



AGRICULTURE



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KILLERS



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Lissu suspends five rallies as regulator bars hired chopper

By Guardian Reporter

FIVE campaign rallies that were to be addressed by Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu in Coast Region yesterday were suspended after his helicopter was disallowed to fly.

A statement released by the party said that the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) stopped the candidate from taking off with the aircraft at the Julius Nyerere International Airport.

The party claimed in the advisory that the regulator gave Lissu and his team "unclear" reasons for not allowing the candidate's copter to fly.

Reached for comment, TCAA Director General Hamza Johari said he was aware

of the incident and promised to issue a statement detailing the reasons that informed the decision. The TCAA advisory had not arrived by press time.

"The TCAA official who made the announcement gave unclear reasons for the decision, stopping Lissu and his team who had already passed security checks and waiting lounge on their way to board the helicopter," the party statement elaborated.

The rallies that were cancelled yesterday were scheduled to take place at Bagamoyo, Chalinze, Mlandizi and Kibaha towns among other stops.

"An airspace authorization application for the helicopter was submitted since

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A Bwawani resident at Makumbusho area of Kijitonyama ward in Dar es Salaam, points at filthy and hazardous waste water surrounding one of the houses left in that state for four months now, on account of a flawed drainage situation, as captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Envoy profiles Tanzania at Xiamen trade symposium

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN Ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki has welcomed Chinese investors to put up ventures in the manufacturing sector, saying returns are guaranteed thanks to an improved investment climate and a ready market.

In his remarks whose copies were distributed to the media yesterday Ambassador Kairuki (pictured) extended the invitation on Wednesday when speaking at the 2020 Xiamen International Investment and Trade Symposium.

Chinese companies and other investors across the world are free to come and invest in various potentially productive and profitable

areas

In his speech, the envoy said that Tanzania has been blessed with abundant investment opportunities mostly yet to be tapped.

"Let me assure you that Tanzania's investment environment offers a predictable, transparent, and reliable long-term proposition," he declared.

Potential areas to invest include the automotive industry, the pharmaceutical and medical equipment industry, edible oils production, the cotton and textiles industry, sugarcane production, the livestock and leather sector, food processing, fishing and aquaculture. He also cited mining and metals, infrastructure networks, real estate, tourism and the leisure industry.

"With regard to security, Tanzania is among the safest countries in Africa. According to the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2019 report, Tanzania is the most peaceful country in the East African region and seventh most peaceful in Sub-Saharan Africa, while it ranks 54th in the world," he envoy stated.

He said that in the past 56 years, Tanzania has maintained peace, which is essential for development, attracting domestic and foreign direct investments and tourists from around the world. "No wonder, today over

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Police raid Chadema candidate's residence

● Allege presence of firearms, collect household tools as exhibits

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

POLICE in Singida Region on Wednesday night raided the residence of Chadema parliamentary candidate for Singida Urban constituency in search of 'illegal firearms.'

Regional Police Commander Sweetbert Njeweke told The Guardian yesterday that the candidate, Rehema Mkohe, was arrested after the search alongside ten other people.

Mkohe was arrested after the police allegedly received information that she owned fire arms illegally.

The incident happened a few days after the



The presumed suspects were later released after interrogation and were told to report again at the police station today

party launched its election campaign at regional level at Bombadia grounds attended by scores of party followers and hundreds of enthusiasts.

The presumed suspects were later released after interrogation and were told to report again at the police station today.

Njeweke said before their arrest, they searched the candidate's house after ostensibly receiving reports that she owned illegal firearms, elaborating that police were still conducting investigations.

Earlier, the Chadema candidate told this paper that at 2.30 am before retiring to bed after finishing a party meeting on the campaign programme, they suddenly heard a loud knock ordering her to open the door.

She said she emerged from the bedroom and saw a man brandishing a rifle, not knowing who he was, but decided against opening the door.

"Thereafter the intruders proceeded to break the front door and began searching various rooms, and when they came to my room they found it was locked, and within that time I rang to my neighbours, and when I was on the phone, they had broken my bedroom door," she said.

She said among the group of policemen

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TPDC do exploration drills in four regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) has embarked on initial stages of oil exploration in a valley spanning four regions.

Implementers said yesterday that the works have begun along Manonga River Valley after initial surveys signaled the existence of oil bearing rocks there.

The project, dubbed Eyasi Wembere is being implemented in regions where Manonga River passes including the Lake Eyasi basin and Manonga River Valley in Tabora, Shinyanga Singida and Manyara regions.

Introducing the project to Shinyanga regional officials yesterday, consulting expert Dr Allan Mzengi said the project begins with the first stage in identifying environmental effects in



Kishapu District in Shinyanga Region, a stage that will involve stakeholders from regional to ward levels.

Apart from environmental concerns, the second stage will involve drilling holes in areas where covered by the project, followed by placing of dynamite to identify areas that could be drilled for oil traces.

TPDC geologist Gaston Canuty said that TPDC has drilled small wells in the project area and found rocks that could be bearing oil, thus they now need to see how far deep the oil is.

TPDC will later field a geophysics team for soft dynamite holes which when detonated enable experts to identify areas where oil could be drilled.

Loveness Njogela, a geologist said oil exploration in the project area begun with aerial surveys to identify areas with hard and soft layers of rock, and in technical terms they are areas with high pressure, which can be tried for oil drilling.

Shinyanga Regional Administrative Secretary Albert Msovela pledged cooperation with the TPDC team so that the project is a success in Mwamalasa, Gana and Mwamashele areas in Kishapu District in the region.





Media Council Executive Secretary Kajubi Mukajanga (R), talks with Chuchu Fm management when the members of the MCT board visited Zanzibar yesterday. With him are Ethics chairman Judge (rtd) Juxon Mlay (2nd R), MCT board member Eddah Sanga (3rd R) and MCT officer in Zanzibar, Shifaa Said. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Envoy profiles Tanzania at Xiamen trade symposium

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20,000 Chinese nationals are living in Tanzania peacefully," he pointed out.

"Due to safety, Chinese enterprises (both state-owned and private) have invested \$7bn in Tanzania, and trade volume reached \$3.9bn in 2019. Therefore, when you decide to come to Tanzania, your security and safety is guaranteed," he asserted.

Tanzania has a market of 60m people, a situation which guarantees investors a reliable market for their products, he said.

"Whatever you will produce in Tanzania- you are assured of getting your money back because the market is there. Besides, Tanzania is a member of the East African Community, along with Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. These five countries have a combined market of 193mk people.

"Therefore whatever you will produce in Tanzania- you will have access to the entire East African market with the customs union and common market arrangement," he said.

On logistics, the envoy noted that Tanzania has efficient reliable

logistics- with the presence of three ports along the long coastline-Dar es Salaam; Tanga and Mtwara. It takes less than three weeks to ship cargo from Nanshan Port in Guangdong Province to Dar-es-Salaam, he said in illustration.

"After the total control of the Covid-19 pandemic in China, our national airline, ATCL will start to fly directly to Guangzhou. There will be no less than three flights per week," he said.

He similarly highlighted abundant trade opportunities in terms of products that can be sourced here, like cashew nuts, coffee, tea, peanuts, sesame, cassava, cotton and sisal. "We also have abundant livestock products, including beef, lamb and pork," he said.

"Tanzania has several types of minerals. We are the third largest producer of gold in Africa after South Africa and Ghana. We also have industrial minerals including coal, iron, tin, graphite, evaporites, kaolin, limestones, dimension stones, phosphates, and gypsum. We also have abundant gemstones, including tanzanite, Mahenge spinel, tsavorite, diamond; ruby; sapphire; emerald; cats' eyes and tourmaline," he added.

Lissu suspends five rallies as regulator bars hired chopper

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yesterday (Wednesday)," it said.

"Because of this development, Chadema has been compelled to look for alternative means of transport so that our candidate can continue with his campaign rallies," it pursued.

Speaking to journalists at his residence in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Lissu said after concluding the first round of campaign in 10 zones, he was yesterday set to embark on the

second leg by reaching every region and every constituency.

The second leg of his efforts to unseat President John Magufuli hit a snag with the chopper incident as Chadema leaders are back to the drawing board.

Tanzanians go to the polls on October 28 where the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament, the Zanzibar House of Representatives and councilors will be elected.

Police raid Chadema candidate's residence

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was the local government chairman of Unyakumi area named Mossy Athumani whereupon they asked her who she was, and replied she was Chadema's parliamentary candidate for Singida Urban.

They told her that they came to her house following reports that she owned firearms illegally.

Thereafter they said they want to search the house and called her neighbor as witnesses.

She said after the search, the police

managed to get one machete for home use and a small hammer-like tool, a knife, a screwdriver and a bottle opener which they took away as exhibits.

They were taken to the police station and asked to bail themselves, but they refused to be given PF 3 forms for

treatment from the wounds they had received.

Chadema issued a statement condemning the incident which they said it was politically motivated and called on the police not to be used for political purposes.

Kenyan governors declare war on top media house for graft stories

By Patrick Lang'at and Harry Misiko

The Council of Governors Wednesday threatened to pull adverts from the Nation Media Group following its sustained exposure of corruption in the counties.

The action by the governors sparked outrage, with Media Council of Kenya (MCK), the Media Owners Association (MOA) and the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) condemning it as a serious threat against the independence of the media.

In a statement, CoG chairman Wycliffe Oparanya said they were unhappy with the Nation's reporting of the impending arrests of Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru, Mohamud Ali (Marsabit), Amason Kingi (Kilifi), Alex Tolgos (Elgeyo Marakwet), Ali Korane (Garissa), Wycliffe Wangamati (Bungoma), Charity Ngilu (Kitui) and Mwangi wa Iria (Murang'a) over alleged abuse of office and corruption.

"We resolved that henceforth, no county government shall advertise with the Nation Media Group until the situation is rectified. I therefore urge all county governments to immediately cease engaging with NMG merchandise and advise county officers about this until further notice," Mr Oparanya said in the statement yesterday. In the most serious threat against independent journalism, the governors promised not to stop there.

"The correct action would be for the CoG to lodge its complaint to the Media Council of Kenya to determine the matter guided by the ethical code of journalism appended to the media law in Kenya."

The MCK said the move by the governors against the Nation Media Group "is meant to intimidate and bully East Africa's largest media house into submission, and by extension ensure alignment with their agenda by other media houses."

"Public money should never be used as a tool of control and manipulation by those entrusted with its usage. This supposed sanction by the governors calls into question the very process and rationale for financial decision making at the county level," said Mr Omwoyo.

Governors, Mr Omwoyo said, "need to be cognisant of the fact that they are accountable for the public for the use

of funds in their respective counties, and the public through the media have every right to question, hold them to account and even to hold divergent views than those propagated by their communications machinery."

The Media Owners Association, on the other hand, said the action has the potential of setting a bad precedent in the engagements between public institutions and the media.

"The attempt by CoG to use commercial leverage to influence editorial outcomes is therefore not only unacceptable but also ill-advised in a constitutional dispensation that encourages freedom of media and transparency in public institutions," MOA chairman Wachira Waruru said, asking the governors to channel their complaints against the media to the MCK.

Kenya Editors' Guild said the governors' statement amounted to "blatant threat against the media and a gross violation of media freedom and editorial independence".

"We urge all media houses to ignore the Council of Governors statement with the contempt it deserves; and under no circumstances succumb to the threats, intimidation and blackmail contained therein."

KEG Executive Council, headed by its president Churchill Otieno, called on CoG to "immediately withdraw the ill-advised statement without any precondition".

"No offense has been established and therefore there is nothing to apologise for, correct or withdraw," KEG told media houses.

Former Senate Majority Leader Kipchumba Murkomen called out the governors for the statement.

"A story about governors is not about county. Does it mean County advertisements are dished based on the benevolence of individual governors? Why are governors interfering with procurement matters?" asked Mr Murkomen, who is also the Elgeyo Marakwet senator.

He added: "This statement is enough for the EACC to investigate these governors. They should not and must not use county resources as a shield against accountability."

Agencies



In her opening remarks Paulina Parhiala, Country Director Norwegian Church Aid said the microfinance sector is a driver for financial inclusion and it promotes access to health, food security, education, energy and housing, thus confirming its role as a catalyst for comprehensive and inclusive development. Story on page 5

Smallholder farmers in Nzega laud Yara for free fertilisers

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

YARA Tanzania Limited has started distributing free fertiliser to thankful 83,000 smallholder farmers countrywide in Yara International's special initiative to boost agricultural production on the continent. The initiative is called Action Africa.

The distribution move was launched here recently by Tabora Regional Commissioner, Dr Philemon

Sengatimbali and was witnessed by Deputy Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe.

Yara has set aside a total of 12,500 tonnes of different fertiliser to be given free to Tanzanian villagers.

In a random interview here, John Katara, a Sikonge, resident thanked the company for free fertiliser, saying the fertilizers would boost maize and paddy production. "We are grateful to that company. We must rise to the

occasion and increase production," he said.

Edward Kasomambuto, a resident of Kailua, said peasants needed fertiliser to increase production. "Yara has done us a big service. We are very grateful."

Yara Tanzania Managing Director, Winstone Odhiambo, called on smallholder to register themselves to be reached easily and get fertiliser.

"Yara supports the government of

President John Magufuli in promoting agricultural production. This is the essence of this initiative," he said.

Yara is a Norwegian fertiliser company that produces and distributes worldwide. It was founded in 1905, as Europe struggle to increase crop production and overcome ravages of poverty and hunger.

The company says it employs more than 80 agronomists on the continent.



Zanzibar Social Security Fund managing director Sabra Issa Machano has a word with Zanzibar Second Vice President Ambassador Seif Ali Idd (2nd L) and his delegation after visiting Thabit Kombo Mall project at Kisonge Michenzani yesterday. Photo: SVP

8 people found dead in Isawima Game Reserve

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

EIGHT people have been found dead in Isawima Game Reserve in Kaliua District in Tabora Region with their bodies having severe burns.

Speaking to reporters yesterday Tabora Regional Police Commander Barnabasi

Mwakalukwa said that the incident happened on September 6 this year at around 5.30pm in Kaliua District, Tabora Region.

RPC Mwakalukwa said that police were tipped off by a Good Samaritan who was grazing cattle at the area. He said upon receiving the information, police rushed to the area where

they found eight people dead, three among them are aged between 25 and 45 years.

He said the other bodies were children aged between 2 and 10 years.

According to him, the deceased belongs to one family and that they were unnecessarily torched by

unknown people.

He said that police are still investigating the matter while hunting for the people who committed the offence. He called upon Tabora residents to avoid engaging in unlawful acts especially during this period when the country prepares for the general election.

Malango villagers happy with launch of the Agricom-Rukwa cooperative initiative

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

MAIZE producers in Malango village have praised the pre-delivery training stint of cooperative members and leaders in the use of tractors and other implements jointly conducted by the Agricom Africa Limited and Rukwa Regional leadership in order to increase maize production in the region.

Malango village is the region's grain basket, accounting for roughly 60 per cent of maize produced in the region. The regional government wants to use the initiative launched by the private company to ensure the region's 574,291 hectares of arable land are used to the maximum to produce cereals, especially maize, for local and export markets.

"Maize is in great demand locally and in neighbouring countries. We need better and bigger tools to produce more maize for these markets," said Gasper Mpepo, adding that "our village is the biggest producer of maize in Rukwa Region."

Malango AMCOS Chairman, Norbert Sikombe, the society would ensure members have the land tilled in time and farmers would increase tilled acreage. He described the joint private public farm implements supply initiative as a very welcome development. Rukwa region's cross-border trade in foodstuffs is poised to grow further because a good number of the region's residents live in Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo. The Diaspora statistics of the National Bureau of Statistics (2016) show that Rukwa Region has some 16,563 Rukwa residents living in Zambia (67 per cent) and DRC (17 per cent).

"We want to sell more foodstuffs to

Zambia and Congo because they want our maize and other crops every year," Mpepo said.

The pre-delivery training of villagers and their cooperative leaders is conducted by Agricom Africa workers before the company supplies tractors and other implements to cooperative societies is a special tripartite arrangement between the company, the regional leadership and cooperative unions.

Maize is the region's dominant annual crop, followed by paddy, finger millet, sorghum, wheat and bulrush millet. Maize constitutes 73.6 per cent of total area planted with annual crops and tractors would increase maize and vegetable production in the region.

DaudiSungura of Chipukilichopo farmers' group said the tractors to be supplied under the proposed arrangement would increase the number of tractors in the region. "We have very few tractors in the region for rent. We need more tractors to increase production," he said.

Sikombe confirmed the tractor shortage in the region, saying smallholders in need of tractors for hire have to wait for a long time and usually miss the important first rains.

Acting General Manager of the Agricom Africa Company, Remy Nindi, said the company was committed to the arrangement and would supply tractors in time. "Rukwa Region can produce more maize that it currently produces by using tractors and by improving extension services to farmers," he said.

Tractors would be given to a cooperative society with 72 members and capable of paying for the tractors. The company has offices in Morogoro, Mbeya, Dodoma na Kahama towns.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

THE ATU AFRICA INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2020

African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is a specialised agency of the African Union in the field of telecommunications. It provides a forum for stakeholders involved in ICT to formulate effective policies and strategies aimed at improving access to information infrastructure and services. The Union additionally promotes initiatives aimed at integrating regional markets, attracting investment into ICT infrastructure, and building institutional and human capacity.

With increased suppression of the social fabric in many communities in Africa as a result of COVID-19, and inconsideration of the fact that a large population of Africans are generally living in difficult conditions, the ability for countries' readiness for digital solutions, could significantly help address some of these challenges. The ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2020 therefore seeks to recognize the disruptive innovations and new business models that have the capacity to change Africa.

The Challenge is a call for innovators in Africa to submit their applications/innovations designed with the ability to respond to societal issues, and in particular, offer unique solutions to Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The innovation should also have the capacity to transcend COVID-19 and retain applicability in other emergency situations.

The ATU Africa Innovation Challenge is anticipated to be instrumental in identifying, testing and highlighting innovative adaptation approaches with potential to be replicated and scaled up through cooperation with institutional investors, bilateral or multilateral providers of finance, and other sources. The emphasis for the Challenge will be on continuous innovation and learning with regard to the need for offering pragmatic solutions.

Competition Structure

The contestants for the ATU Innovation Challenge 2020 will be drawn from all African countries with membership to ATU, to compete at a regional level during the 1st phase of the competition. The best from each region will then compete at the continental level during the last and final phase of the competition.

Competition Terms and Conditions

Every participant will be required to be responsive to the following terms and conditions as a minimum, to be able to take part in the Challenge.

- The competition is open to all persons not born before the year 1985 and who hold citizenship of any of the African

countries that form the membership of the African Telecommunications Union.

- Each participant can submit one entry only.
- All entries must be submitted before 14th September 2020.
- Entries will be judged by a panel of judges according to the set guidelines, theme of the competition, novelty/ originality of the entry as well as the pragmatic promise of the entry.
- All participants must register for the competition by completing the official registration entry form.
- All submissions must be the participant's own work.
- All winning participants as outlined in the category of winners must agree to the subsequent use of their submitted entries for non-profit reference and promotional use only on ATU and partner communications and engagements.
- All participants retain full rights of their entries with the exception of winners who will surrender ONLY the right to the subsequent use of their entries for non-profit reference and promotional use only on ATU and partner communications and engagements.
- Employees of ATU, ICT Regulatory Bodies and Associate Members cannot take part in the Challenge.
- There is no fee to enter the competition.

Important information:

- Deadline for submission 14th September, 2020.
- Direct link to official registration entry form <https://www.atuat.africa/africa-innovation-challenge-2020/>
- For more information visit ATU website: <https://www.atuat.africa>

Please inform TCRA through the email: dg@tcra.go.tz once you submit your project.

Be part of ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2020
Issued by:

DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION



TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

NOTICE ON INTENTION TO CANCEL SPICENET TANZANIA LIMITED'S LICENCES

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (herein referred to as the Authority) is a regulatory body established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act, Cap 176 of the Laws of Tanzania. The Authority has a number of regulatory functions including the power to issue and cancel licences.

On 28th November 2014, the Authority issued to Spicenet Tanzania Limited licences for regional network facilities, network services, and national application services and usage of radio frequency spectrum resource.

The primary obligation of the Licensee is to roll out its network and provide network services, network facilities and application services and pay regulatory fees in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licences issued by the Authority.

Since commencement of provision licensed services, the licensee has failed to roll out services in accordance with its rollout plans and obligations and failed to pay regulatory fees, contrary to Section 21 (g) and (h) of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania. Furthermore, inspection carried out by the Authority on 14th August, 2020 has shown that Spicenet Tanzania Limited has ceased to provide the licensed services.

The Authority is hereby informing the public of its intention to cancel Spicenet Tanzania Limited's Regional National Network Facilities, Regional Network Services, National Application Services and Radio Frequency Spectrum Licences.

Issued by:

Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road,
P. O. Box 474,
14414 DAR ES SALAAM

TASAF programmes reduce income poverty among the poor - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THOUSANDS of beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) are scheduled to graduate from the programme instituted by the government for reducing income poverty among the poor in the country, thanks to enhanced living standards.

At least 20 percent of the 1.1 million poor households with over five million people that were registered in the Production Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme are planned to exit from it following improved living standards.

The aim of PSSN is to empowering poor households increase income and has access to social services such as food, education and health among others

An evaluation carried by TASAF has proved that the number of have enhanced their livelihoods and at least five percent of the total beneficiaries will be removed from the programme every year.

Others are some 1000 people that have improved their living standards mainly through support from the fund and voluntarily opt out in the second term of TASAF's third phase scheduled to start soon.

The observation was made here by TASAF's Director of Community Support, Amadeus Kamagenge said many people whose lives have changed for the better are scheduled to leave the programme.

He noted that some other 8,500 households will also be removed from the plan due to death and failure to collect the benefits money during disbursement time. "Most of the beneficiaries whose lives have changed will be removed from the programme since they have fulfilled its target" he said.

He named those to be included in the second term of the third phase are some 950,962 households with people

who can work and have children. Others are 185,345 households with those who can work but do not have children.

The rest are 174,508 households of those who have been sick for a long time but do not have children, 94,381 households of the elderly and 1,958 households under leadership of children, all totaling to 1,407,154 households.

The director explained that a total of 2.05 tr/- was budgeted for implementation of the programme in its second phase. The amount he said was contributions from the government, World Bank, the government of Norway, SIDA, OPEC Fund, Global Fund, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UN organizations of UNICEF, WFP, ILO, UN Women among others.

Earlier, Faraji Mishael said TASAF (III) was launched in 2012 for ten years implementation to 2023 in two terms of five years each, terming it an important government's effort to reduce poverty in the country.

He said the second phase of it is aimed at strengthening success realized and reaching the unconnected 30 percent villages in the country. "Participation of the society in the programme has brought a lot of success in Tanzania than in other countries implementing the similar programmes" he said.



Participation of the society in the programme has brought a lot of success in Tanzania than in other countries implementing the similar programmes



Parents of hydrocephalus children attended a special clinic yesterday to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Orthopedic Institute at Muhimbili National Hospital. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport, Dr Leonard Chamirihio and owners of fish processing factories yesterday met to chart better ways of developing the fishing industry in the next ten year.

Dr Chamirihio said the government recognises that for a long time agricultural, livestock and fisheries products were being exported to European and Asian markets via a neighbouring country, the practice that has been denying the government of incomes and many other opportunities which it ought to have access to.

"It also contributes to Tanzania being unrecognized in foreign countries

Govt, stakeholders discuss developing fishery exports

on the products it manufactures, not utilizing well the infrastructures built from taxpayers' money, hence the government has decided that agricultural, livestock and fisheries products should be exported direct from the country's sea ports and airports.

He said there were reports, still unofficial that some business people place obstacles to government plans to export fish products direct from Mwanza Airport, and the government is following up the veracity of these

reports, so as to take appropriate response for the benefit of all Tanzanians.

He said the government likes business people and has good intentions to ensure their businesses benefit them and Tanzanians as well, hence he called on them to speak out of any challenges they face in the course of their activities, but should also abide by government's decisions.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (Fisheries Sector) Dr Rashid

Tamatamah said business people have spelled out the challenges they face that will simplify the procurement of large consignments of fish products when planes become available.

Mwanza Regional Administrative Officer (RAS) Emmanuel Tutuba said the meeting was the third in a row aimed at improving fishing business and transport and that they continue working together with the existing stakeholders, and pledged to be exporting huge consignments of fish products.

KILOMBERO SUGAR COMPANY
AN ILOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY

OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT

Kilombero Sugar Company Limited, the largest sugar producer in Tanzania operating cohesively with Illovo Distillers (Tanzania) Limited and a member of Illovo Sugar Africa (Proprietary) Limited (Africa's largest sugar producer), is seeking to recruit a dynamic and result oriented person to fill the position of **Finance Business Partner**. Reporting to Finance Manager – Business Support, the incumbent will be responsible to provide 'real time' support and analysis, to be a trusted advisor and to add value that will assist in decision making.

Responsibilities;

- Ensure finance is at the heart of decision-making process by bringing rigour to evaluation and implementation of value-enhancing decisions;
- Bring financial understanding to a business decision by ensuring alternatives are thoroughly evaluated and the optimum decision taken; use appropriate business tools to support decision-making;
- Focus on streamlining processes and evolving reporting to suit the specific requirements of the business over time;
- Prepare business cases (IRR) and analyses for all capex projects to ensure viability and subsequent realisation of envisaged benefits and conduct post investment analysis on key capital projects;
- Manage strategic discussions with internal customers to make sure that their needs are met and key pain-points are addressed;
- Accountable for timely and accurate P&L forecasting and budgeting; and work closely with the reporting team to give insightful input and commentary on the income statement variances;
- Develop understanding of cost drivers and identify opportunities for optimising profitability and managing costs;
- Proactively manage pricing variances and margins for each product to ensure targets are achieved and to support revenue growth initiatives;
- Manage S&OP process by owning the demand and supply forecasting;
- Manage the work of financial planners and support their career development.

Qualification and competencies required:

- Bachelor of Commerce or other equivalent degree from a reputable institution;
- Minimum 4 years relevant experience;
- Professional accounting qualification such as CPA/ACCA;
- Strong leadership and management skills;
- Strong business analytical skills to generate insight and add measurable value;
- Ability to work with people at various levels of the business;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Resilience and ability to cope and thrive under pressure.

Terms of service: The successful candidate will be engaged on a permanent contract. Attractive package will be offered to the right candidate commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Should you be interested in applying for this position please send your application together with a detailed CV which includes three referees with their contacts to the under mentioned addressee or via email kscl.services@ilovo.co.za quoting "Finance Business Partner" on the subject of the email by 16th September 2020. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Kilombero Sugar Co. Ltd is an equal opportunity employer and women are highly encouraged to apply.

Human Resources Head
Kilombero Sugar Company Limited
PO Box 50, Kidatu



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Directors : A.R. Mpungwe (Chairman), G.H. Williams (Managing Director), J. A. Coughtrie, G.B. Dalgleish, S.N. Hululu, M.A. Nyasama, N. Saayman, J.L. Sutcliffe

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KILOMBERO SUGAR COMPANY
AN ILOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY

OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT

Kilombero Sugar Company Limited, the largest sugar producer in Tanzania operating cohesively with Illovo Distillers (Tanzania) Limited and a member of Illovo Sugar Africa (Proprietary) Limited (Africa's largest sugar producer), is seeking to recruit a dynamic and result oriented person to fill the position of **Financial Planner**. Reporting to **Business Partner**, the incumbent will be responsible to provide accurate, relevant and timeous management reporting that enables appropriate business decision making, provide value adding and analytical insights and coordinate the budgeting, forecasting and reporting cycles to facilitate strong financial performance.

Responsibilities;

- Prepare accurate, timely and insightful management reporting and forecasts;
- Engage with budget holders to understand key drivers of costs and revenues for relevant activities and use the drivers to forecast appropriately costs and revenues;
- Prepare cost dashboards to track costs and financial KPIs;
- Attend monthly meetings with relevant budget holders and ensure that costs are controlled within budget;
- Review phasing of budget versus actual expenditure and revenue and assist budget holders with queries;
- Liaise with budget holders with regards to estimates and other changes and ensure major variances are investigated and support appropriate corrective actions to get back on track;
- Embrace self-development and lifelong learning to stimulate continuous personal growth.

Qualification and competencies required:

- Bachelor of Commerce or other equivalent and relevant degree from a reputable institution;
- Minimum 3 years relevant experience;
- Progress in obtaining professional qualification such as CPA/ACCA is an added advantage;
- Positive attitude, open minded and willing learner;
- Strong and effective communication, interpersonal and presentation skills.

Terms of service: The successful candidate will be engaged on a permanent contract. Attractive package will be offered to the right candidate commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Should you be interested in applying for this position please send your application together with a detailed CV which includes three referees with their contacts to the under mentioned addressee or via email kscl.services@ilovo.co.za quoting "Financial Planner" on the subject of the email by 16th September 2020. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Kilombero Sugar Co. Ltd is an equal opportunity employer and women are highly encouraged to apply.

Human Resources Head
Kilombero Sugar Company Limited
PO Box 50, Kidatu



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You might have a good relationship with your neighbours, but neighbourhood relationships can often be sorely tested by life's little problems. One thing that causes many a neighbourhood disagreement is who is responsible for drainage - an issue that you probably don't even think about until the worst happens and the drains become blocked. Photo: Florida Raymond of TUDARCO

Dar residents decry poor wastewater management

By Florida Raymond, TUDARCO

RESIDENTS of Mlalakua in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region have expressed their concerns over poor wastewater systems saying that they are exposed to health risks as raw sewage is flowing into their homes water sources.

In separate interviews, the residents said that they have reported the matter to the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) to work on the problem, but nothing has been done.

"This problem has been here for several months and no action has been taken to address it, which to us is a very hectic challenge," said Emanuel Sanga, a resident of Mlalakua.

Sanga, who has been living in the

area for more than 20 years, said that wastewater has been flowing continuously in the area, thus making the entire area stinking.

"The situation is bad because children love playing near the leaking sewage chambers. Some of the shops cannot be reached by customers as the roads are flooded with dirty water," he complained.

Mama Mangi said: "We have reported the matter to our local leaders who have already contacted DAWASA, but the problem is yet to be solved."

Rosemary Chacha said the situation has also contributed to road damages causing some potholes, urging DAWASA technicians to immediately work on the problem to save them from contracting waterborne diseases.

Selemani Masale, a local government

leader in the area admitted on the challenge, saying: "It existed for several months. DAWASA had promised to send its technicians to work on it, but no one had showed up."

"We are aware of the situation at the DDC Mlimani Street, there are leaking sewerage chambers which causes nuisance to the residents," he said.

Makongo Ward Health Officer, Nancy Zakayo said that the flowing waters are dirty with a bad smell, hence poses health risks to the residents. "We want DAWASA to work on it immediately to save people especially children from waterborne diseases."

DAWASA Public Relations Officer, Evalistine Lyaro confirmed to have received complaints from the residents. She said the authority will soon send its technicians to fix the problem.

By Guardian Reporter

NORWEGIAN Church Aid in collaboration with other Community Microfinance Group's Promoters in the country yesterday brought together stakeholders from across the country to learn and share experience on the implementation of the Microfinance Act, 2018.

The economic empowerment forum held under a theme "Microfinance Act 2018 and future of Community Microfinance Groups (CMGs) in Tanzania. The CMGs promoters included the Inter-Religious Village Community Banks (IR-Vicoba), Tanzania Informal Microfinance Association of Practitioners (TIMAP) and FETA

In her opening remarks Paulina Parhiala, Country Director Norwegian Church Aid said the microfinance sector is a driver for financial inclusion and it promotes access to health, food security, education, energy and housing, thus confirming its role as a catalyst for comprehensive and inclusive development.

Stakeholders convene to learn, share experience on implementation of Microfinance Act 2018

She noted that microfinance plays a key role in helping people to lift themselves out of poverty. This is particularly needed for those excluded and under-banked, who otherwise would not be able to access financial services. There are numerous studies evidencing our access to savings leads to positive economic outcomes for households including increased productivity and profits.

Parhiala also said that the forum also aimed to discuss and share expertise on how microfinance groups are going to continue providing financial services even during hard times of Covid-19.

"The Covid-19 global pandemic has created economic disruption which will be a challenge to recover for some years. These shocks are particularly felt at vulnerable households," he added.

She explained that in the midst of

the developments of microfinance it is important to keep with microfinance's original social inspiration: to offer tailored loans, savings and insurance services to the most vulnerable as well as non-financial services which contribute to eradicating poverty by allowing the most deprived to develop income-generating projects and supporting them through training and counseling activities.

"Having savings makes people also less likely to sell assets to address health emergencies, helps people to stabilise their incomes in times of economic shocks and provides greater control over their own funds. It is not surprising that there is a growth expectation for microfinance globally. Non-banking financial institutions continue to dominate the market globally and in many countries microinsurance

is revolutionising access to healthcare," she noted.

Parhiala further said the microfinance sector is a driver for financial inclusion and it promotes access to health, food security, education, energy and housing, thus confirming its role as a catalyst for comprehensive and inclusive development.

The financial inclusion models support overall economic growth and the achievement of the broader development goals. Digital finance alone has lifted many households out of poverty and improved economic lives of poor women and members of female headed households. There is also growing evidence of financial inclusion creating more stable financial systems and economies, mobilizing domestic resources through national savings and helping to boost government revenue.

At least 22 passengers escape death following bus accident in Mbeya Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AT least 22 people have cheated death after a passenger bus heading to Mwanza from Mbeya city overturned at Inyala, in the outskirts of the city.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Ulrich Matei told journalists yesterday that among the injured, four are in bad conditions admitted at the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital. He said the passenger bus with registration numbers T.629 CQC is owned by Isamilo Company.

RPC Matei said the accident occurred on Thursday morning, linking the accident with reckless driving by the driver-Kini Malimi (51), a resident of Igoma in Mwanza.

He said that the driver was attempting to overtake other vehicles without taking precaution. He also accused the driver of speedy driving which caused him to lose control of the vehicle.

"Among the injured, 12 are men and 10 women. Only those with bad conditions are admitted at the referral hospital, others were taken for medical treatment at the Inyala health center," he said.

He however said the accident caused destruction of people's properties including the bus itself whereas most of the window mirrors have been broken.

IOGT·NTO·MOVEMENT

The International Institute of IOGT-NTO Movement is a Swedish temperance organization, registered in Tanzania as an international NGO, but addressing the East Africa region (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda). The institute has a major focus to contribute to a world free from the harmful consequences of alcohol, narcotics and other substances that we consider are obstacles to human welfare, security and development. IOGT-NTO Movement has been working in Tanzania since 1993 and has its regional office in Dar es Salaam and works through partnerships. Partners implement projects in their countries and reports to IOGT NTO Movement's regional office.

IOGT-NTO MOVEMENT SWEDEN - REGIONAL OFFICE EAST AFRICA (ROEA)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

Descriptions	Notes	2019 TZS	2018 TZS
Receipt			
Funds received from Donors	3	648,836,237	548,941,106
Receipts during the year		648,836,237	548,941,106
Fund balance payable to IOGT-NTO Movement/Forum Syd brought forward		50,132,410	13,554,288
Fund balance payable to IOGT-NTO Movement/Forum Syd carried forward	14	(14,993,164)	(50,132,410)
Revenue available for the year		683,975,483	512,362,984
Expenditures			
Monitoring visits	4	117,167,959	103,547,057
Staff Costs	5	342,211,171	223,196,109
Administrative Costs	6	188,996,525	172,368,483
Method Assessment	7	27,285,695	-
Capacity Building, Thematic issues	8	8,314,133	13,350,887
Refund to Forum SYD		-	(99,552)
TOTAL		683,975,483	512,362,984

These financial statements were approved by the Governing Board on 17/02/2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Brenda Mkwesha
Regional Director

Rose Nzali
Finance and Administrative officer

IOGT·NTO
MOVEMENT

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Foundation for Preventative Health (FPH) is an NGO committed to working towards better healthcare in Tanzania. It deals with promoting health education on teeth and eye care among Tanzania communities and it's currently conducting clinics in the Arusha area.

- The foundation is announcing 2 vacancies for Optometrists who
 - Will be a key part of the care provided
 - Will have to travel to prearranged locations with a team of volunteers
 - Will be primarily standing and walking for the duration of the clinic

Requirements

- Diploma or Degree in Ophthalmology
- At Least 1 year's experience
- Good command of the English language
- Ability to train and give instructions to fellow team members

- The foundation is also announcing 10 vacancies for Volunteers to assist with clinics

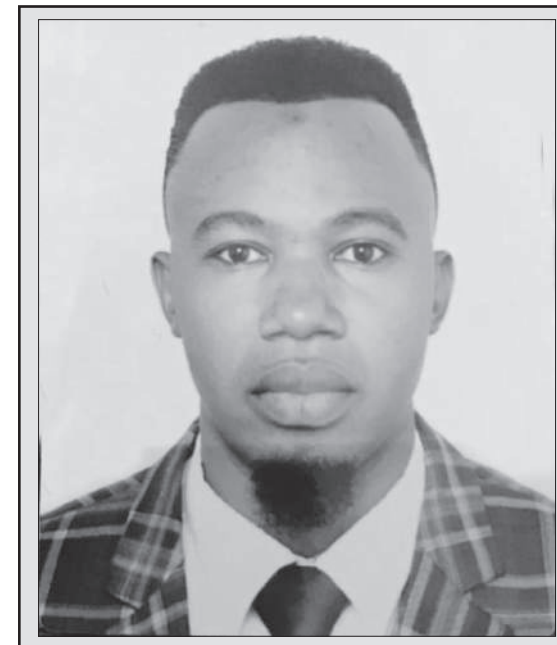
Requirements

- Some post Secondary education is mandatory but a Diploma or Degree are preferred.
- Candidates should have some experience in the medical field or working with large groups of people.

Interested candidates should submit a soft copy of their job interest letter along with the other relevant documents to fph.ceo@gmail.com. Instructions will follow on how and where to submit hard copies. The deadline for receiving applications is **September 16th, 2020**.

Only successful shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview after one week.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PETER SYLVESTER CARLOS (D.O.830/03/1997) APPEARED IN PICTURE ABOVE IS WANTED BY POLICE FOR CASE NUMBER: RB NO. URP / RB / 4403/2020 ANYONE WHO SEES HIM ANYWHERE PLEASE REPORT TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

THE ONE WHO ACHIEVES HIS AVAILABLE WILL BE GIVEN A GREAT PRIZE.

ANY INFORMATION POLICE REPORT No. URP / RB / 4403/2020.

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TAMWA calls upon journalists to increase reportage of women development issues

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) has called on journalists to increase coverage and reporting on issues which touch and promote women development in the areas of leadership, and socio-economic aspects.

Dr Mzuri Issa, Tamwa Zanzibar Director made the call here when officiating a one-day media training which aimed to capacitate them more on gender issues.

According to her, it is the media that have a very important role in pushing the country to the next level of development if they will prioritise reporting in women issues.

She said that accurate reporting of women issues will also enable leaders to make decisions and improvements so as to empower the group.

"Media people have a great responsibility to change the society due to their daily work, so they have to make sure that they fight oppression and any kind of violence through writing and reporting."

Dr Mzuri further said having a third eye as a journalist is crucial because this will enable him/her to focus on social issues especially those which affect the community including Gender Based Violence (GBV).

"There are some people in the society who still have negative perceptions towards women, they see them as people who are unable to engage in economic activities, they just want women to stay home and wait for their husbands, this perception should be eradicated," Dr Mzuri insisted.

She said that women carry huge potential in their lives but because of misconceptions, they fail to realise them, a situation which journalists could help to address if they invest in

continued reporting.

On leadership, Dr Mzuri said that many women have awareness and they participated to compete for various leadership positions but the major challenge remains to the society to accept them.

"Majority of women fail to pass in the referendum process but they tried their level best to vie for various positions in this year's election. Women also have legal rights to vie for any leadership position from grassroots to national level, but a lot has to be done to change people's mindsets towards women," she added.

She said the major objective of the training was to impart knowledge and skills to the journalists so as to enable them speak up about women issues for the country's development.

Earlier, one of the presenters, Hava Shamte also hinted on the note wanting journalists to protect women's interests through their reporting.

"There are a number of opportunities which women may grab but they are unaware of them because journalists do not give the issues much coverage," she noted.

Salum Vuai, one of the participants said that they are going to work hard to ensure that they increase coverage on women's issues.



There are a number of opportunities which women may grab but they are unaware of them because journalists do not give the issues much coverage



Sculptor Laston Marunda arranges his merchandise while waiting for potential customers' at Mwenje Mpakani in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam earlier this week. He says the COVID-19 pandemic has hit his business because most of the customers were foreigners. Photo: Beauty Mwakatobe of TUDARCO

Produce quality goods to access more markets, SIDO tells small entrepreneurs

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SMALL Industries Development Organisations (SIDO) in Arusha Region has called on small entrepreneurs to concentrate in the production of quality standard goods to widen chances for markets.

The appeal was given by the Arusha SIDO Manager Nina Nchimbi when closing a training seminar on food processing for 49 participants from

inside and outside the country.

"If you produce quality goods in quality packages and peddle them at low prices, I will assist you in accessing to big reliable market inside and outside the country, as I want to see small entrepreneurs succeed," Nchimbi said.

She said as for now many youths have been idling at street corners and complain of unemployment, hence she called on them to grab economic opportunities found within the

community to extricate themselves from poverty.

She also called on the small entrepreneurs to be creative in the production of goods, saying SIDO, apart from providing them with training on entrepreneurship, they have been connecting them to various institutions including financial institutions.

SIDO's Commerce Development Officer who was the training seminar coordinator, Bahati Mkopi urged the

participants to adhere to the training provided with deeds in order to increase their incomes.

Mkopi said the training was participated by 49 small entrepreneurs from Rwanda, Congo-DRC, Kenya, including Tanzanians from the country's various regions, who were trained on bread and cake baking, making of butter and soap.

Others included milk processing and tomato and chili sauce making.



Deliberately abandoned or dumped waste on public or private property should be considered illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is harmful to the environment and costs taxpayers money. All residents and businesses are responsible for properly disposing of their waste. Photo: Florida Raymond of TUDARCO

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Makutupora Centre (TARI-Makutupora) is in the final stages in its research on five types of grape seeds aimed to increase the crop's production in the country.

The Centre's Director, Dr Cornel Massawe disclosed this yesterday when speaking to The Guardian on the ongoing research including other strategies on grape production expansion.

He said the centre has concentrated in conducting more research on the crop to ensure the availability and distribution of quality seeds to farmers.

"When we say quality seeds we mean those that can benefit farmers, withstand diseases and climate change

TARI to soon come up with five types of grape seeds

such as drought and floods," he explained.

He said the seeds being researched include two for wine production and the others for spices.

He said as for now Tanzania has two types of grape seeds available to farmers, both of which foe wine production.

"South Africa has provided us with 13 types of grape seeds all of them for wine making, and are of two categories - white and red," he added.

He said: "As for now the area with

big grapes production is Bahi District, Dodoma and Chamwino, however researches already made show that grapes can also be grown in many areas in the country, including Ruvuma, Mara, Tabora, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Singida."

Recently, when presenting tractors to TARI to be used to increase production of seeds for various crops in the country, the Minister of Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said the government had decided to include grapes among

strategic crops.

"Demand for grapes is huge due to establishment of many wine making factories and for its other many uses, hence as a nation we have mobilized to ensure we adequately invest for increased grape production for internal consumption and export," Hasunga said.

He said the establishment of wine factories would also solve the unemployment problem, hence there was the need for TARI to research on seed production.

LATRA conducts road safety training to help 'bodaboda' operators curb road accidents

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has conducted road safety education to motorcycle and tricycle (Bajaji) drivers in a move that aims to curb road accidents in Kilimanjaro Region.

The training was conducted in collaboration with the police traffic department, according to Kilimanjaro Regional Police Traffic Officer (RTO) Zauda Mohammed.

Zauda said the drivers were also trained on how to provide first aid services, the importance of enrolling with health insurance schemes and entrepreneurship skills.

She said the drivers were at a good position to curb accidents as well as other types of crimes. According to her, motorcycle riders contribute to a number of road crashes in the Region.

The Kilimanjaro regional traffic boss explained that provision of such training have resulted in reduced road accidents not only in Kilimanjaro Region, but across the country.

"The number of accidents recorded in the first half of this year is small compared to the same period in 2019," said the RTO appealing to motorcycle drivers to adhere to road safety regulations.

Representing the drivers, Hamadi Bendera said they are facing several challenges including harassment from traffic officers who have been demanding bribes. He however informed that some of their customers are unwilling to wear helmets.

"We are sometimes fined at the expense of customers because they do not want to wear safety gear including a helmet," he said.

Bendera commended the role played by the Kilimanjaro regional

traffic office, especially provision of road safety education to motorcycle and tricycle riders.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro, was recently quoted saying road accidents have decreased from 91,908 in 2011/15 to 24,339 in 2016/2020, which is equivalent to a decrease of 73.5 percent.

The IGP explained that his force has managed to reduce the number of deaths caused by road accidents from 17,872 to 10,220, equivalent to a decrease of 42.8 percent while the number of casualties went down from 82,854 to 24,283, equivalent to a decrease of 70.7 percent.

He linked the decrease in crime and accidents with the training to road users and police officers.

He said: "The decrease in the number of accidents (73.5 percent) is not an easy thing as there is no country that is 100 percent free of accidents because other accidents are caused by human errors as some-times you may find a person driving a car while drunk and sometimes roads are not good."



We are sometimes fined at the expense of customers because they do not want to wear safety gear including a helmet

TWCC sets aside 2bn/- for empowerment of women entrepreneurs across the country

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) has set aside 2bn/- to implement a project designed to empower women entrepreneurs with skills in business and legal support across the country.

The five-year project (2021-2023) funded by the TradeMark East Africa under the project 'Capacity Building Project for Women Traders and entrepreneurs', is expected to benefit 10,000 women with capacity building, so far 3,000 have been covered already.

National chairperson for the chamber Jackline Mneney revealed the plan to journalists during the press conference held yesterday in Dar es Salaam where she launched the award competition to women in the industrial sector.

She said the project will work to advocate for improvement of policy framework in order to address several barriers facing women, especially those who deal with cross-border trades, in order to have a friendly environment for business.

Mneney said the chamber is happy with the recent improvement implemented by the government in fostering a business environment which has so far attracted many women to venture and open industries and businesses which contributes to lift the country economy.

"We are very happy with the ongoing initiative by the government to improve the business environment, through 'The Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment,' we call upon other stakeholders to support implementation of the plan,"

she said.

Mneney said that the award launched yesterday is funded by the TradeMark East Africa under the project 'Capacity Building Project for Women Traders and entrepreneurs' and is intended to recognise the achievement and strong contributions from women in developing the industrial sector in the country.

"But also to prepare and encourage other women who want to excel in business and in the industrial sector," she added.

"It has to be understood that women are able to influence changes in the industrial sector and business if they will be trusted and given the opportunity to do so," she explained.

She added that the award will open more opportunities to women entrepreneurs who want to create employment and contribute to the national economy, any woman who is an entrepreneur from any point in the country can apply to win the award.

The chair encouraged women in the villages to apply in order to win the award, this is an opportunity for women who are in business across the country.

Winner of the award will be announced in October after being scrutinized by the committee, which will consist of members from the government and private institutions.

For her part, executive director for the chamber Mwajuma Hamza said the award ceremony will go together with the launch of a Newsletter for 100 women titled Tanzania Inspire and Impact Women Book, which will be used to communicate to the public on what women entrepreneurs are doing.



A number of residents at Igoba village in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, attended a campaign on gender-based violence recently conducted recently by UN Women in partnership with the government and Unilever Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Dodoma City increases revenue collection by 88 pc in four years

DODOMA City Council has increased internal revenue collection from 3.6bn/- in 2015/16 to 52.1bn/- in 2019/20 Fiscal Year.

Speaking here yesterday, city council's Executive Director Joseph Mafuru said the increase was equivalent to 788 percent.

He explained that the Council's revenue collection estimates have increased from 4.5bn/- in 2015/16 to 59.1bn/- in 2019/20 fiscal year, equivalent of 80 percent.

He noted that in 2015/16 fiscal year,

estimates stood at 4.5bn/- but 3.6bn/- was collected, the equivalent of 80 percent. "In 2016/17 fiscal year, the council estimated to collect 4.8bn/- but 4.8bn was collected, equivalent of 123 percent.

Mafuru said in 2017/18 fiscal year, revenue collection estimate was 20.7bn/- but 25.03bn/- was collected

equivalent to 121 percent, while in 2018/19 fiscal year, the estimate was to collect 71.9bn/- but only 58.2bn/- was collected, equivalent of 87 percent.

"In 2019/20 fiscal year, we had estimated to collect 59.1bn/- but until June this year, we have collected 52.1bn/- or 88 percent of the estimates," he said.

On the audit queries, Mafuru said the City has reduced audit queries from the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) from 161 in 2015/16 to 46 in FY 2018/19 fiscal year.

"Also in three consecutive years the City Council has been doing well in regard to auditing by receiving clean certificates from CAG," he added.

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

NDCs increase risk of dying from COVID-19 in Africa, says WHO

THERE is increasing evidence that Africans living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension and diabetes are more likely to suffer severe cases of Covid-19 and die.

In South Africa, which accounts for nearly half of all cases and deaths on the continent, 61 percent of the Covid-19 patients in hospitals had hypertension and 52 percent had diabetes.

And 45 percent of people aged 60-69 who died from Covid-19 also had hypertension. In Kenya, around half of Covid-19 deaths occurred in people with NCDs, while in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, such patients accounted for 85 percent of all Covid-19 deaths.

According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) preliminary analysis of 14 countries in the African region, hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and asthma are the co-morbidities most associated with Covid-19 patients.

These chronic conditions require continuous treatment, but as governments address the ongoing pandemic, health services for NCDs have been severely disrupted.

"Millions of Africans living with non-communicable diseases are at greater risk of complications or dying from Covid-19," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "So it is very concerning to find that just when people with hypertension and other chronic conditions most need support, many are being left out in the cold."

In a WHO survey of 41 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 22 percent of countries reported that only emergency

inpatient care for chronic conditions is available, while 37 percent of countries reported that outpatient care is limited.

Hypertension management has been disrupted in 59 percent of the countries, while diabetic complications management has been disrupted in 56 percent of the countries. The closure or slowdown in services is likely to further aggravate the underlying conditions of patients, leading to more severe cases of NCDs. It also exacerbates the

susceptibility of people living with chronic conditions to Covid-19.

WHO is working with countries to identify the challenges associated with providing essential services for people with NCDs and is supporting governments to implement strategies to increase service availability.

WHO has assisted Member States in devising alternative approaches to providing health services, including increased use of telemedicine.

Additionally, WHO has helped restore screenings for chronic conditions and has provided the basic equipment needed for diabetes and hypertension care in seven Member States. WHO is also working to increase public knowledge about the strong link between chronic conditions and Covid-19.

In moving forward, WHO recommends controlling the use of tobacco and alcohol because both

increase the risk of NCDs. It is also important to ensure quality primary care and referral systems to help people obtain the right treatment at the right time. There should also be a range of medicines and techniques available to support early diagnosis and treatment of NCDs.

Even prior to the current pandemic, NCDs were a major health challenge, impacting a growing number of Africans. In 2015, NCDs killed 3.1 million

people in the African region up from 2.4 million in 2010.

Dr Moeti was joined by Dr Aggrey Mweemba, head clinical care, Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital in Zambia and Dr Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo, executive director, African Institute for Health and Development in Kenya in a virtual press conference on Covid-19 and NCDs today facilitated by APO Group.



Kondoa rural farmers Abdil Jengo (R) and Musa Mswahili harvesting peas in Dodoma region for market. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Uyui

Tabora RC wages war against water infrastructures vandalism

TABORA Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati has promised to wage war against vandalism to water infrastructures that deny people access to water supply.

The RC was speaking during his inspection visit at Loya Ward water project in Uyui District after he received a report from the Secretary of Water Consumers Community of theft of water meters and pipe fittings at Loya Bondeni Secondary School.

Dr Sengati directed the arrest and

prosecution of all those who will be found to sabotage water projects' infrastructures and steal various fittings.

He said the government was spending a lot of money implementing various projects for the community, including water projects, hence it was better to ensure they are taken care

of and protected against acts of vandalism.

He instructed Rural and Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) in Uyui District to educate the people on the importance of protecting water projects so as to be sustainable.

Earlier the Secretary of Water Consumers Community Joseph

Nduba said in recent days there have been acts of vandalism and theft of water meters and pipe fittings at a reservoir serving Loya Bonde Secondary School causing huge loss of water.

He said they reported the matter to Loya Police Station and they have begun to hunt for the perpetrators.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Family of the late Dr. FIRMINA JOSEPH MBERESERO
Date of birth 13th Dec 1950,
Date of death 11th Sept 2015.

"In life we loved you dearly; in death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place no one else will ever fill".
Mom it's been five years since you rested and we still remember you fondly.

You are dearly missed by your husband, sons, daughters, grandchildren, relatives and colleagues.

In remembrance of this day a memorial mass will be held on 19th September 2020 at her final resting place in Mtakuja Mangara farm from 11.00am

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

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Taking A New Look
At The News
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Creativity needed to discover more heritage and other historical sites

LAST week the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism appealed to stakeholders in the tourism sector to embark on advertising the country's more than 100 heritage sites that are not being highlighted despite their income potential.

The appeal was given by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary Dr Aloyce Nzuki at a meeting that discussed conservation and development of heritage sites, who said out of the nearly 500 sites that were identified and gazetted only 18 are being used as tourists' attractions and stressed more efforts are needed to advertise the rest.

We would like to add our voice to the Ministry's call, not only in advertising for more of the already gazetted heritage sites, but also looking for more of them as the country is home to numerous such sites of historical value.

As they say, one cannot rewrite history, therefore what happened in our country is part of that history which present and future generations need and should know.

For example, more than 100 years ago an important event happened in our country, then part of what was then known as German East Africa.

It was the end of the bitter war pitting foreign colonial powers - Britain and Germany and our country was the only theatre of the conflict fought outside Europe, but drew in thousands of indigenous people who were pushed into the war either as soldiers or porters carrying ammunition, food and other supplies for the fighters of both

sides.

One cannot erase that occurrence however distasteful it may seem to most of us.

Two years ago we missed a huge chance to highlight that milestone as a way of wooing tourists, both foreign and domestic, as well as historians, to view memorials of the German occupation of our land including those of World War I.

Compared to neighbouring Kenya then a British colony and from where the war was launched, our country bore the most brunt of the war. But it made the maximum use of the event that marked 100 years of the end of hostilities on November 18 2018.

Months before the event - the armistice signed in Europe to signal the war's end Kenya organized several events to commemorate the end of the war a century ago under the umbrella "Lest we Forget" designed to woo tourists and historians to that country's war memorial sites that were just a handful compared to those in our country.

We have many more of World War I memorial sites in various areas of our country than Kenya has - memorials and war relics of great battles fought pitting German and British forces.

We still have the remains of the German battleship the 'Koenigsberg' that was sunk by the British in the Rufiji Delta and another 117-year old battleship in Lake Tanganyika, the Graf Goetzen which was later turned into a passenger ship and renamed MV Liamba by the victorious powers, the British.

Locusts warms posing a major threat to food security and livelihoods

THE Horn of Africa is facing the worst locust invasion in 70 years, threatening regional food security, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The swarms threaten to put 4.9 million people at risk of starvation, according to the International Rescue Committee.

The 2019-20 locust infestation, is a pest outbreak of desert locusts which is threatening the food supply across the region. The outbreak is the worst in 70 years in Kenya and the worst in 25 years in Ethiopia, Somalia and India. The plague began in June 2019 and has continued through 2020.

The current outbreak began when Cyclone Mekunu in 2018 produced heavy rains in the Rub' al Khali of the Arabian Peninsula, in Spring 2019, swarms spread from these areas, and by June 2019, the locusts spread north to Iran, Pakistan, and India and south to East Africa, particularly the Horn of Africa. By the end of 2019, there were swarms in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Oman, Iran, India, and Pakistan. By June 2020, another swarm appeared in South America, affecting Paraguay and Argentina.

As of April 2020, efforts to control the locusts are being hampered by ongoing restrictions in travel and shipping due to the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the global coronavirus food crisis.

The Horn of Africa is facing the worst locust invasion in 70 years, threatening regional food security, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The swarms threaten to put 4.9 million people at risk of starvation, according to the International Rescue Committee. And despite governmental intervention to slow crop loss, FAO expects the damage to continue.

The locust can be found in more than 30 countries and swarms are familiar to farmers around the globe.

Outbreaks typically occur in arid and semi-arid regions during periods of heavy rainfall. But the current outbreak is of particular concern.

Increased rainfall near the Horn of Africa, coupled with warmer weather, is creating ideal breeding conditions, contributing to the large size of this year's swarms.

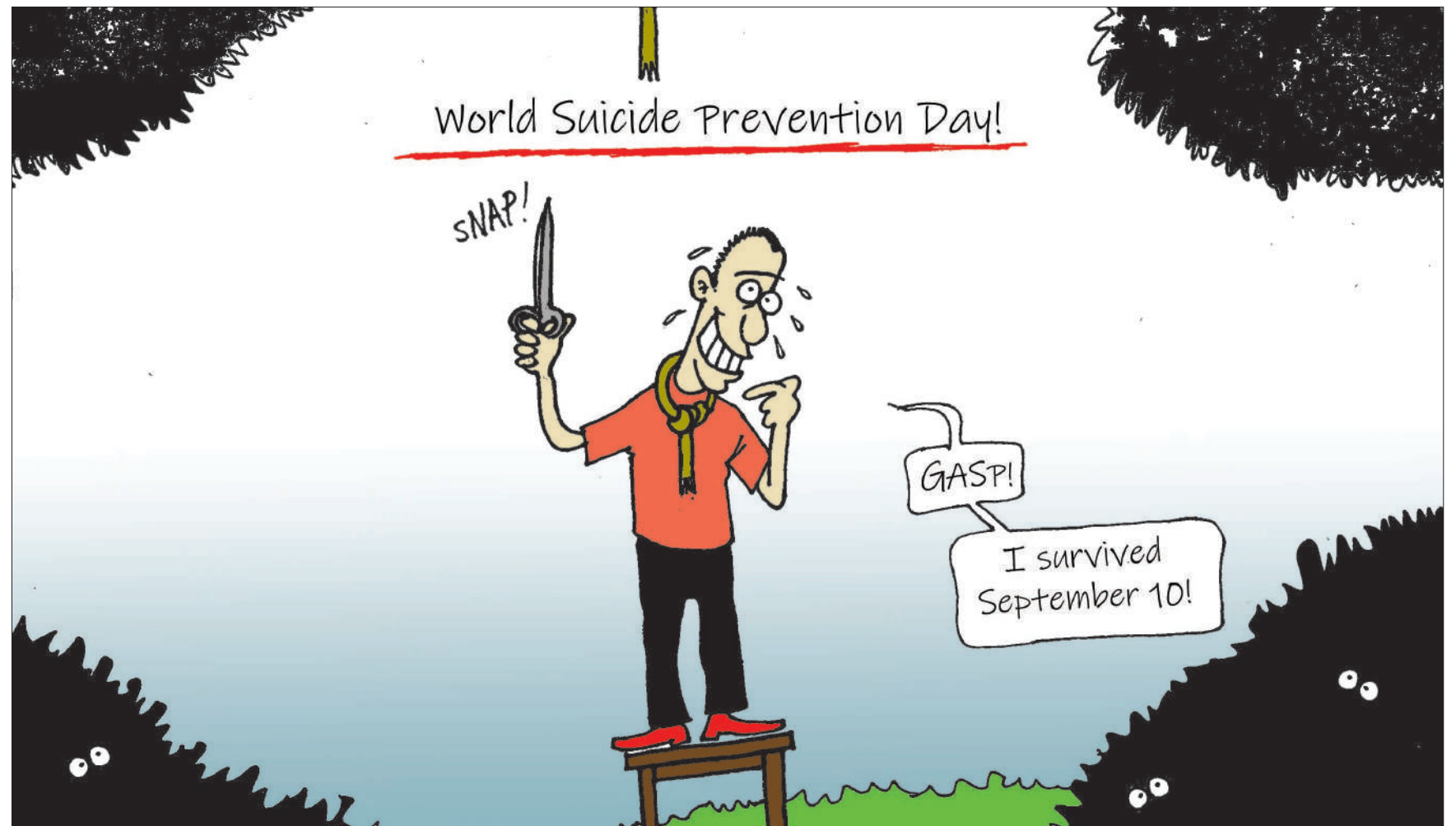
Insecticide spraying is the most efficient mitigation strategy. Effective spraying needs large scale deployment, like aerial or widely coordinated backpack spraying, which needs a government or big organisations to coordinate.

But new technology can offer hope to farmers. Geographic Information Systems can monitor swarms and warn communities of their approach. By gathering information about locust lifespan, the speed of migration, mating patterns, and land destruction, researchers can pinpoint areas of highest concern.

Several African governments hope that this information will help create a more efficient and coordinated plan for spraying areas impacted by swarms. Christensen explains that tracking swarms not only enables swift action, it can also reduce unnecessary insecticide spraying, which can harm the earth.

The combination of research and technology, Christensen says will ultimately be key to reducing locust invasions and protecting food security.

FAO said containing the plague will cost at least \$138 million. So far, donors have pledged \$52 million as of April 2020, \$10m of which has come from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Failure means more hunger in a region already battered by conflict and climate shocks. Aerial and ground spraying combined with constant tracking of the swarms are viewed as the most effective strategies. But the travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic have hindered the preventive measures.



Covid-19 : Lessons from the losses

By Dr Patrick Amoth

IF countries considered Universal Health Coverage (UHC) a central policy in their health systems, the COVID-19 has surely demonstrated the need for its urgent and widespread roll out. The pandemic has upended world systems in a manner that no scientists or sophisticated global intelligence could have foreseen.

Having been tapped to join the World Health Organization's Executive Board to represent Africa amidst this global crisis, I am persuaded that despite its toll, this pandemic has 'blessings' on its flipside. COVID-19 has exposed the global crisis of weak healthcare systems that previously lay under the carpet and forced nations' global attention on strengthening systems to achieve UHC. Kenya, for example, has never suffered any major epidemic, having escaped the SARS, Swine Flu and even the deadly Ebola that ravaged neighboring countries. This is therefore a first and has indeed tested its preparedness for epidemics.

Thankfully for Kenya, the Covid-19 epidemic appeared in the midst of the roll-out of the President's Big 4 Agenda, which prioritized UHC as a key pillar. The pilot implementation of UHC in four counties in Kenya has demonstrated better impact on the health outcome and greater accessibility while building Resilient and Sustainable Health system that can respond to unforeseen shocks. However, the success of UHC in Kenya will require more than executive or national-level goodwill: with health as a devolved function, each of the 47 counties must put in systems and resources to ensure its success.

The county bosses ought to prioritize delivery of a better healthcare system to citizens. This will be only be possible with a deliberate cohesive approach to UHC between the central government and the counties in order to achieve desired outputs within a short time. Both the national and county budgets have to be aligned and apportioned appropriately towards this goal.

Primarily, sufficient resources have to be channeled towards better healthcare infrastructures such as more hospitals and better equipment. However, investment in infrastructure must be done simultaneously with that in human capital. State-of-the-art equipment and beautiful hospitals without competent and well-trained personnel to handle the equipment and patients, is tantamount to wastage. As such, governments and partners ought to make enormous investments in medical and health related sciences



Clementine, a community health volunteer, meets with a mother and child

to develop well trained healthcare professionals. The country needs to improve the current ratio of healthcare workers to population to reach every citizen with quality healthcare. Continuous medical education learning and training of healthcare workers needs to be underscored to hone their skills in latest technologies and prepare them to deal with emerging diseases.

World Health Organization (WHO) recently adopted Home-Based Isolation and Care as one of the case management strategies for Covid-19. For a continent whose populations largely reside in rural areas, this change in strategy has highlighted the importance of competent, capable and motivated community health volunteers.

The community health volunteers have become crucial tripods of the healthcare stand during this pandemic. Whereas most of the CHVs may not necessarily have college training in health-related fields, their experience and informal training has gone a long way to help alleviate the challenges of Covid-19 in communities.

Kenya has for example trained and oriented 60,000 CHVs to handle patients who may present with Covid-19 symptoms. Guided by a carefully thought out Community Health Policy (2020-2030) and Guidelines on training of community

health workers on COVID 19, the trained CHVs are approximately 70 percent of all CHVs in the country. The training and commensurate results from the CHVs during this pandemic has demonstrated that CHVs are a key component of the UHC success. Apart from making UHC work better, the need for more and better-trained CHVs will also be a credible avenue for job creation, especially at a time when the economy has taken a massive hit and many people with diverse skill sets are jobless.

Covid-19 has been a perfect crucible for testing the effectiveness and efficacy of technology in healthcare management. Due to the unpredictability of the epidemic and having led to total and partial lockdowns, Kenya's CHVs received relevant information about Covid-19 through text messages, once again proving that technology is indeed the present and future of healthcare management.

Apart from achieving healthier nations, Universal Health Coverage will also be a great opportunity for multilateralism. If Kenya, its neighbors and the whole region were to invest in more hospitals and better quality of healthcare, medical tourism would grow considerably. The increase in number of patients will in turn drive up revenues and eventually lead to a

drop in the cost of healthcare, much to the benefit of even local citizens. This has been the model of nations like India, whose cost of healthcare has become relatively affordable due to huge numbers of global citizens seeking medicare in their country. For India and other medical destinations, technology has also played a pivotal role in healthcare since it enjoys advanced medical technology for faster and more accurate diagnosis and management.

Advanced medical technologies such as telemedicine and compliance with international quality standards will further guarantee health tourists of excellent healthcare services, thereby creating investor confidence and opening up the region further to economic investment and strength.

Covid-19 pandemic must be a turning point for nations that have not prioritized Universal Health Coverage. A healthy citizenry is a surety towards economic growth for any nation. The success of UHC will however largely depend on the political goodwill, policy priority and a well-trained and properly equipped army of healthcare workers. There can be no better time to mainstream UHC than today. The Chinese proverb on planting trees is applicable for UHC too: the best time to start was 20 years ago, the next best time is now.

What the drop in number of Covid-19 pandemic cases means

BY ALEXANDRA SIFFERLIN

The latest data show that the number of cases of Covid-19 in the United States have been dropping - though they still remain at high levels - and experts say that it's important to embrace some of the lessons of the past couple months and prepare for the autumn.

The number of cases of the coronavirus in the US increased significantly in June and July before plateauing and then finally dropping - a trend that's being seen currently, though there continue to be new emerging hot spots in areas like the Midwest.

Over the past week, there have been an average of 41,520 cases per day, which comes to a decrease of 17 per cent from the average two weeks earlier.

The Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security reports that the US is continuing to average fewer than 1,000 deaths per day, though the daily total is decreasing very slowly.

These decreases are not seen everywhere, but the states leading the drops have a few notable things in common. As the New York Times recently highlighted, states experi-



encing notable declines in cases have "at least some local mask mandates, and most have paused or reversed statewide reopening policies, again closing bars, gyms, and theatres". Many of the states with the biggest drops in cases also had the biggest out-

breaks in July, these including Florida and Texas.

"I think we are seeing a decline in cases in certain parts of the country that were prior hot spots," says Amesh Adalja, MD, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Centre for Health Secu-

riety, warning, though: "But you have to remember that we're still not testing enough, so that whatever number of cases you see is still in underestimate."

While the US case numbers are likely an underestimate across the board, experts say

the decrease in cases cannot be attributed to testing failures as there are similar drops in hospitalisations and a lower share of positive test results, the New York Times reports.

As Tom Frieden, MD, a former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently shared, the trends are real but precarious.

He said: "National test positivity decreased from 6.2 to 5.7 per cent, which confirms that there has been a steady decrease in cases over the past few weeks. Case rates in the Northeast remain relatively low, and these states are now joined by Michigan, West Virginia, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska, which have relatively low rates. The number of tests done decreased in some states, including Florida."

But as Frieden notes, these declining case loads are still high. There remains concern that resurgences will happen, especially as the school year kicks off with many students having in-person classes. Already there are reports of outbreaks among college students around the US.

What can be gleaned from the decline in cases nationwide is that Covid-19 restrictions like no indoor dining and widespread mask wearing

work.

Andy Slavitt, the former head of the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid, aptly wrote last week that recent declines like Arizona's test positive ratio dropping from 25 per cent to 5 per cent are largely credited to the fact that "people started behaving".

This is a good sign, as it shows that the US knows what policies lead to tangible changes in disease spread and saved lives.

The issue will be how long these trends remain in place as reopening plans continue. This is especially so now that there are going to be larger gatherings of people indoors and as the nation heads into cooler months where outdoor activity in many states becomes more difficult.

"The pattern seems to be that areas get in trouble, and then targeted public health actions are put into place, and they get some semblance of control," Adalja says, adding: "This is the pattern that I think will repeat itself in different parts of the country over and over again."

● **Alexandra Sifferlin is Editor of Medium's Covid-19 Blog and Deputy Editor of Elemental, and has previously epidemics including MERS, Ebola and Zika.**

BY GERALD KITABU

Wood fuel challenges in Tanzania and policy recommendations

Forest and woodlands in Tanzania cover about 48.1 million ha which is 54.6 percent of the total land area and the country has an estimated total of 77.2 billion trees in various landscape. Currently, the country experiences a deforestation rate of around 470,000 ha/year, contributed mainly by agricultural expansion and household biomass energy needs. These energy needs are still largely met through biomass in the form of firewood and charcoal. Firewood and charcoal are the main cooking fuels in rural (84.8 percent of households) and urban (60.5 percent) areas respectively. Charcoal production in particular is a major contributor to forest degradation. The charcoal sector is poorly regulated with the people and processes along the charcoal value chain interacting with different government bodies, policies and laws, all of which operate at national, local and village level. National and local governments are estimated to lose about US\$100 million per year due to failure to effectively regulate the charcoal sector. Charcoal is an important source of income for the rural poor with an estimated value of US\$ 1 billion per year, larger than any export commodity. Some of the policies and strategies that guide the forestry and charcoal sector include the National Energy Policy of 2015, the National Forest Policy of 1998 with a revised draft of 2019 and the Environmental Policy (1997). Other national pertinent policies and strategies include the National Wood Fuels Action Plan of 2009, Guideline on Sustainable Harvesting and Trade in Forest Products of 2015, Forest Regulations of 2015, Charcoal Regulations of 2006, the National Strategy for Gender Development of 2008, the National REDD Strategy of 2013 and Climate Change Strategy of 2012. One of the objectives of the GCCA Tanzania programme was to improve forest management. The five GCCA projects promoted various interventions aimed at reducing forest and woodlands degradation. Projects provided support to tree nurseries and transplanting trees to either community lands or individual household plots. The projects also worked on forest management plans, community forest establishment, curbing charcoal production, introducing farmer managed natural regeneration and promoting fuel efficient stoves.

Challenges

Climate change impacts extreme drought, late arrival and short period of rainy seasons, and increased intensity of rainfall events may force farmers and livestock keepers into uncontrolled charcoal production as an alternative source of income, which in turn devastates forests and woodlands. This type of adaptation has been observed in the GCCA projects, in particular during and after the 2016/2017 rainy season that was



Biogas Cooking in Northern Tanzania

characterised by long drought periods.

Non-compliance with natural resources management plans and by-laws at local level Poor management of forests on village land and in adjacent government forest reserves can be attributed to a lack of awareness and technical know-how, limited human and financial resources, as well as the focus of government on the social sectors. Most LGAs plans and related government budgets are targeting delivery of social services such as education, health, roads, etc.) whereas most ongoing NRM activities are donor funded. Where plans and related by-laws do exist, it is often difficult to ensure compliance due to sociocultural

issues, capacity constraints and pressure to use scarce land resources for activities with more direct economic benefits.

Lack of secure community tenure over land and forest resources The National Forest Policy of 1998 (and its incomplete draft of 2019) promotes participatory forest management by providing a means to engage local communities living adjacent to forests into shared responsibilities and benefits. However, the processes involved in establishing a community based forest management (CBFM) for village land forest reserves are complex, making it difficult for communities to fully embrace the idea of CBFM. In spite of promises from the government,

there have also been delays in providing title deed and village land certificates to communities, which makes it difficult for villagers to invest in sustainable use of the land and other natural resources.

Limited affordable energy efficient technologies Wood fuel is the main source of energy both in rural and urban areas. A lack of alternative and affordable sources of energy has contributed to the degradation of natural forests due to practically uncontrolled harvesting of wood fuel and the use of inefficient methods like the 3-stone stove. The East Usambara, Igunga, EcoAct and CF Pemba projects have introduced fuel-efficient stoves for local households. Apart from

the benefit of reducing pressure on forest resources (beneficiaries are reporting an average of 50% reduction in firewood use across the projects), the stoves also provide other advantages such as spending less time in collecting firewood as well as less smoke inside the dwelling. Experience from the GCCA projects indicates that introduction of biogas technology may be most effective in areas where there is a real scarcity of firewood like in the arid zones in the Arusha and Meru districts where the EcoBoma project was implemented.

Policy Recommendations Mainstreaming climate change into forest related policies Climate change issues have to be

mainstreamed into forest policies. GCCA promoted interventions like Climate Smart Agriculture and agroforestry can reduce the need for continued expansion of agricultural land and should therefore be recognised in forest policies as a way to reduce deforestation. Forest related policies (that include the National Forest Policy (1998), Draft National Forest Policy Review (2018), National Beekeeping Policy (1998), National Environmental Policy (1997), National Land Policy (1995), Wildlife Policy (1998), National Agriculture Policy (2013) and National Water Policy (2002)) should further promote ecologically friendly and climate resilient forest-based enterprises for forest adjacent communities. A good example is the eco-tourism and beekeeping activities that the East Usambara project set up, which provide income to communities and act as an incentive to sustainably manage the forest resources on which they depend.

Promote Participatory Natural Resources Management (PNRM) planning and enforcement of related by-laws The importance of PNRM plans should be recognised in all natural resources related policies, including forestry, land, wildlife, agriculture, water, energy and rangeland policies. Coordination with other sectors at district, regional and national level, for example through the Land Use Planning Commission, is key to coming up with strong integrated PNRM plans. Project experience indicates that effective implementation of such plans is helped by transferring responsibilities and resources (financial and human) to local authorities and building their capacity.

Provision of tenure rights to communities providing local people with greater tenure security can increase their willingness and ability to invest in sustainable management of their forests and woodlands. The Forest Policy statement 39 stipulates that "Local communities will be encouraged to participate in forestry activities. Clearly defined forest land and tree tenure rights will be instituted for local communities, including both men and women. However, the processes for provision of secure tenure are still a challenge and should be simplified.

Promote use of energy efficient stoves The National Forest Policy should support the scaling up of energy efficient technologies including the ones for charcoal production. Technologies such as fuelwood energy saving stoves designed and purposely introduced to replace the traditional cook stoves will improve efficiency in fuelwood consumption, reduce smoke from the kitchen room and reduce pressure on local forests. The experience of the GCCA projects can help in identifying the best type of fuel efficient stoves for a specific agro-ecological zone and the most effective approaches to promote them, for example by making their use mandatory through local by-laws.

Ethiopia can learn from its neighbours about national dialogue

BY MERESSA K DESSU AND DAWIT YOHANNES

The optimism initially generated by Ethiopia's much-praised political transition that started in 2018 has waned. Rivalry has grown between the federal government and some regional states, and political unrest and other forms of violence have become a recurring problem. National dialogue is increasingly seen as an option to redress deep-seated political and security problems.

Ethiopia's violence and instability have their roots in long-standing state-building deficits. These primarily include divergent interpretations of the country's political history, a lack of social cohesion, and an absence of national consensus on major state symbols and institutions.

A recent report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) compares national dialogues in Kenya (2008), Sudan (2014-16) and South Sudan (2017-2020), with the aim of drawing lessons to support such a process in Ethiopia. The need for national dialogue in Ethiopia is now urgent, both to prevent crises and to help make long-term changes. Should the country opt for talks, the Horn of Africa could offer critical lessons.

Experiences from the region included the importance of wide consultation in initiating the dialogue, creating common understanding among key stakeholders on expected outcomes, and clearly defining objectives of the process.

National dialogue can work if it includes key political actors, armed groups and civil society groups.

Depending on the political context, government, opposition groups or civil society organisations may initiate a national dialogue process. In Sudan and South Sudan, the talks were started by the incumbent presidents, without much participation by some major opposition and armed groups. This proved to be a weakness, undermining the dialogues' credibility in the preparation phase, and later hampering the implementation of recommendations.

Wide consultations are essential for defining achievable goals. Failing to do so results in an unrealistic dialogue agenda, and proposals that are hard to implement, as the Sudan national dialogue showed. In contrast, the aims



Dialogue processes can help achieve stability, and experiences from countries in the Horn offer useful lessons. File photo

of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) were specific and limited, so the outcomes were manageable.

Inclusivity and the participation

of a wide range of stakeholders during negotiations are crucial to accommodating divergent interests and needs. Despite including many participants,

Sudan and South Sudan's dialogues didn't adequately involve key opposition political parties and armed groups. The groups were either excluded from

the talks intentionally, or boycotted the processes due to dissatisfaction regarding government's role.

Participation in the KNDR was limited to those who engaged in Kenya's post-2007 election violence namely key political actors, the government and opposition. The process largely excluded other interest groups such as religious and business communities, and civil society organisations.

Vetting and selection of the organisers are essential to the integrity of the process and its outcomes.

Despite their contrasting outcomes, all three cases show that national dialogue can fulfil its transformative potential if it includes key stakeholders - mainly political actors, armed groups and civil society groups. This wide representation enhances the legitimacy of the process.

Having credible conveners also enhances the legitimacy of national talks. Consultation methods, vetting, selection and appointment of the organisers are essential to the integrity of both the process and its outcomes.

Sudan and South Sudan's dialogue conveners were appointed by those countries' presidents, with limited or no consultation with opposition parties and armed groups. In Kenya's case, the organisers were the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities, led by former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan. This helped largely insulate the KNDR from accusations of partiality. It did however raise questions on the principle of local ownership.

Transparency and public engagement are also central to the national dialogue process, and can be achieved through public consultations, regular outreach and media coverage. Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan all had their own limitations in this regard. South Sudan's bottom-up process allowed for extensive public engagement, and debates were aired widely in the media. But local and international media were only allowed to cover the dialogue's opening and closing ceremonies.

Sudan and South Sudan's national dialogues weren't sufficiently linked

to other ongoing processes.

In Sudan, debates took place only in the conference room used for the talks. Media coverage was inadequate and the government introduced repressive measures such as arresting some key opposition figures. The dialogues in Kenya were centred on political elites, and public participation was limited.

Establishing structured links between national dialogue and other political processes is another vital measure, which helps avoid a competitive environment. National dialogue is just one mechanism to tackle political crises and violent conflicts, and is often preceded or accompanied by other steps. Sudan and South Sudan's national dialogues weren't sufficiently linked to other ongoing processes.

The last lesson from countries in the Horn is that implementation mechanisms for national dialogue outcomes must be clear from the start. The value of the entire process ultimately lies in whether its recommendations are acted upon.

Sudan's national talks resulted in 994 recommendations - none of which were implemented by the government. In contrast, the KNDR showed ways that dialogue outcomes could be implemented. Specialised institutions were established with the mandate of executing suggestions agreed to in negotiations, and room was created for civil society to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation.

Sharp thinking is required on how to apply these lessons in Ethiopia, taking into account the need for careful planning, initiation and implementation of dialogue processes. Key stakeholders must be made aware of the importance of all aspects of the talks, and how each can enhance or undermine the process's credibility.

Ethiopia's political actors must choose between national dialogue and further instability. They should choose the former - and consider the many valuable lessons from the Horn.

Agencies

BY PAUL-SIMON HANDY, FONTEH AKUM AND FÉLICITÉ DJIJO

What causes Africa's coups? That is the question

The near unanimous condemnation of the mutiny in Mali followed by the forced resignation of president Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta questions the consensus around unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

In a rare alignment, various international peace and security actors condemned Mali's 18 August coup d'état. They also called for a return to constitutional order, despite Keïta's resignation and his dissolution of Parliament and government. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) went even further with targeted sanctions to coerce the coup plotters out of power.

This new appetite for sanctions from African organisations seems surprising, given the AU's tendency to criticise international sanctions against African states. Why has unconstitutional change of government become the red line of African statutory norms on democracy and governance?

The Lomé Declaration of 2000 and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 2007 both define aspects of unconstitutional change of government. These include: a military coup against a democratically elected government; mercenary intervention to replace a democratically elected government; replacing a democratically elected government by dissident armed groups and rebel movements; or refusal of an outgoing government to relinquish power following defeat in free, fair and regular elections.

The focus on unconstitutional changes of government reflects simplistic approaches to governance crises.

The systematic mention of 'democratically elected government' illustrates both the context and spirit



Censuring coups isn't enough - African and international actors should tackle the poor quality of democracy and governance. File photo

behind the Lomé Declaration. At a time when democratic constitutionalism was new in Africa, the aim was to protect the authority of civilian political institutions from the 'authoritarianism' of military interventions.

Since 2000, the citizen debate on democracy and governance in Africa has evolved. Priorities have shifted to the quality of electoral processes, the value of term limits, but also legitimacy, performance and accountability in political and economic governance. Social discontent, largely expressed through protest, has been met with varying degrees of suppression, co-option and consolidation of the status quo.

On key governance issues, regional organisations have generally remained silent, despite the

development of an African Governance Architecture (AGA) in 2011. Only 17 countries have signed and six ratified the 2014 African Charter on the values and principles of decentralisation, local governance and local development. Inkservice is paid to the principles of responsiveness, transparency, accountability and civic responsibility.

In 2014, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) noted that unconstitutional changes of government originated from 'deficiencies in governance. Greed, selfishness, mismanagement of diversity, failure to seize opportunities, marginalisation, human rights violations, unwillingness to accept electoral defeat, manipulation of constitutions and their revision through unconstitutional means to serve

narrow interests, and corruption are all major contributors to unconstitutional changes of Governments and popular uprisings.'

The African and international approach privileges 'legality' over legitimacy for sitting heads of state.

The council's call for 'a zero tolerance for government policies and actions that may lead to a resort to unconstitutional means to overthrow oppressive systems' has not changed the dominant norms and actions. Despite the clarity provided by the PSC, in practice the AU and regional organisations have reduced democracy to the holding of elections and selective respect for term limits.

Meanwhile the quality of electoral processes is a recurrent trigger point, as was the case with Mali's delayed and allegedly rigged

March 2020 parliamentary elections. On elections, the AU and regional organisations routinely resort to observer missions. Their conclusions rarely challenge official results, even though emboldened civil society and judiciaries identify rigging. Recent elections in Kenya and Malawi are reminders.

On governance monitoring, the relevance of the AU's African Peer Review Mechanism can legitimately be questioned. Despite being around for two decades, its impact on the evolution of governance is hardly visible.

Against this backdrop, the concept of unconstitutional change of government has become AGA's main focus, while all the other dimensions of legitimate and responsive governance have been systematically scuttled by member states. In places like Mali, prioritising a symptom - i.e. the coup - over addressing root causes such as dubious legitimacy and corruption, makes the AU and ECOWAS's response look like a protection of incumbency.

The quality of elections is a recurrent trigger point, as was the case with Mali's March 2020 elections.

Both organisations have been silent about government inertia on inequality, the rule of law and fair electoral governance. The African and international approach seems to privilege the 'legality' over the legitimacy of sitting heads of state. This approach systematically puts intergovernmental organisations at odds with those countries' citizens.

Africa's peace, security and governance norms and instruments will increasingly be tested by complex challenges. Reports from

early warning systems and civil society organisations often correctly predict governance failures. Without political commitment to conflict prevention, the AU and regional organisations will increasingly react rather than pre-empt crises. It then becomes politically expedient to condemn a coup rather than take bold political steps to address the causes of social discontent.

The focus on unconstitutional changes of government reflects simplistic approaches to governance crises. Urgent calls by international parties for elections to restore constitutional order are questionable - particularly when constitutions or voting systems could be part of the problem.

Mali's recent history shows that expediting the electoral timetable can reproduce weak governments. Such solutions favour existing political elites, who are often complicit in nurturing the crisis of confidence. Hasty elections often hamper negotiations that stand a better chance of reflecting a country's socio-political dynamics.

The political crisis in Mali is an opportunity to review African conflict prevention instruments, particularly regarding governance issues. Instead of focusing on elections and unconstitutional changes of government, other dimensions such as mediated dialogue and inclusive crisis management should be given greater attention.

In the absence of a more holistic concept of democratic governance, banning unconstitutional changes of government risks being misconstrued as a bonus for sitting presidents who want to stay in power. The challenge for the AU and regional organisations is to build bridges with civil society and develop effective capacity to prevent political crises.

Agencies

Allocating grazing area is key in curbing conflicts over natural resource utilisation

BY CORRESPONDENT GERALD KITABU

Approximately 38 per cent of Tanzania's land area is set aside in protected areas for conservation and pastoralism. The areas and pastoralists challenges are exacerbated by impacts of climate change which lead to worsened drought and increase of diseases to mention a few. Pastoralists make best use of these dry areas whose natural resources have few alternative uses. Their traditional pastoral systems of mobility and herd diversification enable them to use the range sustainably; though through interaction with other communities, expanding of agriculture and other socio-economic initiatives has caused a number of challenges in extended period of time, said pastoralist and policy influencer, Edward Tunyon.

Tanzania has no specific pastoralism policy at national level respectful of such needs of transhumant pastoralists and the existing National Livestock Policy (2006) aims to improve range management and utilization in order to support sustainable productivity of livestock and improvement of pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods.

However, the policy has no clear statements on participatory rangeland management, strong ecological monitoring and advisory services to pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, nor does it provide specifics on how to link water infrastructure to rangeland management in pastoralist areas, says environmental stakeholders.

The Land Use Planning Act of 2007 directs the District Councils as District Planning Authorities to collaborate with other stakeholders to prepare district land use framework plans and coordinate village land-use planning activities. The conventional land-use planning procedures are based at village level and do not consider the specific situation within rangelands, in particular the need for mobility across landscapes for the nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist communities. The livelihoods of pastoralists in dryland areas, such as the Maasai, depend entirely on the availability of fragile ecosystem services. In the Maasai Steppe, there is clear evidence that climate change has already dramatically affected the ecosystem. With water resources becoming increasingly scarce, it leads to high concentrations of livestock, causing overgrazing and soil degradation.

In 2016/2017, Arusha and Meru districts pastoralists were highly affected by climate change as its impacts led to a severe crisis with depletion of grazing resources and subsequent massive livestock movements in and outside the EcoBoma project, which is geared towards strengthening the resilience of vulnerable Tanzania rural communities to the adverse effects of climate change and



Local rangeland management in northern Tanzania under GCCA EcoBoma Project. File Photo

contribute to poverty reduction.

The severe and prolonged drought also forced some beneficiaries to complement their income through unsustainable practices such as charcoal production and harvesting firewood to sell.

Conversely, extreme rainfall events in 2018 led to floods and damage to water infrastructure that was rehabilitated by EcoBoma, showing that climate change impact has many dimensions.

Involving traditional leaders in development activities has been cited as another snags in implementing EcoBoma project taking into account that the project team did not have the cultural status to engage in a peer-to-peer way with the traditional leaders.

"But, at the end of the day through engagement of senior citizens and highly respected local mediators EcoBoma managed to overcome the challenge and to improve communication between the traditional leaders and local government authorities. These mediators opened up dialogue, answered questions in a credible way and mediated, when

needed, to reduce conflict between target communities," said a local senior LGA officer from Arusha district.

Other challenges include lack of landscape level land plans for pastoralists, low enforcement of by-laws for rangeland management, lack of proper coordination and guidelines for management of resources in pastoral communities and lack of information on the rangeland status were among the challenges experienced in executing the EcoBoma Project.

In addressing those challenges, a senior lecturer at Institute of Rural Development Planning Dr Canute Hyandye suggests the needs to promote community forests and live fencing. With increased climate change related droughts, it becomes important to set aside specific areas in the rangelands as refuges where grazing is only allowed in exceptional drought situations.

"Such areas can be designated as village community forests with by-laws spelling out the criteria for their use and protection. Pressure on forest resources can be further reduced by promoting planting of

Commiphora or Euphorbia tirucalli as live fencing around bomas, instead of using cut branches that regularly need to be replaced," he says.

In ensuring that there is an active engagement of local leaders in rangelands management, the EcoBoma project's experience shows that engaging traditional leaders in all processes is vital to ensure sustainability of project initiatives. It also helps reduce conflicts over natural resource utilisation particularly during the dry season and increases the levels of trust and collaboration between the traditional leaders and local government authorities.

"One of the main successes for EcoBoma in this respect has been the close collaboration established between the Village Game Scouts Teams and the District Game Officers", said Sanifu Ole Kuukuu, a Maasai traditional leader.

Pressure on forest resources can be further reduced by promoting planting of Commiphora or Euphorbia tirucalli as live fencing around bomas, instead of using cut branches that regularly need to be replaced, he says.

Other stakeholders suggest the need to ensure active engagement of local leaders in rangelands management.

Within the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Tanzania programme, which was established and is funded by European Union (EU) the EcoBoma project's experience shows that engaging traditional leaders in all processes is vital to ensure sustainability of project initiatives, says Fazal Issa, EU Consultant.

He says it also reduces conflicts over natural resource utilisation particularly during the dry season and increases the levels of trust and collaboration between the traditional leaders and local government authorities.

One of the main successes for EcoBoma in this respect has been the close collaboration established between the Village Game Scouts Teams and the District Game Officers", says Sanifu Ole Kuukuu, a Maasai traditional leader. He also suggests the need to promote joint landscape level land planning as northern Tanzania rangeland resources are shared among multiple

communities, which requires land use and resource planning at a landscape level scale rather than at village level.

The National Land Use Planning Commission supports actors in promoting landscape level Joint Land Use Planning and granting Customary Certificates of Right of Occupancy to communities. The national livestock and land policies should recognise such landscape level planning and particularly joint village land planning in areas where resources, such as grazing areas, are shared across village boundaries.

There is also a need to facilitate enforcement of rangeland management by-laws-district and village authorities do not have enough resources to effectively ensure enforcement of by-laws for sustainable use of rangelands.

EcoBoma project under GCCA addressed this problem by working with the district authorities to support the set up and training of a team of Village Game Scouts drawn from the youth in the villages. Such successful participatory approaches to effective enforcement of by-laws should be promoted through national policies and development programmes.

According to Fazal Issa, improving collaboration between all actors in pastoral areas, there is an opportunity to optimise the water management in rangeland areas, contributing directly to the overall health of the rangeland ecosystem. Livestock water infrastructure guidelines for rangelands should better reflect the importance of balancing water and fodder availability and emphasise the importance of participatory processes and capacity building for the effective operation and management of the infrastructure by the communities-through dam committees such as those supported by EcoBoma project which was funded by the EU. Technical guidelines for dam construction should also consider the likelihood of increased heavy rainfall and floods due to climate change.

About promoting participatory ecological monitoring; the lack of information on rangeland status hampers effectively planning for sustainable rangeland management. A participatory rangeland monitoring system that involves community members and involvement of local authorities could be useful in monitoring rangeland conditions, and provide locally adapted solution to address observed challenges. The system developed and implemented by EcoBoma project can be used as a reference model to improve ecological monitoring across Tanzania's rangelands, leading to a better understanding of the status of rangelands and the challenges affecting it that need to be addressed.

Five-year project empowers farmers across Tanzania

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE five-year project-Tanzania Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (TANSHEP) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has seen farmers improving their yields as well as conducting farm activities professionally.

The project which commenced in January 2019 covers six target districts in three northern regions-Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Tanga. The aim is to gradually introduce the approach across the country. The project goes with a slogan 'Anzia Sokoni Malizia Shambani Kwa Kipato Zaidi'.

Joel Jackson Ikera from the Umoja A Farmers Group in Lushoto District, Tanga Region said: "I was farming without knowing the actual cost of production because I did not keep records of farming activities, but through the project I have been able to know the costs of farming activities including calculation of profit and losses."

According to Ikera farmers should first start at the market before production, because in the market, they will know popular varieties, quality and volume traded. They will know

their competitors and peak demand (high price) seasons.

He said the knowledge he acquired from the JICA-supported TANSHEP project has enabled him to increase the production of various crops per plot (0.125 acres) as follows, "zucchini" from 320 kg to 940kg (nearly three times), "broccoli" from 210 kg to 520 kg (2.5 times) and "cauliflower" from 420 kg to 900 kg (2.1 times).

In addition to registering the remarkable increase of production, Ikera managed to properly apply the field management skills, marketing and record keeping practices which he obtained from the JICA project.

These factors made him to be selected as the "Annual Regional Best Farmer in the Eastern Zone of Tanzania" at the occasion of this year's Nane-Nane Celebrations.

Ikera is no doubt one of those farmers who are fast learning how to change their farming mindsets from the conventional "Grow and Sell" towards "Grow to Sell" approach through JICA's technical co-operation project (TANSHEP), the "Project for Strengthening District Agriculture Development Plans (DADPs) Planning and Implementation Capacity through the Use of Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) Approach".

TANSHEP focuses on promoting market oriented horticulture development by applying the "SHEP" (Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion) approach initiated by JICA, which realizes "Market-Oriented Agriculture".

The approach encourages horticulture producers to conduct market surveys first before engaging in production. It encourages collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as buyers, input suppliers, and even intermediaries, to improve production and marketability and to realize the increase of income for the betterment of rural livelihoods in Tanzania.

The horticultural producers in the target districts are proactively applying a SHEP approach based on the lessons learnt and confidence gained through the 1st trial cycle under TANSHEP.

The second cycle of application of SHEP approach starts in September this year following the training for extension officers, selected farmers' groups will make field visits to successful farmers' groups to learn the good practices which resulted from "Grow to Sell" mindset change.

The series of project activities by TANSHEP has reached many farmers (about 56 farmers' groups) and extension officers in the three target regions.



NATIONAL MUSEUM DIGITIZING ALL ARTIFACTS, HISTORICAL SITES

By Francis Kajubi

THE country's artifacts and historical sites will now be displayed online in a bid to ensure wider market access as National Museum of Tanzania embarks on digital use.

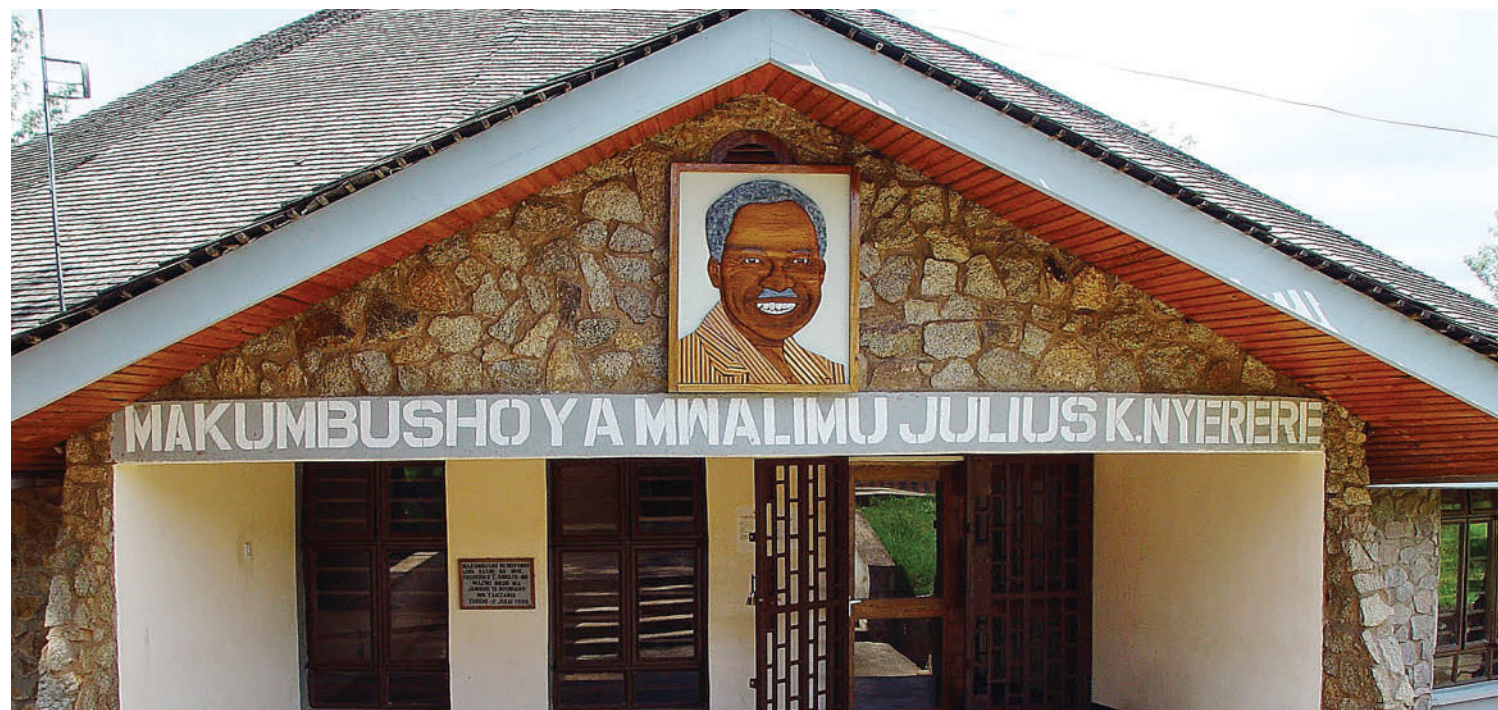
National Museum of Tanzania Director General, Dr Noel Lwoga said his management is committed at promoting artifacts and historical monuments located at its six centers across the country.

Dr Lwoga said NMT has embarked on application of innovative technology ways of conservation and marketing of the artifacts and historical monuments to exploit the modern digital world of tourism.

"These training sessions will involve 20 staff members who are equivalent to 17 percent of the museum's 120 employees working at our six museum centers in the country," he said adding that the centres includes Village Museum in Dar es Salaam, Arusha Declaration and Natural History Museum, Mwl Nyerere Museum in Butiama and Majimaji Memorial Museum in Songea.

The NMT chief told participants to the training that modern conservation of museum artifacts and historical sites involves digitization so as to market and conserve such government treasures.

According to him, the training was organized within the framework of a five year research project known as Collaborative Provenance Research on Collections from Tanzania which is



Mwl Nyerere Museum in Butiama.

jointly implemented by four institutions namely the NMT, the Ethnological Museum of Berlin, University of Dar es Salaam and the Humboldt University of Berlin.

The Project's Coordinator, Dr Oswald Masebo from Department of History at College of Humanities at the University of Dar es Salaam, said the project which is funded by Gerda Henkel Stiftung of Germany, started 2017 and will be concluded in 2022.

Dr Masebo said one of the three components of the project is training and capacity building involving University of Dar es Salaam and National Museum of Tanzania personnel. For UDSM it involves postgraduate training while for NMT its capacity building involves training of employees on specific areas of interest.

"This year the focus is on the new direction in the conservation of museum artifacts while the

other training is on digital museums and exhibitions. With the exhibition lot, the project focuses on improving the intellectual architecture of permanent history exhibition in the national museum and house of culture," he revealed. He explained that the focus is on the study of the artifacts that were collected in Tanzania and shipped to Germany and are now housed at the Ethnological Museum in Berlin. It also focuses

on study of artifacts collected in Tanzania which are housed at the National Museum and House of Culture in Dar es Salaam.

"In Tanzania, the project has three components. The second component deals with empirical research on colonial and post-colonial collections. This includes identification of artifacts in the collections housed at the National Museum and House of Culture in Dar es Salaam," he added.

SGR reveals Sh21bin loss as China firm debt increases

NAIROBI

Taxpayers face a huge bill sustaining services on the standard gauge railway (SGR) after it posted a combined operating loss of Sh21.68 billion in the three years to May.

A report to Parliament by the Transport ministry revealed that the China-built railway netted Sh25.03 billion in revenue over the period against operational costs totalling Sh46.71 billion — a gap that taxpayers have to plug.

The operation loss has already caused the Kenya Railways Company (KRC) to default on an estimated Sh40 billion payout to China's Africa Star Railway Operation Company, which runs both passenger and cargo services on the SGR.

The below-target performance was attributed to reduced limited storage capacity at the Embakasi Inland Container Depot (ICD), minimum use of the Nairobi Freight Terminal that handles cargo not stored in containers and the rail charges. The SGR has struggled to attract adequate cargo volumes, with investors balking at the tariffs for transporting goods from the Port of Mombasa to the Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Nairobi.

The freight services formed the main economic justification for the \$3.2 billion (Sh323.20 billion) President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration pumped into the project through loans largely procured from Exim Bank of China from May 2014.

Kenya requires additional cash from the railway business to ease the taxpayers' burden of paying the Chinese SGR operator. The Chinese firm runs the SGR cargo and passenger business at an undisclosed management fee. The Treasury also expects the SGR business to generate more revenue to help offset loans taken to build the multi-billion shilling railway.

City Lodge Hotel Group's financial results for the year ended 30 June 2020

JOHANNESBURG

The JSE-listed City Lodge Hotel Group celebrated its 35th anniversary in August, a testament to the continued support from guests, shareholders, management, employees and other stakeholders in helping to build a South African icon in the hospitality industry over the years.

The group's expansion into Southern and East Africa is complete barring 26 rooms still to open at the 148-room City Lodge Hotel Maputo, Mozambique. Other properties that formed part of this growth strategy include the 147-room Town Lodge Windhoek, Namibia; 104-room Town Lodge Gaborone, Botswana; 127-room Fairview Hotel, 84-room Town Lodge Upper Hill and 171-room City Lodge Hotel at Two Rivers Mall in Nairobi, Kenya; and the 148-room City Lodge Hotel Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Construction of the "new concept" Courtyard Hotel Waterfall City in Midrand, Johannesburg was only set back by four months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant lockdown, with all 168 rooms now due to open around March/April 2021. On completion of

Courtyard Hotel Waterfall City and City Lodge Hotel Maputo, the group will offer 8070 rooms at 63 hotels in six countries.

However, this year has been one of the most challenging years in the group's history, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global and local economies and the travel and hospitality industry. The restricted operational and economic environment in the South African and the Southern and East African countries in which the group operates resulted in the temporary closure of almost all of its 62 hotels.

The easing of lockdown measures has seen the gradual re-opening of approximately 32 hotels across South Africa and rest of Africa operations based on demand. Average occupancies for the group declined from 55% to 38%. In South Africa, occupancies decreased from 58% to 41%.

Total revenue decreased by 25% to R11.6bn, while operating costs excluding depreciation decreased by 24%. Excluding the implementation of IFRS 16 Leases, the reported operating costs decreased by 11%, mainly due to the cost containment measures put in place from April to mitigate the extent of the losses

arising from minimal revenues. Excluding the effects of IFRS 16 Leases, normalised headline EBITDA margin decreased by 12 percentage points to 20%.

Normalised headline earnings decreased by 130% to a loss of R78.8m, and excluding the effects of IFRS 16 Leases normalised headline earnings decreased by 104% to a loss of R11.4m. Normalised diluted HEPS decreased by 130% to a loss of 181.1 cents. Excluding the effects of IFRS 16 Leases, normalised diluted HEPS decreased by 104% to a loss of 26.3 cents.

The group incurred a net loss of R486.6m (2019: profit of R205.5m) primarily due to exceptional losses of R344.6m, net of tax, related to the impairment of property, plant and equipment along with right-of-use assets of some hotels. The impairment of deferred tax assets of R47.1m together with the recognition of IFRS 16 Leases interest expense, and depreciation net of previously recognised lease expenses of R67.4m, net of tax, contributed to the loss.

Having regard to the impact of Covid-19 on the group's operations and the minimal revenue earned since the declaration of national



A bird's eye view of City Lodge Hotel Dar es Salaam.

state of disaster in South Africa on the 15 March 2020, the board has determined that no final dividend shall be paid in respect of the year ended 30 June 2020, and does not intend to pay dividends in the short term. The declaration of future dividends remains

subject to satisfying solvency and liquidity requirements.

The group's CFO Dhanisha Nathoo is delighted to report that through the continued support of its shareholders, R1.2bn has been successfully raised through a fully subscribed rights offer which

closed on 21 August 2020. "The rights offer serves to support the group's long-term viability and continued growth during the uncertainty arising from the Covid-19 pandemic."

South African operations occupancies in the last quar-

ter of 2020 were constrained to 4%. There has been some marginal improvement in July occupancies to 7%, following the easing of lockdown level 3 regulations, which allowed for intra-provincial leisure and domestic business air travel to resume. August occupancies of 10% of total room inventory have benefited from South Africa moving to lockdown level 2 from mid-August. Occupancies based on the trading hotels are approximately double the total inventory occupancy percentages.

Looking ahead, CEO Andrew Wiedegger says, "The next year will remain challenging as we continue to bear the impact of the prolonged lockdown measures across the South African and remaining African economies. We, however, welcome the recent announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa to move the country to Level 2 of the Covid-19 Risk Adjusted Strategy, which includes the opening of most industries and the resumption of inter-provincial leisure travel."

He adds, "The group's hotels remain ready and flexible to open at short notice based on guest demand, while ensuring strict adherence to our industry leading hygiene and safety protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of our guests and staff. City Lodge Hotel Group looks forward to welcoming you back."



Legal Services Facility logo.

LSF paralegals enable elderly woman get back land from grabber

By Property Watch Reporter, Morogoro

PARALEGAL aligned to Legal Services Facility have enabled an elderly woman from Malinyi District of Morogoro Region, Baituna Mwilenga get back her plot of land which was grabbed by her son.

The senior citizen thanked the paralegals for successfully allowing her to get back her piece of plot which she immediately handed over to her grandsons saying it will enable them lead a decent life even after her

demise.

"I say thank you very much to the paralegals who have helped me get back my right," Mwilenga said at the end of a meeting convened to solve the conflict which was also attended by her son, Hashim who accepted to return the grabbed plot. The event was witnessed by Lugala village local leaders, paralegals and relatives who were party to the conflict.

Speaking after resolving and restoring land to elderly woman, Malinyi Paralegal Unit's Chairman, Rashid Kiding'a urged the public

to contact paralegals when in need to get legal services including sensitization on their rights to guarantee the ability to know and demand them when denied.

"The land issues comes up more frequently than any other here in Malinyi hence paralegals need to work extra hard in sensitizing and providing legal aid services to the public," Kiding'a said while noting that the paralegals also need empower the community as far as land rights are concerned.

"Baituna's case demonstrates

regular difficulties that women face particularly in being recognized as rightful owners of valuable property," he added adding that paralegals are available throughout the country.

"Our satisfaction now lies in seeing this old, frail woman get back farmland, this is what we stand for everyday," Kiding'a noted. The MPU is an affiliate of LSF that provides legal aid and sensitization to the public through meetings in villages all over the country.

According to LSF figures for 2019, a total of legal aid services provided

throughout the country involved approximately 61 percent women and 59 percent to men. Mwilenga story gives a picture of how ordinary and marginalised citizens are struggling on a daily basis to seek in a male dominated society and mainly involves property rights disputes. The LSF which is backed by a donor basket funding, supports paralegal organizations which have a strong commitment to increase access to justice with focus on women and girls.

M-PESA SUBSCRIBERS TO REAP 3.5BN/- IN 'DIVIDEND' PAYMENTS

By Property Watch Reporter

FOLLOWING successful first quarter operations for a period covering up to March this year, M-Pesa subscribers will share a whopping 3.5bn/- in profits this time around.

Vodacom Tanzania Plc said this week that the bonus interest payment to its mobile money users will benefit every individual or agent that has used the M-Pesa platform during the period.

"Customers who are eligible for the interest are the ones who transacted between January 1st to March 31st this year," said Vodacom Tanzania's Director of M-Commerce, Epimack Mbeteni who added that the profit will also be paid to M-Pesa business partners.

"Our mobile money service, M-Pesa, continues to be a remarkable success story, delivering significant social and financial value to Tanzanians. We have seen substantial growth on the platform with more customers, agents, merchants and institutions transacting more than 100bn/- each day," Mbeteni noted.

Vodacom Tanzania is the domestic market's leader with over 11 million subscribers on its M-Pesa platform commanding a market share of 39 percent according to latest figures from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority. Since its

inception, the telco has so far paid out a record 133bn/- in profits to its M-Pesa customers.

The Vodacom Director of M-Commerce further noted that one's profit share will be calculated as per Bank of Tanzania directives and will depend on the level of activity that the beneficiary undertook on the mobile money platform for the three months period.

"Distribution commenced on Tuesday and customers who are yet to get their share can find out by checking their M-Pesa balance. Upon receiving the disbursed amount, M-Pesa customers can redeem the interest via cash withdrawal, airtime or bundle purchases, and transact the bonus to pay bills or purchase products," he advised.

The Vodacom M-Pesa platform is the most advanced in the country offering tailor-made products suited for the local market which have increased financial inclusion and stimulated economic activities across the country.

"Over the past 12 years, we have invested in innovations where through strategic partnerships with banks and innovators, have gone beyond transactions to introduce products such as M-Koba, M-Pawa, Halal Pesa, Songesha, M-Pesa MasterCard and many more. We remain committed to advancing financial inclusion and pushing for a digital economy in Tanzania," Mbeteni pledged.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Broll Property secures Rwenzori Towers, Courts & House management contracts

KAMPALA

Broll Property Group has added another high-profile client to its Ugandan portfolio by securing the property and facilities management contracts for Rwenzori Towers, Rwenzori Courts, and Rwenzori House in Uganda.

The contract marks a new era of property services in Uganda as part of the Broll progressive property people approach - focused on customer centricity, bespoke asset management and building trusted relationships.

The Rwenzori Properties Portfolio is one of the most iconic and prestigious precincts in central Kampala, with more than 20,000 square metres of combined rentable space within the three properties. It houses such blue-chip tenants as Absa, NCBA Bank, Uganda Development Bank, Belgium Embassy, World Bank, Qatar Airways, KPMG, Deloitte, Afri Exim Bank, ENS Africa, and ATC.

Moses Lutalo, Broll Uganda Managing Director, is excited about the offering: "Part of the driver of Broll's appointment was more than 44 years of excellence in providing property management services across Africa. We look forward to adding value to ensure Rwenzori Properties remain some of the leading office buildings of choice, with a high level of occupancy."

"The Rwenzori portfolio will benefit from Broll's approach of combining people and technology at the forefront of our services. In addition, our Ugandan operation has the full support of the wider Broll group, which has an operating presence in 16 countries, providing technical support, processes, experience, and training."

"We are excited and humbled by the opportunity. We are embarking on this project with a commitment of service excellence. Having carried out a full assessment of the properties, we have already identified a number of focus areas which will deliver a noticeable improvement to tenants and add tangible value to the asset," continued Lutalo. Broll Property Group's pan-African presence also enables the Rwenzori properties to benefit from the state of the art owned and patented Broll Online and Broll Vantage systems.

Broll Online is the group's industry-leading proprietary software, built and developed specifically for the needs of property owners. It provides online cloud services that perform all necessary property management functions, including supply chain performance management, energy management, and smart building solutions.

Another unique value proposition from Broll is the provision to real estate investors of integrated and efficient reporting to ensure greater transparency on the performance of their assets. This marks a shift from a reactive to a proactive approach through the application of an ISO-accredited specialist property management system. Other services offered by Broll include broking, facilities management, occupier services, research, retail leasing and consultancy, valuation and advisory services.

Kommetjie's Imhoff Farm repositioned to provide mixed-use offering

CAPE TOWN

Despite construction slowing down during the national Covid-19 lockdown, renovation and restoration work on the 277-year-old Imhoff Farm in Kommetjie progressed with several new retail offerings and attractions set for completion in spring this year.

Found along Cape Town's Southern Peninsula, the farmstead and its historic werf (farmyard) are being sensitively revived to incorporate its new additions. The second phase of the redevelopment - which started in mid-2019 - will introduce a goat tower, stables and paddock, restrooms, parking, a relocated petting farm and a local craft beer taproom.

With its new customer experience and tenant mix, Red Cliff Property - owner-developers of the property - aim to appeal to locals and visitors alike. "Rather than a touristic show farm or wine estate catering mostly for tourists and day visitors that shuts down at night and low-season, we want to provide locals a retail destination which serves their daily needs and offers a contemporary and convenient hub for socialising and entertainment," explains Gerhard van der Horst, MD of Red Cliff Property.

"We take our responsibility to retain the farm's sense of place very seriously and have consulted with architects, historians, designers and local stakeholders to ensure that the farm can continue to grow with the needs of our community while meeting the necessary environmental and historical requirements," explains Van der Horst.

The architectural heritage components, including the original manor house, werf and some out-buildings, have all been restored and re-painted to highlight heritage elements and architectural details with white-trim. The choice of lime wash used to paint the complex is a natural, biscuity colour and not the common white one would expect on a Cape Dutch Farm. The reason for this is two-fold explains Van Der Horst, "Firstly, it is practical as it shows less dirt and dust and secondly, some significant heritage buildings like the Castle of Good Hope are painted in a similar colour to reduce the glare and heat from the African sun. It makes for a softer and cooler werf which on the coastline in Kommetjie can get blindingly bright in summer."

Arusha based fresh produce exporting firm bags award at EA Fair

By Property Watch Reporter, Mwanza

A subsidiary of Tanzania Horticultural Association (Taha) Group which deals in cultivation and exporting of fresh produce, FreshToMarket has scooped a regional excellence award in the just ended 15th East African Trade Fair held in Mwanza.

FreshToMarket (F2M) was launched recently is among Taha Group subsidiaries created to spearhead the entity's commercial interests in fresh produce exporting. The firm emerged winner in Agriculture and Livestock category.

"We are so grateful for having emerged winner at the East African Trade fair in the Agricultural and Livestock category and appreciate the overwhelming support from our board," F2M General Manager, Joseph Mwita said.

The firm's signature strength is centred on producing, packaging and supplying leading retailers in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East with fresh produce from the country.

"Our farms, packaging houses and other facilities are centrally managed through an integrated quality management system that complies with the global food safety standards in a bid to offer clients quality produce," Mwita explained.

The panel of judges have not only honoured F2M for its highest level of professionalism in showcasing its products, but also recognized the company's exceptional business model of farming and exporting high-value commodities.

Commenting on the success, Taha Group's CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi expressed relief for being associated with the competent team at F2M. "I'm highly indebted to my newly assembled team for the job well done. Now I'm comfortable that the company can serve the world better," Dr Mkindi noted.

She pointed out that F2M was established as a market access vehicle to tackle the growing global demand for fresh produce to ensure food security. The firm produces and supply vegetables, fresh fruits and organic commodities to markets globally at



FreshToMarket general manager, Joseph Mwita (L) and his marketing officer, Issac Lyimo displaying a trophy won at the 15th East African Trade Fair held in Mwanza last week.

relatively competitive prices throughout of the year. "The idea is to ensure all year-round supply of major fresh produce and meet customer expectations in terms of both quality and volumes," the Taha Group chief noted.

Organized by Tanzania

Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture, the trade fair usually targets consumers and producers of crops, industrial produce, service providers, machinery manufacturers and technology developers.

Dr Mkindi who is credited

with development of the country's horticulture industry that currently earns Treasury US\$779 million annually, has been in charge at Taha for over a decade during which she has seen annual revenue grow from US\$64 million in 2004.



Rwenzori Courts.

CONSTRUCTION

TENANTS CONTINUE TO FLEE HK'S CENTRAL AS GOVT AGENCY SHIFTS TO KOWLOON EAST

HONG KONG

The migration away from the world's priciest office location continues with one of Hong Kong's biggest office deals so far in 2020 taking a major tenant away from its current home in the city's Central district.

The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation (HKMC) has agreed to lease a new 70,000 square foot home in Sun Hung Kai Properties' Two Harbour Square in Kowloon East, according to Cushman & Wakefield and other market sources who spoke with Mingtiandi.

The transaction, which ranks as the city's second largest office lease so far in 2020, according to C&W, allows the government agency to save around half off of current rates in its present home in the Cosco Tower on Queen's Road in Central's Sheung Wan area. The deal also fits the HKMC into a migration wave of tenants heading to emerging commercial centres in search of cheaper rents and more modern office facilities.

"Particularly in the challenging business environment this year, Kowloon East is an attractive option for large space occupiers seeking cost savings," noted Reed Hatcher head of research in Hong Kong for Cushman & Wakefield.

The HKMC is reportedly paying around HK\$28 per square foot per month for its new home in Sun Hung Kai's three-year-old tower, which would bring its monthly rent bill to approximately HK\$1.96 mil-



Two Harbour Square in Hong Kong.

lion per month.

The government bureau currently occupies 60,000 square feet in the Cosco Tower, which is part of the Grand Millennium Plaza complex just west of Central district's prime office area. Once its new home is ready the HKMC is said to be retaining a single floor in the Cosco Tower,

while moving the majority of its team to Kowloon East. The news of HKMC's new office lease was first reported by the Hong Kong Economic Times.

Current rents in the tower on Queen's Road start at approximately \$43 per square foot per month, ranging up to \$80 according to JLL, with the HKMC occupy-

ing a mid-zone space on the 34th floor. Already this month a tenant signed a 2,225 square foot lease in the Grand Millennium Plaza's other tower for \$41 per square foot, with a 4,200 square foot deal also being signed at nearby Crawford House at \$84 per square foot, and Two IFC scoring a 7,311 square foot lease at \$195 per square foot,

according to Midland IC&I.

Despite the new lease in Two IFC this month, the cocktail of 2019's protests, an intensifying Sino-US trade war and this year's coronavirus pandemic have put Central rents and vacancy rates under pressure. Grade A office rents in Central fell 17.6 percent in the first half of 2020, according to

mid-year report by JLL, which forecast them to plunge a total of 25 to 30 percent by the end of the year.

By the end of July the amount of space surrendered by tenants in the city's traditional business hub was equal to 2.1 percent of the district's total grade A office premises, with vacancy in the prime area rising to 5.7 percent - a 0.1 percentage point increase from the June level.

In relocating to Kowloon East, the HKMC will be following a path set down in recent years by many of the banks with which it cooperates.

In 2016 Citibank shifted from Central moved to Citi Tower, also in Kwun Tong, and JP Morgan Chase moved into Nan Fung and The Link's Quayside in the same area last year. 2020's largest office deal to date, Adidas's lease of around 75,000 square feet, also took place in the Quayside during the first quarter of this year, according to Cushman & Wakefield.

Although 2020 has been a subdued year for leasing in Central, the situation is not quite as bleak in office locations that offer lower rents, as many occupiers become wary of the leasing costs of the world's priciest office market.

"Among transactions in the first half of the year, tenant decentralisation and cost-saving requirements remain the major source of demand," said Alex Barnes, JLL head of markets for Hong at the agency's mid-year virtual press conference. "Vacancy rises in decentralised markets have not been as large as in core submarkets."

Along with Kowloon East, the Island East area - which includes Swire's Tai-koo Place complex in Quarry Bay - experienced only 8.2 and 8.1 percent rental declines, respectively, in the first half. During that same period, Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui clocked in just above those levels, with rents dropping 9.2 percent in both districts.

Adnoc deal paves way for more global institutions to invest in UAE property

ABU DHABI

The \$5.5 billion (Dh 20.2bn) deal between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Apollo Global Management into UAE property is both "substantial and significant" as it paves the way for further investment by global institutions into the emirate's property market, according to the head of Savills' Abu Dhabi office.

"It's a great, strategic move for Abu Dhabi," said Edward Carnegie. Some of the terms of the deal are confidential, such as the yield Apollo will earn in return for investing \$2.7bn for a 49 percent stake in Abu Dhabi Property Leasing Holding Company (ADPLHC) - the vehicle that owns the portfolio of properties in which Apollo has invested. However, it shows Abu Dhabi is open for business, that it "is a welcoming destination for foreign direct investment [and] an attractive destination for global capital," Mr Carnegie said.

Adnoc's deal with Apollo is the latest in a series of transactions by the state-owned oil company to unlock value from non-core assets. It retains a majority share in ADPLHC and will maintain full control over the "select real estate and social infrastructure assets" in the portfolio, which is being leased back to the company under a 24-year



Dubai skyline.

master lease agreement.

"This a landmark institutional investment and Adnoc is paving the way for such investment from global institutions into Abu Dhabi and the UAE market," Andrew Ausama, associate director at Core Real Estate, said.

Institutional investment in the UAE's property market is not new, but it is still rare. Apart from a few notable examples, such as Brookfield's Dh5bn joint venture with Meraas to co-own retail assets, it has largely been confined to the Dubai office market.

These have typically been deals involving a single building, such as the sale and leaseback of Standard Chartered's Downtown Dubai headquarters to the Kuwait Investment Authority or the sale of U-Bora Towers in Dubai's Business Bay to Senyar Real Estate. In Abu Dhabi, one notable transaction to date has been SinoGulf Investments' Dh658m sale of International Tower to Aldar Properties in 2017.

"The low levels of activity have been underpinned primarily by the scarcity of institutional grade assets being made available to

the market and not the lack of demand," Taimur Khan, head of research at Knight Frank Middle East, said. "In fact, recent deal activity shows that investors are willing to pay competitive yields for best-in-class assets."

The UAE has plenty of institutional grade property, Mr Carnegie said, but much of it sits in portfolios owned by government bodies or government-related entities and to date there haven't been the opportunities for institutions to invest in them. He now expects other organisations to do similar deals.

"We have heard of others in the pipeline," he said.

"As global investor confidence rises on the back of such large-scale transactions and as more government and semi-government entities look towards unlocking capital from non-core assets such as real estate ... we expect further investment opportunities to arise in the UAE market, garnering interest from international investors, sovereign wealth funds, private equity and pension funds," Mr Ausama said.

Scotland and Northern England offer best rental yields in the U.K. for landlords

LONDON

Northern England and Scotland reign as the U.K.'s investment property hotspots, according to a report released Thursday in the U.K. from Zoopla.

Landlords in Middlesbrough, in North Yorkshire, came out on top. There, investors can expect an annual yield of 7.7% due to a combination of low property prices and a median monthly rent of £450 (US\$585), the online property portal said.

The rental yield is the percentage of the cost of the property a landlord will make from one year's rent. Of the top 10 highest-yielding locations in the U.K., Scotland was home to five. East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City, and Stirling all registered yields above 7.5%, according to the report.

"With all of the top 10 hotspots being in northern England or Scotland, it's clear that the significantly lower house prices that characterize these areas, and come in well under the national average of £291,055, is playing a role in the higher yields generated for investors," Tom Parker, a spokesperson at Zoopla, said in the report.

At the other end of the scale, London's higher house prices limit the rental yields that buy-to-let investors can attract, the report said. Despite monthly rents coming in at an average of £2,598, yields were lowest in the City of London at 3.1%, below the U.K. average of 5.2%. The pricey enclave was followed by Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster.

"Yields are of course one consideration for investors, and, for those considering their first foray into the buy-to-let market, it is worth considering house-price-growth forecasts for an area, and whether rents are likely to rise over time," Mr Parker said. "With all those factors taken into account, now could be a good time to invest or expand a portfolio, with investors able to benefit from the stamp duty holiday—paying only the 3% levy—until March 2021."

World's first commercial property exchange to host five listings this year

LONDON

British commercial property exchange IPSX is hoping to list its first five initial public offerings this year, its managing director said on Thursday, giving real estate investors an alternative way to buy into the sector.

The exchange, which describes itself as the world's first regulated exchange for commercial property stocks, will list the Mailbox of-

fice and retail complex in Birmingham, central England in its debut IPO, Roger Clarke told Reuters.

The building will be listed as a real estate investment trust (Reit) with a market capitalisation of £115 million. The current owner of the property, M7 Real Estate, will retain a 45 per cent stake. Mr Clarke did not give an exact timetable for the listing.

Several Reits are already trading on the London Stock Exchange, as

well as in other countries like the United States, but these companies - which enjoy certain tax advantages - typically hold a broad portfolio of bricks and mortar assets.

IPSX, in contrast, will list Reits comprising shares either in a single building or in "portfolios where there is a degree of commonality", Mr Clarke said. The portfolios could consist of several buildings with the same function owned

by one firm. The Reit structure is more liquid than open-ended property funds, which have come under scrutiny in Britain after most froze in March as a result of market uncertainty caused by Covid-19.

The Financial Conduct Authority last month proposed that investors in property funds should wait up to six months before they can get their money back, to avoid a stampede for the exit leading to

widespread suspensions in rocky markets.

IPSX, which received regulatory approval last year, is also aiming this year to list office buildings in Leeds and Manchester, in northern England, and portfolios of social housing and serviced offices in Britain, Clarke said. COVID-19 delayed IPSX's listing plans from earlier this year, he added.

WORLD

US intelligence official told to halt Russian 2020 election meddling threat assessments - whistleblower

WASHINGTON

ACTING U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf told a former top aide to stop providing assessments of the threat of Russian interference in the Nov. 3 election and to play down U.S. white supremacist activity, according to a whistleblower complaint released on Wednesday.

Brian Murphy, a former Homeland Security deputy undersecretary for intelligence, said in the complaint that Wolf told him in mid-May to begin reporting instead on political interference threats posed by China and Iran, and to highlight the involvement of left-wing groups in domestic disorder.

The instruction had come to Wolf from White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien, Murphy cited Wolf as saying.

The White House and Department

of Homeland Security each denied the claims.

"Ambassador O'Brien has never sought to dictate the Intelligence Community's focus on threats to the integrity of our elections or on any other topic; any contrary suggestion by a disgruntled former employee, who he has never met or heard of, is false and defamatory," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Matthews.

Homeland Security spokesman Alexei Woltonist added: "We flatly deny that there is any truth to the merits of Mr. Murphy's claim."

U.S. intelligence assessments that a Russian influence operation aimed at swaying the 2016 election in Republican Donald Trump's favor has overshadowed much of his presidency with a series of investigations being dismissed by Trump as a hoax. Trump has expressed admiration for



Brian Murphy

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose government denied election meddling.

U.S. officials say Russia, China and Iran have been working to influence the 2020 election between Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

Murphy's complaint said he declined to comply with Wolf's order because doing so "would put the country in substantial and specific danger."

On a second occasion in July, Murphy said Wolf told him an intelligence notification on Russian disinformation efforts should be "held" because "it made the president look bad." Murphy said that he "objected, stating that it was improper to hold a vetted intelligence product for reasons for political embarrassment. In response, Mr. Wolf took steps to exclude Mr. Murphy from relevant future meetings on the subject," according to the complaint.

Murphy filed the complaint on Tuesday with the DHS Office of Inspector General. It was released on Wednesday by the intelligence committee of the Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives.

The complaint outlined other allegations of misconduct by Trump administration officials.

Murphy said he was instructed by senior DHS officials to ensure that intelligence assessments he produced for former secretary Kirsten Nielsen supported administration claims that large numbers of suspected terrorists were entering the country from Mexico.

Murphy said he declined to censor or manipulate the intelligence, believing this would be "improper administration of an intelligence program," and that he warned one of the officials that doing so would constitute a felony.

Officials said they would hold back one homeland threat assessment, according to Murphy, following expressions of "concerns" by Wolf and Ken Cuccinelli, a top DHS official, about how it would "reflect upon President Trump."

Murphy said two sections of the threat assessment particularly concerned the officials: one on white supremacist extremists and the other on Russian influence.

Cuccinelli, Murphy said, told him to modify the section on white supremacists "in a manner that made the threat appear less severe, as well as include information on the prominence of violent 'left-wing' groups."

Agencies

Chinese envoy accuses US of spreading 'political virus' in UN

UNITED NATIONS



A Chinese envoy on Wednesday rejected accusations by a US representative against China at a Security Council meeting, and asked the United States to stop shifting blames.

At the Security Council meeting on the implementation of Resolution 2532 on COVID-19, Rodney Hunter, the US representative, accused China of lack of transparency and mishandling and indicated that China is responsible for the spread of the virus across the world.

Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, asked to intervene and rejected the US accusations.

Geng (pictured) said the US representative was abusing the Security Council platform and abusing Wednesday's meeting. "They are spreading political virus. What they are doing here is simply to serve their domestic politics."

The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of Resolution 2532. It was not about finger-pointing, nor about blame-shifting. The tone of the meeting should be unity and solidarity. It was not about politicization and stigmatization, he said.

The US representative's remarks were full of evil intention and irresponsible attacks and smear against China. China categorically rejects that and strongly opposes that, Geng said.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, China has taken effective and comprehensive measures to control the spread of the pandemic in a timely, open, transparent, and responsible manner. China controlled the spread of the pandemic in a short time, he said.

China informed the World Health Organization (WHO) and other countries, including the United States, in a timely manner, and it published the genome sequence of the virus as soon as it was available, he said.

"We made great contribution to the global fight against the pandemic, which has been well recognized and well acknowledged by the UN, by the WHO, by the international community. And I believe that the majority of the Security Council members also commend China's effort and contribution," Geng said.

Xinhua

China vaccine maker says shots safe amid AstraZeneca setback

By Bloomberg

CHINA National Biotec Group Co said none of the recipients of its two coronavirus shots has reported an obvious adverse reaction or infection, as the Chinese vaccine front-runner presses ahead with testing after AstraZeneca Plc suspended its trial.

Hundreds of thousands of people have received the COVID-19 shots so far, the vaccine developer, a subsidiary of state-owned drugmaker Sinopharm Group Co, said on its official WeChat account. The vaccine is being administered under an emergency-use program that allows experimental shots to be used for frontline workers before they complete final testing.

CNBG's two shots are among a

handful of the world's fastest-moving coronavirus vaccine candidates now in the final stage of testing. AstraZeneca set off alarm bells Tuesday as an illness from a single person cause it to suspend its phase III trial.

The incident was a reality check for high expectations that vaccines would soon help control the coronavirus pandemic even as drug-makers move at unprecedented speed to develop COVID-19 shots.

Putting trials on hold when participants fall sick is routine in clinical trials, and could be evidence of a significant side effect or entirely unrelated to the vaccine. But the development from one of the world's most promising and high-profile candidates highlights the need for discipline in the rush to



get vaccines approved for mass inoculation.

Governments around the world are scrambling to secure supplies of shots that have yet to be proved

safe and effective, as they bet on vaccines as the best solution to eradicate rampant infections and salvage crippling economies.

A CNBG spokeswoman said in an interview Thursday the suspension of the AstraZeneca trial has no impact on the final stage of testing for the Chinese company's two shots, which she said has been progressing smoothly.

The company will follow relevant guidelines should an adverse event occur during the phase III trials, she added.

The company's shots are made using inactivated coronavirus to stimulate an immune response without causing Covid-19. That's different from the AstraZeneca candidate, which uses a chimpanzee adenovirus to deliver a component

of the coronavirus

CNBG's coronavirus vaccines, which are being tested in countries in the Middle East and South America, may be available to the public as soon as the end of the year, according to the company's WeChat statement.

The company said it has invested about 2 billion yuan (US\$292 million) in the construction of two high-grade production facilities and is studying plans to further expand capacity to produce as many as 1 billion doses a year.

Under China's emergency-use program, pregnant and breastfeeding women are currently barred from taking the vaccine. The exclusion is based on a lack of sufficient data for this population group, according to Zhou Song, CNBG's gen-

Kremlin dismisses allegations of Russian authorities' involvement in Navalny incident

MOSCOW

The Kremlin believes that any allegations about the involvement of Russian officials in the incident with blogger Alexei Navalny are a priori erroneous and unacceptable, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters commenting on US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's statement.

"We heard his statement. We are interested in finding out the causes of the incident. We believe that any direct or indirect links and hints about the involvement of any official Russian representatives in this incident are unacceptable and a priori erroneous and distorting the reality," Peskov said.

On Wednesday, Pompeo said in an interview with journalist Ben

Shapiro that the US would do its best "to come to a conclusion about who was responsible" for the incident with Russian blogger Alexei Navalny. Pompeo refused to comment on the US possible response saying that he did not want to "get in front of the President."

Information about Navalny's improved condition

Russia has no official information about the condition of blogger Alexei Navalny, including the reports he has regained consciousness, the presidential spokesman said. "There is no trustworthy information about the patient's health at our disposal," Peskov said.

As for reports that Navalny has come round and remembers many things, Peskov said the information



was not official. "These are media reports. We've developed a habit of being very cautious towards media reports. We cannot regard them as a primary source until the moment they have been backed up by some more or less official information," he concluded.

Data shared with OPCW

The Kremlin would have preferred if Berlin had directly handed over data on the incident with blogger Alexei Navalny to Russia and

wonders why some difficulties with this have emerged, Dmitry Peskov said.

"We only have to wonder why there are still some difficulties with sharing these results with us," Peskov said.

He noted that Moscow did not know what particular data the German side had sent to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). "Certainly, we still prefer the direct handover of these tests to us," Peskov stated.

According to the Kremlin spokesman, the allegations on the toxic agent were based on the Berlin laboratory's data while the tests carried out by the Omsk and Moscow laboratories did not detect any poisonous substances in Navalny's body.

Dmitry Peskov has rejected reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin promised to set up a commission to look into the case of blogger Alexei Navalny in a call with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

At the same time, Peskov pointed out that the parties had touched upon the Navalny incident and the president had said that Russia was determined to figure out its cause.

"I don't rule out that there could have been a misunderstanding. The situation surrounding the Berlin patient was indeed touched upon," the Russian presidential spokesman said, adding that Putin had told the Italian prime minister "that a pre-investigation probe has been underway for quite a while."

Agencies

High vigilance as schools fully return 8 months since epidemic

EIGHT months after the COVID-19 pandemic first hit China, schools from kindergartens to colleges are finally headed toward a full resumption in the fall semester. While students are excited to meet their classmates and teachers again, society faces a big test in epidemic prevention and control.

Parents and students interviewed by the Global Times said they were confident in Chinese schools' strict epidemic prevention and control measures in preventing large-scale infections amid a spike in cases at US universities. Medical experts said Chinese schools are unlikely to see such spikes, but schools need to remain vigilant due to the possibility of local sporadic cases and pressure from imported cases.

Many cities in China set different school resumption days for different grades to avoid large gatherings. In Beijing, about 590,000 students in six grades involving

primary and middle schools resumed class on Saturday, and 400,000 more students resumed school on Tuesday. Another 520,000 students returned to school on September 7.

Nearly 1.4 million students in Wuhan are set to return to school on Tuesday in 2,842 middle and primary schools and kindergartens.

On the first day, primary school students and their parents have to take their temperatures to enter the schools, and parents leave from other exits.

A mother of a primary school student nicknamed Xu told the Global Times on Monday that schools told parents to report students' temperatures every day. Students must wear masks all day and schools must conduct regular disinfection.

School management was so careful that it prepared disposable lunch boxes for

students who usually brought their own packed meals to avoid gatherings of students for washing the boxes, Xu said.

Many schools will continue the measures they took during the spring term, such as separating students as they have lunch, reducing the number of students in one classroom and setting up one-meter signs in cafeterias.

Some parents said they hoped that parents and schools could take regular temperature reporting and other measures seriously, not in a perfunctory way.

Aside from taking regular prevention measures, many schools invited frontline doctors and nurses who fought the COVID-19 epidemic on their opening day to teach students to improve personal health and respect these frontline workers.

Students in different grades at the Shanghai-based Tianyuan Foreign Language Pri-

mary School will hold a DIY activity on the first school day to make paper caps, outfits and masks for medical staff, and the school will invite a mother of twin students, a nurse who fought COVID-19 at Leishenshan hospital in Wuhan when the city was plagued by COVID-19, to share stories with students. Zhao Yingqun, the school's principal, told the Global Times on Monday.

"With these activities, we hope to inspire our students to be aware of the contributions and sacrifices made by medical workers, and express our gratitude and respect for them," Zhao said.

Chinese universities, most of which gradually resumed autumn semester courses in mid-August, have adopted strict COVID-19 measures, such as partially closed management, nucleic acid testing, banning gatherings, and strict identification systems.

Song Yiran, a student from Lanzhou Uni-

versity in Northwest China's Gansu Province, told the Global Times on Monday that partially closed management in universities could greatly reduce the risks of being infected through outdoor activity.

Under partially closed management, students can apply for permission to go out to meet relatives or have job interviews, and the university also made students' enclosed lives easier by allowing food deliveries and other services in schools, Song said.

A campus is a high-risk area. The consequences will be disastrous if someone gets infected outside and then returns to the campus to use the cafeteria, public bathing rooms or classrooms, she said.

With Chinese schools welcoming the return of students, some universities in the US have switched back to online courses after an increasing number of confirmed cases involving students were reported since

schools reopened in mid-August.

Since classes started on August 19, for example, 1,200 students at the University of Alabama have tested positive for the virus. Across the US, 36 states have reported a total of 8,700 COVID-19 cases at colleges and universities, CNN reported.

Wang Guangfa, a respiratory expert at Peking University First Hospital, told the Global Times that the US reopened its universities when local infections had not been put under control, which resulted in the spikes at universities. What happened in US universities is unlikely to occur in Chinese schools as China has accumulated rich preventive measures and built a strong epidemic monitoring system. But China should be on alert for imported cases and risks of infection through imported frozen seafood, Wang said.

Global Times



Photo taken on July 14 shows a nature reserve of mangrove forests in Gaoqiao township, Lianjiang, South China's Guangdong Province. File Photo

China to have 18,800 hectares of mangrove forests by 2025 - action plan

CHINA will have created and restored 18,800 hectares of mangrove forests by 2025, said an action plan recently issued by China's Ministry of Natural Resources and National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA).

Of the total, 9,050 hectares of mangrove forests will be built over the next five years, and 9,750 hectares will be rehabilitated.

The action plan, aiming at the protection and restoration of mangrove forests during the 2020-2025 period, will ensure strict protection for existing mangrove forests and scientific measures for mangrove ecological restoration, so as to expand the coverage of mangrove forests, increase biodiversity, and comprehensively improve the ecological system of mangrove forests.

Mangrove forests mostly grow on tropical and subtropical intertidal zones and are regarded as a typical part of the marine ecosystem as important as coral reefs, salt marshes, and seagrass beds.

Because of their important roles in various aspects of marine ecosystem conservation, such as seawater purification, prevention and dissipation of winds and waves, carbon sequestration and storage, as well as biodiversity maintenance, mangrove forests are praised as "coast guards" and a "green lung of the ocean".

When mangrove forests are inundated by seawater at high tides, they become a shelter for fish, shrimp, crab, and shellfish to inhabit in and reproduce. After the tide falls, they would become a "heaven" for birds.

China has 37 kinds of mangrove plants which are mainly distributed in coastal provinces and autonomous regions such as Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Fujian and Zhejiang.

With the joint efforts of governments at all levels and relevant departments of the country, China has maintained a stable growth in the coverage of mangrove forests in the recent two decades, said Wu Zhimin, director of the wetland management department of the NFGA.

Last year, the coverage of mangrove forests in China reached around 29,000 hectares, and the country's ecological situation of mangrove forests was also improved, according to Wu.

"It should also be seen that China's mangrove ecosystem is still facing problems and quite a lot of threats," Wu said, adding that these problems and threats have all been listed as key issues in the action plan, and that the country will take concrete measures to address them step by step.

Establishing conservation areas is an important approach to protect mangrove forests. At present, 52 nature reserves in the Chinese mainland have mangrove forests that cover 15,944 hectares, more than 55 percent of the country's total mangrove forests coverage.

China's protected mangrove forests areas are mainly located in the coastal

areas and island in the southeast, according to Yuan Jiming, deputy director of the protected natural areas management department of the NFGA, explaining that the regions where mangrove forests are distributed are densely populated and enjoy rapid economic development.

"Certain protected areas are still troubled by the insufficiency of management organizations, lax supervision, and invasion of alien species," Yuan said.

The action plan proposed to include all the mangrove forests in China in the country's ecological protection zoning map, and specified relevant regulatory requirements.

China's natural resources supervision and examination authorities and relevant departments are also expected to intensify efforts to keep the area, functions and nature of the country's mangrove forests.

As the coverage of mangrove forests is declining around the world, East China's Zhejiang Province, the northern boundary of the country's mangrove forests, has increased the mangrove forest coverage in its territory with each passing year.

Thanks to its efforts to protect coastal wetlands and rehabilitate the ecological environment of coastlines, Zhejiang is now home to 1,333.33 hectares of mangrove forests.

The survival rate and preserving rate of mangrove plants are key to the restoration of mangrove forests.

In the past, because of the lack of science-based approaches, some regions in the country failed to create forests though they kept planting trees every year. Regarding this, the action plan has set specific goals in creating and restoring mangrove forests, so reasonable and rational plans of afforestation must be ensured.

Relevant techniques, specifications and standards must be established, and follow-up management for the mangrove forests must be ensured after they are created, said Zhou Yuanbo, an official with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Natural restoration and moderate human efforts should be combined to ensure comprehensive protection and systematic restoration of mangrove forests, Zhou noted.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will provide financial support for local efforts to create and restore mangrove forests based on the central government funding for marine ecological protection and restoration endeavors.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Finance have invested 600 million yuan (\$87.2 million) in this year's Blue Bay Initiative to support relevant provincial-level regions in the country in their efforts to push forward mangrove forests protection and restoration projects.

People's Daily

Kremlin dismisses reports of Russian hacker attacks on firm associated with Biden

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has dismissed the reports by Reuters news agency claiming that the company providing services to US presidential candidate Joe Biden's campaign office was attacked by Rus-

sian hackers.

"We are not aware what this firm is and what "Russian state-backed" implies.

Once again, it looks like nonsense, at times published by the respected agency," Peskov told reporters.

According to Reuters, Washington-

based company SKDK providing services to Biden's campaign office and other prominent Democrat politicians in the US reported cyber attacks.

It is noted that the company had been attacked by Russian hackers in recent months allegedly tied to the Russian government. **Agencies**

US biggest driver of militarisation in South China Sea, says Wang Yi

BEIJING

THE United States is becoming the biggest driver of militarization of the South China Sea and the most dangerous factor damaging peace in the area, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Wednesday.

Wang made the remarks while attending the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting via video link.

He said that the United States has directly intervened in territorial and maritime disputes in the region out of its own political needs, constantly flaunting its force and strengthening its military deployment.

"The United States is becoming the biggest driver of militarization of the South China Sea," he said.

The United States has interfered with the efforts of China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to resolve disputes through consultation, as well as provoking confrontation between countries in the region.

"The United States is becoming the most dangerous factor damaging peace in the South China Sea," said Wang.

"Peace and stability are China's greatest strategic interest in the South China Sea," Wang said, adding that it is also the common strategic aspiration of China and ASEAN countries.

"China hopes that countries outside the region, including the United States, will fully respect the wishes and expectations of countries in the region, instead of creating tension and seeking profit from it."

Wang stated three fundamental facts in response to smears made by the US, on China's position on the South China Sea issue.

First, China has sufficient historical and legal basis for sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea.

Second, China always adheres to the policy of good-neighborliness and friendship and has been committed to playing a constructive role on the South China Sea issue.

Third, China has always been committed to complying with international laws including the United Nations



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting via video link in Beijing on Wednesday. PHOTO: CGTN

(UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea.

When talking about the Hong Kong issue, Wang said that it is China's internal affairs, adding that non-interference in internal affairs is the basic norm of international relations and an important provision of the UN Charter. All countries are obliged to abide by it.

"The East Asia Summit is a strategic forum led by leaders of all countries. It has never been a place to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries, let alone an arena for attacking other countries' political systems," Wang said.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit, Wang said, adding that the most urgent task of the summit is to gather consensus in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, promote the revival of economic cooperation, and maintain the overall situation of regional peace and development.

He called for providing new impetus to the fight against the pandemic, supporting the World Health Organization (WHO), and jointly building a regional "anti-pandemic firewall."

He called for launching new measures for economic recovery and striving to make East Asia a source of stable growth for the world economy in the "post-pandemic era."

He said that China suggested im-

provi He called for promoting the construction of "quick passage" and

"green passage" regional networks to ensure the smooth flow of personnel and materials to provide a strong guarantee for regional peace and stability.

China firmly supports ASEAN in playing a leading role in East Asian cooperation, Wang said, adding that the members of the East Asia Summit should comply with the common aspirations of the countries in the region, respect their legitimate demands, adhere to the multilateralism with East Asian characteristics, abide by the basic principles of regional cooperation, and make positive contributions to ensuring the lasting peace, prosperity and development of East Asia.

He also expounded China's position on issues including cross-border water resources cooperation, the Korean Peninsula, and the Rakhine State.

When attending the 21st ASEAN-China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) (10+3) Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the same day via video link, Wang said that all parties should continue to coordinate the anti-pandemic and developing needs, create a new aspect for cooperation in the post-pandemic era and promote 10+3 cooperation to a new level.

ng the level of public health governance, continuing to support the WHO in playing an important role in the global fight against the pandemic, and jointly opposing the politicization of the pandemic and the stigmatization of other countries. **Xinhua**

USto reduce troop presence in Iraq, Afghanistan by November

WASHINGTON

COMMANDER of U.S. Central Command Kenneth McKenzie confirmed on Wednesday that the United States would withdraw thousands of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan by November, U.S. media reported on Wednesday.

The Politico reported that McKenzie, during a ceremony for Operation Inherent Resolve with the Iraqi minister of defense, said that U.S. troop presence in Iraq would be reduced to 3,000 by the end of September.

The force reduction is due to "the great progress the Iraqi forces have made and in consultation and coordi-

nation with the Government of Iraq and our coalition partners," he said.

Currently, there are over 5,000 U.S. troops deployed in Iraq to support Iraqi forces in battles against remnants of the Islamic State (IS), mainly for training and advisory purposes.

McKenzie noted that the reduced size of U.S. military presence in Iraq would still be able to advise and assist Iraqi forces in rooting out the IS remnants in Iraq.

The top U.S. general in the Middle East told several media outlets later in the day that U.S. troops in Afghanistan would be decreased to about 4,500 level by early November. **Xinhua**

The Pentagon said in mid-July that the United States maintained its force level in Afghanistan at mid-8,000s, meeting the conditions of the U.S.-Taliban agreement signed in late February.

The agreement also called for a full withdrawal of the U.S. military forces from Afghanistan by May 2021 if the Taliban meets the conditions of the deal, including severing ties with terrorist groups.

The numbers and time frame of the troop reduction plan that McKenzie disclosed on Wednesday were mainly in line with previous reports and discussions. **Xinhua**

Xinhua

Xinhua

Under fire, Trump defends his remarks about downplaying coronavirus threat

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump defended on Wednesday his remarks in an earlier interview that he wanted to downplay the coronavirus threat to the U.S. public, arguing that he is a cheerleader for the country and did not want to create panic.

"I wanted to always play it down, I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic," Trump told Bob Woodward, author and associate editor of The Washington Post, in an interview on March 19, according to revelations in Woodward's new book "Rage."

Facing criticisms following reported revelations in the book, which is due for publication this month, Trump in-

sisted he was right to keep his concerns about the pandemic private.

"We don't want to instill panic, we don't want to jump up and down and start shouting that we have a problem that is a tremendous problem, scare everybody," Trump told reporters at the White House, "we had to show calm."

"The fact is I'm a cheerleader for this country, I love our country," Trump said. "And I don't want people to be frightened, I don't want to create panic, as you say. Certainly, I'm not going to drive this country or the world into a frenzy."

Trump said he downplayed the threat of the virus also because he didn't "want pricing to go up to a level that becomes almost unaffordable." The president dismissed the

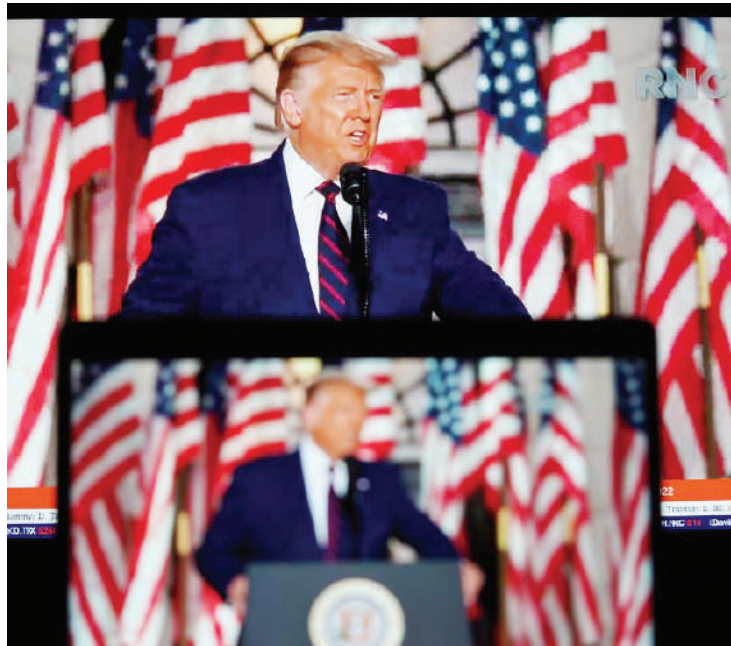


Photo taken in Arlington, Virginia, the United States, on Aug. 27, 2020 shows screens displaying U.S. President Donald Trump delivering his acceptance speech during the 2020 Republican National Convention. Photo: Xinhua

reports of his own remarks as "another political hit job."

According to the revelations, Trump told Woodward in an interview on Feb. 7, when the United States reported just a few cases of COVID-19, that the virus was more dangerous than the flu.

"This is deadly stuff," Trump said.

The president said that the virus was airborne and more deadly "than even your strenuous flus."

"It goes through air, Bob, that's always tougher than the touch," Trump said, "the air, you just breathe the air and that's how it's passed."

But in public during the same period, Trump said there were at the time many more flu deaths in the United States, claiming that the virus would

disappear "like a miracle."

On Feb. 26, he said that COVID-19 cases in the country would fall to "close to zero." On Feb. 29, he told Americans that "everything is under control."

Seizing on the book's revelations, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden slammed Trump in his tour to key swing state Michigan on Wednesday, saying the president "knowingly and willingly lied about the threat it posed for months."

"He knew and purposely played it down," said the former vice president, "worse, he lied to the American people."

"He's failed our economy and our country," Biden said. Woodward's book reportedly also revealed National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien

UN chief calls for efforts to prohibit attacks on education

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday called for efforts to prevent attacks on education.



"Schools and universities are supposed to be safe spaces, where learners can grow, develop and be empowered," he told a high-level virtual event to mark the first International Day to Protect Education from Attack.

He asked all member states to honour their commitments under existing international agreements that prohibit attacks on the right to education, including the Safe Schools Declaration, which aims to protect education from attack and to prevent schools and universities from being used for military purposes. He welcomed steps taken by member states to protect educational institutions and those who need them, but asked for more.

Guterres (pictured) called for measures to ensure inclusive education. "I urge all United Nations member states to ensure the provision of education for all, even in times of conflict, and particularly for the most vulnerable, such as refugees and displaced persons."

He called for enhanced monitoring, reporting and investigation of attacks on education so the perpetrators can be held to account.

He asked member states to use recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to build a better world. "The pandemic has shed an important light on the fault lines running through our societies.

One of these is unequal access to education. As we work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals over the coming decade, we must ensure no one is left behind. For that, we need quality education for all, and safe places for students to learn."

Education is a fundamental human right. It is an essential driver for fostering peace, promoting just societies and supporting sustainable development, he said. "Without quality education for all, we cannot eliminate poverty, tackle inequality, fight climate change or promote peace. Without education, we simply cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

In the words of philosopher Hannah Arendt, education is about preparing children for the task of "renewing a common world," he said.

"But, too often, the right to education falls under attack, especially in conflict-affected areas, where entire populations can be denied learning. Violence against education can take various forms, targeting education facilities, students, teachers and education personnel." Today, attacks on education due to conflict and insecurity are on the rise. Between 2015 and 2019, there were some 11,000 reported armed attacks on education.

In addition to depriving millions of vulnerable learners of accessing education, this violence has serious adverse effects, including increased drop-out rates, prolonged educational disruption, child recruitment into armed groups, early pregnancy and sexual violence, he said. "These attacks simply must not continue," he said. **Xinhua**

Xinhua

SPORT



Dar es Salaam athletes take part in training at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city yesterday to shape up for this year's National Championships, which are expected to start at the venue tomorrow. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Gwambina FC, Kagera Sugar look for quick response

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

GWAMBINA FC's opening day loss, coupled with Kagera Sugar's shock home defeat, has set this Vodacom Premier League fixture up perfectly.

Mara's Biashara United handed Gwambina FC 1-0 defeat in the clash, which took place in Musoma, whilst JKT Tanzania edged Kagera Sugar by a similar margin in a clash, which took place in Bukoba.

Both teams will look for a quick response when Gwambina FC host Kagera Sugar at Gwambina Stadium in Friday's league match.

Coach Fulgence Novatus' side had a rather rude awakening to the vagaries of top flight competition.

Having largely contained the home side, Gwambina FC conceded late to Biashara United in a cruel conclusion to their opening day salvo.

Perhaps that defeat will serve as an eye opener to the difference between the Vodacom Premier League and the First Division League (FDL), in which Gwambina FC bulldozed teams to promotion last season.

Coach Fulgence knows back to back defeat can be demoralizing for a promoted side in a season where the bottom four teams at the end of the season will be directly relegated, while two more will be up for the dreaded promotion/relegation play-offs.

Kagera Sugar were actually rather dismal at home against JKT Tanzania last weekend and if it was not for a controversial decision, the former's coach Mecky Mexime

may have come in for some heat following a seriously undercooked performance that ended with a deserved 1-0 loss.

In a strange way, Kagera Sugar are almost better set up to play in away fixtures.

Last season they won more games on the road than at home. Eight of their 15 victories came away from their venue, Kaitaba Stadium.

With no fewer than six clubs expected to be involved in a yet another tough and tight relegation scrap, Mexime knows these are the kinds of games he need to collect maximum points to avoid the nightmare of 2018/19 season.

The season saw Kagera Sugar survive relegation to the FDL through the play-offs.

In head-to-head stats, Gwambina FC and Kagera Sugar have never met in the top flight league.

When the teams met in a friendly played in June before the league restart, Gwambina FC claimed a 1-0 home win.

Gwambina FC's line-up from their 1-0 loss to Biashara United:

Mohamed Makaka, Aron Lulambo, Amos Kadikilo, Salum Kipaga, Baraka Mtui, Novartus Lufunga, Meshack Abraham, Yusuph Kagoma, Paul Nonga, Jacob Masawe, Rajab Athuman.

Kagera Sugar's line-up from their 1-0 loss to JKT Tanzania:

Ramadhan Chalamanda, Mwaita Gereza, David Luhende, Eric Kyaruzi, Ally Mtoni, Ally Nassor, Vitalis Mayanga, Ally Ramadhan, Mbaraka Yusuph, Peter Mwalyanzi, Eric Mwijage.



Gwambina FC players take part in training session at their base in Misungwi District, Mwanza recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GWAMBINA FC

Black Hair Matters: Why 'fashion racism' could be taken lightly

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

WITH the raging 'Black Lives Matter' movement in the United States whose fires spread nearly everywhere as the US serves as role model when it comes to protest causes like gender and for that matter racial equality, a twist to this movement has come up in Africa.

It was an instance of rioting and pillaging of retail chains of the supermarket firm Clicks following a somewhat irritating advertisement for a shampoo brand.

The advertisement that sparked the protests depicts two different types of hair, one showing a black woman's natural hair and one of a white woman, noting this latter as of better quality.

Scanning the topic in online entries, it surfaces that the matter is not new to South African audiences, as way back in August-September 2016 a debate raged at a prestigious high school in the country's administrative capital of Pretoria.

There was an administrative decision (since schools usually decide what dresses or even hair-do is allowed in school, whether one can shave or not and in what manner), that African or black natural hair was 'untidy' and 'un-ladylike,' where students let the hair grow like a hat, or forms bundles on the head.

Such images contrasted with white women's hair, which have no bundles, etc.

The moment this advert appeared on social media and other outlets for the shampoo brand, activists started mobilizing and soon a radical opposition political group, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) had taken over the leadership on the issue.

Their language and methods were familiar, as excited crowds burst into Click supermarket outlets and carted away whatever they could find- exactly the same



Morogoro's hair stylists, Hassan Shaban (front), and his colleague Christian Baria attend to one of their customers in the region recently. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

picture that has torn apart the United States in the run to the general elections there on November 3.

Exactly what is the commonality between protesting a presumably racist advert and criminality, breaking into a supermarket?

What divides political opinion in the US and it was not apparent in South Africa's less mixed environment was whether the whole episode (breaking and stealing shop items) ought to be explained from the ignition event- a racist advert this time round or killing a black suspect in the US.

This was the 'progressive' view as it is also largely the case in South Africa, that no one expects the police to follow up on the raids on shops and looting, as the crowds were provoked.

The 'silent majority' sees it as criminality, simply and in that context it is as if wrong doers are waiting in the wings, to find a pretext and start looting, etc.

There is an expression in lit-

erature that 'great men in history appear, as it were, twice,' to which someone added, 'first as tragedy and then as farce.'

This is what one sees in this incident, that the US protests and looting could partially be understood as they involve protesting in a vehement manner casual shooting or otherwise killing black people at the nearest excuse by uniformed policemen.

In the case of South Africa there was not such a compelling reason for outpouring of anger as it was a contention about hair beauty...!

Given the fact that this issue was not new and it had even been raised by school administrators whether girls can leave bundles and 'afro' style spreads of (natural) hair and enter classes, where obviously there would be no uniformity in the classrooms, the advert should not have been a surprise at all.

Authorities in Tanzania have for years battled the sale of skin lightening creams not for their

implicit racism that a black tan skin is not beautiful but clear, pale or brownish tan (whatever label one uses) but rather for health.

Skin bleaching is dangerous for the user as it engenders non-communicable diseases like cancers in the future.

Even if there was a material difference in the advert about lumps of black hair on the head not being 'tidy' or 'lady-like,' there is strictly speaking no difference with praising 'ambi.'

It was thus an 'ambi-valent' attitude to make a loud protest and outpouring of anger as it may as well underline an unstated truism, that one is hurt because he or she actually believes that advert.

In that sense it becomes an insult by exposing inward wishes of ordinary South Africans - that they actually crave to be 'white.' By contrast, there are plenty of smooth hairs (said to be from China) in local shops but we hardly notice the 'beauty' they bring!

Outside that intimation which many in Johannesburg and elsewhere would loudly protest if it was put before them as an explanation for the riots, it would follow that taking things too seriously has to do with the cultural environment.

For instance one cannot understand police shootings of black youths in the US until one sees internet info that for instance on a recent Sunday Chicago police responded to ten shootings within three hours, with three homicides and two injured policemen.

Black people make 13 per cent of the total US population but the extent of being involved in petty or violent crimes is disproportionate with the population ratio.

It is not surprising that police officers get tired of that situation, and shoot as a deterrent.

Strikers B cricketers stretch winless streak in 2020 Kazim Nasser tourney

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

PATEL Brotherhood cricketers have stepped up their quest for successful campaign in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B, cruising to a 54-run victory over Strikers B outfit in a clash which took place in Dar es Salaam recently.

The eventual winners, as a result, stretched Strikers B team's winless streak in the KNML Division B. Strikers B outfit has now conceded loss in two consecutive games.

Spirited batting showing displayed by Pinalkumar Patel, Chetan Patel, Harsh Patel and Dhaval-kumar Patel was instrumental in Patel Brotherhood squad's victory, they saw to it their squad end the innings with a bigger score.

Strikers B side won the toss, elected to bowl, leaving Patel Brotherhood outfit making full use of their chance to bat, posting 231 runs for five wickets in 30 overs.

Opener Chetan helped Patel Brotherhood outfit get off to a good start, scoring 41 runs that consisted of six fours.

He also successfully made up for a rather disappointing spell fellow opener, Tarpan Tailor, had experienced in which



Patel Brotherhood's cricketers in a group picture ahead of their participation in one of the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B matches at Annadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam recently. The outfit overcame Strikers B squad by 54 runs in a game played early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

he was dismissed for duck by Strikers B outfit's Krishna Amarshi.

They later on experienced a wobble given top order batsman Kewal Patadia could only manage six runs and was then sent back to the pavilion by Strikers B team's Abdullah Imtiyaz.

Dhaval-kumar saw to it his side's quest for a bigger score is fulfilled with his 35 runs that included four fours.

Pinalkumar had the innings for the squad, notching 62 runs not out, which consisted of eight fours.

He forged a solid stand with Ankurkumar Shah that posted 12 runs not out, which included a four,

helping the squad end the innings with the impressive score.

Harsh made his presence at the crease felt as he posted 44 runs, which consisted of five fours.

Strikers B team's spinner Lazaro Festo finished with an impressive figure of two wickets, leaving 30 runs in six overs, leaving him with an economy rate of 5.00.

His was so far the only performance with the ball, which was worth writing home about in Strikers B squad in the side's futile attempt to foil the quest for an imposing total, mounted by Patel Brotherhood.

Chasing 232 runs to

come out victorious turned out to be a daunting task for Strikers B team given they faltered during the chase.

They were eventually bowled out for 177 runs in 24.3 overs.

They had a shaky start to their chase, given opening batsman, Vaibhav Bhatia, succumbed to an early exit with four runs to his name.

Vaibhav, nevertheless, had an opportunity to crack a four in four balls he faced.

Festo ended six runs short of half century, cracking five fours, as Strikers B squad did all it could to fend off Patel Brotherhood's challenge.

Sanjay Bhatia, Arif Khatri and Akash Phulwani put spirited batting to show in a bid to see to it their squad chase Patel Brotherhood's score, the trio's attempt hit snag.

The experienced Sanjay posted 26 runs, which included two fours, Khatri notched 14 runs, whilst Phulwani had 15 runs.

Mehul Ravat and Amarshi chipped in with 13 runs, which included two fours, and 10 runs, which included a six, respectively.

Patel Brotherhood squad's Chetan and Pinalkumar kept Strikers B squad batsmen in check given they posted two wickets apiece.

Is Manchester United on the rise or in decline?

BY LEANDER SCHAERLAECKENS,
YAHOO SPORTS

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

If you're Manchester United, that is both a philosophical question and a pressing one. Because after seven years in the wilderness, seven years since Sir Alex Ferguson retired, the Red Devils remain lost. They have no more than an FA Cup, a League Cup and a Europa League to show for their efforts.

United won the Premier League five times in Ferguson's final seven seasons and 13 times in his last 21 campaigns, never finishing lower than third. Since then, they have placed seventh, fourth, fifth, sixth, second, sixth and third, respectively.

In Ferguson's last seven seasons, United averaged 87 points per season. In the seven seasons since, the Red Devils averaged a mere 68.8 points, a number lifted by the 81-point haul in 2017-18.

Yet the club's eight most expensive signings all happened during that same stretch of futility. Of the 25 highest transfer fees, all but five were consummated after Ferguson's retirement.

United, in other words, is spending more money than ever, and getting far less for it in return. What's more, it has splashed so much money on a few choice, high-risk investments that it is stuck with a half-dozen albatross contracts so steep as to render those players both immovable and unsuited to the first team. Only when those have been unloaded, somehow, to an unenthusiastic market, can more new signings be made by one of the world's richest clubs. That's why Donny van de Beek is the lone summer arrival, from Ajax, and Borussia Dortmund and England prodigy Jadon Sancho remains prohibitively expensive.

So where does that leave United? Is it a team that can build on its 14-game unbeaten run to finish the 2019-20 league season, climbing from seventh to third along the way? Is it a team that is but a player or two and a deft managerial hand away from competing with archrivals Liverpool and Manchester City for the title? Or is it just ragtag band of overpriced and overpaid players, with a manager in Ole Gunnar Solskjaer who remains out of his depth in spite of the occasional hot streak?

As anything with United, you can see the same things in different ways. Its American ownership

has drained hundreds of millions of pounds from the club to service the enormous debt it took on in the leveraged hostile takeover. But United has also had a massive transfer budget just about every year, making Paul Pogba the world's most expensive player for a spell.

United is a team of contradictions.

Pogba seemed to be checking out last season, spending longer rehabbing injuries than anybody thought reasonable, only to become one of its best players down the stretch. Bruno Fernandes, the January panic-buy and one of the rare mega-transfers to have worked out, seemed incompatible with Pogba yet formed a formidable pairing with him. Now they are joined by van de Beek, yet another attacking central midfielder.

The defense is improved, but then its central piece, captain Harry Maguire, was arrested in Greece over the summer and convicted of assault and attempted bribery of a police officer.

The striker corps looks as talented as it has in years, but Marcus Rashford missed four and a half months due to back injuries last season, which has been blamed on overuse and could prove chronic. Prodigy Mason Greenwood was sent home this week by England manager Gareth Southgate after making his national team debut for violating coronavirus protocols.

For every bit of good news, there is bad news in equal measure to offset it. Everything about this team can be cast through a positive and a negative lens without it being unfair.

After years of looking shorn of talent and confidence, this United team will bounce through the short offseason and preseason with new vigor and belief. Yet its rivals are also stronger than ever. City and Liverpool have strung together a series of record-setting campaigns and don't look at all weakened. If this could be United's best team in the post-Ferguson era, its timing might be all wrong as well. Because nothing has ever been easy since Ferguson vacated his post.

Manchester United is a glass that is both half-full and half-empty. This Manchester United is a Rorschach test.

Leander Schaerlaeckens is a Yahoo Sports soccer columnist and a sports communication lecturer at Marist College. Follow him on Twitter @LeanderAlphabet.

Fixture chaos in Spain amid latest La Liga row with federation

MADRID

LA Liga has been forced to change the days of its fixtures for the opening weekend of the season, just two days before they were due to start.

The Spanish league announced on Wednesday night it had given in to the "nonsense" of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), in order to avoid "irreparable sporting damage to the clubs".

It is the latest in a number of disputes between Spanish football's two governing bodies, who have been at loggerheads over scheduling for more than a year.

La Liga is keen to stretch games from Fridays to Mondays to maximise television revenues while the federation is determined to keep matches to Saturdays and Sundays only.

"In order to avoid irreparable sporting damage to the clubs affected by this nonsense of the RFEF (Spanish Football Federation), La Liga has rescheduled the matches initially scheduled for Friday and Monday for this first day," La Liga said in a statement.

It means the season's original curtain-raiser between Granada and Athletic Bilbao, initially sched-

uled for Friday at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT), will be played on Saturday at 6:30 pm.

And Alaves against Real Betis on Monday at 9:00 pm has been brought forward to Sunday 2:00 pm.

The first game of the season will instead be Eibar against Celta Vigo at Ipurua on Saturday at 4:00 pm. All matches are still without fans.

But La Liga announced its "firm intention" to puts its case to the government's Ministry for Sport regarding the second round of league games, which also has kick-offs on Friday and Monday night.

A judge in Madrid is due to decide on October 6 which organisation has the final say on the scheduling of matches.

La Liga is responsible for the top two divisions in Spain while the federation oversees the third tier and below, as well as the women's top flight.

Reigning champions Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Sevilla will all sit out the opening weekend after being given extra time off following their involvement in European competitions last term.

AFP

Can Liverpool regain their aura of invincibility in the Premier League?

BY IAN DARKE, ESPN.COM WRITER

LIVERPOOL kick off their Premier League title defence on Saturday with an intriguing game against newly promoted Leeds United, and even their fans are wondering if the champions can regain their aura of invincibility.

Manager Jurgen Klopp never wavers in his belief in players he calls "my mentality monsters" and is convinced they will rediscover the electric form that left their rivals for dust last season. But there are nagging doubts.

Since the title was secured on June 25, Liverpool have kept only one clean sheet in eight matches. At times, they've looked strangely fragile in defence, especially in losses to Manchester City and Arsenal. U.S. superstar Christian Pulisic also ran them ragged towards the end of the 2019-20 season, albeit in 5-3 win over Chelsea. Even at Wembley in the Community Shield shootout defeat to the Gunners, there was a feeling that the team were still a little flat, their batteries not quite fully recharged for the season ahead.

A few days before that game, errors by Fabinho and Joe Gomez had allowed Red Bull Salzburg to race into a 2-0 lead before young Rhian Brewster scored twice to salvage a draw in a preseason friendly in Austria.

It's easy to dismiss these hiccups and sloppiness as an understandable "easing-down" after the glittering prize had been secured. Players are not machines. There was bound to be some loss of intensity after the title party.

But as managers often warn us, form cannot be switched on and off like a tap. So perhaps Liverpool fans are wondering if the team can reignite the fire against Leeds, a fixture that renews a rivalry going back to the feisty clashes in the 1960s, when Bill Shankly and Don Revie were the iconic managers involved.

Later there was the infamous Wem-



Liverpool have looked notably below their usual standard since clinching the Premier League title. Is that a sign of things to come? (Agencies)

bley match when Leeds' Johnny Giles stayed on the pitch after flooring Liverpool's Kevin Keegan with a perfect right hook, only to see Keegan himself and Leeds skipper Billy Bremner shown red cards for a later clash. And that was in the Charity Shield, as it was then known!

The modern buoyant Leeds, back in the big time after 16 years and led by the innovative Marcelo Bielsa, look set to offer a significant test of where Liverpool are right now.

We can be certain that Klopp & Co. will have stepped up their preparations by several gears in the past few days with some ferociously intense sessions at Melwood. They

could look a far sharper outfit than the one we saw in the Community Shield, when the famous front three of Mo Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane made little impact.

Another question hanging in the air is whether the squad should have been freshened up a little more. The only excursion into the transfer market so far has been for left-back Kostas Tsimikas, an £11.75m buy from Olympiakos to act as cover for Andy Robertson.

It's no secret that Klopp would love to add Bayern Munich's classy technician Thiago Alcantara to his midfield, but that transfer saga might drag on until close to the Oct. 5 deadline. Signing Thiago would

change the midfield dynamic. It could also prompt the departure of Georginio Wijnaldum, who is out of contract next summer and is wanted by his old Dutch national team boss Ronald Koeman at Barcelona.

One of Liverpool's greatest players, Graeme Souness, says that the trophy-winning teams he played on in the 1980s always welcomed a fresh face or two every summer to keep everyone on their toes. Staleness can breed complacency at any club.

Another Anfield issue is whether Klopp should buy another central defender. Dejan Lovren has left for Zenit St. Petersburg, so is there enough cover for first choices Virgil Van Dijk

and Joe Gomez? Joel Matip seems to miss many games with injury, and switching Fabinho to defence robs the midfield of its natural "holder".

Liverpool finished a massive 18 points clear of Manchester City last season and did not lose a Premier League game until February 29 at Watford. They were champions with a record seven games to spare, and may be insulted to find City, who lost nine times, considered as favourites this time.

Chelsea, who have splashed the cash on some high quality signings, clearly mean business this season, too, as do an improving Bruno Fernandes-inspired Manchester United. Spurs and Arsenal will improve on last season's subdued campaigns.

So the signs are there for Liverpool to find it much tougher to repeat last season's 99-point runaway success story. Now they are the hunted.

Against that backdrop, Klopp will want to build a Liverpool dynasty, and you sense nothing would give him greater pleasure than to foil Manchester City's attempt to regain their crown, just as he frustrated Bayern Munich a couple of times with title wins at Borussia Dortmund. The first three games -- against Leeds, then Chelsea and Arsenal -- might tell us whether Liverpool are still on something of a title hangover or back to their frightening best.

It is the hunch of this observer that they will again take a lot of stopping.

Premier League clubs forget coronavirus crisis in transfer splurge

LONDON

JUST five months after Premier League clubs consulted their players about taking a 30 percent wage cut, the English top-flight is again blowing Europe's other top leagues out the water when it comes to splashing the cash.

A return to the routine spending of tens of millions of pounds on players jars with the bleak forecasts often presented by the clubs themselves as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

At the height of the pandemic, Liverpool and Tottenham planned to use government money to pay non-playing staff, only to back down in the face of public anger, while Arsenal announced proposals to cut 55 jobs just last month.

If Premier League clubs require a reminder that Covid-19 remains a threat, they need only look to the empty stands that will accompany the start of the new season on Saturday.

Gate receipts may only account for 13 percent of the Premier League's revenue, according to figures from UEFA's latest benchmarking report, but the other major streams of income such as television rights and commercial sponsorships are also not immune to the crisis.

A rebate worth a reported £330 million (\$429 million, 363 million euros) was due to domestic and international broadcasters because the 2019/20 season was not completed on time after a three-month stoppage to the campaign.

Last week the Premier League announced its deal with Chinese streaming platform PPTV, understood to be worth about \$700 million, had been cancelled, with political tensions between Britain and China potentially making a new contract difficult to negotiate.

European Club Association chairman Andrea Agnelli said on Tuesday that rebates owed to Champions



Timo Werner is part of Chelsea's £200 million spending spree on new players. (Agencies)

League and Europa League broadcasters totalled 575 million euros, warning football was in "crisis-management" mode.

Agnelli, who is also the chairman of Italian champions Juventus, said the overall value of the transfer market could plummet by up to one third.

- Big-spending Chelsea - Yet no such downturn has been noticeable among Premier League clubs. Chelsea have led the way

with a £200 million rebuild, signing Kai Havertz, Timo Werner, Hakim Ziyech and Ben Chilwell.

Manchester City have spent more than £60 million on two players in Nathan Ake and Ferran Torres who will struggle to start in Pep Guardiola's strongest XI, while Donny van de Beek could end up costing Manchester United around £40 million.

Even more striking are the sums spent by non-Champions League clubs.

Wolves broke their transfer record on a 40-million-euro capture, Portuguese teenager Fabio Silva, who had scored three goals and started one league match for Porto.

After spells together at Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, James Rodriguez and Carlo Ancelotti have been reunited at Everton, who have also signed midfielders Allan and Abdoulaye Doucoure. The outlay for the three players is around £64 million.

Leeds announced their return to the Premier League by signing Spanish international Rodrigo and Germany's Robin Koch.

Newcastle, Crystal Palace and Leicester are also among those to have spent around £20 million on a single signing.

By contrast, even giants across Europe such as Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus are selling and seeking to cut wage costs.

The Premier League's lavish spending is due to

a number of factors. Chelsea are making up for lost time after a transfer ban last summer, while they are also among the clubs seeking to make the most of a buyer's market.

For others such as Everton, the relaxation of financial fair play rules gives wealthy owners more opportunity to back their clubs.

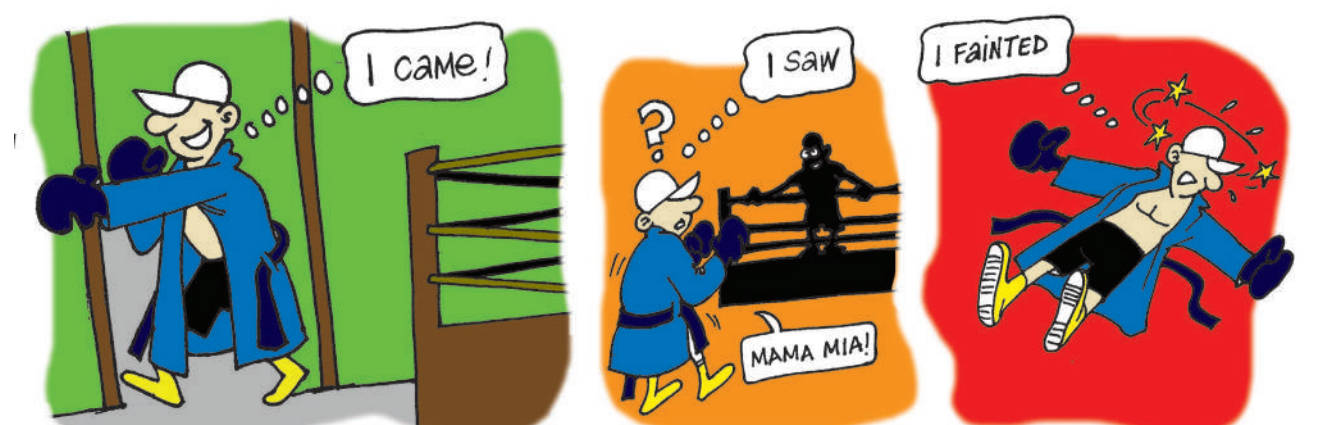
The Premier League's TV deals worth around £3 billion a season are an even bigger economic advantage at a time when matchday and commercial revenue are shrinking.

But the rebates show how hundreds of millions can be wiped out, with the coronavirus threatening more disruption in the coming season.

Should a lack of caution in the transfer window come back to hurt Premier League clubs, there will be little sympathy shown from across the continent.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Azam FC takes aim at determined Coastal Union

SPORT

Can Liverpool regain their aura of invincibility in the Premier League?

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilishi (r)
16:00 Ujenzaji (r)
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 SILEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM



Mbwana Samatta

Mbwana Samatta likely to move to Turkey

By Badru Kunambi and Seth Denis, TUDARCO

SENIOR national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta, could be on his way out of the English Premier League (EPL) following news that the striker was wanted by one of the best clubs in Turkey, Besiktas, and they are in talks with his club Aston Villa.

The 27-year-old striker was signed by the EPL side almost eight months ago from Belgian side, KRC Genk, but failed to shine in the Birmingham-based side.

Samatta began his career as a junior player for Tanzanian club, African Lyon, which was then taking part in Mainland Premier League in 2008.

He turned professional in 2010 with Simba Sports Club, an outfit that he turned out for for only half of the season before moving to TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He spent almost five years with the Congolese side, initially becoming a first-team regular.

He was named the 2015 African-based Player of the Year and finished the season as the top goal scorer of the CAF Champions League as he helped TP Mazembe lift the title.

In January 2016, Samatta signed for Belgian side, KRC Genk, helping them qualify for the UEFA Europa League and win the Belgian Jupiler League in 2019.

Having finished the season as the top goal scorer of the Jupiler League, he also won the Ebony Shoe award in Belgium for his outstanding season with Genk.

The striker joined Aston Villa from Genk in the January transfer window.

Despite failing to make an impact at Villa Park during the second half of last season, the Taifa Stars' skipper made 11 starts and three substitute appearances in the EPL under manager Dean Smith, scoring one goal in process.

Samatta is expected to face a tough time ahead of 2020/21 EPL season following the arrival of new signing Ollie Watkins from Brentford in initial transfer fee reported by BBC Sport to be worth Euro 28 million.

The 24-year-old newly signed striker is expected to be the number one striker for Villa, at least in the opening months of the season.

Samatta could find himself spending most of his time on the bench having struggled in the second half of last season and it is hard to see him compete with Watkins who scored 26 goals in the championship for Brentford last season.

Recently it has been reported by a Turkish news outlet that the Tanzanian striker has emerged as a target for the Turkish giants, Besiktas, this summer.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC players were dominant without being impressive in their opening day victory over Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania in a clash which took place in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Azam FC will thus seek a second consecutive Vodacom Premier League victory when they host Coastal Union at Azam Complex today, kick-off at 1900h.

They still need to come together as a team, and this could be a tricky match for them even if they, pound for pound, look the better team.

In the end with title rivals, Simba SC, and table toppers KMC FC playing on Saturday, victory against Coastal Union will



Azam FC players discuss game tactics when they faced Prisons in a friendly clash, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

send Azam FC to the top of the table.

Azam FC technical bench will take great encouragement from the performance of Zimbabwean import, Prince Dube, fitting quite comfortably into the flow of a starting 11.

The highly rated striker assisted in Obrey Chirwa's all important goal in the game against Polisi Tanzania.

Coastal Union's fans will be heartened by their gutsy opening day performance, which had the squad conceding 1-0 loss to

Namungo FC in Lindi.

They have literally had the spine of their team ripped out, with captain Bakari Mwamnyeto, top scorer Ayub Lyanga, goalkeeper Soud Dondola and defender Ibrahim Ame taken out of coach Juma Mgunda's first 11.

They will feel slightly aggrieved by the final scoreline against Namungo and will no doubt be earmarking this as the perfect opportunity to bounce back.

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and Coastal Union have met in

14 league matches since 2010/11 season.

Azam FC have eight wins compared to three for Coastal Union, while three matches ended in draw.

The ice-cream makers have won six of their seven home league matches against Coastal Union, suffering one defeat in the process.

When the teams met earlier this year, Coastal Union claimed a 2-1 away win.

Azam FC's line-up from their 1-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania:

David Kissu Mapigano, Nicholas Wadada, Bruce Kangwa, Aggrey Morris, Abdallah Kheri, Mudathir Yahya, Never Tigere, Salum Abubakar, Prince Dube, Obrey Chirwa, Ayoub Lyanga.

Coastal Union's line-up from their 1-0 loss to Namungo FC:

Abubakari Nyakwesi, Hassan Jaffari, Hance Masoud, Mwyni Said, Martin Sylvester, Salum Ally, Rashid Chambo, Mtenje Albano, Yusuph Soka, Abdul Hamisi, Issa Abushehe.

Dar to host 2020 East Africa Boxing Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will host this year's Boxing Champion of Champions competition in December, with boxers from neighbouring countries also set to take part in.

Tanzania's Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) secretary general, Lukelo Willilo, said in interview from Babati, where the 2020 National Club Championships is taking place, that the federation is confident of hosting the coming event this year.

Willilo said the Manyara championships has given them experience and confidence of hosting the international event.

He, however, could not issue the dates and nations which they will invite for the championships.

The OBFT official also disclosed that they have full backing of Manyara Regional Commissioner, Joseph Mkirikiti, who has promised the federation of his full financial and material support to successfully host the international

event.

"The Manyara championships is going on very well, now we are having plans for hosting the International Boxing Association (AIBA) recognized Champion of Champions' showpiece this coming December," he disclosed.

"We are confident of hosting it successfully and the good thing is that Manyara Regional Commissioner, Mkirikiti, has promised us full support from his office," Willilo noted.

"The Manyara RC told us that the region can host the international event and help our national team to prepare well for the Champion of Champions event," he said.

The 2020 National Club Championships is taking place at River Nile Hotel in Manyara.

It has attracted six regions and 11 clubs and is expected to end on Saturday. Willilo mentioned regions which are competing at the championships as Arusha, Coast Region, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kagera and hosts Manyara.



Dar es Salaam boxers, Mussa Mchopanga (L), and Aziz Saleh trade blows in a past Regional Club Championship's fight, which took place at Panandi Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJAB MHAMILA

Participating clubs are Tanzanite Manyara, Kagera and Arusha teams, Tarangire Manyara, National Service Headquarters (MMJKT), JKT Mgulani, JKT Mbweni, JKT Ruvu, Ngome JWTZ and Band Coy JWTZ.

He said the 2020 National Club Champion-

ships ends tomorrow and, on Wednesday, there were quarterfinal bouts, in which Ibrahim Wegoro overcame JKT Ruvu's Yusufu Mambo via Technical Knockout (TKO) within 13 seconds of the first round of the Light Welterweight division bout.

Abdallah Mfaume from Tanzanite Manyara won via RSCH (Referee Stops Contest because of Head Blows) on the 28th minute of the first round of a bout against Ashrafu Hashim of Kagera in the same category.

In another bout in the

same category, Msafiri Haulle from Arusha won by points against Akimu Juma from Kagera, Alex Isendi from JWTZ, also national boxing team captain, won by points against Sebastian John from MMJKT.

Willilo said many competitive and entertaining bouts were in Middle-weight division, as there were four TKO wins in the division.

He disclosed Enos Erasto from Tanzanite Manyara beat JWTZ boxer Marko Fransis by TKO in the second round, Haruna Sinundo from MMJKT also won via TKO in 27 seconds of the first round of a fight against Ally Abdallah from Arusha.

In other bouts in the same category, JKT Mgulani boxer Huledi Rashid won his bout against Lutufyo Sanga of Band Coy JWTZ in 25 seconds of the first round by TKO.

Joshua Shadrack from Kagera outclassed James Ndunguru from JKT Ruvu by TKO in three minutes and 32 seconds of the third round of the fight.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

