionalised settings," the Assistant Secretary-General said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), over one billion people live with some form of disability.

UN officials said this week that COVID-19 has shown the rest of the world what people with disabilities know all too well - isolation, mobility restric-

tions and challenges accessing basic services. They are hoping that this shared experience has taught important lessons about the impact of exclusion from community life.

One of the areas officials say is in urgent need of reform is access to employment.

The International Labour Organisation, in a landmark report, calculated 'the price of excluding people with disabilities from the workplace.' Its researchers concluded that countries forfeit between three and seven percent of Gross Domestic Product when they omit this pillar of workplace mainstreaming.

James is hoping that employers heed the pandemic's lessons on remote education and work.

"If we are to empower our people, we must provide them with portable, credible certification through education, so that they are more marketable and can earn a meaningful income. This requires that governments invest in more reliable, affordable internet on small island nations like Saint Lucia. That is crucial. We have a right to information," he said.

"Ensuring that there is greater employment of people with disabilities is just good business. It is good for the economy and COVID-19 has proven how easy it is for people to work from home and be extremely productive."

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly in 2006. It covers a range of issues including access to buildings, education and health. It also addresses stigma and discrimination.

Earlier this year, the WHO adopted a landmark resolution on disability that vowed to develop a report on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities by the end of 2022.

One of the key messages from this week's meetings is the need to frankly assess how people with disabilities were treated and impacted during a public health crisis. Panelists stressed the need to applaud what went right and address the wrongs such as people with disabilities appearing to be afterthoughts, delayed, yet urgently-needed financial and other support, as well as the impacts of prolonged, heightened isolation.

"It is crucial that we do not just fix what was broken, but that we take an innovative approach to truly implementing pioneering suggestions. COVID-19 has proven that we need to create systems that are not so fragile if we are to cope well in the future against such pandemics," says James.

IPS

Malawi making big strides in protecting children with albinism

MACHINGA

IN Malawi, children with albinism face a lot of challenges including discrimination, attacks and ritual killings. For some time, government and non-governmental organizations have been working hard to reverse the trend.

As the world commemorated International Albinism Awareness Day under the theme "Strength Beyond All Odds", Malawians are also looking at strides made so far in protecting children with albinism. Mercy Mleme recalls how she adopted Mina Godfrey, a young girl and an orphan with albinism who escaped an ambush from his uncle in 2015. She said that one night in 2015, Godfrey's

uncle took out the young girl to sell her to unknown people, upon discussing the price, the young girl noted that she was in danger and she escaped to the nearest village.

Upon hearing the news about the incident, Mleme decided to make arrangements with her guardians and the traditional authority chief in the area to adopt the child.

Since then the child has been in her custody and she them in her school. Meanwhile, Mleme has made several initiatives to make sure that the child is safe.

"To make sure that the child is protected, I am now keeping 7 dogs around my house and I have also added new watchmen at night. Am not rich, but am just trying to make sure that the child is

safer. Thank God, Godfrey is doing well at school and am sure she has a bright future," she said.

Godfrey, who wants to go to a law school after her studies, is feeling safer now at a private boarding school in Zomba, in southern Malawi.

She believes that one day she will be able to protect people with albinism in her village in Machinga, in southern Malawi, from different threats and violence. Mike Tholowa, headmaster of Nsanjama Private Primary School in Zomba says that his school is making sure that the school is safe for children.

According to him, parents with children with albinism are convinced to send their children to this school because of the tight security



measures that the school has.

Stories like that are an example of initiatives that are being done by people in

communities in making sure that the rights and lives of children with albinism are protected. Meanwhile, the Association of People with

Albinism in Malawi (APAM) together with parents and police are making efforts to make sure that people with albinism are protected.

The organization has been giving out personal security alarms to help people with albinism to raise alert in times of trouble. According to Abdullah Byson, APAM chairperson in Machinga, only 60 percent of the people in the district who received the alarms are able to use them efficiently. Therefore, there is a need for stakeholders to do civic education on the right use and safety.

However, Byson believes that the efforts that are being made by the government and other non-governmental organizations are going to bear fruits in the long run.

He, therefore, called upon international organizations to join the forces in efforts to protect the rights and lives of people with albinism in Malawi.

Xinhua

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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HEALTH-TIP

Does coffee burn more fat during exercise? What the evidence tells us

BASEL

Coffee, green tea and other caffeinated drinks are a popular way to start the morning. Not only does it give many people a much-needed boost, but caffeine can also help when it comes to fitness.

Studies show it can help people exercise harder and for longer, and even perform better. And recently, a study conducted at the University of Granada reported that consuming caffeine half an hour before aerobic exercise can actually help people burn fat.

In the study, 15 men (aged around 32) ingested caffeine powder (about 3mg per kilogram of body mass - the equivalent of a tall brewed filter coffee) or a placebo 30 minutes before exercising. The participants then completed a total of four trials.

They alternated between exercising at either 8am or 5pm on separate days. The study used a "triple-blind" experi-

mental design - meaning that the participants, researchers and statistician did not know who had consumed caffeine or not during each trial.

To ensure the participants were exposed to the same conditions as each other, the researchers made sure it had been at least three hours since their last meal before the caffeine or placebo was ingested. No exercise had been performed for 24 hours before the trial.

Drinking coffee 'has no affect on sleep quality'

Researchers from the University of Basel discovered that while consuming caffeinated beverages has little effect on our sleeping habits, the drinks could be temporarily changing the way our brains work.

Each participant consumed the same diet the day of each trial. During the trials, the participants cycled at increasingly higher intensities to determine peak fat oxidation (the pro-



A cup of coffee.

cess of breaking down fat to produce energy - "fat burning").

The researchers found that compared with the placebo group, consuming caffeine led to more fat being burned during exercise. Fat burning after caffeine was up to 11% more in the morning, and 29% more in the afternoon.

The greater fat burning in the afternoon could be explained by the higher concentration of adrenaline in our bodies which happens as a response to afternoon exercise. But before you get too excited, even with the higher afternoon rate of 0.4 grams of fat burned per minute, in order to lose 1kg of body fat, one would have to exercise for nearly 42 hours.

The study's findings confirm what other research has previously shown. A recent meta-analysis of 19 studies

concluded that a pre-exercise intake of caffeine may increase fat burning during aerobic exercise, especially after a fasting period of at least five hours.

Research has also shown caffeine increased fat oxidation from 19g an hour with the placebo group, to 25g with caffeine while cycling at maximum fat burning capacity. These results are comparable to the amount of fat burned in the afternoon in the new study.

Caffeine and fat burning

Burning more fat after ingesting caffeine may be explained by the interaction between caffeine and our body's fatty acids. Fatty acids are the building blocks of fat and can supply the body with energy. Caffeine promotes lipolysis (the process by which fats are broken down), due to a

greater release of adrenaline. Lipolysis then causes fatty acids to be produced as a result. These fatty acids are then released into the blood and transported to muscle to be used as energy.

Caffeine's fat-burning abilities are also related to increased energy expenditure. The compound adenosine under normal conditions, promotes sleep and suppresses arousal. However, caffeine and adenosine compete for the same receptors in the brain.

So when caffeine is available, adenosine is less able to bind, causing greater stimulation of the central nervous system. During exercise this means more muscle fibres are being used during movement. In addition, people feel exercise requires less effort after consuming caffeine.

Having caffeine before exercise

has also been shown to make exercise more enjoyable. These factors combined may subsequently make us work harder while exercising - which in turn may cause us to burn more fat during exercise. Numerous studies have shown ingesting caffeine improves exercise performance, including endurance performance, short-term high-intensity performance and resistance exercise performance.

Sports that require greater concentration and skill - such as team sports, tennis and golf - also benefit from caffeine ingestion. But it's important to note that the effects in this most recent study may have been increased due to this exercise being performed in a fasted state.

When exercising without eating before, fat oxidation is naturally higher. Furthermore, the authors acknowledge that the present study used only a small cohort, and was only performed in active men who typically consumed only a small amount of caffeine.

This study will need to be tested on a wider cohort that includes women, people who are less active, and those who regularly consume caffeine to see whether caffeine had a similar fat-burning effect. However, studies have reported that men and women respond similarly to caffeine, and that the amount of caffeine people regularly consume doesn't affect the performance benefits of caffeine.

The placebo effect - in which people expected to feel the effects of the caffeine - may also have affected the study's results. For example, one study showed the placebo effect had similar outcomes for fat oxidation during exercise as actually receiving caffeine.

The increase in fat burning after consuming caffeine shown in this study may be relatively small. However, over time it could be important for weight maintenance or weight loss. But it's important to state that weight loss will only occur when there is a negative energy balance. A negative energy balance means that you burn more calories than you take in.

NATURE

Wonders of coconut oil

KIGALI

Coconut oil is a must-have in the house. It's known for its immense benefits, from cooking to skin and hair care and so forth.

Healthline states that when applied to the hair before washing, coconut oil is said to reduce protein loss more than sunflower and mineral oils and reduces damage to the hair caused by day-to-day wash. Using coconut oil in your hair care routine could help it grow longer, and healthier. Some research shows that coconut oil may reduce inflammation and pain. This may be helpful in cases of dandruff related to psoriasis and other skin diseases.

Additional research shows that coconut oil can be an effective conditioner for the skin. When this is maintained overtime, it may help prevent damage and infection. Coconut oil may help to moisturise the hair and scalp and tackle dryness caused by dandruff, though it doesn't tackle the root cause of dandruff. Coconut oil is packed with fatty acids that are known to help repair everyday damage, improve texture, and refurbish health and shine to the hair. Anick Umutibagirana, a skincare and hair care expert at Caso Organic Store Kigali, says that coconut oil is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, thus creating a powerful calming capable of removing makeup particles. She urges using organic, unrefined, cold-pressed and virgin coconut oil on the face.

She says, while removing makeup, rub the coconut oil between your hands, then massage onto your face as a



A can of organic coconut.

cleanser. Once the makeup is lifted from your skin, rinse a few times with warm water, then dry with a towel and finish with your usual moisturisers. Taking good care of your lips is important in a daily beauty routine. Experts say that cold temperatures, sun exposure, dehy-

dration, and many external influences can easily damage the lips.

However, Umotibagirana states that coconut oil can be a substitute for artificial lip balm, especially if you enjoy the natural look. This is proven beneficial, and antibacterial. "Coconut oil could

help get rid of lice, protect your hair from the sun and reduce dandruff, but more studies are needed," states Healthline.

Umutibagirana notes that treating your hair with coconut oil stimulates hair growth, helps the scalp fight lice and dandruff, softens the hair and prevents hair breakage and split ends, leading to hair length. She adds that coconut oil helps to protect the skin as it provides a defensive barrier, helping to protect the skin from environmental toxins, dirt, and other messy stuff.

"Coconut oil is filled with antioxidant and phytonutrient (plant compounds) components that can boost your nutrient issue and fight against environmental irritants that hasten ageing," she says. The skincare expert also notes that if you're predisposed to irritations or sensitivity, coconut oil can help lessen any uneasiness and offer soothing relief.

Coconut oil is believed to ease inflammation. According to a 2019 study, virgin coconut oil was found to suppress inflammatory indicators and protect the skin by enhancing skin barrier function. Extra virgin coconut oil was found to significantly reduce levels of trans epidermal water loss and increase skin surface lipid levels.

Umutibagirana further explains that coconut oil can also heal wounds. If there is a cut or wound on the skin, applying organic coconut oil to the skin, can protect you from microbial infections and due to its vitamin E content, organic coconut oil helps to prevent the skin from cracking.



Staff carry the body of a Siberian male tiger named Judah that was killed by Jasper.

DISASTER

Siberian tiger kills Seaview Predator Park employee, tiger in front of horrified staff

JOHANNESBURG

A Siberian tiger named Jasper killed a Seaview Predator Park employee at the Gqeberha facility on Wednesday afternoon while the employee was repairing the electric fence of an enclosure.

David Siphiso Solomon was working on the enclosure, which houses Jasper and another Siberian tiger named Jade, when Jasper jumped onto the exterior fence, out of the enclosure. In a statement on Thursday, the park said Solomon was in the passageway between enclosures and was walking towards the taps when the tiger charged at him. Solomon attempted to climb over the fence of a different enclosure to get to safety but Jasper pulled him back with such force that his neck broke.

The incident happened in full view of horrified staff and volunteers. According to the statement, the Tiger then proceeded to the enclosure next door, which houses two other Siberian tigers named Judah and Amber. A fight ensued between Judah and Jasper and Judah was killed. Jasper, being an entire male Siberian tiger, wanted the attention of Amber, an entire female Siberian Tiger.

Management immediately closed the park and assisted members of the public who were near to the tiger enclosures to gather their belongings and exit the park, it added in the statement. Those who were at the restaurant adjoining the park were kept there until it was safe for them to return to their vehicles and leave.

Surrounding neighbours, Kabega Park police, the Gardmed Ambulance Service, the Kragga Kamma Veterinary Hospital and Nature Conservation officials were alerted immediately. Dr David Everzard, a veterinarian from Kragga Kamma, was on site to tran-

quilise Jasper and Amber so that the remains of Solomon and Judah, could be retrieved.

Kabega Park police have opened an inquest docket, according to police spokesperson Colonel Priscilla Naidu. Solomon had been at the park for about 15 years and had known each of the animals since they were cubs, the park indicated.

Seaview Predator Park said: We are all one big family and the loss of David has left every single one of us heartbroken and traumatised, specifically the staff members and volunteers who were present when the incident occurred.

"David's presence, jokes, willingness to teach our young volunteers and overall bubbling personality is going to be missed so much and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family and close friends. May his dear soul rest in peace," it said in a statement. All the large cats have been safely contained in their enclosures and the electric fencing is fully functional.

Seaview Predator Park added: Jasper's incident is a first at the park and was obviously fuelled by hormones. Jasper is now quite calm and content, sharing an enclosure with Amber. "We apologise to our visitors who had their visit cut short yesterday by the incident and would like to assure future visitors that they are quite safe.

"At no stage yesterday was any member of the public in any immediate danger and our request that visitors leave immediately is standard protocol, should such an incident occur," the park added. "To the guests at the restaurant who offered assistance and kept our young visitors and resident children occupied while we were handling the emergency, thank you for your kindness and support," she statement read.

Do you stay up late despite being tired?

BEIJING

It's 2am and I'm loading up a season of some random show in my Netflix queue. In less than six hours, my alarm will start ringing to wake me up for work. I am tired, I know I need sleep and yet there is a ... stubbornness, if you will, that's winning the fight against reason.

This has become a common occurrence, especially as the boundaries between work and personal responsibilities melted away in the chaotic whirlwind this past year. I needed and created my "me time" and, in doing so, stumbled head-first into a phenomenon plaguing

thousands worldwide: revenge bedtime procrastination, sometimes known as revenge sleep procrastination.

What is revenge sleep procrastination?

The concept of sleep procrastination at large was introduced in a 2014 study by Utrecht University in The Netherlands, which defined it as "failing to go to bed at the intended time, while no external circumstances prevent a person from doing so."

The term "revenge" adds a deeper psychological layer to the definition, hinting at the act as being a

form of rebellion, whereby people delay sleep with the sole intention of creating more time for themselves where they have control. It's thought to have been birthed in China in response to the country's infamous 996 working-hour system - working from 9am to 9pm in a six-day week.

Last year, at the height of the pandemic, the term began to gain worldwide traction after journalist Daphne K Lee, tweeted: "Learned a very relatable term today: revenge bedtime procrastination, a phenomenon in which people who don't have much control

over their daytime life refuse to sleep early in order to regain some sense of freedom during late night hours."

The concept blew up further after user @samanhaiderr made a TikTok about revenge bedtime procrastination that garnered more than 17.5 million views. The slew of comments these viral posts got - from "Oh, so this is what I have" and "I'm called out", to "I didn't know there was a name" and "It me" - revealed all they'd done was given people a name for their daily night-time experience.

ENTERPRISING

Anthony Kahinga: I quit university and invested fees in tech enterprise

NAIROBI

When Anthony Kahinga was still studying Chemistry at the university, he and his friend did what most young people would do to survive -- start a side-hustle. As he generated some income to supplement his pocket money, he had no idea that the side-hustle would grow to be a serious venture, currently worth about Sh10 million.

"I enrolled in the University of Nairobi to study Chemistry, but I had no passion for this. Mine was a passion for entrepreneurship," says Mr Kahinga. "But since my parents were paying for my school fees, I had a tough decision to make between carrying on with school, or dropping out altogether to focus on my passion."

He says it took a lot of convincing for his parents to agree not only to let him drop out of school and run a business, but also to divert the school fees money into his new venture. Part of the deal with the parents was that once the business picks up, he would return to school to complete his studies. Having received the blessings of his parents, Mr Kahinga and his friend opened an accessories outfit in Nairobi which would supply mobile phones, computers and other smart devices.

While running the accessories shop, the entrepreneur realised most of the brands whose devices he sold didn't offer after-sale support services. Many of the customers he received would come to them with concerns about the functionality of their devices.

"People would come to us asking: Can you refer us to a technician we can trust to fix my device, or should I just buy a new one? And I would tell them why



Anthony Kahinga, the founder and director of We Fix Tech, at his Ecobank Towers offices in Nairobi on May 11, 2021.

would you buy a new device for more than Sh30,000 when the current one only has an issue with the battery or mouthpiece?" says Mr Kahinga.

Like the entrepreneur he was, Mr Kahinga saw a business opportunity where his business WeFixTech would not only be an accessories outfit, but also a repair shop. But he knew full well that this transition would not be easy, and that he would have to take a radically different busi-

ness approach for it to be successful.

"The notion that repair guys are comen who could steal your parts, destroy them or use sensitive information on your device to their advantage remains embedded in people's minds. To change this, we had to invest heavily in building trust amongst our clients," notes Mr Kahinga whose firm has grown rapidly and now has 12 employees.

Years later, adopting this ap-

proach of professionalising the gadget repairs industry has seen WeFixTech successfully fix and repair thousands of devices. Individuals make up a majority of their clientele, but the onset of Covid-19 saw SMEs, corporate organisations, schools and non-governmental organisations also seek their services.

"When we started the business, we were focusing on B2C clients, but during Covid-19 when technologies were widely used, we started

getting enquiries from corporates and companies looking for fast and affordable service.

Somebody would call and tell us 'I am supposed to do a presentation tomorrow but my laptop has crashed and the presentation is on the computer, how you can help?'," says Mr Kahinga. Also, businesses like SMEs which cannot afford an in-house IT department because of the vast amount of resources required to set up and manage it can approach them for support on a need basis.

They also do data recovery in the event you lose your data to hackers or perhaps if you have damaged your hard drive, or your mobile phone, making it impossible for you to access it. The firm also offers electronic waste disposing of solutions by looking at how they can repair used items and thereafter sell them as opposed to discarding them.

If you have a gadget in your house which you would want to get rid of, the firm will buy it, fix it and resell it. Mr Kahinga says although they have experienced tremendous growth as a business, they still face various setbacks.

They, for instance, have to source for repair parts from countries such as China and the US because they are not locally available, making the repair process take longer. They also face scepticism from in-house IT personnel of some of the companies they work with, who see them as a threat to their jobs.

Even as they work on debunking this narrative, Mr Kahinga says he is proud of the strides his business has made, such as the recent opening of another outlet in Mombasa which has created employment for more young people. They plan to do the same in other towns such as Kisumu, Eldoret and Nakuru soon.

EXPANSION

Following Egypt, Facebook Blood Donations feature launches in Tunisia

CAIRO

Facebook recently announced that more than 100 million people around the world have signed up for its Blood Donations feature.

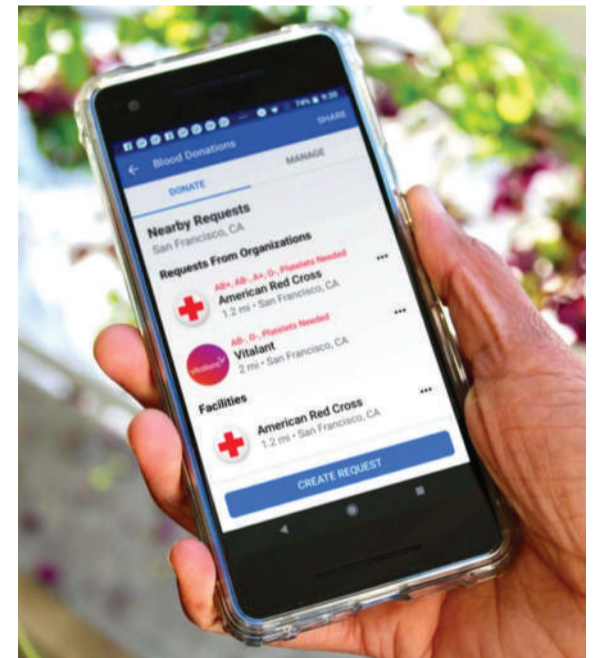
The feature, which first launched in India in 2017, allows people on the platform to be notified about opportunities to donate blood at nearby blood banks. Over the year, it has spread around the world to countries such as Egypt, the Philippines, Brazil, the UK (excluding Scotland), the US and more.

The social media company revealed on Tuesday that the campaign has now come to Tunisia, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Centre National De Transfusion Sanguine (CNTS) to encourage people to donate blood.

As part of the initiative, CNTS is calling on people to sign up to receive notifications about blood donation opportunities to help them collect the right mix of blood types that patients need urgently. Starting on Tuesday, all Facebook users in Tunisia between the ages of 18 to 65 will be able to sign up on the platform in order to receive notifications of nearby donation opportunities.

The feature is not yet available in Gulf countries. When approved blood donation centres need donors, they can make Facebook posts that include a button allowing people to contact them directly from the post.

"Our platform aims to help standardise the blood donation process and encourage people to donate. We are very proud of the support it can provide to blood banks and see this partnership of crucial significance, at a very essential time," says Khaled Koubaa, Facebook public policy manager in North Africa. "As we raise awareness about important subjects such as Covid-19, we hope that this initiative will help the ones in need, and foremost help blood banks gather the necessary stock of blood bags."



Facebook blood donation page displays on a smartphone.

SKINTELLECTUAL

Lelive African skincare range is just what Mother Nature long prescribed

CAPE TOWN

Suki Suki Naturals, Corium Skincare, SKOON, Chick Cosmetics, and Switch Beauty are now joined by lelive in the category of 'made in Africa' cosmetics lines.

Pronounced "leh-lee-veh", lelive's name was inspired by Amanda's unofficial Swazi name meaning 'of the nation or world.' "In the development of this range, we worked hard to produce a product that is top-quality at an affordable price - because everyone deserves to have great skin. We were looking for a brand and product that was clean, simple and effective, whilst staying true to what makes Africa truly unique," says Amanda du-Pont, lelive CEO.

The actress enlisted the help of her substantial social media following in 2020 during the development of the product; "I invited feedback from South Africans of all backgrounds on everything to do with the range, from the packaging to what type of ingredients they would like to see in the products," says Amanda.

All ingredients for the lelive range are locally sourced and sustainably packaged with recyclable aluminium. The full range consists of: Cleaner Colada: Coconut and pineapple African Oil Cleanser; Jelly Splash: Rooibos and Aloe Jelly Cleanser; All Glow'd Up: Vitamin C, Turmeric and HA Brightening serum; and Ariana Grande has filed a trademark for a beauty line.

Ariana Grande is the latest celebrity planning to get into the beauty business, as the pop star has reportedly filed to trademark the name God Is A Woman, for a brand that will provide makeup, skin, and hair products. Great skincare shouldn't only be for people who have lots of money.



Members of a rugby and learning academy in Langa.

Bishops Diocesan College raises R261 000 in 24-hour cycle challenge for children of Langa

JOHANNESBURG

The Bishops Diocesan College school community raised R261 000 on Youth Day in aid of Vusa, a rugby and learning academy in Langa, by completing a gruelling 24-hour cycle challenge.

The theme for Youth Day 2021 was "Youth Power: Growing South Africa together in the period of Covid-19." The 24-hour cycle challenge lasted from 16:00 on Tuesday, 15 June to 16:00 on Wednesday, 16 June. More than 80 teams of up to six took turns doing the indoor cycling at the Mallet Centre in Rondebosch.

The participants in the fundraiser were members of the Bishops Diocesan College first, second and

third rugby teams, as well as staff and pupils. The excited teams were captained by ex-Bishops rugby internationals, including Oli Kebble, Christian Stewart, Rob Fleck, Stuart Abbott, Nick Koster, JJ Gagiano, Mike Fox, Dasch Barber and Francois Louw, who offered encouragement and support to the boys as they pedalled away.

Coaches from the Vusa academy visited three early childhood development centres in Langa daily to support numeracy and literacy development through play and a new mobile library programme, which launched in April.

"They provide positive mentorship to our Vusa children. Our coach-

es and teachers reside in the Langa community," Vusa executive director Brendan Fogarty said. Each afternoon, coaches offer primary school pupils in the community a structured after-school programme that includes rugby training and access to extra academic lessons, computer facilities, exposing them to recreational activities and providing them with a hot meal.

A team of coaches also participated in the 24-hour cycle challenge to raise money for the children they mentor and coach. Fogarty said: "The planning and build-up to an event of this nature is a powerful reminder that the Bishops community is kind, generous, and understands its posi-

tion in society.

Vusa is a registered NPO established more than 20 years ago by Fogarty - a Bishops Prep teacher - to address the lack of sport at disadvantaged schools. It began as a part-time rugby programme but developed as more needs were identified. Tony Reeler, principal of Bishops Diocesan College, said he was "impressed" by his pupils.

Worthy "Their willingness to get involved in this very worthy activity on this public holiday (Youth Day), and particularly as the boys have just completed their exams," Reeler added. Some of the many challenges faced by the youth of Langa include men-

tal and physical health issues, addiction, homelessness, crime and the breakdown of families. These are often attributed to deficiencies in early childhood, leading to inactive citizens and the perpetuation of the poverty cycle. The Vusa programme offers children in the Langa community a safe space that provides: Access to sports; Academic support in Maths and English; Recreational outings; and A daily hot meal.

"We appreciate the support we receive from the Bishops community. Giving back and supporting the youth of this country is what we should all be rallying behind," Makabongwe Kahla, Vusa's programme manager, said.

ALERT

When is Father's Day? Everything you do need to know, from date to history

ABU DHABI
If you have stepped foot in a mall recently, you'll be well aware that Father's Day is right around the corner, thanks to the shop displays and adverts reminding us to celebrate dads. However, you are forgiven if you're a little confused about the exact date of the holiday. The reason being, it varies from country to country.

The majority of countries, including the US, UK, India and Philippines, traditionally celebrate Father's Day on the third Sunday of June. It means that while the day remains consistent, a Sunday, the date for international Father's Day is constantly changing. It fell on June 16 in 2019, June 21 in 2020 and, this year, it is scheduled to fall on June 20. However, not all countries celebrate Father's Day on

the same day. In the UAE - as well as Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan - Father's Day is celebrated on June 21 every year.

Many European countries, including Croatia, Italy, Spain and Portugal, celebrate it on March 19. Meanwhile, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea mark the occasion on the first Sunday of September. There isn't much information on the discrepancy, other than the fact that countries have their own cultures and seasons, which have inadvertently influenced the date.

History of Father's Day
The credit for the conception of Father's Day goes to a woman. Some believe it's down to American Grace Golden Clayton, a West Virginia resident who suggested a one-time me-



Father's Day is typically celebrated with gifts, sweet treats and fun activities.

morial to pay tribute to the 361 victims, 200 of which were fathers, of a coal-mining disaster that occurred in December 1907.

In 1908, Clayton chose July 5 as the day for the memorial service (as it was the Sunday closest to her own father's birthday). To this day, a plaque hangs outside the church in Fairmont, West Virginia, that reads "First Father's Day service."

However, this isn't commonly accepted as the start of the Father's Day tradition we have today. Instead, it is Sonora Smart Dodd, daughter of American civil war veteran William Jackson Smart, who is heralded as the founder of Father's Day.

Dodd's mother died when she was a child, leaving her father to single-handedly raise her and her five brothers. After hearing much praise for Mother's Day and its importance, she decided to lobby church and public officials for the creation of a separate Father's Day, an idea that was popular with both groups.

While originally supposed to take place on June 5, 1910, her father's birthday, it got pushed to the third Sunday of the month to be more convenient for local pastors. In the years that followed, the annual event grew in popularity, and Dodd lived to see then-US president Richard Nixon make it a national holiday in 1972. Dodd died in 1978, with her gravestone reading, "Founder of Father's Day."

FASHION

US First Lady Jill Biden shares the love in \$500 Zadig & Voltaire blazer

CORNWALL

On her first trip overseas since her husband Joe Biden took the reins as US president, first lady Jill Biden made a statement with her outfit.

On Thursday, the first lady and the president met British Prime Minister Boris Johnson before the G7 summit, which starts today. For the meeting, the ever-fashionable Dr Jill Biden donned a Zadig & Voltaire blazer with the word "Love" depicted in rhinestones on the back.

When asked about the jacket, which the first lady paired with a Brandon Maxwell dress, Biden said that it was meant to show they were bringing love from America. Commentators have been quick to compare Biden's jacket choice to that of former first lady Melania Trump.

In 2018, Melania Trump travelled to Texas to visit children stuck at an immigration centre in Texas because of her husband's new policies. For the occasion, she wore a \$39 Zara jacket, emblazoned with the words "I Really Don't Care, Do U?" across the back.

At the time of the trip, Donald Trump said it was a message to "fake news media", but the former president's communications chief insisted it was "just a jacket." Since then, Mrs Trump admitted she was wearing the jacket to send a message to the media.
Jill Biden's \$498 Zadig & Voltaire blazer, which is currently out of stock on the French designer's website, also seems to have been chosen to send a message. "Well, I think that we're bringing love from America," said Biden about her statement blazer.
"This is a global conference and we are trying to bring unity across the globe and I think it's needed right now, that people feel a sense of unity from all the countries, and feel a sense hope after this year of the pandemic.

Flotus is no stranger to fashion, and has long been a fan of modern tailoring, dabbling in peplum-hemmed blazers, relaxed collared shirts and well-cut outerwear. The Bidens met with Boris Johnson and his wife on England's Cornish coast on the eve of this weekend's G7 summit. After the summit ends, they will also visit Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle, their first meeting with the monarch, who was recently bereaved.



US First Lady Jill Biden wears a jacket with the word "Love" emblazoned on it in Cornwall, Britain, on Thursday June 10.



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

SATURDAY 19 June	6:40 Kumekucha	13:40 Shika Bamba rpt	Miundombinu	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	7:30 HABARI	13:55 Habari za saa	22:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	10:55 Habari za saa
6:00 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	23:00 Habari	11:00 The Base rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	8:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	23:30 The Base	11:55 Habari za saa
7:00 Habari	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	14:55 Habari za saa	00:30 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
8:00 Al Jazeera	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	15:00 Meza huru	02:00 DWTW	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto wetu		12:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	10:00 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	THURSDAY 24 June	13:00 Jagina rpt
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:10 Yu wapi	6:00 HABARI	13:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	6:40 Kumekucha	14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:00 Korean drama rpt: Jumong	12:00 Igizo rpt: Rebeca	18:30 Uchumi na biashara	7:30 HABARI	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	12:30 DWTW: Kesh Leo	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:55 Habari za saa
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	12:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:20 Igizo: Rebeca	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	20:00 Habari	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Africraft (Binti)	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
18:00 Jiji Letu	13:55 Habari za saa	21:30 Chetu ni chetu	9:55 Habari za saa	17:30 Kiislam
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	10:00 Watoto	18:00 Jiji Letu
19:00 Jungu Kuu	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	23:00 Habari	10:30 Shamba lulu rpt	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:30 Shika Bamba	14:55 Habari za saa	23:30 The Base	10:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Shamba lulu
20:00 Habari	15:00 Meza Huru	00:45 Al Jazeera	11:00 The Base rpt	19:30 Soap: Uzalo
21:00 Igizo: Rebeca	16:30 Watoto Wetu	02:00 DWTW	11:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari
21:30 Art and lifestyle	17:00 The Base		12:00 Al Jazeera	21:05 Kipima Joto
22:00 ITV TOP 10	17:00 Jiji Letu	WEDNESDAY 23 June	12:30 Ijue sheria rpt	23:00 Habari
22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:55 Habari za saa	23:30 The Base
23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt	18:15 DWTW: Kesho leo	6:00 HABARI	13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA	00:30 Al Jazeera
00:30 DWTW	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: TPDC	6:40 Kumekucha	13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Africraf (Binti)	02:00 DWTW
	19:00 Afya ya Jamii	7:30 HABARI	13:55 Habari za saa	
	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	SATURDAY 26 June
	20:00 Habari	8:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	21:05 Dakika 45	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	15:00 Meza huru	6:00 HABARI
	22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	16:30 Watoto Wetu	6:40 Kumekucha
	23:00 Habari	9:55 Habari za saa	17:00 The Base	7:00 Habari
	23:30 The Base	10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt	18:00 Jiji Letu	8:00 Al Jazeera
	00:30 Al Jazeera	10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt	18:15 Mipishi rpt	9:00 Watoto wetu
	02:00 DWTW	10:55 Habari za saa	18:30 Jagina	10:00 Shika Bamba 5
		11:00 The Base rpt	19:00 Usafiri wako	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
		11:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
		12:00 Al Jazeera	20:00 Habari	12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
		12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	13:00 Korean drama rpt: Jumong
		12:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Habari	13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
		13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	23:30 The Base	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
		13:55 Habari za saa	00:30 Al Jazeera	16:20 Igizo: Rebeca
		14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	02:00 DWTW	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
		14:55 Habari za saa		18:00 Jiji Letu
		15:00 Meza huru	FRIDAY 25 June	18:15 Korean drama: Jumong
		16:30 Watoto Wetu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:00 Jungu Kuu
		17:00 The Base	6:00 HABARI	19:30 Shika Bamba
		18:00 Jiji Letu	6:40 Kumekucha	20:00 Habari
		18:15 Mipishi	7:30 HABARI	21:00 Igizo: Rebeca
		18:30 Ijue Sheria	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	21:30 Art and lifestyle
		19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	8:55 Habari za saa	22:00 ITV TOP 10
		19:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo
		20:00 Habari	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt
		21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	9:55 Habari za saa	00:30 DWTW
		21:30 Ripoti Maalum: Wamachinga na	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	

WORLD

UK PM Boris Johnson suffers embarrassing by-election defeat

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered an embarrassing defeat when his Conservative Party lost a parliamentary by-election on the outskirts of London, just a few miles from his own seat.

Since its creation in 1974, the Conservatives had comfortably held the leafy, affluent Chesham and Amersham constituency, capturing more than 50 percent of the vote on every occasion.

However, in an astonishing turnaround, the candidate for the Liberal Democrats - a centrist, pro-European Union party - won a majority of 8,028 votes over the Conservative candidate in results announced on Friday

morning.

Asked about the huge swing, junior interior minister Kit Malthouse said: "It's tough and disappointing".

"We would have hoped for a better results," he told Sky News.

The Conservative Party last month won a stronghold of Britain's opposition Labour Party in Hartlepool in north-east England, which Johnson credited in part to delivering Brexit.

But some have said the approach that is attracting traditional Labour voters in northern England has also alienated some of Johnson's base in the Conservatives' own strongholds.

Johnson's parliamentary seat is just ten miles away, in West London.

"(Voters) have been taken for granted, they



feel that the Conservative Party isn't listening to them. Many of them are very happy with Boris Johnson." Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey said, referring to Labour and Conservative party choices.

"Everyone's talking about the red wall in the north, they should think about the blue wall in the south"

Plans to build the new High Speed 2 rail link between London and northern England which cuts through the area had provoked

much local hostility in Chesham and Amersham, while government proposals to reform planning laws, which critics fear could lead to more development in southern England, had also riled locals.

The election in the Chesham and Amersham constituency was called after the death in April of Cheryl Gillan, who had represented it for Johnson's Conservatives since 1992. At the last poll in 2019, Gillan won by a majority of 16,223 votes.

Agencies

No plans to change Sputnik V due to Indian Covid-19 strain, Russian scientist says

MOSCOW

THE composition of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine will not be adapted to the Indian coronavirus variant and other new strains, Director of the Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology Alexander Gintsburg told the Izvestia daily.

The creation of a new vaccine is a lengthy process, he explained. "The scientific part will take ten days, and the regulatory process - about 3-4 months.

During this period of time, the virus will mutate and another strain will emerge.

That is why developing vaccines adapted to new strains is a thankless undertaking, given that picture of the mutation activity of SARS-CoV-2. Therefore, we are going the other way. It is necessary to maintain high titers with the help of the vaccine, which exists now," Gintsburg said.

According to a message posted on the Sputnik V Twitter account on June 15, it is more effective against the Indian strain than any other vaccine. In late April, Gintsburg announced that Sputnik created enough antibodies to fight the Indian coronavirus strain.

On June 17, head of Russia's Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing Anna Popova warned that the Indian strain was spreading across Russia extensively.

On the same day, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said it was important to continue researching new coronavirus strains and make every effort to prevent their spread.

Agencies

Judge under US sanctions set for presidency as Iranians vote

DUBAI

IRANIANS voted yesterday in a presidential election likely to be won by a hardline judge subject to US sanctions, though many are expected to ignore the ballot amid economic hardship and calls for a boycott by liberals at home and abroad.

With uncertainty surrounding Iran's efforts to revive its 2015 nuclear deal with six world powers, the turnout is being viewed by analysts as a referendum on the leadership's handling of an array of crises.

After casting his vote in the capital Tehran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Iranians to cast ballots, saying "each vote counts ... come and vote and choose your president".

The favorite to succeed Hassan Rouhani, a pragmatist prevented under the constitution from serving a third four-year term, is hardline Ebrahim Raisi.

Raisi, who like his political patron Ayatollah Khamenei is an implacable critic of the West, is under US sanctions.

"If elected, Raisi will be the first Iranian president in recent memory to have not only been sanctioned before he has taken office, but potentially sanctioned while being in office," said analyst Jason Brodsky.

A mid-ranking figure in the hierarchy of Iran's Shi'ite Muslim clergy, Raisi was appointed by Ayatollah Khamenei to the high-profile job of judiciary chief in 2019.

While hundreds of Iranians have called for an election boycott, the establishment's religiously devout core supporters are expected to vote for Raisi.

"I will vote (out of respect) for martyrs," a young man told state TV, referring to Iranians killed by the country's enemies.

State television showed long queues outside polling stations in several cities. More than 59 million Iranians are eligible to vote. Polls will close at 1930 GMT but can be extended for two hours. The results are expected around midday on Saturday.

A win for Raisi would confirm the political demise of pragmatist politicians like Rouhani, weakened by the US decision to quit the nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions in a move that stifled rapprochement with the West.

"Elections are important despite the problems and issues ... I wish we didn't have any of those problems since the registration day," said Rouhani after casting his vote, a clear reference to the rejection of prominent moderate and conservative candidates from the race by a hardline election body.

Official opinion polls suggest turnout could be as low as 44 percent, significantly lower than in past elections.

Crucial backing

A Raisi win would not disrupt Iran's bid to revive the agreement and break free of tough oil and financial sanctions, Iranian officials say, with the country's ruling clerics aware their political fortunes rely on tackling worsening economic hardship.

"Raisi's main challenge will be the economy. Eruption of protests will be inevitable if he fails to heal the nation's economic pain," a government official said.

Under pressure over rising inflation and joblessness, the clerical leadership needs a high vote count to boost its legitimacy, damaged after a series of protests against poverty and political restrictions across Iran since 2017.

Urgent action needed as third virus wave sweeps Africa - WHO

NAIROBI

AFRICAN governments must act quickly to curb a third wave of coronavirus infections that is sweeping across the continent, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

COVID-19 cases rose by over 20 percent week-on-week in nearly two dozen African countries and progress on vaccinating Africans is proceeding slowly, with just 0.79 percent of people on the continent fully vaccinated, senior health officials said on Thursday.

"Africa is in the midst of a full blown third wave...We've seen in India and elsewhere how quickly COVID-19 can rebound and overwhelm health

systems," Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said at a news conference.

The spike in infections should push countries and governments into "urgent action" to expand vaccinations and inoculate priority groups, she said.

The number of new cases reported in the week has now exceeded half the second-wave peak of 224,000 in January, with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Namibia reporting the highest number of weekly cases since the pandemic began, according to WHO data.

New cases were up nearly 30 percent in the past week and deaths were up by 15 percent, she said, with five coun-



A woman receives a coronavirus vaccine at the Kololo airstrip in Kampala, Uganda, May 31, 2021. (File photo)

- accounting for 76 percent of the new cases.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)'s chief, John Nkengasong, told reporters in a separate news conference on Thursday that amid quickly rising cases in many countries, progress on vaccination campaigns was generally slow.

As of Thursday, the number of confirmed cases in Africa stood at 5,108,890, along with 36,030 deaths and 4,558,435 recoveries, the Africa CDC said.

A senior official of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said Wednesday that West Africa needed to redouble efforts to emerge successfully from the impacts of the pandemic.

tries - South Africa, Tunisia, Zambia, Uganda and Namibia

Number of displaced people doubled in past decade - UN

NEW YORK

THE number of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution and human rights abuses has doubled in the past decade to reach 82.4 million at the end of last year, the United Nations said yesterday.

"In the year of COVID, in a year in which movement was practically impossible for most of us... 3 million more people have been forcibly displaced," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told Reuters.

Nearly 70 percent of those affected are from just five countries - Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar - according to the annual report on forced displacement by the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR.

"Trends have unfortunately continued. So if we had to work to update the figures... for the first six months of 2021, we will probably see a further increase

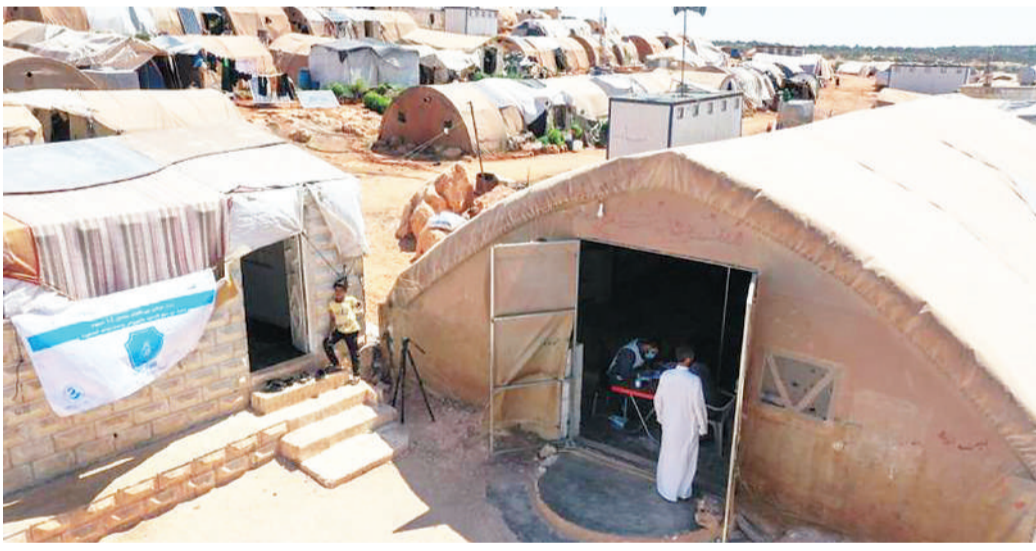
from that 82.4 million," said Grandi. Around 42 percent of those displaced were children.

He said the increase in those uprooted from their homes was partly fueled by new flashpoints, including northern Mozambique, West Africa's Sahel region, and Ethiopia's Tigray, along with flare-ups in long-running conflicts in Afghanistan and Somalia.

The United Nations is also preparing for a likely further displacement of civilians in Afghanistan after US and international troops leave the country in September, Grandi said earlier this week.

Amid a rise in populism and nationalism in global politics, Grandi called on world leaders to "stop demonizing people" that are forced to move.

"To say that the only way to address this population flow is by building walls or pushing people back at sea is morally despicable or unspeakable. These are human beings," Grandi said. "Whatever the



People enter a tent turned into a vaccination center as medics from the "Syria Immunization Group" NGO administer the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine to patients with chronic diseases, at a camp for the internally displaced near Marret Misrin town, in the north of Syria's rebel-held Idlib governorate, on June 14, 2021.

motive for the flight or for the movement human beings deserve full dignity like everybody else."

Former US President Donald Trump took a hardline approach on border security and immigration, Grandi, who recently visited Washington, praised new President Joe

Biden's pledge to "restore a US asylum system that is both effective and humane."

"It's very important that that pledge is carried out," he said. "The attitude that I heard in Washington is people that are in need of international protection will be given international protection, but we must make

the system more effective otherwise abuses will happen, numbers will skyrocket."

The UNHCR report found that in 2020 just 34,400 refugees were formally resettled globally - one-third of the previous year. They were resettled in the United States, Canada and Europe.

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) is a political party that is always innovating, said Jorge Taiana, head of international relations for Argentina's Justicialist Party as well as former Foreign Minister of Argentina, in a recent interview with People's Daily.

He noted that the CPC not only formulates medium- and long-term goals for China's development, but adjusts the goals according to the ever-changing situation in the country.

China proposed building a new development pattern whereby domestic and foreign

'CPC a political party that is always innovating'

markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, which will fuel world economic recovery and growth while better connecting the Chinese and foreign markets and stimulating China's development, Taiana pointed out.

China, with a population that accounts for nearly one fifth of the world's total, has eradicated absolute poverty and met the poverty reduction target set in the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of

schedule, which demonstrates that the CPC has always placed people in the first place, he said.

Adhering to a people-centered philosophy, the CPC has promoted leapfrog progress in the Chinese society, the official added.

While serving as Argentina's Foreign Minister, Taiana visited China for multiple times.

During the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, Taiana attended the activities of the National Pavilion Day of Argentina as a representative of the country,

and introduced to guests Argentina's historical and cultural traditions as well as its achievements in urban construction.

The Shanghai World Expo witnessed the fruits of human civilization development, and enhanced mutual understanding and friendly cooperation between Argentina and China, he said.

Taiana said he has always paid special attention to China, which is located farthest away from Argentina geographically. China's development achieve-

ments have boosted the confidence of other emerging economies, he noted, who believes it the right choice for Argentina to carry out extensive and in-depth cooperation with China.

During his visits to Chinese cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Xi'an, he saw how history merges with modern development and generates enormous energy as well as the wisdom and diligence of Chinese people. Each visit brought him one step closer to the real China and solidified his confi-

dence of promoting Argentina-China relations.

After resigning as Argentina's Foreign Minister, he also carried out investigations in China as a scholar, and now serves as a counselor with the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. During an international seminar held in 2018, Taiana shared his views on global economic governance.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is widely welcomed and recognized in Latin America, he pointed out, who explained

that it provides important development opportunities for Latin American countries in the context of global economic governance transformation and upgrading, and contributes to wiping out protectionism and facilitating globalization.

For years, Taiana has studied how China, a developing country with a large population, has managed to keep its people closely united and constantly created miracles in development. He attributed it to the CPC, which has always fought for the benefits and well-being of the Chinese people.

People's Daily

China slams Belgium over bill on Xinjiang, sanctions lawmaker

CHINA has criticized Belgian lawmakers for passing a motion aimed at spreading lies and misinformation about China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Federal Chamber of Representatives passed a proposal on Tuesday recognizing what it called "crimes against humanity" and a "serious risk of genocide" being conducted against the Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a news conference in Beijing on Wednesday that the relevant lawmaker maliciously spread lies and misinformation and gravely undermined China's sovereignty and interests, and China has already decided to sanction him.

Zhao was referring to Belgian lawmaker Samuel Cogolati, who first proposed the motion in the Belgian parliament in February. He was among a number of European lawmakers and entities sanctioned by China in March in response to EU's sanctions of Chi-

nese officials in Xinjiang.

"The allegations of 'genocide' in Xinjiang is a total rumor and lie fabricated by people with ulterior motives. The real intention is to disrupt Xinjiang's social stability and contain China's development," Zhao said in response to a question raised by the French news agency AFP.

He said China is firmly resolved to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests and uphold development, stability and ethnic unity in Xinjiang.

"We urge anti-China politicians with ulterior motives on the Belgian side to respect fact, stop seeking political manipulation by taking advantage of Xinjiang-related issues and interfering in China's domestic affairs in the name of human rights, and avoid damaging the overall interest of China-Belgium relations," Zhao said.

The Chinese embassy in Belgium issued a statement on Wednesday, accusing Belgian lawmakers of disregarding China's stern position by pass-



A man dances in front of Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, as he celebrates Eid al-Fitr on May 13, 2021. (XINHUA)

ing the bill.

An embassy spokesperson said the slander that Xinjiang has "serious risks of genocide" and "mass violations of human rights that may constitute crimes against humanity" is pure nonsense.

Over the past 60 years, Xinjiang's economic volume has increased by more

than 200 times, its per capita GDP jumped by nearly 40 times and its average life expectancy has been raised from 30 to 72 years.

"The Uygur population has continued to grow, and people of all ethnic groups are living better lives. Where does the 'risk of genocide' come from?" the spokesperson said.

It said that the so-called evidence

that slanders China's Xinjiang policy has been nothing more than some fake reports by a handful of anti-China scholars, fake news from some Western media outlets, and fake stories made up by several lying witnesses.

The spokesperson emphasized that the Xinjiang-related matters are not about human rights, ethnicity or religion, but rather anti-violence, anti-separatism and de-radicalization.

Xinjiang affairs are China's internal affairs, and external forces' attempts to contain China's development through Xinjiang-related matters will never succeed, according to the statement.

"We strongly urge the Belgian Federal Chamber of Representatives and individual politicians to respect the facts, stop interfering in China's internal affairs, and stop seeking political profits through Xinjiang-related matters," the embassy spokesperson said.

Russia, Belarus have common vision of progress towards integration – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MOSCOW and Minsk have a common vision of how to make progress on all tracks of cooperation, including integration matters, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in his opening remarks at negotiations with his Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Makei yesterday.

"Yesterday we discussed in private the key tasks that the presidents set to our ministries. As far as I understand, we have a common vision of how to move on along all tracks, including integration issues and foreign policy coordination in the current no easy situation in today's world," he said.

"Yesterday, after our bilateral meeting we had an opportunity to have a word with the ambassadors of the CIS states. We discussed the key issues on the international agenda," Lavrov added.

At the meeting, evaluations were presented of the summit meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Joe Biden.

"Today we are to have a discussion in a wider format on a number of additional issues. We hope that it will be productive as always," Lavrov said.



Xinhua

Rwanda's prosecution seeks life sentence against prototype character in 'Hotel Rwanda'

KIGALI

RWANDA'S prosecution on Thursday sought maximum prosecution up to life sentence against Paul Rusesabagina, portrayed as a humanitarian activist in the controversial Oscar-nominated film "Hotel Rwanda" for crimes linked to terrorism.

During the court hearing, the prosecution said lenience should not be applied as the accused did not plead guilty.

Rusesabagina alongside other 20 other co-accused including commander and spokesperson of the rebel group National Liberation Front (FLN) Callixte Nsabimana are undergoing trial



at Rwandan High Court Special Chamber for International and Cross-border Crimes in Kigali. The prosecution on Wednesday asked the

court to hand over 25 year prison sentence to Nsabimana for crimes linked to terrorism.

He was given a lesser sentence due to the fact that he confessed to the crimes and collaborated with court by providing a great amount of information during the trial, according to prosecution.

Rusesabagina, 67, faces nine charges including forming an illegal armed group, financing terror activities, murder as an act of terror, kidnap as an act of terror, arson as an act of terror, among others.

The prosecution alleged Rusesabagina was behind a series of attacks against unarmed, innocent Rwandan civilians in the south-western

districts of Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe between 2018 and 2019.

The founding president of the Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change and the Party for Democracy (MRCD), which reportedly colluded with its military wing FLN, was made famous by the film "Hotel Rwanda," where he was portrayed to have saved over 1,000 ethnic Tutsi victims during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi, which claimed over one million lives mainly ethnic Tutsis.

However, survivors and experts disputed the authenticity of Rusesabagina's actual role during the genocide.

Xinhua

Xiplomacy: Xi promotes high-quality mutual-beneficial BRI cooperation

BEIJING

AFTER proposing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping has been promoting high-quality cooperation of mutual benefits under the initiative.

As of the end of January, a total of 171 countries and international organizations have signed 205 cooperation agreements with China on the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

April 20, 2021

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 via video, Xi said that the BRI is a public road open to all, and all interested countries are welcome aboard to take part in the cooperation and share in its benefits.

Going forward, China will continue to work with other parties in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, said Xi, adding that efforts will be made to build a closer partnership for health cooperation, connectivity, green development, and openness and inclusiveness.

China will work with all sides to promote "hard connectivity" of infrastructure and "soft connectivity" of rules and standards, ensure unimpeded channels for trade and investment cooperation, and actively develop Silk Road e-commerce, Xi said.

June 18, 2020

In a written message sent to the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road Inter-



national Cooperation, Xi said China will work with its partners to develop the Belt and Road into a model of cooperation for meeting challenges through unity.

The Belt and Road will also be a model of health for protecting people's safety and well-being, a model of recovery for restoring economic and social activity, and a model of growth for unlocking development potential, Xi said.

"Be it in taming the virus or in achieving economic recovery, we cannot succeed without solidarity, cooperation, and multilateralism. The right approach to tackling global crises and realizing long-term development is through greater connectivity, openness, and inclusiveness," he said. "This is where Belt and Road international cooperation can make a big difference," he said.

April 27, 2019

At the leaders' roundtable meeting of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, Xi called for joint efforts of all parties to promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road.

He called on all parties to jointly push forward intensive and meticulous implementation, advance the joint

building of the Belt and Road, and deliver greater benefits to the people of all countries.

Xi also stressed joint efforts to strengthen cooperation mechanisms and forge partnership on connectivity, calling for encouraging the full participation of more countries and businesses in expanding common interests.

Nov. 17, 2018

In a speech titled "Harnessing Opportunities of Our Times To Jointly Pursue Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific" at the 26th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting, Xi said thanks to five years of joint efforts, cooperation under the BRI has entered a new phase of full implementation.

China will work with all countries involved under the principle of consultation and collaboration for shared benefits to pursue the BRI against high standards so that it will deliver quality outcomes and create even greater development opportunities for the people in the Asia-Pacific and beyond, he said.

May 15, 2017

At the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Xi called on global leaders to push for win-win outcomes, enhance policy coordination and deepen practical cooperation in the implementation of the BRI.

Xi called on countries to build partnerships, stay open in cooperation and resolve differences through dialogue. "Geese can fly through wind and rain for a long time be-

cause they fly in flocks," Xi said, driving home the point of forging partnerships against all odds.

Facts speak louder than words. Bucking a global COVID-19-driven downturn, China's non-financial direct investment into countries along the Belt and Road jumped 18.3 percent year on year to 17.8 billion U.S. dollars in 2020.

Trade is also thriving along the ancient but exuberant pathway, which has helped transport valuable medical supplies to those in urgent need amid COVID-19. In the first quarter of this year, the China-Europe freight train services recorded 3,398 journeys, surging 75 percent year on year. A total of 89,000 tonnes of anti-pandemic supplies had been transported across continents via the services by late March.

China is also working with all willing participants to build the BRI into a pathway to poverty alleviation and growth. According to a report from the World Bank, Belt and Road projects could by 2030 help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty across the world.

With more partners jumping on board for a mutually beneficial journey, there is more to expect in the future: Countries can work together to fight COVID-19, economic slowdowns, poverty, climate change and other common challenges, regardless of geographical or ideological boundaries.

Xinhua

Pandemic fight demonstrates reliable China-Africa brotherhood

NAIROBI

CHINA and Africa's joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is illustrative of a strong relationship built on mutual trust, solidarity and cooperation.

One year ago, China and its African partners voiced a willingness to work together to build a China-Africa community of health for all at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19.

One year on, the two sides have supported each other with good faith in the pandemic fight, further enriching an already strong friendship.

Meanwhile, China has proven a reliable friend in need which honors its pledges of support in deed. To help Africa fight the pandemic, China has delivered urgently-needed supplies and sent over medical teams, while working with other G20 members on debt suspension in Africa.

The measures and suggestions put forward by China during the summit have benefited the continent. Sustaining Africa's economic development and ensuring people's livelihoods amid the ongoing pandemic is of great importance.

Despite the continued spread of the virus, a number of Belt and Road projects in Africa remain ongoing, with Chinese technical personnel and engineers remaining at their posts, rain or shine.



Experts of the Chinese medical team and local medical staff pose for a photo amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, May 26, 2020.

The China-assisted railway linking the southwest cities of Lagos and Ibadan in Nigeria is now in full commercial operation.

Construction work of the future headquarters of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, started last December ahead of schedule, and its foundation has almost finished.

Furthermore, the two sides have continued high-level exchanges and supported each other in global affairs over the past year.

China, president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for May, and Africa, have jointly launched the Initiative on Partnership for Africa's Development at the UNSC high-level meeting to address the root causes of conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery on the continent.

China has also called on the international community to beef up its support for Africa in combating the pandemic, post-pandemic reconstruction, trade and investment, debt relief, as well as food security.

China and Africa together firmly believe in multilateralism and jointly issued concerns against foreign interference, racial discrimination, and efforts to exploit the pandemic for political purposes.

At the site of the future headquarters of the Africa CDC, the flags marking temporary roads are imprinted with the words "For Shared Future."

What China has done since the summit testifies to its determination to build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future. Expect more stellar outcomes from this relationship in the future.

Xinhua

UN warns drought may be 'the next pandemic'

BRUSSELS

WATER scarcity and drought are set to wreak damage on a scale to rival the COVID-19 pandemic with risks growing rapidly as global temperatures rise, according to the United Nations (UN).

"Drought is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic and there is no vaccine to cure it," Mami Mizutori, the UN's special representative for disaster risk

reduction, said during an online press briefing ahead of the report's release.

Already, droughts have triggered economic losses of at least US\$124 billion and hit more than 1.5 billion people between 1998 and 2017, according to a UN report published on Thursday.

But even these figures, it said, are "most likely gross

under-estimates".

Global warming has now intensified droughts in southern Europe and western Africa, the UN said in the report with "some confidence". And the number of victims is set to "grow dramatically" unless the world acts, Mizutori said.

About 130 countries could face a greater risk of drought this century un-

der a high-emissions scenario cited by the UN.

Another 23 countries will confront water shortages because of population growth, with 38 nations affected by both, it said.

Drought - like a virus - tends to last a long time, have a wide geographic reach and cause knock-on damage, Mizutori said.

"It can indirectly affect countries which are not

actually experiencing the drought through food insecurity and the rise of food prices," Mizutori said.

The UN expects more frequent and severe droughts in most of Africa, central and south America, central Asia, southern Australia, southern Europe, Mexico and the United States.

Ibrahim Thiaw, executive secretary of the UN Convention to Combat

Desertification, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that deteriorating soil, caused in part by poor land management, had brought the world close to "a point of no return".

The UN has not researched the effect that desertification could have on internal migration within continents but Thiaw said that it was no longer unthinkable, even in Europe.

"It is certainly a phenomenon that is happening in other parts of the world and may well occur in Europe," he said

More than 40 percent of the European Union's agricultural imports could become "highly vulnerable" to drought by the middle of this century due to climate change, according to a separate study published in the journal Nature Communications this week.

Agencies

SPORT

Hip Hop festival to take place in Dar

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

THE first Hip Hop original festival is expected to take place in Dar es Salaam from June 25-27 this year and will feature budding artists from various regions of Tanzania.

Speaking to reporters at the French and Zanzibari Cultural Community (AFZ) hall in Malindi, Unguja, the festival's program manager Matei Babu said the festival will feature talented young people singing, playing together and Disk Jockey (DJ).

He mentioned regions set for the festival Arusha, Mbeya, Mwanza, Dodoma, as well as Zanzibar.

He said that the first festival targets to uplift various young people through their talents as well as advertise themselves through the profession.

"The young people who will participate in this festival are aged over 18, we have found the artists via competitions from five regions, we have 10 young people from Arusha, two from Mbeya, two from Mwanza, two from Dodoma and two from Zanzibar," he said.

He also said that the young people will have the opportunity to participate in training for two days from June 22-23 together to participate in various programs to build their capacity and experience in the arts.

"This festival is for uplifting young people so before the peak day we have artists from France who will teach DJs, rapping and break dancing to enhance the locals' experience," he disclosed.

Kassim Omar, a supervisor of the participants from Zanzibar, stated that the process of finding the young people has taken into account all the criteria and the artists, in the end, turned out to be the Zanzibar artists selected for the festival.

"We have been with them for a long time and competed with other young people where they emerged victoriously and became representatives of Zanzibar youths," he stated.

He also said that through the festival young people from Zanzibar will have the opportunity to increase the capacity they had in line with learning various things.

"This festival is an opportunity to nurture young people with different talents by uplifting their talents and providing them with jobs to earn a living," he said.

French and Zanzibari Cultural Community's president Mohamed Mzee Mohamed said that the community supports all efforts to raise young people to show them various opportunities.

"The AFZ has partnered with other institutions in supporting the youth as well as making this Festival a success," he revealed.

He said, in addition to supporting the promotion of young people in the arts sector, the community has been providing tourism and language training to young people intending to assist them in their daily work.

The AFZ leader disclosed that the community will continue its efforts to seeing to it that youths access various opportunities.

Zitto Kabwe now calls for existence of stadium agent

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

A few days after the government had abolished taxes for the importation of artificial grass in Tanzania's cities, a prominent politician, Zitto Kabwe, has insisted the plan needs to be improved.

Zitto made the remarks on Tuesday. He said the government's move to abolish the artificial grass tax was a good thing and augurs well for sports promotion in the country, but it has to be improved and done nationwide.

He disclosed: "Many stadiums in the country are in bad condition and many are owned by the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the facilities have not been improved."

"It would be better if they were put under government supervision or we set up a stadium agency that will oversee the stadiums in the country to ensure they are better," he said.

He also said the government's strategy to remove taxes on artificial grass is a good strategy, but the beneficiaries of the scheme are few.

He stated: "Those who will be exempted from the levy are the cities of Tanga, Arusha, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Dodoma."

He disclosed: "So it would be better if this ar-

tificial grass program would target all regions in the country."

The ACT-Wazalendo party leader has also called on the government to consider changing immigration laws, to allow for dual citizenship for the benefit of sports in Tanzania.

Zitto said even if the government does not want to do the same for all citizens, it should look at the issue in the field of sports because the country is losing many athletes who are Tanzanians with foreign citizenship and talent, who could give national fame and income as well.

"For example, there is a player called Yusuph Poulsen, whose father is a Tanzanian from Tanga, in the past, he once said that before playing for the Danish national team he wanted to play for Tanzanian team, Taifa Stars, but his plan could not come to fruition due to the absence of the law," he said.

Zitto said dual citizenship has now benefited Comoros, Madagascar, and even Cape Verde, with most of the isles' players being based abroad, but they originate from the isles.

Such players opted to serve the mentioned isles' national teams, which are now a threat to more successful nations in African football.



Kibu Denis

Mbeya City FC attacker now confirms transfer requests

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

AFTER showing great potential for the first time with senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars' when the squad locked horns with Malawi in an international friendly, the former's attacker, Kibu Denis, has impressed the local football big guns, Simba SC and Yanga.

Denis, who also features for Mbeya City FC, put impressive showing, helping Taifa Stars cruise to a 2-0 win over Malawi in the clash which took place in Dar es Salaam.

He came on as a second-half substitute, providing an assist to a fellow forward John Bocco that registered the opening goal.

He was later fouled a few meters from Malawi's penalty area and fullback Israel Patrick notched the second for the hosts via a well-taken free-kick.

Simba SC and Yanga's bosses are now reportedly expressing interest in signing him.

"I have received calls from both sides but we have not agreed on anything other than asking them to follow the procedures, I think that is the most appropriate way to seek to recruit me regularly," said Kibu.

The forward noted: "I do not like to talk about these things but any team I want to play for should be fair and all procedures ought to be followed," he said.

It took him 31 minutes just to show off his quality and impress many football fans after he was introduced in the 59th minute of the game to replace midfielder Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy'.

Upon entering, Taifa Stars came to life in the attacking zone. The attacker was involved in the hosts' opening goal, dribbling past Malawian defenders and passing the ball to Bocco who easily drilled in.

Kibu went on to pose threat to Malawian defenders and in the 73rd minute, he was kicked just outside Malawi's 18-yard box when he sought to unleash a shot.

Patrick made it 2-0 when he took the free-kick, leaving Malawi keeper flat-footed.

So far Kibu, Mbeya City FC's leading goal scorer this season, has scored six goals despite not playing in half of the team's matches.

He joined Mbeya City FC this season from Geita Gold FC who have secured promotion to Premier League next season.

Geita Gold FC lifted this season's First Division League (FDL) title and automatically won a place in Premier League.

The Geita club recruited the striker from Kumuyange FC of Ngara which was participating in the FDL three years ago.

In another development, Six-time winners Zimbabwe have been drawn alongside west African guest nation

Senegal in the group stages of the historic 20th edition of the COSAFA Cup that will be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay from July 7-18.

It is a tasty clash that will ignite the imagination in what is arguably a Group of Death that also includes Mozambique and 2015 COSAFA Cup winners Namibia.

Hosts South Africa also has an intriguing group that includes neighbours Lesotho, Botswana, and Eswatini. Bafana Bafana and Botswana have long been foes in this regional competition.

Defending champions Zambia will face Malawi, and the island nations of Madagascar and Comoros in their first-round pool.

Only the top team in each group and the best-placed runner-up will advance to the semi-finals in what is a change in the formation for the tournament this year.

That means each side is guaranteed three games up to a maximum of five, which will provide vital preparation for those national teams involved in 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers later this year.

The COSAFA Cup is making a comeback after the event was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be hosted in Nelson Mandela Bay for the first time, which has been a familiar home for other COSAFA competitions in recent years.

The 19 previous editions of the competition have seen some great performances

and incredible games that have been written into the folklore of Southern African football, but only five nations can claim to have lifted the coveted trophy.

Zimbabwe (six wins) lead the way, followed by Zambia (five), South Africa (four), Angola (three) and Namibia (one).

Mozambique, Malawi, and Botswana have all twice been finalists but ended up on the losing side on both occasions. Lesotho (2000) are the only other team to reach the decider.

The COSAFA extends warm thanks to the Eastern Cape Government, who have provided vital support to the 2021 COSAFA Cup that has allowed the competition to go ahead. The province's commitment to bringing the international sport to the region is admirable and should be applauded.

Nelson Mandela Bay has been a proud host to several COSAFA events in recent years, though this will be the first time they have hosted the men's senior tournament. They have staged the last three COSAFA Women's Championships with great success, as well as the COSAFA Men's and Women's Under-20 Championships, and COSAFA Men's and Women's Under-17 Championships.

The world-class infrastructure and passion of local officials to see football played in the Friendly City makes them an excellent partner for COSAFA.

Musoma set to host traditional dances, choir contest in August

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

THIS year's choir and traditional dances contest, which is set to take place in Musoma Rural Constituency, has been slated for August 8 at Suguti Village in the area.

Fedison Masawa, an assistant to the constituency's legislator, Sospeter Muhongo, disclosed the MP's office organizes the contest, which is held annually.

"This contest is held every year, with the legislator's office coordinating the event aiming at seeing to it people value traditional dances and choir, as well as fostering cooperation among people in our area," Masawa noted.

He disclosed every ward will field one traditional dance group and one choir,



Musoma Rural Constituency's Member of Parliament Sospeter Muhongo. The MP's office coordinates the annual choir and traditional dances contest, which takes place in the area.

noting Muhongo will hand over awards to the top three winners.

He pointed out the constituency is made up of 21 wards, noting each ward will for that matter field two groups.

The contest, he revealed, further targets to nurture talents, as far as traditional dances and choir are concerned.

"At present, we cannot mention the prizes to be handed over to winners, but the prizes will be there and Muhongo will reward the winners," he disclosed.

"Traditional dances which will feature in the contest are, among others, 'Mbegete', 'Zeze' and 'Liranda/Ritungu', the troupes are preparing for the event," he said.



Jamhuri Stadium, a multi-purpose stadium in Dodoma.

16 things about Ramos' 16 glorious years at Real Madrid

BY CHRIS WRIGHT, ESPN TOE POKE WRITER

IT'S official! Sergio Ramos will leave his beloved Real Madrid, the club he's represented since he was a teenager and led to so much glory over the years.

The 35-year-old, who was unable to agree a new contract with the club, will depart after a rare season without delivering at least one trophy for them. In a brief statement published on Wednesday, Los Blancos confirmed the departure of the veteran centre-back. The following day, the club held a special farewell tribute for him, with club president Florentino Perez in attendance.

"The moment has arrived, it's one of the most difficult of my life," Ramos said as he began to address those assembled, before ending his tearful address by saying: "A marvellous stage ends, unique in my life, I'll never experience what I have here, but a new exciting stage begins, with a lot of enthusiasm about showing my best level for a lot of years and let's hope I can add some more trophies. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and this is a 'see you later,' because sooner or later I'll be back. Thank you."

Ramos signed for Real back in 2005 and has gone on to make over 600 appearances, winning just about all there is to win at club and international level.

To salute those 16 success-filled years here is a collection of 16 facts, stats and nuggets of trivia about the man who leaves the Bernabeu as a bona fide club legend.

1. Debut defeat

Real Madrid signed Ramos from Sevilla in the summer of 2005 for €27 million, the highest transfer fee a Spanish club had ever paid for a defender at the time. Despite only being 19, Ramos was immediately assigned the legendary Fernando Hierro's old No. 4 shirt. He wore that jersey to make his debut against Celta Vigo – coming on at half-time in a shock 3-2 league defeat at the Bernabeu.

2. Legendary status assured

In the 16 years that followed, Ramos racked up an amazing 671 appearances for Real Madrid – an average of 41.9 games per season. He departs as the club's fourth all-time highest appearance maker behind only Raul Gonzalez (741), Iker Casillas (725) and Manolo Sanchis (710).

3. So. Many. Trophies.

Ramos has won 22 major trophies during his glittering career at the Bernabeu, including 5 La Liga titles, 2 Copa del Rey and 4 Champions Leagues. Only the great Francisco Gento has won more with the club, collecting 23 major honours during the 1950s and 60s. Lionel Messi is the only player in La Liga history to win more games (383) than Ramos, who is tied in second place with former Real teammate Iker Casillas (334).

4. And goals, too

While a defender by trade, Ramos has pitched in with more than his fair share of goals, scoring a total of 101 goals in all competitions. The centre-back is one of only 22 players in Los Blancos' history to reach a century of goals for the club. Ramos has 74 goals in La Liga, making him the second highest-scoring defender in league history behind Hierro (105).

5. King of Europe

Ramos has scored in two Champions League finals (2014 and 2016) making him the only defender to do so. He is one of four Real players to register more than one goal in Champions League finals, alongside Cristiano Ronaldo (3), Gareth Bale (3), and Raul (2). In total, he's scored 15 Champions League goals, the joint-ninth highest tally of any Real player ever (level with Ivan Helguera).

6. Here comes the drop

For all the practice he's had lifting trophies over the years, it doesn't mean Ramos hasn't suffered the occasional mishap while celebrating. Who could forget the moment in 2011 he accidentally dropped the Copa del Rey underneath the open-top bus that was parading them through the Spanish capital, putting a significant dent in the silverware.

7. Spain mainstay

Success at club level bred more on the international stage. Since making his senior international debut just five days after his 16th birthday, Ramos has gone on to play 180 times for Spain – making him the most capped European men's player of all time. Ramos is joint-fourth on the overall list, with

the record belonging to Soh Chin Ann of Malaysia for his staggering 224 times for his country between 1969 and 1984.

8. Panenka pro

As well as proving himself a rock at the back, Ramos has scored 23 goals for Spain. He also takes penalties for his country, regularly holding his nerve and dinking home "Panenkas" with impudent ease. Ramos has stepped up to take 12 penalties for La Roja (not including shootouts), missing four – two of which came in the same Nations League game against Switzerland last year. The Real defender was thwarted by Swiss goalkeeper Jan Sommer twice on the night, thus bringing to an end the former's flawless two-year spot-kick streak.

9. No Euro farewell

Ramos was forced to miss out on selection for Spain's Euro 2020 squad due to persistent muscular and hamstring injuries that has seen him miss the majority of the 2021 calendar. This means that Spain have gone into a major tournament without a single Real Madrid player in their squad for the first time ever.

10. So many red cards

It's well documented that, for all Ramos' positive qualities, his disciplinary record leaves a lot to be desired. He has collected more yellow cards (173) and red cards (20) than any other player in the entire 92-year history of La Liga. In all, he has been sent off 26 times in his career to date, but even that extraordinary haul pales in comparison to the world-record 46 red cards shown to Colombian enforcer Gerard Bedoya between 1995 and 2015.

11. Controversial clash

One of his most infamous incidents came midway through the first half of the 2018 Champions League final, when a flailing tangle with Mohamed Salah led to the pair hitting the floor with Ramos appearing to be holding the Liverpool forward's arm. Salah suffer a dislocated shoulder which forced him off the pitch in floods of tears. Ramos remained unpunished and ultimately captained his side to glory.

12. Menaced by Messi

Ramos also levelled Messi as a particularly memorable instalment of El Clasico between Real and Barcelona in 2010 ticked over into injury time. Trailing 5-0 at the Camp Nou and having been run ragged by Messi all night, Ramos decided to stop his opponent in his tracks by violently booting the Barca star's legs from beneath him. Ramos had already been booked earlier in the match, but the 92nd-minute outburst was still deemed serious enough to earn him a straight red card.

13. Wedding of the Year

Ramos cuts a much more placid figure away from the pitch, devoting most of his non-footballing life to home life with his partner and their children. The defender married Pilar Rubio in the summer of 2019 at a wedding that boasted a guest list of truly epic proportions. Among the guests was an entire constellation of footballing star power, including David Beckham, Roberto Carlos, Luka Modric, and even a few Barca players such as Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba. As if that wasn't enough to seal legendary status, the bride and groom even rode into the room inside an enormous dragon as "The Final Countdown" played. Why, you ask? Because they could.

14. Horse play

Ramos is well known for his passionate love of horses and even owns a 44-hectare stud farm named after himself, SR4, in his native region of Andalusia. The project was recognised in 2018 when his prize horse, Yucatan de Ramos, took the top honours at the SICAB (Salon Internacional del Caballo) world fair in the player's hometown of Sevilla.

15. Fitness guru

One glance at Ramos' Instagram output reveals his serious commitment to physical conditioning, with the veteran defender regularly sharing videos of his intense workout routines. Now, of course, they serve to advertise his fitness levels to prospective new employers.

16. Living canvas

Anybody who has witnessed Ramos' sweaty, shirtless workout videos will know that he also has a huge passion for body art. Indeed, a high proportion of the 35-year-old's torso is covered in tattoos; a diverse collection of imagery that ranges from roaring lions, to the trophies he's won, to tributes to artists Banksy and Salvador Dali.

Remarkable Ramos leaves Real Madrid. How did it come to this?



Sergio Ramos

BY GRAHAM HUNTER, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

SERGIO Ramos is the boy who didn't become a bull-fighter because his mum wouldn't let him, but who hasn't believed that anything else in his life, from that day to this, is impossible.

In 2005, when Florentino Perez made Ramos the first Spanish signing of his reign as President, Real Madrid weren't buying a footballer, but a force of nature. The man who arrived and, brimming with the same brash I can do anything I want to inner lava, told the world "I want the No.4 jersey and I want to be the next Fernando Hierro."

Ridicule and reprimand followed for daring to think he could emulate the 14-year Madrid legend, though look who ultimately won the argument.

The man who was trotting around in midfield on that Lisbon pitch in 2014, thinking not so much about missing the chance to lift his first European Cup or losing to bitter rivals Atletico in a Champions League final, but how there was no way Ramos was missing the chance to honour his beloved and recently departed Grandfather in the first final since the old man passed away.

No way.

Look who leapt higher than ever before with seconds remaining, scoring one of the great iconic goals in Madrid history. The man who soaked up all the abuse and opprobrium for having blasted the ball over the bar in a Champions League semifinal against Bayern Munich in the Bernabeu and swore to his brother, and to Jesus Navas: "I'll show them all! The next penalty I take will be a panenka, no matter the situation, and I'll score."

Look who put Spain in the Euro 2012 final – and turfed Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal out of the competition – via a delicious, technically beautiful "Panenka" penalty, lobbed devilishly over Rui Patricio.

Aged 28, Sergio Ramos had never played in a Champions League final, meaning that, by definition, he'd never won one, scored in one or raised that fabled trophy as a captain. By age 32, he'd won four.

Only two players in history have scored more Champions League final goals (neither one is a defender like Ramos), and nobody has captained Real Madrid to European Cup or Champions League victory as many times (three) as this boy from Sevilla. A force of nature.

Yet his strengths – particularly the kind of bullish, coruscating, red-hot aggressive

self-certainty that's powered all of Ramos' success – can become an Achilles heel too. And that's why Ramos is leaving Madrid.

You've read elsewhere on ESPN that Ramos wanted to stay, that he went back and announced he'd accept the very Madrid offer he (and his brother Rene, who represents him) initially rejected. You've also read his regrets, his promise to return one day. (And I've absolutely no doubt that means as club President.)

All of the above form the headlines of the day, but what lies behind them has been something of a battle for power at the club he loves.

Ramos' departure from the club didn't simply have to do with arguments over whether he should get one, two or even four seasons in a new contract nor, specifically, about how much he should earn. Instead, Ramos has been inching towards a butting of heads with the man who, in every sense, runs Real Madrid – and he's far from the first icon figure at a great club to fall into this trap.

The result of what was a needless, but growing, spat is that Ramos thought he "ran" the club, only for Perez to show that, in fact, he did.

The first sniff of Ramos and Perez, each a Madrid legend in their own way, talking and working at cross purposes was just over two years ago. Ramos proposed that Los Blancos let him leave for free, as a gesture of appreciation, so that he could go and play in China.

"The offer was on the table, and I'd never have thought of accepting going there, but it transpired that my relationship with the club wasn't what I thought it was," said Ramos in 2019. "Florentino and I have a father-son relationship and spending so much time close to someone over the years breeds affection. When I see him at my wedding [which was a fortnight away at the time], I'll give him an embrace. That's the way I am."

"When something goes wrong, I'll face it head-on, say what I think, and then we'll sort things out."

That was Ramos' point of view. He thought he could hold the prospect of him moving to China over the club and its President. Then, he thought that the relationship was mended. Instead, it had corroded ever so slightly.

Then, in his role as "union leader" – given that he's the all-powerful captain of this massively hard-bitten and successful dressing room – Ramos discouraged his teammates from accepting Florentino's petition that they negotiate wage reductions as a squad during the pandemic. Those

reductions were reportedly based upon the financial impact of the coronavirus on Real Madrid.

Ramos seems to have believed that there was another agenda, perhaps one to save the club money that they could then spend on signing, and paying, Kylian Mbappe. At any rate, Ramos putting his foot down and advising others to follow his lead at a time when he was negotiating for his personal future at the club seems to have been a bad mix.

Perhaps justifiably, Ramos thought he had the power chair. A legend, still in great shape, hungry for more triumphs at the club and loved by the fans: he felt very close to untouchable. He, and his brother, were wrong about that.

Anyway, that's the situation. It doesn't begin to damage his overall legend or make him unique, either.

Think of Alfredo Di Stefano, Raul and Iker Casillas: all of them left Real Madrid either on bad terms with the President of their day, or via the back door without a proper farewell. Ramos is in good company, but at least there was a proper send-off despite the tension between him and Perez. It's clear that the "father-son" feeling will stand the strain of this fallout. Good.

Ramos was imperfect for Madrid and Spain; he was imperfect because perfection wasn't ever what he was seeking. He's a risk taker, he's a monster talent, he's a winner, he's ultra-aggressive. Nobody has been sent off more times for Madrid, or in La Liga, than Ramos, but very few players have won more trophies with the club. Had you asked him, Florentino or 99 percent of the fans when he joined from Sevilla whether they'd signed him for that balance, the answer would have been a resounding: "Yes!"

Ramos is piteous, daring, cheeky and happy to take risks. He's brave and sometimes, he's an utterly unstoppable force on the pitch. Most fans and critics even ignore the fact that he's an extraordinarily good footballer. Technically, he's exquisite.

I've had the great fortune across many tournaments, when he was either Spain's right-back or centre-half, of watching him go through training drills but, more importantly, watching him in the parts before or after sessions when he's challenging teammates to competitions. Hitting the crossbar, converting penalties, foot-tennis, bending the ball into the net from behind the goal-line: You name it. He'd challenge his teammates and usually beat them.

In 2021, with three or four years left in him, he's about 20 short of 150 senior goals. For a defender, that's utterly extraordinary.

Across the modern winning era of Spain and Real Madrid, Ramos is one of the stand-out icons. And I do literally mean icon. His haircuts, his wardrobe, his jewellery, his cars, his anger, his lunges at Lionel Messi, his trophy lifts, his improbable rescue acts for club and country, his dropping of the Copa del Rey off the top deck of a celebration bus, his wagging of a finger at referees, his skill, his power: his utter, total, unshakeable self-belief.

Frankly, it's been a hoot. Ramos is one of those guys who make the ticket worth buying, make the television worth turning on, make the sponsors splurge their money, who makes us all deeper and deeper in love with football for all its beauty and idiosyncrasy.

Ultimately, when Ramos faced the media, he cried. He couldn't help himself, that iron will rusted just a little. "The moment has arrived... one of the most difficult of my life. You're never properly prepared to say goodbye to Real Madrid."

My fervent hope – although there seems to be next to no chance – is that he signs for Sevilla. That would mean a salary drop he's not yet willing to countenance. I say that because, honestly, La Liga is still massively better, massively more fun, more interesting and more competitive with Sergio Ramos in it.

But maybe he'll decide to travel. Paris Saint-Germain? I could see it. Manchester City? I'm not quite sure how he and Pep Guardiola would get on but, oh boy, Ramos in the Premier League would be utterly explosive.

At any rate Sergio, thanks for the memories. And thanks too to his mum, Paqui Garcia. No doubt Ramos would have been just as iconic in the sport he first loved, and it's possible that him staring down a bull in the ring might have been a better match than some of the centre-forwards he's devoured across his Madrid career. But when she made him promise not to become a Torero, and not to make her live in fear that one of those evenings in that profession he'd be fatally gored, Paqui Garcia inadvertently blessed football with one of the most colourful, talented, daring, cocky and entertaining players it has ever seen.

Whatever happens now and no matter where he goes, I'll be watching. The Sergio Show goes on and I recommend that you should tune in, too. See ya later, Captain.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Remarkable Ramos leaves Real Madrid. How did it come to this?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga withdraws interest in Zambian striker Kambole

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA have withdrawn their interest in Zambian striker Lazarous Kambole after the two parties failed to agree on the terms of the contract.

Yanga and Kambole have been in talks for several days and, even though the larger part of the deal was agreed on by both parties, Kambole through his agent was demanding a US\$ 10,000 monthly salary while Yanga was willing to pay US\$3,500 per month, this is what put off the Tanzanian football giants.

Kambole, aged 27, looks poised to leave Chiefs in the upcoming off-season after struggling to establish himself at the club since his arrival from Zesco United in July 2019.

Despite arriving at the club with a fearsome reputation due to his exploits from club and country, a return of one goal in two campaigns has seen Kaizer Chiefs open the door for his potential exit.

Tanzania Premier League side Yanga and Azam FC have both declared interest in the Zambia international while Yanga official Hersi Ally Said travelled to South Africa last week to start negotiations with the player.

Kambole and Yanga's prospective deal seems highly unlikely as the two parties were way off agreeing on terms on his potential earnings.

The Jangwani Street giants talks were led by Hersi Said, who heads the competition's committee and with the demands, the record Tanzanian champions are now set to look elsewhere for a striker.

According to sources within the club, Yanga was offering an R50,000 a month deal, some short of his reported R100,000 contract with Amakhosi.

While Kambole representatives were aiming for a deal in the region of R140,000

per month, Yanga feels it is unrealistic given his struggles in the DStv Premiership.

Yanga and Kaizer Chiefs had agreed on a one-year loan deal for Kambole, who has struggled in the Premier Soccer League, especially under head coach Gavin Hunt.

The Jangwani Street giants hoped to bring in the former Zesco United star to strengthen the forward line that has not been impressive in the ongoing season.

Apart from Yacouba Sogne, Michael Sarpong, Fiston Abdulrazak and Said Ntibazonkiza have struggled to help Yanga get as many goals as possible in a season where they stood a realistic chance of winning the league before ceding ground to Simba SC.

Kambole, who's currently with Chiefs for the CAF Champions League semi-final clash against Wydad Athletic Club, has scored one goal and registered one assist in 39 games for the club across all competitions.

In approaching Kambole, Yanga hoped he would come and fill the void left by DR Congo's Heritier Makambo who joined Horoya AC of Guinea three seasons ago after rising to prominence with the Mainland Premier League club.

Yanga has attempted to sign a prolific striker like Makambo, but previous attempts with Gnamien Yikpe of the Ivory Coast, David Molinga of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the club's current strikers have yielded no meaningful results.

Since Tanzania is guaranteed four CAF tournament slots, Yanga is expected to strengthen the squad to have a team that will create an impact at the continental stage, unlike when they were eliminated in the preliminary stages in the 2019/20 season.

They have already reached an agreement in principle with AS Vita's Djuma Shaban on a two-year contract.

Yanga now suspends keeper for indiscipline



Metacha Mnata

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has imposed an indefinite ban on their first choice goalkeeper Metacha Mnata after the incident which followed their 3-2 win over Ruvo Shooting in a Vodacom Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

In a statement, the Jangwani Street giants revealed that their long-serving custodian will remain suspended from all activities until the club's disciplinary committee meets to decide on his fate, and action to be taken.

"The club's management is saddened with the incident from our goalkeeper Metacha [Mnata] aimed at our fans after the game against Ruvo Shooting at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium," read in part the statement from Yanga.

The outfit stated: "Following the unsporting behaviour from Mnata, Yanga have banned the said player with immediate effect until his conduct is discussed by the club's disciplinary committee as per the club's constitution."

"Yanga management has apologized to the fans and club members for whatever happened, and the club will take Mnata to the disciplinary committee for further action, and we ask all our fans and members to remain calm and give the committee time to come up with a

verdict."

The keeper, who also features for national squad 'Taifa Stars', was recalled to start in the league game at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, replacing Kenya's Farouk Shikhalo.

The shot-stopper was faulted by Yanga fans after conceding the two goals which saw Ruvo Shooting trail 3-2 in the duel, culminating in a nervy ending to the match as Yanga claimed maximum points.

While the teams were walking to the tunnel, Mnata was seen flashing a middle finger at the fans, who were waiting for him at the tunnel and despite being cooled down by other players, the agitated keeper repeated the action.

After the game, Yanga spokesman Antonio Nugaz opted out of openly blaming Mnata for the two goals they conceded but maintained they deserved a clean sheet.

"Ruvo Shooting came to play football and our coach decided to ask the players to calm down and play their usual game and we are happy they followed the instructions very well, we have picked three points but it was not satisfying at the end because our fans wanted a clean sheet," Nugaz said.

He revealed: "What I can say is we are happy with the three points, it is

what we wanted from Ruvo Shooting and now we want to move forward and tackle our remaining four matches, so we thank the players for the win and especially Feisal's performance."

The midfielder, Feisal Salum, who scored a brace, and Said Ntibazonkiza, guided Yanga to the vital win while Emmanuel Martin and David Richard scored for the home team.

Yanga had to wait until the 23rd minute for a goal, Ruvo Shooting failed to clear the ball from their danger zone and it eventually fell to Fiston Abdul Razak who did well to set up Salum. The Tanzania international then curled the ball home from 20-yards to give his team a deserved lead.

The second goal for Yanga came in the 32nd minute, a poor pass was intercepted by Deus Kaseke who set his teammate Salum free.

The offensive midfielder kept his cool to complete his brace, which is his third goal in the league this season.

Martin reduced the deficit in the 70th minute as the Jangwani Street-based charges relaxed but Ntibazonkiza restored a two-goal advantage 10 minutes later.

In the 82nd minute, Richard scored to set a tense finale but Yanga held on to get the crucial win.

Simba SC mentions price for winger

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC has confirmed several offers on their table asking for their star, Luis Jose Miquissone, but if they reach the price they want, they will do business.

Despite not mentioning either the names of the clubs or Simba SC's offer, the club's Board of Directors has agreed to sell him for \$ 650,000 to which is more than 2.1bn/-.

If Miquissone's business is finalized before the start of next season he could turn out to be Simba's most expensive transfer to another squad in recent years.



Luis Miquissone

Among the clubs that have asked for the possibility of signing Miquissone are CR Belouizdad of Algeria, Al Ahly of Egypt, as well as South Africa Premier Soccer League champions Mamelodi Sundowns.

Miquissone has been one of the standout performers for Simba alongside Clatous Chama, especially during their CAF Champions League campaign that was ended by Kai-

zer Chiefs in the quarterfinals.

Simba SC's vice-chairman of Board of Directors, Salim Abdallah 'Try Again', said that they have many offers on the table for Miquissone but will be willing to accept the one the officials see as the best.

He disclosed: "Every interested party is welcome to come and table their offers, we will listen, but we will be guided by the interests of the player and, certainly, Simba's interests. Of course, we have our demands, and the more interested parties come, the easier, I think, it would be for us to get the best buyer for Miquissone."

"There is an offer from many teams just to get Miquissone but we will give priority to an offer that will meet the demand we have set and not otherwise. That is our position," he noted.

The outfit's other leaders kept the matter secret until they reach an agreement.

Simba has already identified possible replacements for the former UD Songo forward, and Cape Town City FC's Justin Shonga and Zanaco United's Moses Phiri are seen as the best men to come and fill the void if Miquissone eventually makes the move.

With the exit of Francis Kahata, Simba will need to sign a creative midfielder to supplement Chama and Bernard Morrison.

Kahata left after his two-year contract with the club he joined in 2019 from Gor Mahia came to an end in June 2021.

Although they are defensive, Taddeo Lwanga, Erasto Nyonu, Muzamiru Yassin, and Jonas Mkude have been deployed in the advanced midfield positions this season and that makes a need for a creative star who can play behind Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, and Chris Mugalu, more urgent.



Lazarous Kambole

Flexibles by David Chikoko

