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National Pg 3 Thieves steal construction equipment



National Pg 4 Call to reduce transport licence fees



National Pg 5 Scrap metal business fee



National Pg 6 TTCL drives up digital economy



Govt, investors agree on 50/50 nickel mining joint venture

By Getrude Mbago

THE government and investors from three countries yesterday signed a joint venture agreement for the extraction of nickel, kobellite and copper at Kabanga in Kagera Region.

President John Magufuli witnessed the signing in Bukoba municipality in a deal that will see the government get 50 per cent of the proceeds and another 50 will go to investors from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

The mining will be carried out under the newly established Tembo Nickel, to oversee production of the mineral, he said, commending negotiating teams of both sides for reaching this accord, expressing

confidence that Tanzania will continue to be a great place for investment.

"The Kabanga nickel project was initiated in 1976 but it has remained stagnant for nearly half a century as we didn't get the right investor to take the project forward. I hope that, as we have got LZ Nickel Ltd the project is going to produce positive outcomes benefitting the country," he said.

Dr Magufuli also commended the investors for their plan to establish a smelter so as to refine minerals extracted in the country before being sold locally or exported.

"A smelter will be constructed in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region not only to refine nickel but other minerals like copper and

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Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Dodoma city yesterday launching books endorsed for use in teaching Kiswahili internationally. The event was part of the commemoration of Kiswahili Day. Left is Information, Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Abdallah Ulega. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

SISAL PRODUCTION

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MAIZE PROJECT

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MBEYA CAMPUS

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Do more to promote use of Kiswahili, VP tells experts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan has challenged experts in Kiswahili to do more to promote the language locally, regionally and internationally for Tanzania to cement its position as the birthplace of the language.

Officiating at the launch of a two-day event to mark Kiswahili Day here yesterday, the VP expressed concerns that while the language is gaining momentum as a major international language little effort is done nationally to promote it.

"As we mark the 2021 Kiswahili Day, kindly look into development challenges facing the language as it increasingly gains global recognition" she told the gathering.

It is high time experts think on how to cope with development brought about by digital technology, especially how to create Swahili command words in digital platforms

As Tanzania has gained recognition as the birth place of Kiswahili, stakeholders in various institutions and organizations preoccupied with the growth of the language need to come up with strategies for teaching the language to interest people in other countries, she said.

The development of the language was affected by the paucity of books to teach foreigners the language, despite strides made in Kenya and Tanzania having many writers in the language and experience in teaching Kiswahili nationally and regionally.

There aren't enough books to teach foreigners, school text books and a language teaching system designed to make it easy to learn when Kiswahili is

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JPM lays stone for TADB loaned dairy processing factory

By Francis Kajubi

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday laid a foundation stone for the ongoing construction of a dairy processing plant in Kahanga area, Karagwe District in Kagera Region.

The dairy factory which belongs to Kahama Fresh Investments Ltd is being constructed with a loan from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

Speaking to this paper yesterday, TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine (pictured) said that the bank is gearing up for financing sustainable agricultural projects that impact smallholders in various parts of the country.

"TADB is dedicated to facilitating farmers and pastoralists financially as we aim at being a leading financial institution in providing financial and technical assistance pertaining to agricultural activities. Our aim is to transform particular sub-sectors throughout the product's value chain" he stated.

TADB deployed an expert on dairy farming for guidance and technical advice to the factory management on how to run the business and increase productivity, he further noted.

About 600 small-scale dairy farmers will directly and indirectly benefit from the construction of the factory, with TADB financing covering the purchasing of machinery and working capital for milk purchasing from small farmers in the area of the project, he elaborated.

"At TADB we value the benefits that

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Dar leaders camp at school following JPM's directive



By Guardian Reporter

A LITTLE-KNOWN primary school in Dar es Salaam has of late become the new work station for to regional officials including Regional Commissioner

Abubakar Kunenge (pictured), with construction work going on round the clock.

King'ongo primary school in Ubungo municipality came to the limelight at the weekend when a

video clip made rounds on social media showing pupils there learning under a tree for lack of classrooms.

This clip prompted a stern reaction from none other than President John Magufuli who on Monday said that he wanted to see pupils in that school learning in classrooms as soon as possible, vowing that he would personally visit the school premises.

Hours after the president spoke from Bukoba in Kagera Region, top officials in the region as well as the ruling party secretariat in Ubungo district trooped to the school to map out and quickly start the construction work.

Trucks carrying all manner of construction materials like bricks,

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Govt, investors agree on 50/50 nickel mining joint venture

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kobellite. This will also produce employment and thus improve the lives of Tanzanians," he said.

He asked the Minister for Minerals to closely supervise the work and ensure that the project commences immediately, as many people in the country are eagerly waiting for it.

In 2015, production in the mining sector stood at \$168bn but today the production level has grown to \$528 bn, he pointed out, noting that this is a big step in the history of the sector. With the new project initial production at the Kabanga mining site adds 664bn/- (close to \$300m) per year, the president indicated.

Investors from various countries will do well to come and invest in the country as Tanzania is a safe place and has a conducive business environment, he emphasised.

"Come and establish huge investments without undue worries. We have strong security, electricity power, infrastructures and various incentives," he said, focusing on an inclusive economy ensuring that everyone benefits from opportunities in the mining sector.

Krisfone Prifone, the vice chairman of LZ Nickel Ltd said the signing of the framework agreement establishing Tembo Nickel Co. is a milestone for Tanzania and the East Africa Region, as the production of refined nickel, copper and kobellite products is a new and developing sphere in the global economy.

"I welcome Tembo Nickel Co. and I can assure you that our team represents significant capability and rich experience as we have been doing these activities for over 40 years ago," he stated.

The essence of this agreement is an equitable partnership

in Tembo Nickel whereby the principle of equal sharing will in practice require transparency and good faith in all dealings, he asserted.

British High Commissioner David Concar put it explicitly that just as iron contributed hugely in the first wave of the industrial revolution at the end of 18th century, nickel and copper are proving so vital to the technologies of the 21st century, "so this is the right project at the right time in the right place."

He said that the UK believes that the mining and refining of nickel and other minerals will be conducted to the highest standard and deliver value locally.

"I am pleased to say that this is an equitable project which will use high technology have no negative impact on the environment and people's health," the envoy underlined.

"The project will also produce more employment opportunities for local people as well as inject significant revenues to the government," he added.



I welcome Tembo Nickel Co. and I can assure you that our team represents significant capability and rich experience as we have been doing these activities for over 40 years ago



Mzumbe University chancellor Dr Ali Mohamed Shein (2nd-R) exchanges greetings with students' government leaders at the university's Mbeya Campus, where he was on Monday for a familiarisation and inspection tour. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Do more to promote use of Kiswahili, VP tells experts

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taught to foreigners, she said.

Similarly there aren't enough experts to teach Kiswahili to foreigners, as most of those who teach pupils the language do not have expertise in handling it for non-speakers of the language, she asserted.

Research has shown that those who teach Swahili in countries like the United States are not experts and do not have professional knowledge on how to teach the language, she further noted.

The VP said there is no specific budgetary allocation for the development of the language, as it is handled under the culture department, in which case relevant institutions need to make sure there is a specific budget for the advancement of the language.

She set out policy directives where the Union and Zanzibar governments constitute a team of experts to conduct research on challenges facing the development of Kiswahili and

how to solve them.

As it is rapidly becoming a globally used language product, stakeholders need to come up with programmes to teach the language outside Tanzania, as this will send a message that foreigners who want to learn the language would do best to come to Tanzania.

She challenged the ministry to seek out language experts who can provide translation services in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC) and other regional organisations.

Language development organizations like the National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) on the Mainland and its Zanzibar counterpart, BAKIZA need to be financially empowered and work closely with publishers, the VP underlined.

Similarly, as Africa oscillates around the worldwide fourth industrial revolution, Swahili language experts should focus on moving alongside increased

digitalisation, she pointed out.

"It is high time experts think on how to cope with development brought about by digital technology, especially how to create Swahili command words in digital platforms," she elaborated.

VP Samia however took issue with private sector players, saying most of them still consider English as the language for communication, treating lightly the fact that they serve the biggest population that only knows Swahili as a unifying language.

She expressed the government's commitment to help nurture the language as a national symbol, also challenged experts to seriously look into formalization of new vocabularies, as there are many words being used that are not actually Swahili in character.

Abdallah Ulega, the deputy minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports had earlier noted that Swahili is spreading like a bush fire with technology growth, shaping up the urge for other countries to learn the language.

He said various international media outlets are struggling to learn the language, noting that Tanzania has a big role to spread the language as it is the home of Swahili.

"We currently have 1308 Swahili language experts in the ministry's data base and I call upon those who are yet to register to do so in order to have experts who can be sent whenever opportunities arise," he told the gathering.

Dr Method Samuel, the chairman of the BAKITA Board of Directors, in his introductory remarks thanked the VP and the Union government generally for support to help develop the language.

The event brought together stakeholders of the language, organized by BAKITA in collaboration with BAKIZA. Unlike in the past where it was commemorated differently on the Mainland and in the Isles, from this year day is marked jointly and next year it will be celebrated in Zanzibar.



Pupils in class at Kingongo Primary School in Ubungo municipality, Dar es Salaam, yesterday while seated on the floor owing to a shortage of desks. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Dar leaders camp at school following JPM's directive

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cement, sand and concrete mixers followed, and builders were soon onsite and construction kicked off.

RC Kunenge spent the better part of Monday at the school with other leaders, and some were heard saying that they would spend the night with builders to ensure that the work is completed in the shortest possible time.

As of yesterday, eight classrooms were taking shape at the school while regional, municipal and local government officials jostled for space in supervising the work.

The foundation was dug within hours and leaders there resolved that the classrooms would be complete and ready for use by January 28.

It was not clear how the resources were mobilized within hours but nonetheless the work

started and was ongoing as of yesterday, with some leaders camping there until midnight.

In his directive, President Magufuli said it was unacceptable that pupils in the commercial capital were studying under a tree and leaders were there watching.

"The Regional Commissioner is there, and their member of Parliament who happens to be a professor in education is here with me," he said.

He then directed that leaders in the area do whatever they had to do to ensure that the classrooms are built and furnished for pupils to use just like others in the country.

The response of leaders in this particular case shows just how the media can spur development by highlighting challenges on one hand and how leaders under supervision can do their job, observers noted.

JPM lays stone for TADB loaned dairy processing factory

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such projects bring to smallholder farmers. When our smallholder farmers' income is raised we are certain that the per capita income of the country can also rise;

"To us a project such as this has multi-developmental features and we are proud to be part of it. We want to play a

catalyst role to ensure the real transformation of the agriculture sector in Tanzania," the director underlined.

Josam Ntangeki, CEO and owner of Kahama Fresh Investments said that he started milk processing in 2017 with the capacity to process about 1,000 liters a day that increased to 2,500 liters by the end of last year.

"The plant construction started a few weeks ago and the laying of the foundation stone makes it official. With the loan disbursement from TADB, processing will be boosted to 10,000 liters per shift of 12 hours," he affirmed.

The company farm area covers about 3,300 hectares, keeping 4,130 Friesian-Ankole cross breed

cattle suited to that environment, he said, noting that the TADB financial facility will assure expansion of milk processing for a bigger market share.

For his part, Prof Lusato Kwirijilah a dairy industry consultant hired by TADB to provide technical assistance to the project said it will be the largest milk processing factory in

the Kagera region and will unlock markets for smallholder dairy farmers in the region.

The financing enabled the company to supply best breed dairy cattle to smallholder farmers in the region, along with provision of veterinary services, he pointed out.

"The Friesian-Ankole cross breed cattle are good in

producing milk and to achieve this goal there should be enough animal feeds and professional advice on the treatment of the cattle by villagers as they will be contributing milk to the factory," he said.

The existence of the factory in the district will enable smallholder farmers to sell up to 5,000 liters a day to the factory, he added.



This Kisbo Safari bus, which was on its way from Kahama to Dar es Salaam yesterday, overturned near Isaka as the driver moved to spare the life of an old woman who was crossing the road. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

One killed as bus falls into ditch in Kahama

One person was killed after a bus overturned and fell into a ditch in Kahama District on Monday.

14 others cheated death. The accident occurred early morning on Monday at Nyasumbi Msikitini area in Kahama township.

The bus belonging to Kisbo Safaris was travelling from Kahama in Shinyanga Region to Dar es Salaam

Speaking at the accident scene, one eye witness Elias, Jeremiah

said the cause of the accident was an old woman who was standing in the middle of the road and while the bus driver tried to avoid her it fell into a ditch.

Another eye witness Hamisi Mussa, one of the workers of the bus firm said the driver was trying to avoid knocking down the old woman only to fall into the ditch,

adding that there were no other injuries.

For his part, the bus driver, Raraja Abdullah said:

"The bus was carrying 44 passengers when we departed from Kahama main bus stand, but on reaching Nyasumbi Msikitini a woman appeared right in the middle of the road, and I tried my

level best to avoid knocking her as a result the bus fell into a ditch. There were no injuries among the passengers," he said.

The police have confirmed the accident saying the source was a woman who was in the middle of the road as a result the bus veered off the road and fell into a ditch.

Equipment for building of Morocco-Mwenge road in Dar pinched, sold as scrap

By Guardian Reporter

CONSTRUCTION equipment meant for Morocco-Mwenge road expansion project in Dar es Salaam reportedly stolen have been found in a scrap metal shed.

Consequently, police in Kinondoni region have detained a scrap metal dealer, Shaban Athuman as a suspect in the theft.

Solomon Kimaro, managing director of MAC contractors, partners for the project said yesterday that the theft was discovered on Monday when technicians were at work when they discovered some of the equipment, including bitumen and rakes for spreading tar missing at the project camp.

Following the discovery, Kimaro said the workers reported the matter to senior officials who later reported the matter to the police who at once launched investigations in liaison with the workers.

He said in the course of investigations, police officers from Mwenge Police Post found some of the equipment in a scrap metal shed not far from the firm's offices. "It is quite worrying to see equipment from a large contracting firm like this one being stolen and later found in a scrap metal shed, worse still they were found just near the project site. We want stern measures to be taken to deter such the practice," he said.

He added: "If equipment like rakes and bitumen can easily get

stolen, it means even some of the infrastructure being installed could as well disappear as some people can also vandalise them after the completion of the project

MAC contractors security officer Lutengano Mwabwagila said the stolen equipment included four rakes each valued at 140,000/- and two trucks loaded with bitumen, all valued at 8,060,000/-.

Reports from within the firm claimed the theft was discovered when an engineer from Nippo-Dai Nippon, MAC's subcontractor named Gonai, saw there was only one rake for spreading the tar.

The discovery made him communicate with fellow officials to know what the problem was as the work was going on slowly, and ultimately they discovered some of the equipment had been stolen.

Kinondoni Regional Police Commander Ramadhan Kingai yesterday confirmed by phone about the theft and said Athuman was arrested and held at Kijitonyama Police Station.

Kingai said investigations on the issue was still going on and that any time the suspect will appear in court.

The contract for the expansion of Morocco-Mwenge Road, second phase was signed by Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on March 1 2019 aimed at reducing traffic congestion along the road stretch.

Political stances should not cause conflicts among Zanzibaris - Seif

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad has said stances political parties should not instill conflicts and cause divisions among the people of Zanzibar.

He said many societies were afflicted by conflicts due to having different political stands and called on the people to change and go in tandem with the pace of the Phase VIII Government in uniting Zanzibaris to attain economic development.

Hamad was speaking to people of Bumbwini in Zanzibar North Region appealing to them to continue the existing unity in the Isles that has culminated in the Government of National Unity (GNU).

He said before the 1964 Revolution, Zanzibaris were disunited due to their political stances and beginning 1992, the situation was repeated.

"Immediately after the Revolution, Isles First President Abeid Amani Karume instituted a new law (Decree No 6 of 1964) that aimed to instill unity among Zanzibaris," he said, adding that Karume had a long sight in instituting that law.

He asked: "If we believe in the Revolution why can't we build up unity that our forebears had in mind?"

He said the Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi was preaching for unity since the beginning of the election campaigns, and after he was sworn-in he decided to implement that call.

He said in any country in the world, unity and solidarity are the qualities that bring peace as well as sustainable development.

"If we are immersed in conflict tourists and investors cannot come to us hence we must sustain our unity, and there should not be any other alternative in building up our Zanzibar and make development strides," he said.

He said as First Vice President, he has to put aside his ACT-Wazalendo's Chairmanship and put Zanzibar first.

Consequently, he called on the Zanzibar North Regional Commissioner to take stern measures against any Sheha who will be performing his duties discriminately.

"It is totally incomprehensible for the Isles president mobilizing for unity then there comes a few among us bent on taking us back, they must be held accountable," Hamad said.

Earlier, Zanzibar North regional Commissioner Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud assured the First Vice President that his region 100 per cent supports the GNU.

"If we are immersed in conflict tourists and investors cannot come to us hence we must sustain our unity, and there should not be any other alternative in building up our Zanzibar and make development strides"

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

Sisal production revamping in Tanga paying off - centre

THE government move to revive sisal farming in Tanga has started paying off by offering jobs to residents who are now being employed by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) which has been mandated to produce seeds for distribution to farmers.

The director for TARI Mlingano centre in Tanga Dr Catherine Senkoro said due to the exercise to produce seeds, about 160 people are paid for various tasks at the centre daily.

"Our centre has produced 5000 seeds which are ready for distribution to farmers, and we are using people around the research centre in various tasks which in turn gives them something to take home," she said.

She added that TARI spends about one million daily to pay residents who work as labourers.

One of the residents who is a beneficiary of the employment Mary Masinga a resident of Mkanyageni village said the sisal revival initiative has been very beneficial to them adding that most of the families have benefited.

Directors for TARI Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said about 70percent of hectares have been prepared for the project which is aimed at bringing the crop back to its old good days. He said the aim of TARI was to produce two million seeds within a short period of time and

distribute them to farmers hence achieve the government plan to have crop revived.

Tanzania has put in place strategies aimed at reviving sisal production from the current 30,000 tonnes of the crop annually to 120,000 tonnes by 2024.

The intention of the government is to recover production of sisal to its 1960s glory when Tanzania was top sisal producer in the world.

The revival of sisal production was part of the government's plan to revive production of all major crops, including cashew nuts, tea, tobacco, cotton, coffee and oil palm.

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06th of February 2021 at 11:00 AM in Kasulu – AIRD GARAGE

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• SALE WILL BE ON "AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS".

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1. **DAR ES SALAAM AUCTION LOCATION GREEN ACRES-VICTORIA BAGAMOYO ROAD**, from 25th to 29th of January 2021 from 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM and will continue during the auction day of the 30th of January 2021 from 08:00 to 10:00 AM.

2. **KASULU-KIGOMA AUCTION LOCATION LOGISTICS BASE – AIRD GARAGE** from 01st to 5th of FEBRUARY 2021 from 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM and will continue during the auction day of the 06th of FEBRUARY 2021 from 08:00 to 10:00 AM.

DAR ES SALAAM - THE AUCTION SHALL START at 11:00AM on 30th of Jan. 2021

KASULU-KIGOMA - THE AUCTION SHALL START at 11:00AM on 06th of February 2021

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• Sale is subject to reasonable reserved prices.

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China-Tanzania's joint maize project bolsters production in Morogoro

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MORE than 2,000 smallholder farmers from ten villages in Morogoro Region are expected to benefit from the China-Tanzania Joint Maize project, which intends to bolster production from 2 to 4 tonnes per acre.

Started in 2018 and is to end this year, the project is also geared towards ensuring food security and income generation to farmers in the region.

It is being implemented by Morogoro regional secretariat in collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), China Agricultural University (CAU) through the International Poverty Reduction Center of China (IPRCC).

Villages which are in the project include Peapea and Kitepe (Kilosa), Mtego wa Simba, Kikundi (Morogoro), Letugunya and Ngayaki (Gairo), Kisege (Kilombero), Kiswago, Makuyu and Mwaya (Malinyi).

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Loata Ole Sanare revealed this over the weekend when speaking at the function to hand over 10 motorcycles and certificates of appreciation to 10 best extension officers from across the region.

The function was attended by the Chinese Ambassador in Tanzania, Wang Ke, and CAU's vice president Prof Du Taisheng, who participated in zoom meeting technology from China.

He said the target of the project is to empower farmers to be able to produce 4 tonnes per acre before the end of the project this year since farmers have adopted Chinese agricultural technology through village extension officers

and Chinese agricultural officials who come as part of sharing knowledge with farmers in Tanzania.

"Before the project, farmers were able to produce two bags of maize per acre but after Chinese technology they are now able to produce tonnes per hectares, besides project facilitates endless seminar to extension officials, conducting baseline survey, farmers taught good agronomic practices with labour-intensive technology, supervise and monitoring on crop management like weeding on time and application of fertilisers," he disclosed.

Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Emmanuel Kalobelo said a target of 4 tonnes per acre is achieved taking into account that since the project offered motorcycles to extension officers something that motivates them to work hard.

CAU's Vice President, Prof Du Taisheng said technical and material support in agriculture is a must since Morogoro is among 12 Chinese overseas joint-learning centers for agriculture with the target of poverty alleviation and improving people's livelihoods.

For her part, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, said China will have endless support in Tanzania due to her efforts toward poverty reduction as the agriculture sector among seven expected to boost the country's economy.

For her part, village extension officer, Veronica Lugano, said the project improved maize production since farmers were not applying modern skills such as weeding on time, application of fertilisers, poor storage technology, and selection of best maize seeds.



Construction of road along Kawe Beach in Dar es Salaam in progress yesterday, the aim being chiefly to ease traffic congestion. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to announce 5,000 jobs for teachers to address shortage which is derailing provision of education in the country.

President John Magufuli hinted on the matter yesterday when he spoke to students at Bukoba Secondary School in Kegera Region shortly after witnessing the signing ceremony of a contract for extraction of Nickel in Ngara district.

"I am a teacher, I love teachers, you should continue doing the good job you are doing, my government recognizes what you are doing that is why all the top officials at the ministry are teachers," he said.

According to him, for a period of three years 300,000 teachers have been employed adding that

Government to announce 5,000 teaching vacancies

the government wants to add more because a country with educated people develops faster.

He called upon the students to study hard and maintain discipline to ensure they achieve what they want in life.

The Head of State said the government recognizes the challenges facing the education sector in the country, saying that it was committed to address all of them.

In 2019, the government announced to have employed 4,549 teachers for primary and secondary schools, in a move aimed at addressing shortage of

teaching staff in various public schools across the country.

The government has been putting efforts in attempts to reduce the capacity deficits and position the country towards its trajectory of attaining a middle-income economy.

However, only 6,000 science teachers were recruited in 2016 despite an increase in school enrollment and construction of more schools, leaving dozens of public schools struggling without basic teachers.

The efforts have been linked up with the implementation of a special project aimed

at improving the quality of secondary education and address the challenges born out of increased student enrolment.

The implementation of fee-free education policy massively increased the number of children joining secondary education across the country.

According to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, between 2015 and 2020, secondary enrolment increased from 1.8 million to 2.4 million.

The secondary age population is, meanwhile, estimated to double to 4.1million come 2024.

Owners of rental vehicles appeal to govt to reduce licence fees

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

OWNERS and drivers of motor vehicles for hire during special events have appealed to the government through the Works and Transport Ministry to review licence fees for the said vehicles of Im/- recommended by Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

Speaking here at the one-day meeting that discussed the issue they said it would be better for the

government to reduce the rate after in-depth market research.

"As service providers we like to continue providing the service but the rate recommended is too high compared to the kind of business we do which it is the livelihood for many of us," said Brian Fadhil, one of the service providers.

The Chairman of the Arusha and Kilimanjaro Bus Owners Association (AKIBOA) Locken Masawe said transporters are supposed to come

up with strong arguments to make the government change its stance.

"The arguments we have to come up with will decide whether the government will reduce the rate or we accept the new rate. We believe the government is ready to listen to us and that is why its officials are here with us to listen to our views," he said.

He added that the ministry should discuss with urban council officials countrywide to allocate special areas

to park these vehicles to enable hirers know where to look for them.

For his part LATRA's Licensing Manager Leo Ngowi said the aim of the meeting was to listen to stakeholders' views in order to improve the country's transport sector.

"The views to be given should cover all specified categories and not only a few among them as this will improve the proposed regulations in order to have in place a friendly transport service environment," Ngowi said.

Increase budgetary allocation towards climate change adaptation, African countries directed

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICAN countries should increase budgetary allocation towards climate change adaptation in order to hasten green and inclusive growth while protecting vulnerable communities from shocks, a senior UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has said.

Climate Change Coordinator, UNEP Africa Office, Richard Munang, said that bridging the adaptation financing gap in the continent will unleash economic benefits and strengthen the resilience of communities.

"Investing in adaptation is a sound economic decision and must become an added tool in every country's economic arsenals," Munang said.

Munang said that UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report that was launched on Jan. 14 emphasized that Africa's capacity to attain carbon neutrality lies in robust financing towards adaptation measures that prioritise a shift to clean energy and restoration of vital ecosystems.

According to the report, Africa requires 7 to 15 billion U.S. dollars annually to enhance adaptation to climate change besides nearly 3 trillion dollars investment that is required to implement nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and cap emissions in line with the Paris climate deal.

"The findings of this Adaptation Gap report send an unequivocal message of the urgent need to ratchet up adaptation actions which must align with accelerating socioeconomic growth to build resilience of populations in Africa," said Munang.

He said that a fusion of public and private sector investments should be prioritized in order to bridge funding shortfalls towards climate change adaptation in Africa.

Munang said that African countries should roll out a range of fiscal and policy incentives to hasten green recovery while lowering carbon emissions.

He proposed investments in nature-based solutions to enhance adaptation adding that home-grown innovations like the adoption of solar dryers by farmers will reduce post-harvest losses, boost food security and climate resilience.

Munang said that governments should encourage micro-lenders to provide capital to youth-owned green start-ups to strengthen their participation in climate adaptation.

BBC MEDIA ACTION
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international charity. We believe in the power of media and communication to help reduce poverty and support people in understanding their rights. Our aim is to inform, connect and empower people around the world. With an expanding portfolio, we are now advertising for the following positions in Tanzania:

Mentor/Producer - Presenter: will deliver in-depth mentoring on radio production to staff at a number of our radio partner stations throughout the country. The training and ongoing support aim to build their capacity to produce varied, high-quality and editorially robust radio programmes. The Mentor/Producer-Presenter will deliver training on location at the partner stations' studios and during centrally organised training events.

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Please only apply if you meet the basic criteria under the person specification which can be downloaded at:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/jobs/mentor-producer-presenter-tanzania-2021>
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Candidates should send their CV and a cover letter (PDF or Microsoft Word format) which outlines their experience and suitability for the role in English by email to: recruitment@tz.bbcmediaaction.org with the title of the position applied for in the subject line by 5pm on Sunday 31st January 2021. Please do not send certificates or other attachments.

Applicants with no separate cover letter will not be considered. These are local posts applicable to people who have the legal right to live and work in Tanzania and national terms and conditions will apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

"The role may involve working with groups of vulnerable children and adults. For the successful candidate, mandatory training will be provided on BBC Media Action's safeguarding policy and staff code of conduct. A police background check may form part of the recruitment process. BBC Media Action operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning all forms of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people."

The United Republic of Tanzania
President's Office
TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND

VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is currently implementing Productive Social Safety Net Program which aims at protecting the vulnerable poor households from severest consequences of poverty by implementing interventions that will lead to increased household incomes and opportunities while increasing consumption.

TASAF Executive Director is inviting applications from suitably qualified Tanzanian nationals to fill the empty vacant post of **Livelihood Enhancement Manager**.

Job Descriptions and required qualifications are **attached with this advertisement**.

How to apply:

- 1) Applications, enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail to the following address:
 - a) Executive Director
Tanzania Social Action Fund
P.O. Box 2719
Kambarage Tower,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road
Dodoma
 - b) Applications (In PDF Format), enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email: hrrm@tasaf.go.tz
- 2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered,
- 3) Deadline for receiving applications is 19th February, 2021,
- 4) Only successful candidate will be contacted.


Ladislaus Mwanganga
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Don Consults' Frederick Chuwa (R), a consulting engineer with the Same-Mwanga-Korogwe water project, pictured yesterday briefing Water minister Jumaa Aweso on the implementation of the project - which the government has since handed over to the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Friday Simbaya, Rukwa

Rukwa traditional leaders join battle on teenage pregnancies

TRADITIONAL leaders in Rukwa Region have joined the battle against teenage pregnancies in the region saying that the challenge needed coordinated efforts from all groups as it carries adverse impacts in health, social and economy.

Chief Malema Sinyangwe, a leader of the Fipa tribe said that the early pregnancies challenge has ruined dreams of various young girls in the country.

In an interview with this paper, Chief Sinyangwe said that more efforts are needed to ensure that young girls achieve their educational dreams without being thwarted by any obstacle.

According to him, interventions by the government in collaboration with stakeholders Youth Education through Tanzania (YES TZ), Rafiki SDO, Rukwa Sustainable Development Organisation (RUSUDEO), People's Development Forum (PDF) and Plan International, have produced positive outcomes as there is an increasing understanding in communities on dangers of early pregnancies.

"In order to succeed in this battle, stakeholders need to work together as a team by involving people from all walks of life including traditional leaders as well as religious leaders," he said.

Rukwa Region in collaboration with YES TZ, RUSUDEO, PDF, Rafiki SDO and Plan International, through a project called Girls Get Equal Integrated Approach To Ending Child Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM) Project (2020-2024) are implementing a five-year (2020-2025) strategy to address the challenge of teenage pregnancies, early marriages, which stands as major health problem in causing morbidity and mortality among adolescents and young girls.

Reached for comments, Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo said that early pregnancy and childbearing are among the challenges facing the region.

He vowed to ensure that the harmful

practice and all types of abuse are stamped out so as to allow adolescent girls reach their potentials.

Demographic survey data for 2015-2016 show that 29 percent of young women aged 15 to 19 in the region are already pregnant or have given birth.

Wangabo told The Guardian that, teenage pregnancy in the region is higher compared to the national average which stands at 27 percent, while Rukwa region has 29 percent.

"Due to this, we will work hard to ensure that they work together with stakeholders to address child marriage and teenage pregnancy problem in the region," he said.

He said that teenage pregnancies, early and forced marriages in Rukwa region are contributed by several factors including poverty, poor Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services and life skills education, harmful traditional practices and norms that oppress women and girls.

Other reasons are issues relating to child protection especially the girl child, gender-based violence, peer pressure, few boarding schools in the region, and few schools providing lunch for students (lack of feeding programmes).

Wangabo further said that child marriage has life threatening health consequences for girls. The Guardian has been informed that child brides are under pressure to become mothers soon after marriage so as to prove their fertility.

Data from Rukwa regional's strategy to end teen marriages and pregnancies show that, teenage pregnancies have had serious health, educational, economic and social consequences. Statistics on teenage pregnancies show that, over a period of three years (2017

to August, 2019), a total of 722 cases of student pregnancies were reported of which, 171 occurred in primary schools and 551 in secondary schools.

"An evaluation of the implementation of this strategy will be conducted every three months, six months and a year to ensure that by 2025 the problem of teenage pregnancy in the region becomes history," committed the Rukwa regional commissioner.

"In this regard, I invite all local and regional stakeholders to complement the region's efforts in addressing this problem which has serious consequences to the individual adolescents, families, communities, and the national," the RC appealed.

According to the YES TZ one of the partners complimenting Rukwa region efforts, there is a need to invest in sexual and reproductive health education for a lifetime of returns and generations to come, as adolescents and youth will better access the information and services they need to stay healthy, avoid unwanted pregnancy and childbearing, prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

Navina Mtibanzi, project coordinator at the YES TZ said that, early child bearing is linked to higher maternal mortality and morbidity rates, and increased risk of induced mostly illegal unsafe abortions.

"Maternal causes constitute the leading cause of deaths among adolescents, girls aged under 16 years have four times higher risk of dying in pregnancy or childbirth than women aged 20-24 years," Navina said adding: "Early childbearing is also associated with low birth weight, preterm delivery, severe neonatal conditions and early neonatal deaths."

Minister to NEMC: Reduce fees for scrap metal licences

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has further demonstrated its resolve to promote orderly and inclusive scrap metal business by ordering the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to reduce fees for scrap metal licences so that many people participate in this business.

Last week the government ordered the council to cut time for securing licences and lengthens validity time for those licences.

Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Ummy Mwalimu, told a joint meeting of representatives of her ministry, ministry of industry and trade, NEMC and scrap metal dealers here, that the fees are prohibitively high, discouraging many prospective traders from

venturing into that business.

"The current fees are putting off many prospective traders. A big trader has to pay a combined fee of 15 million/- for collecting, storing and transporting scrap metal.

Similarly a petty entrepreneur has to pay 1.5m/-. The fees are very high especially in the light of the present environment for doing this business in the country. NEMC board of directors and management must reduce these fees to attract more people into this business," she ordered.

Scrap metal business is important to Tanzania for good reasons, she said, explaining that it removes scrap metal from environment, it creates employment, it generates badly needed raw materials for local industries, it promotes an inclusive economy and swells state coffers because of revenue

collection.

The minister said because licences are issued annually, high fees are naturally increasing costs for doing business. Therefore, she called on the council to act swiftly and resolve the challenge.

NEMC Director General Samuel Gwamaka said the council will review the regulations to allow reduction of fees so that they become friendly to scrap metal dealers. He also said systematic scrap metal business will have positive impact on the economy and environment protection.

Further, he said, organised scrap metal business will increase disposable income of the people.

Robert Yohana, scrap metal dealer, said steps being taken by the government will benefit stakeholders in the business and the nation as a whole.

VACANCY



People are the business... Our business is people!

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position:	Vendor Prequalification Coordinator.
Contract Type & Duration	Permanent Contract.
Job Number:	GGM-2021-XFC-01.
Number of Positions:	02.
Works For:	Senior Supervisor Procurement and Contracts.
Qualifications:	Bachelor's degree or Advanced Diploma or Higher Diploma in Procurement and Supply Management / Materials Management / Economics /Engineering /BA /LLB or equivalent qualifications
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of three years' working experience in Procurement and Supply management, and Project management. Understand business objectives to generate project information, action items, schedule, and deliverables for the team. Experience with the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System, preferably SAP system. Dynamic knowledge and understanding of Supply Chain, effective ability to recognize opportunities and suggest ideas, achieve cost savings and streamline current processes to increase internal productivity
Purpose of the Role:	To undertake Expression of Interests (EOI) evaluations by providing technical, analytical, administration and coordination of Prequalification of Vendors who express interest of doing business with Geita Gold Mining Limited in line with the Local Content Regulation 2018
Main or Key Accountabilities:	<p>The Vendor Prequalification Coordinator duties will be the following and not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review requisition from end user including evaluation criteria before issue Expression of Interest to the public. Management of Expression of Interest from preparing the adverts, setting selection criteria, Mining Commission Notification and evaluation process To perform due diligence on vendors Ability to interpret vendor financial statements.! Ability to verify and validate vendor statements of past experiences Maintains files of completed Expression of interest Ability to verify vendor submitted company documents including documents related to industry specific, documents related to industry specific requirements (e.g. CRB, ERB, TMDA, ICMI, etc.). Ability to verify vendors compliance to Local Content regulations. Prepare Management reporting on agreed key performance areas Flexibility to undertake any duty related to the role. Maintain confidentiality of documents and correspondence. Displaying a sound knowledge of interpreting and applying Procurement Policies and Operating Guidelines. Experience to priorities conflicting demands, ability to perform duties with minimum supervision and to meet required deadlines Management reporting on agreed key performance areas. Demonstrate ability to analyze and solve problems, to develop new processes and procedures in response to changing working environment.
Additional Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Microsoft Skills Good Analytical abilities Good problem-solving skills Is a stronger negotiator Ability to work as a team member and contribute to a positive team environment.
Mode of Application:	<p>Application cover letter (Subject should be Vendor Prequalification Coordinator and/or quote the job number), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address.</p> <p>You will be required to bring original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.</p>
Contact Address:	<p>Senior Manager Human Resources, Geita Gold Mining Ltd, P.O. Box 532, Geita. Email: jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com</p> <p>NB: Internal applicants may submit applications to departmental Senior Officer Human Resources. All internal applications must be endorsed by the applicant's head of department.</p>
Application Deadline:	<p>Application letters should reach the above on or before 2nd February 2021 – 17hr30. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.</p>

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonestly@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com.

Shaaban Robert Secondary School

FORM V ADMISSION 2021

Application forms for the Form V –2021 are now available at the School office **Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** for the following combinations:-

- | | | |
|--|---|-------|
| Physics, Chemistry, Biology | - | (PCB) |
| Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics | - | (PCM) |
| Physics, Geography, Mathematics | - | (PGM) |
| Chemistry, Biology, Geography | - | (CBG) |
| Economics, Commerce, Accountancy | - | (ECA) |
| Economics, Geography, Mathematics | - | (EGM) |
| History, Geography, Economics | - | (HGE) |
| History, Geography, Language (English) | - | (HGL) |
| History, Kiswahili, Language (English) | - | (HKL) |

1. Applicant should not be above 18 years of age.
2. Fee for Registration is Tshs. 25,000/- only.

Scholarships and bursaries are available for the deserving candidates with outstanding academic results and the needy, respectively.

The Headmaster
P. O. Box 736
DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: 2114903 / 2114935
Cell No. 0693 - 081 688
E-mail: info@shaabanrobert.sc.tz

VTF, WWF, TFS partner in executing a three-year climate change project

By Correspondent Amri Lugungulo,

Kisarawe

VODACOM Tanzania Foundation (VTF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) have teamed up in executing a three-year environmental conservation project in Kisarawe, Mkuranga, and Dodoma districts.

Dubbed: 'Kisarawe, Mkuranga and Dodoma Climate Change Project' is meant to scale up environmental conservation initiatives in the districts.

Forest reserves of Kazimzumbwi, Pugu, Vikindu, and Dodoma are to benefit from the 2.2bn/- climate change project, whereby VTF will pump in 1.4bn/-, and WWF will contribute 770m/-, while TFS will incur the cost of conserving and protecting the forest reserves.

Speaking recently at the official launch of the project, Kisarawe District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo commended the partnership of the three sponsors for coming out to cooperate with the government to conserve the forest reserves, which are subjected to many pressures of a natural and human nature. Forest degradation occurs mainly in protected areas close to Dar es Salaam and other towns.

VTF manager, Sandra Oswald said the foundation will team up with the government to conserve the nature of the forest environment during the project which would work for three years from 2020 to 2023.

She said the project would work on sustaining natural vegetation in the areas.

The representative said VTF invited various public and private institutions including community-based organizations to work

together to improve the nature reserve of Pugu, Kazimzumbwi, and Vikindu in the region by planting natural trees.

Programme coordinator of WWF, Savinus Kessy said the project would plant 150,000 natural trees in a total of 90 hectares.

The Vikindu, Pugu, and Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserves, less than 20 km from Dar es Salaam are remnants of coastal forest and recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot due to their exceptional wealth of species. This includes endangered birds such as the Sokoke Pipit *Anthus sokokensis* and a plethora of endemic invertebrates, small mammals, and plants. In fact, over 30% of its plant species are found nowhere else. These forests provide vital ecosystem services such as water purification and climate regulation and are important sources of food, fuel, and livelihoods for the surrounding communities. Rapid population growth in towns along the coast has led to tree felling for charcoal production, as well as illegal deforestation for agriculture and settlements. Poverty forces people to heavily extract forest products from the reserves, severely degrading the habitat.



She said the project would work on sustaining natural vegetation in the areas.



People engaged by China's Sinohydro Construction Company dig a sewage trench at a spot in the Esso section of Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

EIGHTY-NINE percent of First-Year students enrolled in Mzumbe University, Mbeya Branch are being accommodated in rented houses outside the campus due to an acute shortage of hostels, a situation that threatens student's security.

The remarks were given by the campus' Principal, Prof George Shumbusho during the first visit by the new Chancellor of Mzumbe University, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, former Zanzibar President whose aim was self-introduction and inspection of the University's projects.

He said accommodation of students outside the college

'Most of Mzumbe University's Mbeya campus students stay in rented houses'

causes administrative hardships at the college especially when they are faced with various disasters including infectious diseases.

He said as for now, the college has secured 226 hectares of land in Iwambi Ward and already it has embarked on land utilization including the construction of hostels, lecture theatres, staff quarters, and commercial buildings.

He appealed to the government to assist the college with funds for the infrastructures that will

alleviate the accommodation problem in particular.

The University's Chancellor, Dr Shein pledged to work together with the college's management to ensure the plan is implemented within a short time.

He said he hoped the government will provide the needed funds for the project and called on staff and students to be patient while things were being ironed out.

He also called on the students to study hard to attain knowledge

that would help the country embrace science and technology culture.

Earlier, welcoming Dr Shein, the College's Vice-Chancellor Prof Lugano Kasiluka said the Mbeya Branch of Mzumbe University was established in 2006 with its cornerstone laid by Dr. Shein himself when he was the country's Vice President.

He said at that time the college offered only two fields, but now it has expanded and offers 12 fields from Diploma to Degree levels.



Garbage scattered all over Songea municipality's Manzese market at the weekend, with sources hinting that it had lain uncollected for several weeks now. Photo: Correspondent Michael Emmanuel

TALGWU embarks on training of its regional chairpersons

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) has embarked on providing leadership training for its chairpersons for all regions in Tanzania Mainland to enable them to deal with workers' problems peacefully.

The training aims to empower the chairpersons to instill a state of peace in the trade unions by solving their problems through dialogue.

The training was officially launched here on Monday by the

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila involving 23 chairpersons from the Association while three of them were claimed to have been in retirement.

Speaking at the event, TALGWI National Chairman who is also President of Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) Tumaini Nyamhokya said the training will run for three days.

He said the chairpersons are required to go and train fellow members in their areas in order to come up with one single voice nationally.

He further said apart from the leadership training, the leaders will also be trained on how to prepare themselves for retirement as well as various other issues regarding social security funds.

"We have already seen the fruits of solving workers conflicts through dialogue with the government, we fought for those Standard VII workers who were employed in 2004 and before, and now they have started being paid the salaries that had been suspended," Nyamhokya said.

He said dialogue between trade union officials and the

government also helped the government in reducing tax on workers. And added that even social security funds procedures on retirement benefits were well listened to by President John Magufuli vial dialogue.

TALGWU Secretary-General Rashid Mrima said the training will continue to be provided to other Association officials including secretaries.

Opening the training, Mbeya RC Chalamila praised the Association for organizing the training seminars saying they will strengthen the trade unions.

Operate commercially, Dr Ndugulile tells TTCL

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER for Communication and Information Technology, Dr Faustine Ndugulile wanted TTCL Corporation to come out with a different outfit and operate commercially.

Officiating at TTCL Corporation regional managers meeting from Mainland and Zanzibar here yesterday, Dr Ndugulile called upon the team to be innovative and creative to serve the strategic projects with reliable communications.

He said much has there are some improvement from what it used to be in the past five years, the minister said TTCL Corporation must be focused and choose their destination to serve digital economy and e-commerce.

"You must create a conducive environment to support the government to operate fluently and with the needed flexibility to public to access the number of services," said Dr Ndugulile.

He wanted the market and research departments within the corporation to come up with findings that will help TTCL operate more efficiently while guided by innovations and accountability.

Dr Ndugulile wanted the management to shy away from the business as usual trend and migrate their business to meet the market and customers demand.

"You must compete with other telecommunications companies and prosper, you must come with strategies that will assist you to reach that goal and having tangible productivity results.

He said the shortcomings must be well addressed whereas marketing must match with the product availability if they are to excel as they cut down uncalled for expenditures.

Dr Ndugulile said they should re-check their data centre expenses which he said are not realistic so that innovators can benefit from the package.

Earlier, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Dr Jim Yonazi wanted to see a national telecommunication corporation that serves the public with highest degree of excellence.

On his part, TTCL Corporation Managing Director, Waziri Kindamba said they are moving to the right trend whereas a lot of positive results are being attained though they have not reached the needed point of excellence.

In the next coming months, he said, they are expecting to sign contract with Malawi and Dubai whose discussions are still at the initial stage as they are working to improve their infrastructures.



You must create a conducive environment to support the government to operate fluently and with the needed flexibility to public to access the number of services



NCCR-Mageuzi publicity secretary Edward Simbeye (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the opposition party's decision to demand a new Constitution and an independent electoral commission for Tanzania. He is with the party's chairman for Temeke District, Miraji Ayoub. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Ruvuma RC praises local councils for good revenue collection supervision

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme has praised local government executive directors for their supervision in revenue collection during FY 2019/20 during which all the eight local councils in the region passed the 80 percent target making it among the country's best revenue collecting regions.

The RC also praised Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Ruvuma Region for the good job done in tax collection during the same Financial Year after it collected more than 15bn/-, equivalent to 94 percent of the set target.

"I congratulate Tunduru District Council for collecting its internal revenue by 121.87 percent, thereby surpassing its collection target.

Similarly, I congratulate Songea Municipal Council, since the new Bus Stand started operating on January 1 this year, it has increased its revenue from 200,000/- to 970,000/- each day," she said.

Mndeme said the region expects to develop economically by increasing its tax revenue following the opening of Mtwara Corridor Highway that has opened up many business opportunities.

She said ships in Lake Nyasa have started operating after the inauguration of MV Mbeya, a passenger vessel on January 5 this year by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. The vessel has a capacity to carry 300 passengers and 200 tonnes of cargo.

The RC instructed local council directors to closely supervise tax revenue collection as the money is used for development projects including the construction of

health centres, roads, railway construction, and purchase of airplanes.

She also directed all local council authorities in the region to be innovative in expanding the tax base and mobilize people to demand receipts for all their purchases, and for traders to issue such receipts without fail.

I congratulate Tunduru District Council for collecting its internal revenue by 121.87 percent, thereby surpassing its collection target. Similarly



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER MINING RELATED SERVICES

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from interested and qualified parties to provide various mining related services.

Available Packages - Mining Related Services

- (1) Rock Crushing/Screening and Rehandle
- (2) Rehandle and Crusher Feeding
- (3) General Services and Machine Hire
- (4) Minor Services including construction and cement handling
- (5) Surface Piping Installation
- (6) Labour Supply Services

Information to Tender

Information to Tender may be obtained from: nm.proposal@barrick.com
Applicants must quote reference "Mining Related Services MINE11/2020" in the subject line of your email and submit your company profile. Interested parties may submit tenders for select individual packages, or for all available packages.

Key Dates

- Last date to request Information to Tender 28 January 2020
- Tender submission closing date 12 February 2020

North Mara Gold Mine Limited
19 January 2020

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
President's Office
TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country : Tanzania
Name of Project : Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)
Assignment Title : Director of Community Support
Reference No. TZ - TASAF-156658 -CS-INDV

1. The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The Government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
2. The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to ensure adherence to the Financing Agreement and Operational Manual in relation to the delivery of the functions of the directorate.
3. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz and can be obtained at the address given below.
4. The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
 - a) Holder of Masters Degree in Social Science, Business, Engineering or any other development related field from a recognized university,
 - b) A recognized professional qualification where applicable.
 - c) At least ten (10) years experience in relevant field in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven (7) years must be at senior managerial position.
 - d) Must be computer literate.
 - e) Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
 - f) High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels.
 - g) Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
 - h) Self motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality.
 - i) Experience with community based development initiative and social fund related operations are an added advantage.
 - j) Self-motivated and able to work effectively, efficiently and independently without direct supervision.
5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
6. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
8. Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 19th February, 2021.

The Executive Director,
Tanzania Social Action Fund,
Kambarage Building,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,
P. O. Box 2719,
Dodoma, Tanzania
Tel: +255 26 2963866
Fax: +255 26 2963871
E-mail: hrm@tasaf.go.tz

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
President's Office
TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country : Tanzania
Name of Project : Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)
Assignment Title : Director of Internal Audit
Reference No . TZ-TASAF-156656 – CS - INDV

1. The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The Government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
2. The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to manage the internal audit functions of the Project as specified in the Financing Agreement and Operational Manual.
3. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz and can be obtained at the address given below.
4. The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
 - (a) Holder of Masters Degree in Finance, Accounting and Finance, Business Administration or any other related field from recognized university.
 - (b) Must possess internationally recognized accounting professional qualification such as CPA (T), ACCA, CIMA, CISA or other related profession.
 - (c) Must be registered with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) in the category of Associate Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) or Fellow Certified Public Accountant (FCPA) or any equivalent international recognized board.
 - (d) At least ten (10) years experience in relevant field in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven years (7) must be at senior managerial position.
 - (e) Must have a working knowledge of computerized Accounting and Audit systems.
 - (f) Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
 - (g) High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels. .
 - (h) Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
 - (i) Self motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality.
5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
6. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
8. Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 19th February, 2021.

The Executive Director,
Tanzania Social Action Fund,
Kambarage Building,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,
P. O. Box 2719,
Dodoma, Tanzania
Tel: +255 26 2963866
Fax: +255 26 2963871
E-mail: hrm@tasaf.go.tz

ICTs inspiring youths to go into agripreneurship

MANY a revolutions in the world, be it on the humanitarian, political, societal or other fronts have been brought upon by the youths. They are always open for change and in many cases are not hesitant to have a rendezvous with the new. The hundreds of studies conducted in the field of diffusion of innovations around the world has already characterised the 'innovators' the first to adopt an innovation in a social system to be young and venturesome.

But along with the desire to change there should be the way to change which has been provided by the Information and Communication Technology. Because of an open mind and better ability for understanding and adaptation, they are no longer afraid to explore the virtual world of information and innovations and the electronic mouse has

been a true friend guiding them through it. Use of ICTs in agriculture does not necessarily need tech-savvy youth but those who can think out-of-the-box with a dash of creativity.

Mode of access to ICTs by the youth: Information and communication technologies (ICT) play a critical role in global development, and venues such as libraries, village resource centres, community information centres, village knowledge centres, telecentres and cybercafés, which offer public access to ICT, can make ICT accessible to broader sectors of the population. This broader access to ICT can have positive consequences to the social and economic development of marginalised and underserved populations and help bridge the so-called digital divide. However, unlike many young men who rush to look for jobs in financial

organisations like banks, micro-finance institutions and insurance companies

The ICTs and the youth can prove to be great catalyst in agriculture. ICTs are the developmental tool kit to empower the rural youth to fight against the odds of poverty, backwardness and illiteracy and come out victorious from their agricultural fields. It is not a mere technological innovation to come and go but application of ICTs in agriculture is a permanent solution to the problems of the sector in developing countries. It will also bridge the gap between the present and the past and make the young people the catalyst for the change in their peers.

Moreover, forming an opportunity of employment for the rural youth do not only help them but save the society from many odds. ICTs empower the rural youth and channel their energy in a desired direction.

Of the other direct impact of ICTs on youth in agriculture are forming virtual peer groups to share their experience.

ICTs increase the productivity and inspire the youth to venture in agripreneurship. ICTs also increase the social status of the farmers and the need of social recognition attracts others to the use of technology in their conditions also. It also increases the negotiating power of the farmers and makes them more informed for not to be cheated by others.

The role of ICTs, thus, can be felt in every sphere of the youth in agriculture. In many countries, mobile phones have reduced many a work of the farmers which they can devote in other works. They don't have to walk long distances in order to transfer money from the bank or getting information about the market price.

African grassroots innovators can develop technologies to improve production capacity

A diaspora is a scattered population whose origin lies in a separate geographic locale. Historically, the word diaspora was used to refer to the mass dispersion of a population from its indigenous territories, specifically the dispersion of Jews. While the term was originally used to describe the forced displacement of certain peoples, diasporas is now generally used to describe those who identify with a homeland, but live outside of it.

Some notable diasporas are the African diaspora which primarily includes the descendants of the Africans who were transported to the Americas during the Transatlantic slave trade.

The African Diaspora Network (ADN), in partnership with the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and the Miller Centre for Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, proudly announced the ten recipients of the 2021 Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) award

"We are thrilled to award each of the Builder of Africa's Future winners catalytic funding in recognition of their impactful work, and we ask [others] to join us investing in, supporting, and celebrating these change makers in building Africa's future." CD Glin, USADF President and CEO. The ten recipients of the 2021 Builders of Africa's Future will be presented at a special event on January 27, this year.

The Builders of Africa's Future awardees were carefully selected from across the continent in partnership with nominating partners: Stanford SEED, MIT,

Segal Family Foundation, and Siemens Stiftung, to name a few. Each of these entrepreneurs also fit the following criteria: possession of a tangible physical or digital product, demonstrable traction in product usage, addressing challenges unique to the African socio-economic climate, and must have been in operation for a minimum of 6 months.

According to Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director of the African Diaspora Network, "Every year, we select Africa's most promising entrepreneurs to join us in Silicon Valley to connect them to potential investors, mentors, and partners. "We see increased opportunity for the Builders of Africa's Future to accelerate their ventures through partnerships with Diasporans and Friends of Africa to address Africa's unique needs through technology. Each of our 2021 BAF awardees are early-stage startup founders with proven track records. This year we are excited to add a new cohort, which has shown incredible resilience, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The 2021 Builders of Africa's Future awardees will each receive \$5,000 courtesy of USADF, entrepreneurship training from the Miller Center for Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, and an opportunity to pitch to investors during a virtual event at the January 27, 2021 convening of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS21). The awardees will also gain access to the African Diaspora Network's global community and join the exclusive BAF cohort.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

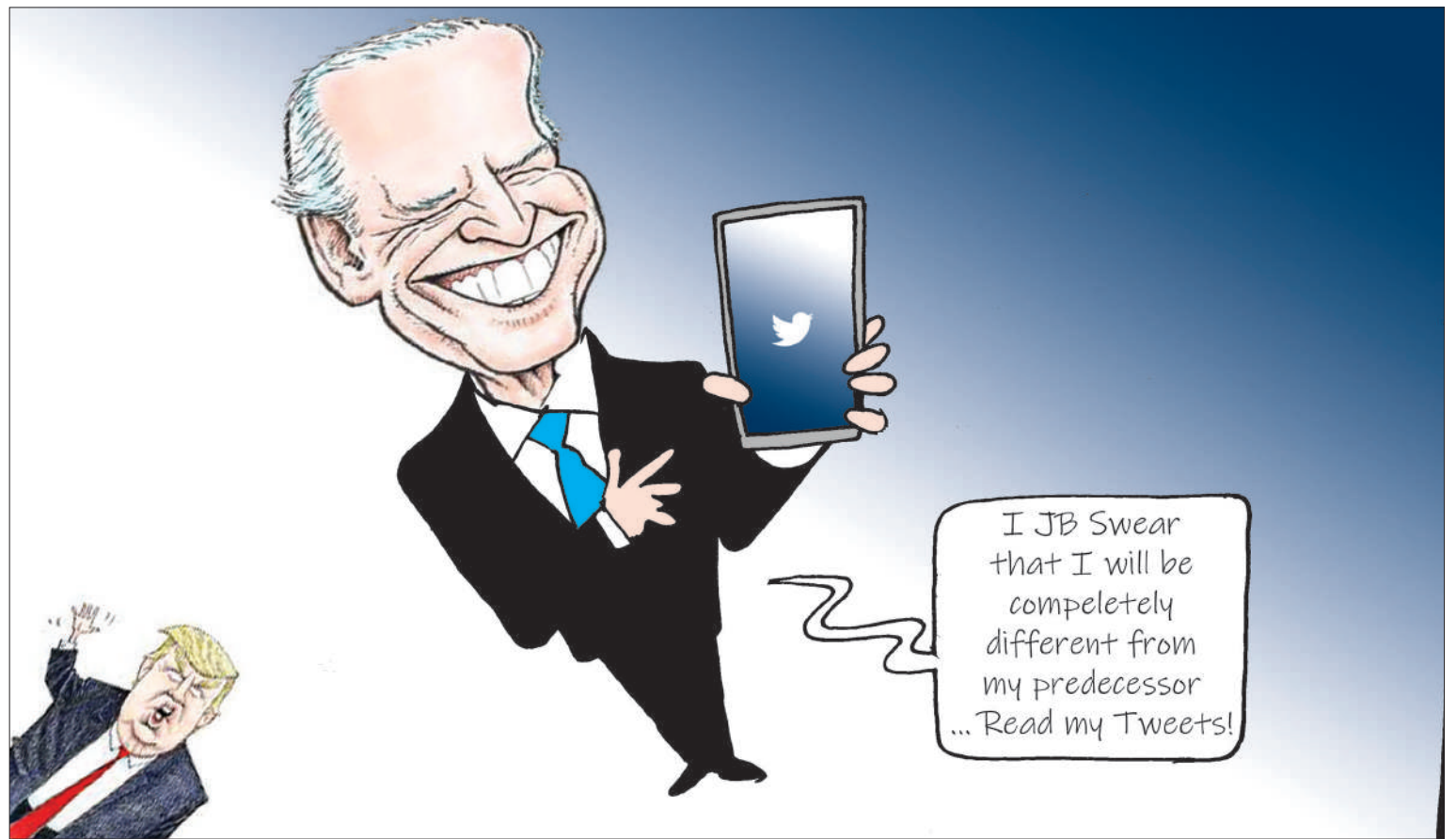
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Mental illness and disorders: A snapshot

By Dr Fikrejesus Amahazion

MENTAL illnesses also sometimes referred to as mental disorders are conditions that affect an individual's thinking, feelings, moods, and behaviors. They are associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work, or family activities. Ranging in duration from temporary or occasional to long-lasting (which is called chronic), mental illnesses can impact an individual's ability to function, substantially interfere with or limit major life activities, or affect how one relates to and interacts with others.

While mental illnesses can take several forms and are of many different types, some of the most frequently occurring or common ones include: anxiety disorders (including panic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and phobias [abnormal fears]), depression, bipolar disorder, various mood disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, addictive behaviors, dementia, developmental disorders and intellectual disabilities, and psychotic disorders (including schizophrenia).

Contrary to popular general perceptions, mental illnesses are actually quite common. In fact, medical research and estimates from international organizations suggest that mental health conditions will affect as many as one in four people at some time in their lives. Globally, mental illness remains a considerable challenge and problem.

For instance, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global burden of mental disorders continues to grow with significant impacts on health and major social, human rights and economic consequences in all countries of the world.

Based on recent figures and data, around the world an estimated 264 million people are affected by depression, about 45 million people are affected by bipolar disorder, approximately 20 million people are affected by schizophrenia, and an estimated 50 million people have dementia. Notably, since the WHO declared the coronavirus a pandemic early last year, mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, have surged in populations around the world.

Importantly, there are effective treatments for mental illnesses and a number of different ways to alleviate the suffering caused by them do exist. Generally, with appropriate treatment and



support, people that are affected by mental illnesses can continue to function in their daily lives. Treatment plans, which will depend on the type of illness and its severity, can include some form of therapy, the use of medications, systems of social support and education, or intensive treatment and hospitalization.

In Eritrea, common mental illnesses include depressive and anxiety disorders, while other common conditions are schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, neurotic, stress, and mood disorders, epilepsy, and dementia. As well, many adults and children living in different parts of the country have intellectual disabilities (e.g., autism spectrum disorder, childhood intellectual disability, childhood neurological origin, and other developmental disabilities).

Regarding treatment, care, and services for mental illnesses, Eritrea has a small network of mental health facilities and services. The main mental health facility is Saint Mary's Neuro-Psychiatric hospital, located in Asmara, which provides inpatient care and long-stay residential services for people with mental disorders. Built in 1971, it provides both inpatient and outpatient services.

Another community residential care facility serves those with relatively stable and chronic mental disorders not requiring intensive medical interventions. Additionally, there are some psychiatric units attached to general hospitals in different administrative zones of the country.

Notably, essential psychotropic medicines, which are considered effective treatments for mental disorders, are available within health facilities. Various types of medicines are provided to patients, such as antipsychotics,

anxiolytics, antidepressants, mood stabilizers, and antiepileptic drugs.

In accordance with the nation's longstanding focus on and commitment to social justice, accessibility, and the right to health, patients do not pay for treatment, care, or services, and they are provided free access to medicines. It should be noted that this is especially significant since many individuals with mental disorders in Eritrea tend to come from low-income households and are often poorer than the rest of the general population.

Beyond formal and institutionalized treatment and care services, many people living with mental illnesses rely on community or family networks for support.

Additionally, some may choose to turn to alternative practitioners. Since Eritrea is still largely a traditional, conservative, religion-bound society, people with mental illness and their families regard traditional healers and religious leaders (e.g., priests or ministers) as culturally appropriate and effective.

Moving forward, there are a number of steps that can be taken to help address issues related to mental health. For instance, to date, Eritrea has prioritized public health fundamentals, such as clean water, hunger and malnutrition, sanitation, vaccination, and communicable diseases.

This has helped to ensure that the country has made great health-related gains. (It was one of the few countries in the developing world that entered the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals period having achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals targets on health.) However, this has also meant that mental illnesses have tended to receive less attention

and focus.

Moving forward, with mental illnesses likely to become an increasingly prominent issue in the country, greater investment and focus on mental health will be necessary. Ongoing efforts to train more mental health specialists, especially psychiatrists and psychologists, as well as to improve local facilities, should continue and be further expanded. Additionally, more research and work can be devoted to studying mental illness in the country, which can help to provide critically relevant information for government, policymakers, and healthcare professionals.

Second, although there has been much progress, it is unfortunate that stigma and discrimination remain a problem. Similar to many other countries across Africa and around the world, in Eritrea mental illness is widely stigmatized and poorly understood.

For instance, it is often considered as a punishment from God, the result of witchcraft, sorcery, or possession by evil spirits, contagious, a sign of weakness, and a source of great shame and disgrace. Moreover, people with mental illness often encounter isolation or social exclusion, experience ridicule or blame for their illness, and are frequently considered dangerous, dependent, and unfit for marriage or work.

It is not uncommon for family members of mentally ill persons to also experience stigma themselves. Beyond being a problem in itself, stigma can serve as a key barrier to mental health treatment, inhibiting both the mentally ill and their families from acknowledging the condition or seeking help.

Accordingly, more initiatives to increase public awareness, understanding, and knowledge about mental illness should be implemented. Messages must underscore that mental illnesses are medical problems and that they can affect anyone. It is also encouraging that legislative measures have been put into place to eliminate stigma and discrimination, while ensuring equality of opportunity, access, and participation in all aspects of life for people with mental illnesses and disabilities.

Finally, it is necessary that we, as individuals, families, and communities, change our harmful attitudes and behaviors towards those with mental illness. We all should recognize them as capable human beings with inherent worth and we should treat them as we would want to be treated.

Explainer: Trump's legacy - Big policy changes that often got lost amid the din and scandal

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump may be best remembered for his use of Twitter as a bully pulpit to stoke controversy or browbeat opponents, but the noise his tweets generated often distracted from the big policy changes he made over his four-year term.

During his rollercoaster presidency, the focus was often on what Trump was saying and not what on he was doing as he careened from one self-induced crisis to another. But a review of his policies shows that he had a real effect on people's lives in the areas of energy and environment, immigration, the judiciary, business and the economy, trade, and foreign policy, among others.

CHINA

The Trump administration put China's rise in the spotlight and helped forge a bipartisan and increasingly adversarial U.S. view of the world's second-largest economy.

From a raft of tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese imports to sanctions against top officials and a muscular use of penalties against top Chinese companies like Huawei, ZTE, SMIC and TikTok, Trump hit Beijing on a variety of fronts.

Some allies, however, have raised questions about the effectiveness of these measures and hope that President-elect Joe Biden, who has promised to be just as tough on China, will coordinate better with them to rein in Beijing.

Tensions have risen especially over the past year with Trump repeatedly blaming China for the coronavirus, which originated in the city of Wuhan.

The two global powers are increasingly at odds over a range of other issues, including Hong Kong, Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Biden has been vague about his plans for some of Trump's signature measures, it will be hard for him to dramatically unwind many of them, given the overwhelmingly bipartisan anti-China sentiment in the U.S. Congress.

ECONOMY

The U.S. economy under Trump had two distinct phases: pre-and post-COVID-19.

Before the coronavirus pandemic hit in March of 2020, unemployment had hit 50-year lows, wages were rising for lower-income jobs, and the gap between Black and white unemployment was narrowing.

The landmark tax bill Trump signed in late 2017 pushed economic growth over 3%, a Trump campaign promise, for a brief period.

Things could have been better, but an 18-month tariff war with China, which cost U.S. companies billions, was a drag on growth and jobs. It ended in early 2020 with a bigger trade deficit with China than when it began.

Three Federal Reserve rate cuts in 2019 helped blunt the impact. Taxpayers shelled out about \$50 billion in subsidies to U.S. farmers in 2020 alone to make up for the loss in sales to China.

The pandemic, and the administration's failure to control it, risks leaving the economy scarred long after Trump leaves office. About 21 million jobs disappeared immediately, and 9 million of those still haven't come back. Millions more have had hours or pay reduced, or dropped out of the labor force altogether.

Meanwhile, the U.S. national debt jumped by nearly \$7.8 trillion, to \$27 trillion, as corporate tax revenue dropped and spending increased to counter the trade war and pandemic impacts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Trump routinely dismissed scientific consensus that industry was causing global warming and gutted federal science agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior and interfered with their scientific advisory panels. He also boasted about removing the United States from the global Paris Agreement on climate change.

He styled himself as a friend of fossil fuels, courting coal workers and oil executives alike and made good on promises to ease costs for energy companies by rolling back more than 100 climate- and environment-related regulations.

While oil and gas companies praised corporate tax cuts, they grumbled about Trump's trade war with China disrupting supply chains and jeopardizing demand for U.S. natural gas exports.

Many of Trump's deregulation efforts were successfully challenged in court due to bureaucratic errors in rulemaking procedures.

Trump opened up a record number of acres on public lands to drilling and mining, including a last-minute auction for oil development permits in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that attracted few bidders.

In his first weeks in office, Biden is expected to begin reversing some of Trump's most prominent regulatory rollbacks, rejoin the Paris agreement and order every federal cabinet agency to identify who is in charge of combating climate change.

FOREIGN POLICY

Had Trump won the Nov. 3 election, America's friends and foes were girding for a second four years, to borrow one of his favorite phrases, the likes of which the world had never seen. His election defeat deprived him of the chance to double down on his "America First" agenda, but the fallout is expected to linger.

Trump has upended some tenets of America's post-



U.S. President Donald Trump shows signed executive orders for economic relief at his golf resort in Bedminster, New Jersey, U.S., August 8, 2020. File photo

World War Two foreign policy by questioning the NATO alliance, alienating European partners and indulging autocrats.

His disdain for multilateralism prompted withdrawals from accords and bodies, including the Iran nuclear deal and the World Health Organization. His treatment of U.S. allies has left Biden with shell-shocked friends and the challenge of restoring the United States as a champion of democracy.

Trump partially delivered on a campaign promise to bring troops home from "endless wars," but scaled-down forces remain in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Despite Trump's historic engagement with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, he has made no progress in persuading Kim to give up his nuclear weapons.

Trump's hard line on Iran has crippled its economy but not forced it back to the negotiating table, and Biden's aides see the last-minute piling-on of sanctions by the Republican administration as an effort to box him in.

While Trump failed to achieve promised Israeli-Palestinian peace, he brokered deals to normalize relations between Israel and four Arab neighbors.

IMMIGRATION

Trump ended his presidency as he began it - with a laser-like focus on immigration.

"We got it done," Trump said, standing in front of a section of the 450 miles (724 km) of new and replacement border fence in Texas on one of the last days of his presidency.

The 18-30 foot-high steel fence is the most visible example of Trump's reshaping of the U.S. immigration system. He set up a multitude of new bureaucratic hurdles for immigrants seeking to enter or stay in the United States. Many of the measures were challenged in court and some were stopped by national injunctions.

Trump imposed a travel ban on a hand-

ful of Muslim-majority nations which was later expanded, slashed the U.S. refugee program and forced tens of thousands of asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court hearings.

Trump's 2018 "zero-tolerance" policy to prosecute illegal border crossings led to several thousand children being separated from parents and legal guardians at the U.S.-Mexico border. He later reversed the policy but the parents of some 600 children have still not been located by advocates.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the administration imposed new restrictions that allow border officials to expel almost all migrants caught crossing the border and block the entry of many temporary foreign workers and applicants for green cards.

Biden plans to send a bill to Congress on Wednesday that lays out "a clear roadmap to citizenship" for some 11 million people living in the United States unlawfully. He has also said he will rescind the travel ban, end the program requiring asylum seekers to wait in Mexico and seek to reunite children separated from their parents.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Trump wasn't happy when judges he appointed ruled against his efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election results, but his reshaping of the judiciary in a conservative direction is still one of his biggest legacies.

During his four years in office, he appointed three Supreme Court justices, the first time that has been done since President Richard Nixon appointed four in his first term. The court now has a rock-solid 6-3 conservative majority.

Trump can thank Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who made judicial nominations a priority, for his ability to appoint not just Supreme Court justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett but also dozens of lower

court judges.

Trump appointed 54 judges to the influential appeals courts, just one fewer than his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama managed in eight years and almost a third of the total number.

(For a graphic showing Trump's impact on federal appeals courts, click tmsnrts.com/2PPsGtM)

Trump also named 174 district court judges, the lowest rung on the federal judicial ladder, making up about a quarter of the total number of judges now serving on those courts.

Biden will be able to make inroads on judicial appointments but opportunities are limited because there are few vacancies. He might get the chance to replace liberal Justice Stephen Breyer on the Supreme Court if the 82-year-old chooses to retire.

RACE RELATIONS

Trump saved some of his nastiest words for Black athletes kneeling to protest racial injustice, Black and Muslim women politicians who disagreed with him, and non-white immigrants and asylum seekers.

White nationalism, which has festered in the United States since its very start, bloomed under Trump. Propaganda and recruiting for anti-minority organizations jumped and hate crimes climbed. The Capitol riot on Jan. 6 may be just the beginning of more violent threats from white nationalists, terror experts say.

Trump policy took aim at Muslims specifically. The early "Muslim Ban" limited travelers from several Muslim-majority countries, while a domestic program tracking extremism was refocused here to only monitor Islamist threats, ignoring white nationalism.

Guidelines calling on colleges and universities to consider race to promote diversity, and encouraging public schools to use zoning and admissions into competitive schools and programs to tackle

inequalities, were rolled back in 2018.

A September 2020 Executive Order forbidding federal agencies and government contractors from diversity training that included "divisive concepts" resulted in some stopping any training on gender or race altogether.

A notable exception, 2018's First Step Act, was the first major criminal justice reform in a decade. It reduced mandatory minimum sentences, and allowed some federal prisoners to finish their sentences early with good behavior.

The toxic relationship between some city police departments and their communities was highlighted by the 2020 death of George Floyd; a divided Congress couldn't pass a bill in response.

REGULATIONS

Trump came into office pledging to slash corporate red tape which he said stymied economic growth and hurt jobs.

At his administration's urging, the Republican-led Congress swiftly reversed 16 regulations on fair lending, corporate disclosures, and consumer privacy, among others, and eased banking industry rules introduced following the 2009 financial crisis, in a landmark legislative victory. Most of the action, however, came from Trump's regulations, which across the government took hundreds of deregulatory measures.

While advocacy groups and progressives slammed Trump's deregulatory measures for hurting consumers or increasing systemic risks, the changes were rarely as radical as many had initially feared and in some cases even drew backing from Democrats sympathetic to the notion that small businesses would benefit from a lighter touch. Wall Street giants, for their part, won far fewer victories than they would have liked and in some cases found themselves at odds with Trump's regulators.

Despite the overarching pro-business flavor of Trump's time in office, his Justice Department led the charge against Big Tech, setting in motion antitrust investigations against Apple, Amazon.com and Facebook, and suing Google for using its online heft to cripple rivals.

Trump's team also loosened regulations on labor, allowed Corporate America to create more pollution, and was generally more welcoming of mergers and acquisitions. To a certain extent, the regulatory changes can be overturned, some very quickly, by the Biden administration.

With Democrats in charge of the Senate and House, some Trump actions will be reversed under the Congressional Review Act, while new staff at regulators can rewrite some, and choose not to enforce others. But big corporate tie-ups, like T-Mobile's purchase of Sprint, are unlikely to be undone.

Agencies



US President Donald Trump (fourth from left) and his extended family, who together could be worth more than US\$4 billion. Photo: Reuters

Trump's legacy: A more divided America, a more unsettled world

WASHINGTON

WHEN President Donald Trump delivered his inaugural speech on Jan. 20, 2017, he promised an end to "American carnage," a bleak and dysfunctional nation he had promised that he alone could fix.

Closing out his presidency exactly four years later, Trump leaves behind an even more polarized America, where thousands are dying daily from the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy is badly damaged and political violence has surged.

Trump didn't create the bitter differences that have come to define American life. Still, he seized upon many of them as tools to build his power base, promising to uplift rural America and the broader working class he said had been neglected by the Washington establishment.

When thousands of his angry followers - the vast majority of them white - marched on Capitol Hill on Jan. 6, they rallied behind Trump's false claims of a stolen election. The rioting that ensued left a police officer and four other people dead, dozens wounded and a nation shaken.

A major part of his legacy when he departs the White House on Wednesday is likely to be Americans more politically and culturally estranged from each other than they were when he took office.

At the heart of that divide, Trump's opponents say, is race. Early in his presidency, he initially resisted denouncing white nationalists after a deadly 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, fueling perceptions that he sympathized with their cause. His harsh rhetoric often worsened racial crises that flared over police killings of Black people on his watch.

"Sadly, he is the natural outcome of the history of divide and conquer," in American race relations, said Reverend William Barber, a prominent civil rights activist and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, an anti-poverty, anti-racism movement that Martin Luther King helped organize in the 1960s. "The thing is, he just pushed it all the way."

Trump has repeatedly denied any racist animus.

His staunch supporters argue that he served as a corrective to prior administrations of both parties that let down the poor, the working class and rural regions that have struggled in recent decades. That base of support remains large - another likely legacy of the Trump era.

Alex Bruesewitz, an organizer for Stop the Steal, a pro-Trump group protesting the election results, said the president retains his appeal to working-class voters. "They felt like they were the forgotten men and women. And the president said, 'You are forgotten no longer,'" Bruesewitz said.

Trump's refusal to concede defeat to Democratic President-elect Joe Biden, and his encouragement of his supporters to descend on the Capitol, mean his term is ending amid a swirl of untruths that millions of Republicans have taken to heart, creating a serious challenge for the new administration to win their trust.

The disorderly transfer of presidential power comes against the backdrop of the increased spread of a pandemic that Trump has downplayed, and mounting financial hardships from the deep recession spurred by it.

Keeping the country on edge, and prompting security lockdowns in Washington and state capitals, is concern that the pro-Trump mob's siege of the Capitol on Jan. 6 could embolden far-right extremists to

further violence.

"There has never been a presidency in modern times when America's dysfunction has been so fully on display," said Aaron David Miller, a former State Department adviser to Republican and Democratic administrations who is now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

White House spokesman Judd Deere rejected the notion that Trump's legacy lay in tatters.

In a written statement to Reuters, Deere cited a list of what he considered Trump's economic accomplishments, such as getting the country on the path to recovery and deregulatory moves, which have included loosened restrictions on auto emissions and oil drilling. He also argued that the president secured the border with Mexico, rebuilt U.S. military strength, brought some troops home and helped orchestrate development of a coronavirus vaccine in a matter of months.

"He leaves office having made America safer, stronger, more secure," Deere said.

He declined, in the statement, to address racism accusations against the president.

'AMERICA FIRST'

Trump did, in fact, deliver on a number of priorities for his Republican Party.

In partnership with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, he overhauled the U.S. judiciary, giving it a more conservative bent with the appointment of three Supreme Court justices and the fast-tracking of more than 200 federal judges.

Trump pushed through massive tax cuts for corporations. The economy expanded faster than it had under predecessor Barack Obama, and unemployment reached record lows.

But the solid economy, which he hoped would be his biggest reelection selling point, was swept away in a wave of coronavirus-driven shutdowns that plunged the country into the worst downturn in nearly a century as joblessness soared. The national debt, which had ballooned during his term, grew even more in his final year.

Trump catered to his base by cracking down on illegal immigration, but critics condemned his approach as too harsh. Biden plans to reverse much of it, including a travel ban on a handful of Muslim-majority nations. Erecting a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border was a signature pledge of his 2016 campaign. Less than half of the 1,000 miles he promised was built, much of it where existing barriers stood - and Mexico never paid for it as Trump had vowed.

Abroad, Trump often invoked his "America First" agenda. He dismantled or disrupted multilateral pacts, withdrawing from the Paris climate accord, which committed nearly every nation to cut greenhouse gas emissions; and the Iran nuclear deal, which eased sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. His administration eroded bedrock alliances like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, antagonized traditional partners and indulged autocrats such as Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

But Trump has been credited by Republicans as well as many Democrats for a tougher stance on China. He slapped tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese imports, sanctioned top officials over a crackdown in Hong Kong and imposed penalties on Chinese telecommunications companies. His administration faced some criticism, however, for provoking a trade war with Beijing and reverting to Cold War-style rhetoric.



Trump has also won praise for brokering historic accords to normalize relations between Israel and four once-hostile Arab neighbors. And he reduced U.S. forces in conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, though he failed to completely extract America from "endless wars" as he promised in his 2016 campaign.

"Trump did accomplish some useful things," Richard Haass, a former senior State Department official who is president of the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote on the think tank's website. He deserves credit, Haass said, "for moving the U.S. policy vis-à-vis an increasingly repressive, powerful, and assertive China in a more sober, critical direction."

But what the president got right, Haass added, was "dwarfed by what Trump got wrong," citing foremost "the damage he has done to American democracy."

FRINGE SUPPORTERS

Trump's political strength stemmed, in part, from his ability to pose as a populist champion to tap into white rural and working-class resentment that has been building for years, as the United States became a more multiracial society and their communities felt the brunt of globalization, analysts say.

Some far-right fringe groups have also flocked to Trump's banner. Rioters who gathered at the Capitol included some of the more extreme elements of his base, including members of QAnon, who espouse a debunked conspiracy theory that claims Trump is fighting a Democratic cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles and cannibals.

"Trump built a coalition out of white supremacists, conspiracy theorists and bigots," said Douglas Brinkley, presidential historian at Rice University in Houston.

Trump has denied any affinity for such groups or welcoming them into his fold. "I'm the least racist person you'll find anywhere in the world," he insisted in 2019.

Accusations against Trump of xenophobia extended to his immigration policies. One White House official told Reuters on condition of anonymity that it was a "fiasco" when the administration in 2018 separated several thousand children - including infants - from their undocumented parents at the Mexican border. Images of crying youngsters crowded into chain-link pens were beamed worldwide.

While some Trump supporters have turned away from him since the assault on the Capitol, most appear to be sticking with him. Seventy percent of Republicans remain loyal to Trump, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling done in the immediate aftermath of the siege. Many activists say they're willing to abandon the party for any perceived slight against their leader.

"I see Trump as a fighter for the people that actually work and put the backbone into this country," said Will Williams, a Trump supporter from Oklahoma. "His legacy will be remembered by me as a great man that took on the corruption in this country."

Trump's invocation of "American carnage" at his own inauguration, painting what many Democrats considered an overblown dystopian vision, was an appeal to that base and also to the urban poor. He said their dreams had been stifled by economic distress, crime, drugs and loss of jobs to other countries.

Opponents say Trump, a wealthy former real estate developer, did little to help them. He sought repeatedly to kill the Affordable Care Act, also

known as Obamacare, which helped millions of Americans get health insurance. His tariffs war with China hurt American farmers and didn't trigger the U.S. manufacturing revival he had promised. And his tax cuts mainly benefited the rich.

REPUBLICAN SOUL-SEARCHING?

As Trump heads out the door as the first president in U.S. history to be impeached twice, most recently on a charge of inciting the Capitol riot, the Republican Party's future is deeply uncertain.

Trump remade it in his image, replacing traditional conservative principles of fiscal austerity and commitment to international alliances with large deficits, his "America First" approach and a habit of frequently issuing policy shifts and trial balloons by Twitter. He demanded unwavering loyalty and turned on anyone who opposed him.

Now that Republicans find themselves relegated to the opposition in the Senate, the question is whether Trump's spell over the party - and "Trumpism" as a viable movement - will endure when he no longer wields the levers of government power.

Trump's base remains a potent electoral force. It handed him more votes - some 74 million - than any Republican in history. Fear of antagonizing them was evident when nearly half of Republican House members, fresh off the mob attack that had sent them scuttling for cover in the Capitol basement, endorsed a failed effort to block certification of Biden's victory.

But some cracks have formed in Republican ranks in response to the Capitol mayhem, and the party may be in for a period of soul-searching.

Trump's own political future could be in jeopardy as well. If convicted by the Senate in an impeachment trial that would occur after he leaves the White House, Trump could be banned from holding office again.

Bob Corker, a former Republican senator from Tennessee, said Trump had been a "consequential president" in terms of enacting many policies Republicans wanted. "But in the process of being purposely divisive and perpetuating untruths" about the election, "he undermined our democracy," Corker told Reuters.

Corker said the Republican Party needs "to go in a direction not led by him. We've got to redefine who we are."



I see Trump as a fighter for the people that actually work and put the backbone into this country," said Will Williams, a Trump supporter from Oklahoma. "His legacy will be remembered by me as a great man that took on the corruption in this country

Mauritius and Morocco join African Development Bank

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) yesterday announced the addition of two new countries - Mauritius and Morocco - to its Bloomberg African Bond Indices (ABABI), marking a steady progress in the Bank's efforts to deepen the continent's local currency bond market.

The African Development Bank administers the ABABI, a family of African bond indices launched in February 2015 and calculated by the independent, global index provider Bloomberg.

At the launch, the indices included Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. Botswana and Namibia joined in October 2015, and Ghana and

Zambia in April 2017. Effective 1 January 2021, Mauritius and Morocco have become members of the ABABI, the Bank said.

"This is a positive development as the inclusion of Mauritius and Morocco, two of Africa's better-rated issuers, will improve the overall credit quality of the ABABI, which now captures close

to 90% of the outstanding amount of African sovereign local currency bonds," said Stefan Nalletamby, Director of the Bank's Financial Sector Development Department.

Nalletamby noted that in the current environment, the ABABI indices are a reliable tool for international investors to measure and track African sovereign bond mar-

kets.

"This will be even more relevant following the COVID-19 crisis as sovereign debt managers, who will need to further diversify their local currency funding instruments, will also need to adjust their strategies, enhance transparency and widen their fixed-income investor base, given the increased financing needs of

the economies."

The African Development Bank works to deepen the continent's local currency bond markets and create an environment where African countries can access long-term financing.

By providing transparent and credible benchmark indices, the Bank and Bloomberg provide investors with a tool

to better measure and track the performance of Africa's bond markets.

The Bank has also structured and invested in an exchange traded fund, the African Domestic Bond Fund (ADBF), replicating the index and providing investors with an innovative tool to gain exposure to African local currency fixed income.

Firm ranks first in Kenya, solidifying its presence in sub-Saharan Africa

By Guardian Reporter

EFG Hermes is ranked first on the Nairobi Securities Exchange and second by value traded on the Nigerian Stock Exchange, highlighting the significant strides made in Sub-Saharan Africa's western and eastern financial hubs.

The firm also ramped up execution capabilities across Sub-Saharan Africa, with shares worth USD 717.4 million changing hands in Kenya, USD 483.9 million in Nigeria, USD 33.6 million in Ghana, and USD 20.3 million in Tanzania, among others.

"We are exceptionally proud of the work we've put entering sub-Saharan Africa, which has seen us essentially create two key financial hubs in the region in less than three years of operations. Our success today despite challenging circumstances is a testament to the long term view our firm has taken on the development of financial markets in Sub-Saharan Africa and the continued investment into our people, products and infrastructure on the ground," said Ali Khalpey (pictured), CEO of EFG Hermes Frontier.

"With FEM stocks expected to come out stronger in the year to come, we're confident that we're in a position to capitalize on the allocation shift back into FEM, as well as the continued growth in domestic capital allocation to capital markets. We intend to further solidify our presence in Sub-Saharan Africa and gain further market share with new product launches."

The firm deployed a calculated expansion strategy in Kenya that homed in on both the foreign and domestic institu-

tional investor base, with market share doubling to 52%, significantly ahead of other players. The Firm is also gearing up to launch the first-of-its-kind online trading platform in the market, an extension of its EFG Hermes One trading application, through which we will target the high net worth and rapidly growing domestic retail market.

"We have worked hard to increase domestic penetration with local accounts and delivering outstanding services primarily due to the local knowledge, strength and perseverance of the team," said Muathi Kilonzo, Frontier Equity Sales & Head of Equities Kenya at EFG Hermes. "The launch of a Kenyan online trading platform in 2021, the first of its kind on the market, would firmly establish our positioning in the country and allow retail growth nationwide."

In Nigeria, EFG Hermes leveraged the significant strides taken in 2019 to reinforce its standing and traction with domestic and foreign institutional investors alike, ending the year with a market share close to 19.2%.

"Through what was undoubtedly a challenging year, including nationwide lockdowns that impacted economic activity and dwindling investor sentiment in FEM markets, the achievements made have been nothing short of laudable," said Lilian Olubi, CEO of EFG Hermes Nigeria.



Malawi rural communities benefit from energy-efficient cookstoves

NTCHEU, Malawi

AS one way of conserving the environment in Malawi, people in communities are engaged in making fuel-efficient stoves made of clay that is used for domestic cooking and heating purposes. In return, people who produce stoves in communities are making good money out of sales.

According to Eric Nyekanyeka, marketing officer for United Purpose in Malawi, the stoves are user-friendly designed to reduce heavy use of firewood compared to the traditional three-stone fire. The stoves also reduce concentrations of indoor pollution that cause respiratory illnesses.

In an interview with Xinhua, Nyekanyeka disclosed that their organization recently surpassed a two million stove sale across Malawi, a development which he described as a success in their quest to conserve the environment.

"The cookstoves are produced by groups that were set up by the organization. The stove is molded solely out of clay soil and uses firewood with at least 30 percent and at most 60 percent energy consumption efficiency when compared to traditional stoves. The stoves also reduce concentrations of indoor pollution that cause respiratory illnesses," he said.

The stove design is the product of over 15 years of research and development, mainly in Malawi, incorporating user feedback and local preferences. A mechanical mold known as the paddle mold is



A woman molds an energy-efficient cookstove in Ntcheu, Malawi, on Jan. 15, 2021. As one way of conserving the environment in Malawi, people in communities are engaged in making fuel-efficient stoves made of clay that is used for domestic cooking and heating purposes. In return, people who produce stoves in communities are making good money out of sales. (Photo Xinhua)

used to facilitate standardization and to improve productivity.

Chrissy Mbalame is a member of the Kalata Mbaula club in Ntcheu which also contributes to the mass production of stoves countrywide. She joined the group in 2011 and since then she has been economically independent.

"I have been in this group for 10 years, so far, production of these stoves has been one of the milestones to my success as a parent. I am able to pay for my children's school fees and am also able to support my family," she said.

So far, Chrissy managed to buy her own land and she has also built a house among other things. Meanwhile, together with her husband, she is trying to produce more stoves to help their family that has four children.

Chrissy is among a 31-member group that

collectively produces stoves for sale. According to Andrea Kadammanja, co-chair for the group, the project has changed the community's economy, people are buying motorcycles, building better houses and educating their children.

"Since the onset of the project, our community has advanced in terms of conserving the environment. We have our own planted forest where we source firewood for oven production. We are also working hand in hand with our Traditional Authority to ensure safeguarding the safety of community trees," said Kadammanja.

The fuel-efficient stove is among the improved cookstoves earmarked for scaling up to meet the target. The vision to scale up the adoption of improved cookstoves is in line with the country's national biomass energy strategy that attempts to improve the efficiency of biomass energy consumption.

Initiative starts to develop Lake Victoria's aquaculture sector

By Guardian Reporter

IN a move to guide the development of sustainable aquaculture in East Africa, WorldFish has strengthened its research partnership with the Lake Victoria Fishing Organisation (LVFO).

Lake Victoria, the world's second largest body of freshwater, has huge potential to produce more fish, such as tilapia, through aquaculture.

The new agreement aims to act as a catalyst for the development of competitive, gender equitable and sustainable commercial aquaculture and fisheries management in the Lake Victoria Basin. Research will focus on improving sustainability and biosecurity of aquaculture production systems, management of aquatic genetic resources and access to commercial networks for aquaculture-related businesses, as well as supporting skills development in local workers for aquaculture-related businesses.

Bordered by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the world's second largest freshwater lake directly supports food, nutrition and economic security for around 2 million people. Small fish species, a major part of the fish catch from the lake, are also highly significant for nutrition throughout the region. However, over the last decade commercial fish stocks have plummeted due to overfishing, invasive species, pollution, and changing climatic conditions, among other factors. The catch and biomass of commercial species in the lake, in particular Nile perch and Nile tilapia, have declined, contributing to reductions in per capita fish consumption in the region. In response, the East African Community (EAC) - a regional intergov-

ernmental organization - is making efforts to improve management of aquatic resources, and promote sustainable aquaculture, to create new jobs and boost livelihoods.

Research aimed at boosting aquatic food availability through the development of environmentally-friendly and equitable aquaculture models will be undertaken through the EU-funded EAC project for promoting aquaculture in the Lake Victoria Basin (TRUE-FISH Project). WorldFish will technically assist the LVFO - a specialised institution of the EAC - in strengthening aquatic animal health conditions, fish breeding and the zoning of Lake Victoria for the protection of biodiversity. The research generated will be used to advise on the adoption and implementation of regional and national policies,

regulations and associated implementation guidelines regarding the management of aquaculture development and biodiversity and genetics. The efforts will also see the development, organization and delivery of context-specific aquaculture production and business training for local workers, especially women and youth.

"The agreement provides key scientific knowledge to assist countries in the Lake Victoria region develop policies and management strategies for aquatic genetic resources in this regionally and globally important aquatic ecosystem," said Dr Mike Phillips, director of aquaculture and fisheries science, for the CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems (FISH) at WorldFish in a press release.

"WorldFish will assist LVFO

members to identify and manage limiting factors and sustainability risks for the development of competitive and sustainable commercial aquaculture in the Lake Victoria region, contributing to sustaining a diverse and productive natural fishery and the development of new opportunities for food, income and jobs in a sustainably managed aquaculture industry," he added.

Dr Shigalla Mahongo, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) executive secretary, said: "The partnership between WorldFish and LVFO through this agreement is expected to play a vital role in delivering a much-needed impact in the aquaculture sub sector to meet the rising demand for fish protein due to increase in population growth, coupled with dwindling

capture fisheries. This partnership will therefore ensure a sustained food and nutrition security to the EAC citizens by enhancing the availability of quality fish seeds to farmers and hence increasing their productivity to meet the growing demand."

"Through WorldFish's research and capacity development, the aquaculture sub-sector in the EAC will benefit, especially on building capacity to ensure the effective utilisation of quality fish genetics for increased productivity and biodiversity protection.

The capacity building initiative will range from enhanced capacity in species identification, breeding and administration of the regulatory framework to a system for assessing and certifying private hatcheries."



Infrastructure development mainstay for African continental free trade area - UN

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

AS the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement set to solve Africa's investment hurdles, there is an urgent need to address the continent's infrastructure shortcomings, a senior official of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has said.

The statement was made by Stephen Karingi, regional integration and trade division director at the UNECA, ahead of the sixth session of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Week, which kicked off virtually on Monday to review progress, share experiences and build consensus on key infrastructure projects that will take Africa to the next level of development.

"New decade, new realities, new priorities - positioning PIDA and infrastructure development in Africa's continued growth and economic recovery," Karingi. The UNECA Director further emphasized that "with the AfCFTA set to address Africa's investment challenges, there was an urgent need to address the continent's infrastructure deficit."

"PIDA Week allows us to take stock with all the other stakeholders; review and reflect on progress made in the implementation of the programme; discuss ways to overcome challenges and think outside the box to find possible solutions; share lessons learnt, identify and agree on ways to improve implementation, especially now that the AfCFTA is here," he said.

According to the UNECA, the just-started 6th PIDA Week will provide a platform to advocate and market PIDA priority projects and facilitate sharing lessons and experiences on the implementation of key projects. Africa's infrastructure priorities for 2021-2030 will be set during the week.

Americans struggle to maintain middle class lifestyle

WASHINGTON

RHONDA Clark, 40, working in information technology in the area around Washington D.C., had problems saving money in her first five years after college.

"I didn't have any money. There was no money to save," she told Xinhua. Fast forward 20 years, now she is a homeowner, and is able to save and invest a decent amount of her and her husband's income.

HARD TO MAINTAIN MIDDLE CLASS LIFESTYLE

U.S. media have been flooded in recent years with stories about how expensive it has become to remain in the middle class, as well as the difficulty - sometimes impossibility - of saving money while maintaining a middle class lifestyle.

Reasons range from student debt to healthcare to the cost of living in major cities that are astoundingly overpriced. While those concerns are not to be dismissed - many hard-working, frugal families struggle to remain in the middle class - many truths are un-

der reported. For instance, U.S. real estate is costly in urban areas because it is tied to a city's crime rate. Sure, there are houses and apartments that are dirt cheap - but they are in high-crime neighborhoods.

In areas with cheap housing, people might not take care of their properties; residents collect government assistance instead of looking for a job; and dangerous dog breeds like pit bulls roam the area unleashed. Rod Ball, 65, used to visit his girlfriend in such an area in Philadelphia, before she moved to a better neighborhood. "You always had to watch out for pit bulls. The area was cheap, but it wasn't a good neighborhood," Ball said, noting that aggressive dogs can severely injure children and adults alike.

Ball's girlfriend, Shirley, 69, who declined to give her full name, noted that robberies were increasing and shootings occurred a few times a year. "The place was cheap but who would want to live there?" she told Xinhua. Low-income neighborhoods also have the worst and most dangerous schools.

A study by labor economist Dan Goldhaber found

that disadvantaged kids, including students from low-income families, in the U.S. state of Washington, ended up with the worst teachers. By sharp contrast, some upper middle class schools boast some of the best school districts in the nation. In an age of fierce competition to get into a good university, parents will get into debt just to send their kids to a decent high school.

Cars are another issue preventing middle class people from saving money. Many middle class families, especially those that live in the suburbs, need two cars. Others, who complain they are not saving enough money, could get by with one car but are unwilling to put up with a little inconvenience. Other families spoil their children with brain-cell killing electric gadgets that make their kids into drones who cannot socially function, such as tablets and smartphones.

Some middle class parents worry their kids will be teased at school for being too poor to afford such devices, so they cave and buy them. One simple solution, at least for adolescents, is to lift weights at the school gym - which is free - and de-



People wearing face masks walk along the Fifth Avenue in New York, the United States, Jan. 5, 2021. (Photo by Michael Nagle/Xinhua)

velop enough physical strength that other kids won't dare mess with them.

STRUGGLING TO SAVE

American parents often allow their children in university to study subjects that will do absolutely nothing to prepare them for the workforce, and could negatively impact their financial future for their entire lives. These include general liberal arts degrees such as history and philosophy that do not give them any in-demand skills and leave them at a disadvantage in the workforce.

Indian, Chinese and Korean immigrants, by sharp contrast, will often not pay for their children's college education unless they pursue a degree that will

get them a high-paying job. Those include business administration, computer science, medicine and others. As a result, Asian Americans, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, earn more than other racial groups in the United States.

Many Americans who make around 150,000 to 160,000 U.S. dollars a year - which outwardly appears to be a lot of money - complain they are struggling to save even a few hundred dollars a month. People in this group in their

30s and 40s often have very high levels of student debt from the education that made them doctors, lawyers or highly-paid specialists. They work in the country's most expensive urban areas and have a costly mortgage on a house. They have some consumer debt for cars and vacations, and have costs for health insurance and child care. Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the center for international and security studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua.

"On the other hand, if you're in this income group and are 65 and older, it's all different. Your student debt is paid off. You work less or are retired, and you may have already moved somewhere nice out of the city. You probably have more equity in your home, or own it outright. Your health insurance is covered by Medicare," Ramsay said.

Joe Biden, the oncoming president, has vowed to boost Americans' standard of living, although it remains unknown whether or how he'll succeed. Biden "needs to make meaningful improvements in the economy and people's standard of living in order to be successful in his presidency," according to Brookings Institution senior fellow Darrell West. "He is likely to propose a number of initiatives in the areas of education, healthcare, and COVID relief aimed at boosting the middle class," West said. **Xinhua**

China's Shijiazhuang tests over 10 million residents in three days after COVID-19 resurgence

By Xu Yunping, Zhang Zhifeng

THE year of the pandemic - 2020 - not only brought with it not only pain and suffering from the Covid-19 virus but also saw major social upheavals on diversity and inclusion issues in the media.

Magazines, being the leading reflectors of society, were in the forefront of covering and reacting to the year. In fact, when it comes to diversity and inclusion, I was able to find and buy 336 magazines, from all categories and genres, that reflected diversity and inclusion by celebrating Blackness on their covers.

Capital of north China's Hebei province Shijiazhuang kicked off mass nucleic acid tests for its residents on Jan. 6, after locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases were recently reported.

Within three days, the city tested over 10.25 million residents in all its counties and districts, and 354 were tested positive.

Shijiazhuang started a second round of citywide testing Tuesday and vowed to finish it within two days.

At present, the testing is proceeding at full speed. It only takes less than 20 seconds to record residents' personal information thanks to a smart app adopted to help medical workers improve efficiency. With the app, all the residents need to do is to show their ID cards in front of a camera.

At the critical moment, members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and cadres are rushing to the forefront in the battle against the COVID-19.

At 23:00 on Jan. 5, messages were sent to a chat group of the Zhouzhuang township committee of the CPC in Jinzhou, a county-level city administered by Shijiazhuang, requesting all members to report for work immediately.

Seven hours later, Zhouzhuang township started preparing nucleic acid testing covering all residents, and the Zhouzhuang township committee of the CPC mobilized all cadres to join the efforts. They were dispatched to the front line of the arduous task, in an effort to ensure that all the residents of the township could be tested within the specified time period and that the whereabouts of the township's all permanent residents be collected.

At 4 a.m. on Jan. 6, cadres of the township government were dispatched to villages to help medical workers prepare for the testing. One and a half hours later, loudspeakers of the villages started broadcasting the testing information as village cadres visited door to door to inform the villagers. The testing officially started at 6 a.m.

The mass testing was joined by more than 30 teams of community workers, more than 20,000 community workers and over 40,000 volunteers in the city.

"At 2 a.m. on Jan. 5, the head nurse of my department told me over the phone that our hospital was going to send a team to Gaocheng district to collect throat swab samples, and I asked her to count me in," recalled Wang Na, deputy head nurse of the No. 3 Neurology Department of Hebei General Hospital.

The team of 30 departed for Gaocheng at 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 5. After arriving at Chenglizhuang village in the district, Wang put on protective gear and paired up with one of her colleagues, and then started to collect throat swab samples from door to door.



A girl receives COVID-19 nucleic acid test at a designated testing site in Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei province, January, 6. (File photo)

The next morning, Wang and her colleagues visited another village Wujie, despite the chilly temperature that hit minus 15 degrees Celsius, and collected throat swab samples for about 900 residents in five hours. Without a break, they went on to the houses of villagers who were ill in bed and had difficulty moving for collecting samples.

"We are racing against the virus. Sometimes we are too busy to eat or drink," Wang said.

At 4 a.m. on Jan. 7, a large air-inflated nucleic acid test laboratory named Huoyan, or Fire Eye, was put into use in an indoor tennis court of a sports stadium in Shijiazhuang. The construction of the lab took only 21 hours.

"The lab can test up to 1 million samples per day and deliver test result of a sample in as soon as four hours," said Du Yutao, chief of the Fire Eye lab and an executive of BGI Group, a Shenzhen-based biotech company.

Shijiazhuang has sent a total of 328 epidemiological investigation teams to communities across the city, including the 164 that were established recently.

As of Jan. 9, all the medical institutions and centers for disease control and prevention above Grade 2 in the city had established nucleic acid test labs, and 107 were capable of performing COVID-19 tests.

Hebei isn't fighting the resurgence alone. East China's Jiangsu and Zhejiang dispatched five testing teams totaling 209 members to the northern province, with each carrying five sets of testing equipment and 50,000 testing kits. Besides, support teams from Guangdong, Hunan, and Jiangxi are also on the road to Hebei.

"Let the seniors, children, and patients go first so that they won't have to wait in the cold," said a resident in a WeChat group of a community in Shijiazhuang before the residents there were about to have their throat swabs sampled on the afternoon of Jan. 6. The message sent by a resident to a WeChat chat group of a community in Shijiazhuang on the afternoon of Jan. 6 was echoed by many neighbors, who replied immediately by saying things like "they ought to enjoy priority," "I agree," "medical workers have braved the cold to serve us, we should try our best to cooperate," and "call me at any time if you need help with the elderly or children in your family."

On Jan. 9, a restaurant in the city, which suspended business due to the COVID-19 resurgence, sent freshly cooked dumplings to medical workers at Penghou neighborhood of Qiaoxi district, Shijiazhuang.

"We must thank the medical workers from Zhejiang province for coming all the way to help us," said Tian Yongqing, an executive of the restaurant.

Shijiazhuang volunteer service federation has received applications of 25,000 people since it started to recruit community volunteers on Jan. 6 for the mass COVID-19 testing.

People's Daily

Vaccine disparities raise alarm as COVID-19 variants multiply

By Bloomberg

GLOBAL gaps in access to COVID-19 vaccines are raising concerns that the continued spread of the coronavirus will breed more dangerous versions of the pathogen, weakening medical weapons and further crippling economies.

In a race to catch up with emerging coronavirus variants, wealthy countries are already benefiting from potent vaccines. While the US, Britain and European Union have given citizens about 24 million doses so far - more than half of the shots administered globally - vast numbers of countries have yet to begin their campaigns.

Disparities in immunity pose a threat to both have and have-not states. Giving the coronavirus an opportunity to advance and generate new mutants would have significant economic and public-health consequences, adding to the pain as the death toll surpasses two million.

Growth Forecast

"We cannot leave parts of the world without access to vaccines because it's just going to come back to us," said Charlie Weller, head of vaccines at health research foundation Wellcome. "That puts everyone around the world at risk."

Countries are relying on effective immunizations to save lives and revive businesses. The World Bank's projection for 4 percent growth this year depends on widespread deployment of vaccines. Surging COVID-19 cases and a delay to the delivery of inoculations, however, could limit expansion to just 1.6 percent.

High-income countries have secured 85 percent of Pfizer Inc's vaccine and all of Moderna Inc's, according to London-based research firm Airfinity Ltd. Much of the world will be counting on UK drugmaker AstraZeneca Plc, whose vaccine is cheaper and easier to distribute, along with other manufacturers such as China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd.

Of 42 countries rolling out COVID-19 vaccines as of Jan 8, 36 were high-income countries and the rest were middle-income, according to World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. A growing number of countries are pursuing their own supply deals, in addition to participating in a global collaboration known as COVAX.

Future Mutants

Urgency is increasing as the pandemic extends into a second year. New variants that surfaced in the UK, South Africa and Brazil appear to spread significantly faster than earlier versions. Just in the past month, a "new dimension of risk has opened up for the world," said Rajeev Venkayya, president of Takeda Pharmaceutical Co's vaccines business.

Reducing deaths and illnesses has been seen as the main driver of delivering vaccines rapidly, said Venkayya, who worked in the George W Bush administration to develop a US pandemic flu plan and directed vaccine delivery for the Gates Foundation.

"We now understand it's also very, very important to control transmission," he said, "not just to protect those most vulnerable populations, but also to reduce the evolutionary risk associated with this virus."

While there's no evidence to suggest the current crop of vaccines is ineffective against those variants, future mutants may be less responsive, Wellcome's Weller said.

Drugmakers say they could tweak their shots to counter new variants within weeks if needed. The likelihood that such adaptations will be necessary has increased, Venkayya said.

"The longer the virus is allowed to continue in different parts of the world where we don't have a vaccine," said Anna Marriott, health policy adviser at the anti-poverty group Oxfam, "the greater the danger of new variants

that could be more aggressive, more virulent or transmissible."

COVID-19 shots have been tested for their ability to prevent symptoms, not transmission. Still, their performance in clinical trials gives an indication of how effective they might be against spread.

Effectiveness Gap

The rollout of shots from Pfizer-BioNTech SE and Moderna that achieved efficacy levels of about 95 percent has raised questions about whether everyone will have access to such high levels of protection.

"The gap isn't just about access to vaccines," said Yan-zhong Huang, senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations. "It's also about access to effective vaccines."

One of the shots lower- and middle-income countries are relying on, from AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, sparked worries in Australia that it may not be effective enough to generate herd immunity. Health authorities there, however, said they believe it will be comparable to the Pfizer and Moderna shots in preventing people from getting seriously ill.

The vaccine developed by the U.K. partners, introduced in the country earlier this month, delivered an average efficacy rate of 70 percent. That appeared to climb to 80 percent with a longer gap between doses, based on limited data available, according to regulators. Lengthening that period to as many as three months from one allows more people to get protected faster, while data show the level of antibodies also increases, an AstraZeneca spokesman said.

"An optimized regimen which allows the vaccination of many more people upfront, together with a robust supply chain, means we can have a real impact on the pandemic," he said in an email.

While the picture is still coming into focus, cleared vaccines are likely to be similarly effective in preventing serious sickness and death, said Takeda's Venkayya. Where they could diverge is on side effects, the duration of protection and impact on transmission, an even more critical factor in light of new variants, he said.

Even shots with a lower efficacy level could have a considerable impact. US regulators set a 50 percent threshold for deeming a candidate effective. But they would require a higher percentage of people willing to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, Huang said. If less-effective vaccines are distributed to emerging markets, it could have significant economic implications, too, and "sharpen differences in pandemic outcomes across countries," Justin-Damien Guenette, a senior economist at the World Bank, wrote in an email.

Many countries are depending on COVAX, which aims to deploy vaccines equitably to every corner of the planet. Yet not all lower- and middle-income nations are waiting for a lifeline. Countries such as South Africa and Malaysia are also pursuing their own supply deals through direct talks with manufacturers, and some regions are set to receive Pfizer's vaccine as well.

'Losing Patience'

"There seem to be indications that countries are losing patience," said Huang of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Covax has secured access to almost 2 billion doses, with deliveries due to begin in the first quarter, and set a goal of vaccinating up to a fifth of countries' populations by the end of the year. That's far short of the levels of two-thirds or more that many nations are targeting. Some may not get vaccines until 2024, researchers estimate.

The mobilization is ramping up. India, a nation of more than 1.3 billion people, kicked off a massive inoculation drive on Saturday, an effort expected to encounter challenges as it extends into rural areas. **Agencies**

PROMOTION

A record 280 win 56.8m/- in bank's 'MastaBata' campaign

By Guardian Reporter

A record 280 NMB Bank Plc customers have won cash and material prizes worth 56.8m/- since November last year through a campaign encouraging digital payment solutions dubbed, 'MastaBata.'

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a weekly draw which witnessed 40 people win 100,000/- each, NMB's Manager Merchant Relations,

Yusuph Achayo said the campaign which ends in February has received overwhelming support from clients.

Achayo said among other things, the 280 winners have taken home Samsung galaxy smartphones, refrigerators, smart televisions while the grand prize winner will have a fully paid trip to a holiday destination of their choice to Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park or Spice Islands of Zanzibar.



NMB Bank Plc's manager for merchant relations, Yusuph Achayo (L) speaks the seventh 'MastaBata' promotion raffle draw held at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with Gaming Board Tanzania inspector, Pendo Mfuru and the bank's business support officer, Yvette Nkhoma. Photo courtesy of NMB.

"We have seen many people win cash but also materials prizes which include home furniture and smartphones, we urge the public to seize this opportunity and exploit NMB's cash and material offers available through the campaign," Achayo said.

He said a lot more in terms of cash and material prizes are still available hence members of the public who have no NMB accounts should open one and get their Mastercard and Masterpass QR to qualify for the awards.

Apart from weekly draws, the promotion also involves monthly draws which have so far seen 12 out of 15 participants win Sam-

sung Galaxy Note20 smartphones valued at 2.4m/- each. "Finally, I urged NMB customers with Mastercard and Masterpass QR to pay for goods and services using their cards to stand a chance to win the grand finale prize," he noted. Other grand finale prizes include a water dispenser, microwave and smart TV with a three months DSTV subscription.

Gaming Board of Tanzania Inspector, Pendo Mfuru assured NMB customers that the promotion is real and that it has the approval of the regulator. "So continue using the bank's card payment solutions to stand a chance and win cash or material prizes," Mfuru said.

PARTNERSHIP

Mozambican and Total agree to enhance security at LNG project in Cabo Delgado

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE President Filipe Nyusi and the chairman and CEO of French oil major Total Patrick Pouyanné have agreed on Monday to further strengthen security around the natural gas venture in Cabo Delgado, a source close to the government told Lusa.

"Total and the government are in agreement: what is going to happen is a reinforcement of security measures,"

said the same source, without however detailing how that reinforcement is going to happen. "The project is to continue, keeping to the planned dates," i.e. starting operations in 2024, the Total source added.

The meeting on Monday, in addition to the president of Total, Patrick Pouyanné, and the president of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, was attended by Max Tonela, minister of mineral resources and energy, and the two ministers

linked to the Defence and Security Forces: the interior minister, Amade Miquidade, and the defence minister, Jaime Neto.

Rebel groups that have been terrorising Mozambique's northern province for three years have increased attacks in 2020 and have approached the construction site led by Total, leading to a slowdown in the project and the departure of staff at the end of the year.

This is the biggest private

investment underway in Africa, estimated at between 20 and 25 billion euros, and it is one of Mozambique's main hopes for development in the coming decades. On 24 August 2020, Total had already announced a revision of the memorandum of understanding with the Mozambican government for the operation of a joint security force including the defence and security forces (FDS) to protect the project.

In explanations to Lusa,



Total chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanné.

the French oil company said at the time that "the revision of the security memorandum reflects the increase in activities during the construction phase and the mobilisation of a larger workforce.

So far, engineering and procurement activities (the so-called 'procurement' phase) have been taking place, with 2021 being the year for the start of

the construction phase of the gas city and industrial zone for the liquefaction of the gas to be brought ashore from the drilling of the sea bottom of the Rovuma basin.

Ronan Bescond, director general of Total in Mozambique, had said at a conference in Maputo in October that "a safe environment and a robust road network are pre-conditions for the project to fulfil its promise to catalyse the growth and development of Palma district and the country.

The armed violence in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique, is causing a humanitarian crisis with around 2,000 deaths and 560,000 displaced people, without housing or food, mainly in the provincial capital, Pemba. Some of the incursions have been claimed by the 'jihadist' Islamic state group since 2019, but the real origin of the insurgency remains under debate.



An IATA Travel Pass is displayed on a smartphone

INNOVATION

Ethihad Airways, Emirates for IATA Travel Pass trials

ABU DHABI

ETIHAD Airways and Emirates have partnered with the International Air Transport Association (Iata) to adopt the global aviation body's Travel Pass, which is expected to help passengers better manage their journeys during the pandemic.

The Iata Travel Pass, a mobile app designed to help passengers navigate Covid-19 travel restrictions and securely share test and vaccine certificates with airlines and governments, will be available to Ethihad passengers in the first quarter of 2021, the carrier said on Tuesday. If the move is successful, the pass will be extended to other destinations on the Ethihad network, the airline said.

"A high priority for Ethihad is for our guests to have an easy, secure and efficient way to identify and verify their information," Mohammad Al Bulooki, chief operating officer of Ethihad Aviation Group, said. On Tuesday, Emirates said it will trial the digital passport before a full roll-out. The

airline will implement the first phase in Dubai in April for the validation of Covid-19 PCR tests before departure. "We have worked with IATA on this innovative solution to simplify and digitally transmit the information that is required by countries and governments into our airline systems, in a secure and efficient manner," Adel Al Redha Emirates' chief operating officer, said.

Iata has touted the Travel Pass as a solution to safely re-open borders and to replace quarantine measures with testing requirements by offering a globally accepted means to verify that passengers have accurate tests or genuine vaccines.

"We are committed to building a modular travel pass whose functions will work cost-effectively with other solutions," Iata's director general Alexandre de Juniac said in a statement on January 18. "And we need governments to be committed to accepting the global standards that will make this possible." Emirates and Ethihad Airways join Singapore Airlines in introducing the digital

health verification pass. In December, Singapore Airlines said it was the first carrier to trial the process based on the Iata Travel Pass framework. The service was initially offered from December 23 to passengers travelling on flights operated by Singapore Airlines from Jakarta or Kuala Lumpur to Singapore. The airline said it may extend the service to other cities in its route network if the trial is successful.

"Our aim is to give all governments the confidence to re-open borders to travellers based on verified vaccine and testing data," Nick Careen, Iata's senior vice president of Airport, Passenger, Cargo and Security, said.

Iata, which represents some 280 airlines globally, has been urging governments to replace traffic-stifling quarantine measures with Covid-19 testing. The Iata mobile app will contain a registry of entry requirements, a list of test centers or vaccination providers and a digital identity to verify the owner of the certificate.

CONSPIRACY

JOHANNESBURG

MTN has debunked any link between 5G and COVID-19, saying the myth has been discredited globally by scientists.

The company says it will continue to work to raise awareness and direct its efforts to combat the pandemic and support customers and society. In recent weeks, SA has seen an increase in campaigns spreading dangerous myths linking 5G to the outbreak of COVID-19, which have gone viral on social media platforms.

MTN says 5G mobile technology has undergone extensive research,

MTN debunks 5G link to COVID-19

with numerous studies finding it has no negative impact on the environment or people. "This fact has been confirmed by leading global experts, independent professional groups and public health agencies, including the World Health Organisation.

"The United Nations' International Telecommunication Union says there is no scientific basis for the statements that link 5G to COVID-19. The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection says claims that

exposure to the electromagnetic fields generated by 5G devices can cause COVID-19 are not supported by any evidence."

MTN, SA's second biggest mobile operator with 30 million subscribers, says the rollout of 5G into the future is key to its work to bring more people into the digital world and allow them to benefit from the fourth industrial revolution, and it will continue to educate the public. "MTN continues to work to raise awareness of the

fact that there is no reliable scientific evidence of any link between 5G and COVID-19, and we remain focused on our efforts to combat the pandemic and support customers and society in these uncertain times."

The rebuttal of the myth on 5G as the causal link to the deadly virus has drawn many industry leaders, who are united in an effort to educate the public as well as protect telecoms infrastructure from further damage. Last week, telecoms regulator the In-

dependent Communications Authority of SA (ICASA) dispelled the claims that 5G technology is the cause of the coronavirus. ICASA urged South Africans not to be swayed by these conspiracy theories, which it said are hell-bent on bringing instability and fear within the nation. "We all need to rely on scientifically-based evidence and refrain from these baseless theories," said ICASA chairperson Dr Keabetswe Modimoeng.

"Some of the frequencies ear-

marked and trialled for 5G deployment by industry players were previously assigned to various operators in South Africa - way before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in 2020. Such fake theories can only cause despair and unnecessary technophobia among South Africans and must be strongly condemned."

University of Johannesburg vice-chancellor professor Tshilidzi Marwala has also added his voice, saying: "There is no causal connection between 5G technology and any biological virus, including COVID-19." He notes 5G will positively and fundamentally transform communication.

PRICE CUT

Tigo reintroduces 'Lipa kwa simu' mobile money payment services

By Guardian Reporter

LEADING telecommunications company, Tigo Tanzania has reintroduced mobile money payment services dubbed, 'Lipa kwa simu' after years of suspension.

In 2014, the telco introduced its mobile money payment solution known as 'Lipa kwa Tigo Pesa' but was discontinued for improvement a few years ago. Tigo Tanzania's Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services, Angelina Pasha said 'Lipa kwa simu' is an improved digital transaction platform that allows Tigo Pesa subscribers pay for goods and services using their handsets.

"The local market has registered strong growth in population especial-

ly that of young people many of who use data and digital payment platforms. Our goal is to exploit this market with improved digital transacting platform," said Pasha.

She pointed out that many young people who constitute the bulk of consumers in the market favour digital payment solutions because it's easy, transparent and secure compared to manual payment solutions.

Pasha explained that both businesses and their customers will find the new Tigo Pesa transacting platform convenient and efficient because of the QR Code. "To business owners, we have come up with a program that will enable them directly monitor payment of taxes through Tigo Pesa application which will help prevent revenue loss,"



Tigo Tanzania's chief officer for mobile financial services (L) Angelica Pasha, briefs the media on the new improved 'Lipa kwa simu' digital payment service during its re-launch at Kariakoo Market in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is Tigo Pesa merchant payment specialist, Reuben Kamuga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

she assured.

The reintroduction of 'Lipa kwa simu' services comes with a campaign that will award

customers with cash for using the new payment solution. "This payment solution is available to all Tigo Pesa subscri-

ers throughout the country to pay for goods and services such as fuel, food at restaurants, pay television, utility bills and many

other areas," the Tigo Tanzania Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services added.

ONLINE

Malawi's NBS Bank leverages Network International on e-commerce

LILONGWE

MALAWI'S NBS Bank has launched an e-commerce platform, powered by digital commerce enabler Network International.

According to a statement released to the media, the implementation of Network International's N-Genius™ Online payment gateway will enable NBS Bank to offer Malawian small and medium enterprises (SMEs), large corporations, public institutions and individuals "a fast and secure way to enter the rapidly growing e-commerce market in Malawi."

Network International has been at the forefront of driving digital payments acceptance across Africa and the Middle East, offering end-to-end payment solutions to a growing client base in over 50 countries.

With the capability to enable digital commerce transactions for merchants and public organisations through the N-Genius™ Online payment gateway, NBS



CEO of NBS Bank Malawi, Kwanele Ngwenya.

Bank and Network International will help drive Malawi's goal of becoming a cash-lite economy, the partners added. Kwanele Ngwenya, CEO, NBS Bank, Malawi

said: "E-commerce is the fastest-growing form of commerce in the world. Understanding its role as a key driver of growth for our business, we have launched a world class e-commerce platform with leading payments solutions provider, Network International.

"As a first for Malawi, we are providing a sophisticated, yet low-cost solution, which will not only help grow, but further engage our customer base and help drive online commerce across many segments of the population in Malawi.

By accommodating all payment types, offering the highest levels of safety and security and enhancing the mobile device experience, our online platform will help many businesses and sectors of the economy grow their online presence and help drive a digital and cashless society."

Andrew Key, Managing Director, Network International Africa, said, "Network International already enjoys a long-term, successful relationship with NBS having helped the bank deliver many innovative products to their clients over the years, including both local processing and connectivity to international card schemes.

Through utilising our proprietary N-Genius platform, Network is proud to provide NBS the latest cutting-edge technology. NBS have always challenged the traditional banking offering, through technology-driven innovation and we are delighted to support them as they look to increase online payment acceptance among the population of Malawi and the SADC (South African Development Community) region."

INTERVENTION

US calls on Australia to scrap plan to make tech giants pay for news

NEW YORK

THE US government has asked Australia to scrap proposed laws that will make it the first country in the world to force Facebook and Google to pay for news sourced from local media outlets.

In a submission asking the government to "suspend" the plans, assistant US trade representatives Daniel Bahar and Karl Ehlers suggested Australia instead "further study the markets, and if appropriate, develop a voluntary code."

Under the law, which has broad political support and is currently before a senate committee, Google and Facebook will be subject to mandatory price arbitration if a commercial agreement on payments to Australian media cannot be reached.

"The US government is concerned that an attempt, through legislation, to regulate the competitive positions of specific players ... to the clear detriment of two US firms, may result in harmful outcomes," said in the document, under the letterhead of the Executive Office of the President. Such a move could also "raise concerns with respect to Australia's international trade obligations," it said.

The Australian government announced the legislation last month after an investigation found the tech giants held too much market power in the media industry, a situation it said posed a potential threat to a well-functioning democracy.

Asked for a response to the US submission, Australian treasurer Josh Frydenberg said in a statement the government "is committed to proceeding with a mandatory code" that would address "the bargaining power imbalances with digital platforms and media companies."

The code followed an 18-month review by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) chairman and "extensive consultation" that included the views of both Google and Facebook, he added. The ACCC inquiry found that for every \$100 of online advertising spend, \$53 goes to Google, \$28 to Facebook and \$19 to other media companies.

Following intense but unsuccessful lobbying of the Australian government from both tech giants to scrap the proposed laws, which they deem unfair, Google and Facebook have suggested they may be forced to limit their offerings in the country.

BACKLASH

Internet blackout may have cost Uganda US\$9m

KAMPALA

WHILE authorities in Uganda have restored internet connectivity five days after it was shut down across the country ahead of the general elections, digital rights organisation NetBlocks estimates the cost of the downtime to digital services (including mobile money) could be in the region of US\$9-million.

The internet was restored 18 January after President Yoweri Museveni was declared winner in the polls, an outcome disputed by Museveni's main opponent Bobi Wine who claims the process was rigged.

Government spokesperson Ofwono Opondo announced that the unprecedented internet shutdown imposed on 13 January, reportedly for alleged national security reasons, had been lifted, but warned of further shutdowns should there be protests. Opondo said social media platforms were still under review and that a decision would soon be made to restore them depending on the security situation.

"We are waiting to see what

happens now that internet connectivity has been restored. But we advise internet users, especially those from the opposition, not to use it to promote hate messages and intimidation," Opondo said. Millions of internet users had been unable to send e-mails and use social media platforms. Museveni accused social media platforms of being biased and arrogant.

He was angered by Facebook's decision to remove accounts linked to the ruling party after its investigations found that they had been involved in a coordinated operation to maliciously target opposition members. NetBlocks, a digital rights organisation that tracks internet shutdowns, said network data showed a rise in connectivity in the country to 37%, but that core infrastructure, regulatory and government were still switched off.

Alph Toker, CEO of NetBlocks was quoted by AFP news agency saying, "This suggests that Uganda's election shutdown or at least the procedure under which it was implemented, was planned sometime in advance. This has been



Ugandan government spokesperson, Ofwono Opondo.

DRAWBACK

SA's glass packagers face R1.5bn hit from alcohol ban - Consol

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's glass packaging industry could lose a further R1.5 billion (\$98 million) in sales if the latest ban on alcohol sales continues for long, the CEO of glass bottle maker Consol said on Monday.

South Africa has recently banned alcohol sales for the third time as part of efforts to free up space for Covid-19 patients in hospitals burdened with alcohol-related injuries. The first two bans together resulted in losses of more than R1.5 billion to the glass packaging industry, Consol Chief Executive Officer Mike

Arnold said in an emailed response to questions. Arnold also warned of likely job losses at Consol and most parts of its supply chain, adding any major extended loss of demand, at short notice, was "catastrophic."

The company, which supplies wine, spirits and beer bottles, is spending R8 million a day to keep production and furnaces running even as orders run dry, Arnold said, adding its debt was also piling up.

Consol is not yet suspending or cancelling investments, as this will depend on the duration of the ban. It has, however, reallocated R800 million meant

to rebuild and maintain its current furnace capacity and footprint at home towards maintaining operations during the lockdown.

The reallocation will result in Consol not being able to fund the repair of furnaces reaching end of asset life, even if glass demand recovers, Arnold said. Last August, Consol indefinitely suspended construction of a new R1.5 billion glass manufacturing plant due to reduced demand.

South African Breweries, part of Anheuser-Busch InBev and a Consol customer, last Friday cancelled R2.5 billion of investment earmarked for 2021.

ENCOURAGING

Methane emissions fell 10pc in 2020 due to Covid-19, IEA says

PARIS

EMISSIONS of methane - a greenhouse gas - fell by about 10 per cent in 2020, largely due to lower oil and gas production amid the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the International Energy Agency. Oil and gas companies released more than 70 million tonnes of methane into the atmosphere last year, the Paris-based agency said in a report on Monday.

The amount of methane emitted in 2020 is equivalent to carbon dioxide emissions from all of the EU countries. Methane is far more potent than carbon dioxide, which is more commonly cited as the biggest contributor to global warming.

"The immediate task now for the oil and gas industry is to make sure that there is no re-

surge in methane emissions, even as the world economy recovers, and that 2019 becomes their historical peak," Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director, said. Efforts to decarbonise economies by ensuring early action on controlling methane emissions will be "critical" in avoiding the worst effects of climate change, he said.

Energy-related carbon emissions fell by about 7 per cent last year, as countries introduced strict mobility restrictions to contain the spread of the virus. The drop is the steepest historically and is about five times the decline after the global financial crisis.

Tackling methane emissions has become critical for energy companies as the gas, which has a relatively shorter atmospheric lifetime of around 12 years and

is present only in trace amounts, captures more heat while it lingers in the air.

Methane emissions climbed to highest levels on record by the end of 2019, reaching 1,875 parts per billion, which was more than two and a half times pre-industrial levels, according to the Global Methane Budget. While global agriculture and animal husbandry add to methane emissions, the oil and gas sector is also a huge contributor.

"Reducing methane emissions from oil and gas operations is among the most cost-effective and impactful actions that governments can take to achieve global climate goals," the IEA said in its report on mitigating the effects of the pollutant.

Large-scale "leaks" of methane dropped in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, according to the



Greka workers seen at a coal-bed methane drilling site in Shanxi province, China.

agency. However, the emission levels for methane would have to decline to around 20 million tonnes annually by 2030, a drop of more than 70 per cent from the levels seen in 2020, as per the IEA's sustainable development scenario.

CONFIDENCE



Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, during a virtual press conference to preview the Davos Agenda 2021.

WEF's online Davos Agenda to focus on rebuilding trust in post-COVID world

DAVOS

THE founder of the World Economic Forum said 2021 will be a "crucial year" to end the Covid-19 pandemic, stimulate global economic growth and re-establish trust.

Klaus Schwab said the WEF's Davos Agenda, taking place online later this month, will convene under the theme "a crucial year to rebuild trust" as the world continues to grapple with the health and economic effects of the coronavirus crisis.

"In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to reset priorities and the urgency to reform systems have been growing stronger around the world," Mr Schwab said on Monday. "Rebuilding trust and increasing global co-operation are crucial to fostering innovative and bold solutions to stem the pandemic and drive a robust recovery."

The WEF's annual meeting is traditionally held in January in the snow-capped mountain resort of Davos in Switzerland, with world leaders, business heads, central bankers and billionaires flying in for high-level conferences and networking sessions.

This year's in-person event will now be hosted in Singapore from May 13 to 16. The city-state is considered safer Covid-wise as it has been largely closed off to the world since the pandemic started and has fewer than 100 cases. Switzerland, on the other hand, is experiencing a surge in infections along with the rest of the Europe.

Meanwhile, the online event from January 25 to 29 will still welcome some of the world's top policy-makers including President of China Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

The chief executives of more than 500 companies will also join discussion on topics such as fair economic and social systems and the climate crisis, the Geneva-based organisation said. From the banking world, Christine Lagarde, head of the European Central Bank, and Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England, will also be talking.

The WEF said the pandemic has demonstrated that no institution or individual alone can address the economic, environmental, social and technological challenges of "this complex and interdependent world." Mr Schwab said 2021 is a "mobilisation year" where it is key for everyone to work together to rebuild the world in the face of Covid-19.

To help address the systemic changes brought about by the crisis, the Davos Agenda hopes to offer leaders innovative and bold solutions to stem the pandemic and drive a robust recovery over the next year, which centre around five themes.

These are designing cohesive, sustainable, resilient economic systems; driving responsible industry transformation and growth; enhancing stewardship of the global commons; harnessing the technologies of the fourth Industrial Revolution; and advancing global and regional co-operation.

"This unique meeting will be an opportunity for leaders to outline their vision and address the most important issues of our time, such as the need to accelerate job creation and to protect the environment," Mr Schwab said.

He said economic growth needs to be "more resilient, more inclusive and more sustainable" and that hosting a virtual session will not diminish the spirit of Davos, which facilitates multiple net-working sessions and offers attendees access to some of the world's top leaders.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 12 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20	Igizo: Mtego
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Art and lifestyle
21:30	ITV TOP 10
22:10	Isidingo rpt
00:30	DWTV

SUNDAY 13 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo
11:40	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00	Movie rpt: Bado natafuta
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Mtego
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Mizengwe
21:25	Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:14	Bongo Movie: Mwanaheri
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 14 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
09:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera News
12:30	Mtego rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:10	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Aibu yako rpt
18:15	Mapishi
18:45	Kesho leo
19:00	Afya ya Jamii

TUESDAY 15 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
09:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:30	Jungu kuu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kesho leo rpt
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Mapishi rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Tanzania yetu
21:30	Chetu ni chetu
22:15	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	DWTV

WEDNESDAY 16 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
09:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
19:00	Ijue Sheria
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum
22:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
2:00	DWTV

THURSDAY 17 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
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16:20	Igizo: Mtego
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba

FRIDAY 18 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Usafiri wako rpt
11:00	The Base
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00	Jagina rpt
13:30	Rock City marathon rpt
14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
17:30	Ibada ya kisilamu
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	DWTV

SATURDAY 19 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20	Igizo: Mtego
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba

SUNDAY 20 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo
11:40	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00	Movie rpt: Mwanakheri
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Mtego
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Mizengwe
21:25	Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:14	Bongo Movie: Kizaizai
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

Sat 12 Dec

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Usafiri wako rpt
12:30	Eco@Africa rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
14:30	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
17:15	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Korean Drama: The Slave hunter
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Movie: Knight rider
23:00	Series rpt: Godwin
01:00	Al Jazeera

Sun 13 Dec

08:00	Aljazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
12:00	Jagina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	Series rpt: Itohan
15:15	Aibu yako
15:30	Rev rpt
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt
17:00	The Decor rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30	Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00	Korean Drama: The Slave hunter
21:00	Shift
21:15	Capchat live
22:15	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
00:00	Al Jazeera

Mon 14 Dec

06:00	Al Jazeera
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ITV

07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Itohan
16:30	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00	Eco@Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Shamba lulu
20:00	Series: Itohan
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
00:00	Al Jazeera

Tues 15 Dec

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Itohan
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Innovation
19:30	Jagina rpt
20:00	Series: Itohan
20:45	Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30	Capital Prime
22:00	Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30	Eco@Africa
23:00	Al Jazeera

Wed 16 Dec

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Itohan
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Series: Itohan
20:45	Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Dakika 45:
22:45	The Décor
23:15	Al Jazeera

Thurs 17 Dec

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Itohan
16:30	Business edition rpt
17:00	In good shape
17:30	Meza huru

WORLD

Biden to block Trump's plan to lift COVID-19 European travel restrictions

WASHINGTON

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden plans to quickly extend travel restrictions barring travel by most people who have recently been in much of Europe and Brazil soon after President Donald Trump lifted those requirements effective Jan. 26, a spokeswoman for Biden said.

Trump signed an order Monday lifting the restrictions he imposed early last year in response to the pandemic - a decision first reported Monday by Reuters - after winning support from coronavirus task force members and public health officials.

Soon after Trump's order was made public, Biden spokeswoman Jen Psaki tweeted "on the advice of our medical team, the Administration does not intend to lift these restrictions on 1/26."

She added that "With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious vari-

ants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel."

Until Biden acts, Trump's order ends restrictions the same day that new COVID-19 test requirements take effect for all international visitors. Trump is due to leave office on Wednesday.

Last week, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention signed an order requiring nearly all air travelers to present a negative coronavirus test or proof of recovery from COVID-19 to enter the United States starting on Jan. 26.

The restrictions Trump rescinded have barred nearly all non-U.S. citizens who within the last 14 days have been in Brazil, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the 26 countries of the Schengen area in Europe that allow travel across open borders.

The U.S. restrictions barring most visi-

tors from Europe have been in place since mid-March when Trump signed proclamations imposing them, while the Brazilian entry ban was imposed in May.

Psaki added that "in fact, we plan to strengthen public health measures around international travel in order to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19." The Biden transition did not immediately respond to a request to comment on if it planned to expand the countries covered.

Biden, once in office, has the legal authority to reimpose the restrictions.

Last Tuesday, Marty Cetron, director of CDC's global migration and quarantine division, told Reuters those entry bans were an "opening act strategy" to address the virus spread and should now be "actively reconsidered."

Airlines had hoped the new testing requirements would clear the way for the administration to lift the restrictions that reduced travel from some European countries by 95% or more.

They had pressed senior White House officials about the issue in recent days.

Many administration officials for months argued the restrictions no longer made sense given most countries were not subject to the entry bans. Others have argued the United States should not drop entry bans since many European countries still block most U.S. citizens.

Reuters previously reported the White House was not considering lifting entry bans on most non-U.S. citizens who have recently been in China or Iran. Trump confirmed Monday he would not lift those.

Agencies



U.S. President-elect Joe Biden

Uganda accuses US envoy of subversion for trying to visit candidate

KAMPALA

UGANDA accused the U.S. ambassador yesterday of seeking to subvert last week's presidential election by trying to visit the main opposition candidate at his home, which has been surrounded by security forces since the vote.

Troops prevented pop star-turned-legislator Bobi Wine from leaving his house shortly after he returned from voting in Thursday's presidential election, in which he ran against incumbent Yoweri Museveni.

Museveni, 76, who has been in power since 1986, was declared winner of the poll with 59% of the vote against 35% for Wine (pictured), who became famous after years of singing about government corruption and nepotism, charges the government denies.

The U.S. embassy said late on Monday that Ambassador Natalie E. Brown had been stopped from visiting Wine, who it referred to by his real name, Robert Kyagulanyi, at his residence in a suburb in the northern outskirts of the capital.

The mission said Brown wanted to check on his health and safety given that he was effectively unable to leave his home.

Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo said Brown had no business visiting Wine, who the army says is being held to prevent potential unrest breaking out in the wake of the result.

"What she has been trying to do blatantly is to meddle in Uganda's internal politics, particularly elections, to subvert our elections and the will of the people," he said. "She shouldn't do anything outside the diplomatic norms."

There was no immediate comment from Brown or the embassy.

The public rebuke to the United States from the Ugandan government is relatively unusual as the two nations are allies.

Washington supports Ugandan soldiers serving in an African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia and has donated about \$1.5 billion to Uganda's health sector in the past three years.

GOVERNMENT "WATCHING" AMBASSADOR

Opondo said, without providing any evidence, that Brown had a track record of causing trouble in countries where she has worked in the past. The government was watching her, he said.

The U.S. embassy has said last week's vote was tainted by harassment of opposition candidates, suppression of media and rights advocates and a nationwide internet shutdown.

"These unlawful actions and the effective house arrest of a presidential candidate continue a worrying trend on the course of Uganda's democracy," it said in the statement on Monday.

The United States and the European Union did not deploy observer missions for the polls. Washington said Ugandan authorities had denied accreditation while Brussels said they had not implemented the recommendations of previous missions.

On Tuesday, Wine's lawyers filed a petition in the high court challenging the legality of detaining Wine and his wife without charge. The court has not yet said when the petition will be heard, lawyer Benjamin Katana told Reuters.

During the campaign, security forces routinely broke up Wine's rallies with teargas, bullets, beatings and detentions, citing violations of laws meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

In November, 54 people were killed as security forces quelled a protest that erupted after Wine was detained for alleged violation of the anti-coronavirus measures.

Wine and his National Unity Platform (NUP) have rejected the results and said they were planning a court challenge.

On Monday, security forces cordoned off the party's offices in the capital. The party said that was aimed at complicating their efforts to collect evidence of irregularities committed during the election.

Agencies

Kremlin refrains from comment on destabilisation in US

MOSCOW

The Kremlin prefers to refrain from comment on internal destabilization in the United States, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"We can merely state that problems do exist. It is very unlikely somebody will deny this. At the same time, we will refrain from comment," Peskov said about the unrest in Washington and the events that triggered it.

He remarked that "it is true that in the United States there are obvious problems with implementing democracy and problems with the expression of popular will, with transparency and with international monitoring."

Agencies

Trump ends unpopular presidency with 34% approval - poll

By Bloomberg

US President Donald Trump's approval rating has dropped to 34 percent in a Gallup poll released Monday, the low point of a presidency that already had the weakest average approval rating of any of his predecessors since the survey began in the 1940s.

The new Gallup numbers, based on a poll that began just before the assault on the Capitol on Jan 6, show Trump's approval rating falling 12 percentage points since before the Nov 3 election.

The drop mirrors other polls that show a significant loss of support in the final two weeks of his presidency, which included not only the riot he egged on but the unprecedented second im-

peachment. The RealClear-Politics average of polls shows Trump with a 39.8 percent approval rating, down 4 percentage points since the Capitol attack.

Gallup's numbers give the most historical perspective, measuring Trump against his last 12 predecessors, going back to Harry S Truman. Trump's final approval rating of 34 percent is the same received by Presidents George W. Bush and Jimmy Carter in their final Gallup polls. Truman was the lowest at 32 percent.

President Barack Obama left office with a 59 percent approval rating.

Trump's average approval rating across his term, 41.1 percent, is the lowest measured by Gallup, 4 percentage points lower than Truman.

Trump's approval numbers



President Donald Trump

are also characterized by highly polarized views of his presidency. The Gallup poll released Monday shows that he gets positive ratings from 4 percent of Democrats, 30

percent of independents and 82 percent of Republicans - a gap of 78 percentage points. Over the course of his presidency, the average gap has been 81 percentage points,

larger than any president in history.

Trump never received the "honeymoon" other presidents get after their inauguration, and his approval rating remained in a narrow 15-point band during his entire presidency. His high point in the Gallup survey came early last year, following his acquittal by the Senate in his first impeachment trial, and during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic.

But his standing took a hit last summer, following the nationwide protests sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The Gallup poll is based on telephone interviews of 1,023 adults conducted Jan 4-15, 2021, with a margin of error of 4 percentage points.

Agencies

SAN FRANCISCO

Gloom on Sino-US relations resisted

DESPITE the strains between the United States and China, experts are confident that the world's two largest economies can collaborate in many areas for their own benefit and that of the world.

Kevin Rudd, president and CEO of the Asia Society, proposed "a framework of strategic competition" for the administration of US President-elect Joe Biden during a webinar recently held by his organization. Biden's inauguration is scheduled for Wednesday.

Within that framework, there's room for collaboration in areas such as climate change, pandemic management and

global financial market stability, said Rudd, who served two stints as Australia's prime minister between 2007 and 2013, and as foreign minister after his first leadership period ended.

"Biden and the Democrats are deeply committed to the future of climate change action, and you cannot achieve progress on climate change unless the world's two largest emitters China and the US are not just talking with each other but negotiating with each other and creating the critical leverage necessary to achieve a wider global outcome in terms of the level of greenhouse gas emissions to be achieved globally, as well as the national actions which need to underpin that," said Rudd.

Although the two countries have been experiencing tensions, "we're not in a cold war

with China, and perish the thought that we will end up in one", Rudd said of the US.

"Therefore, the relationship now between China and the US is nowhere as fundamentally adversarial as what we had between the then-Soviet Union and the US.

"There are vast differences between that cold war and what we now have with China, not least because of the high degree of economic interdependence between Beijing and Washington still."

Strategic understandings

He also noted that one of the lessons from the Cold War was how both countries decided to have a mutually agreed set of strategic understandings "after the near-death experience of the Cuban missile crisis in the 1960s", which prevented these countries from "sliding into

the nuclear abyss".

Rudd's assessment was echoed by Evan Medeiros, a professor at Georgetown University and a former National Security Council staff member.

"I think the (Biden administration) inherited a relationship that's in a pretty bad place, but it's not in total and utter free-fall," Medeiros said.

The entire architecture for communicating with China has "atrophied away" under the current administration, and the relationship itself needs "a lot of renovation", he said.

But "the good news" is China also wants stability and doesn't want to go back to the volatility in the confrontation, he said.

Agencies

China's courier industry ships 83 billion packages in 2020

CHINA'S express delivery industry handled over 83 billion packages last year, up 30.8 percent year on year, the State Post Bureau (SPB) said earlier this month.

The total revenue of the industry hit 875 billion yuan (\$135.28 billion), rising 16.7 percent from a year ago, according to the SPB.

On 10:00 a.m., Dec. 22, 2020, doctor Xing Zuzhong from the cardiac rehab department of the Second People's Hospital of Hunan Province received an express package, becoming the receiver of the 80 billionth package delivered in China in 2020.

This marked a new record of the Chinese courier industry, which crossed the 50 billion mark on Sept.

10 and hit the 80 billion milestone in less than 4 months.

China was the only major economy that restored economic growth in 2020. The pickup in the country's domestic consumption significantly boosted the courier industry. According to statistics, the online retail sales of physical goods nationwide neared 8.8 trillion yuan in the first 11 months of 2020, accounting for a quarter of the total retail sales of national social consumer goods. The proportion went up 4.6 percentage points from that in the same period of 2019.

Rural market was a major highlight of the Chinese courier industry. "Over 30 billion packages were shipped to and from rural China last year, and

the year-on-year growth is 20 percentage points higher than that in the urban market," said Liu Jiang, a research fellow of the Development and Research Center of the SPB.

The rising demand for agricultural products significantly boosted the development of the industry, he told People's Daily. It's becoming easier today to send farm produces that were difficult to transport to urban areas, such as beef, mutton, hairy crabs, and loquats, he said.

Behind the progress are courier enterprises' efforts to extend services to lower-tier markets, as well as their endeavor to establish rural express delivery networks, including the research on packaging materials and

the improvement of cold chain delivery.

As of the end of 2020, express delivery services had reached over 98 percent of Chinese townships. Village-level networks were also expanding that express packages could be directly delivered to more than half of the villages in the country. As a result, the exchange of industrial products and farm produces between urban and rural areas totaled 1.5 trillion yuan.

The courier industry, apart from witnessing expanding size, is also going through changes in regional structure.

In the January-November period last year, the proportions of business

volume and revenue in central China to the national total inched up 0.4 and 0.6 percentage points, respectively, and Hunan, Henan, Jiangxi, Shanxi and Anhui provinces all witnessed a 40 percent surge in the business volume of the courier industry, 10 percentage points higher than the national figure.

Twenty-seven capitals of provinces and autonomous regions, as well as four municipalities of China, handled over 30 billion express packages over the last year, accounting for 36.7 percent of the country's total volume, down by 12.5 percentage points from 5 years ago. The courier industry growth in third- and fourth-tier cities, and even below, is quite higher than

that in first- and second-tier ones, which to some extent indicated the transfer of industries. "Industries in the east transferred westward, while those in key cities are also moving to peripheral areas, and this trend is speeding up," said Liu. Key cities now focus more on R&D and exhibition, and the central and western regions are production bases, he added.

The fierce competition in the courier industry further brought down the average shipping rate. The average price per waybill for the first time fell below 11 yuan last May and further decreased below 10 yuan 5 months later. The average rate stood at 9.86 yuan in November.

People's Daily

Navalny's legal saga 'does not require Putin's special attention', says Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE situation around the case of blogger Alexey Navalny and observance of his rights within the framework of legal proceedings does not require special attention of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated to journalists yesterday.



"This is not the situation that requires the president's special attention," the Kremlin representative said. He added that "rights of all Russian citizens are guaranteed by laws and Russia's overseeing agencies; this will happen in this case as well."

The spokesman stressed once again that Moscow does not intend to take into account opinions on the situation around Navalny voiced from abroad as his detention is a domestic affair of Russia.

Peskov highlighted that in Navalny's case, this is a matter of a Russian citizen breaking Russian laws. "We hear these statements, but in this case, we cannot and will not take these statements into consideration," he said. "This is absolutely a domestic affair and Moscow will not let anyone meddle in it. We do not plan to take note of such statements," Peskov said.

At the same time Moscow is interested in good relations with other countries, Peskov stated, commenting on the West's criticism of Moscow over the Navalny situation. "We are still interested in good relations that in no way depend on one separate citizen," he pointed out.

When asked to comment on the claims made by Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service that Navalny had violated the terms of his probation, Peskov noted that there is no contradiction in the fact that Navalny was undergoing treatment in Germany at the time.

"While he was a Berlin patient in the full sense of the word, the Federal Penitentiary Service did not have any questions, showing absolute flexibility and understanding."

But after the Charite hospital confirmed that he is no longer such a patient and that he is in good health, such questions began to arise," he explained.

Meanwhile, Navalny's lawyers claim that he was still undergoing rehabilitation at the clinic until January. Peskov noted that they can use the documents proving this fact in court. When asked why the court ruled to arrest Navalny in a special session at the police department, Peskov recommended the reporters to address this question to the court.

"We all know that in the past few months, the courts have been working under a special procedure related to COVID-19, and it would be better to ask the court directly what these procedures come down to and in what way they are implemented in practice," the spokesman noted.

Agencies

Italy PM Conte looks to cling to power in crucial Senate vote

ROME

PRIME Minister Giuseppe Conte addressed the Italian Senate yesterday, hoping to win over enough opposition and unaligned lawmakers to keep him in office after a junior partner quit his coalition.



Conte (pictured) gave almost the same speech to the upper house as he had delivered on Monday to the Chamber of Deputies, where he won by a wider than expected margin of 321 votes to 259, securing an absolute majority.

In the Senate, where the situation is much tighter, he added a comment about former premier Matteo Renzi's frequent quarrels with his coalition partners before he walked out.

"I assure you it's very hard to govern in these conditions, with people who continuously place mines in our path and try to undermine the political balance patiently reached by the coalition," he said.

Conte had only a slim majority in the 321-seat Senate even before Renzi withdrew his small centrist party Italia Viva from the government's ranks last week.

The result of the confidence vote, at the end of what promises to be a fiery debate, is due some time after 7 pm (1800 GMT).

If the prime minister loses he will be forced to resign, putting an end to his 17-month government led by the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the centre-left Democratic Party (PD).

The most optimistic recent tally by political analysts has put Conte on 157 votes, four short of an absolute majority, though Monday's wider than expected victory margin in the Chamber of Deputies may buoy the premier's hopes.

He does not need an absolute majority to remain in office, he merely needs to win the vote, but leading a minority government would put him in an extremely precarious position if and when he tries to push through any contested legislation.

Italian benchmark bond yields edged lower yesterday ahead of Conte's speech which began at 9.40 am (0840 GMT).

The country's borrowing costs have increased since Renzi's walk-out but a major sell-off has been averted by the European Central Bank's purchases of Italian assets and market confidence the crisis can be resolved without fresh elections.

Looking to entice centrist and liberal lawmakers, Conte has promised to revamp his policy agenda and shake up his cabinet, saying he wanted to modernise Italy and speed up implementation of a recovery plan for the recession-stricken economy.

Renzi, who withdrew his party from the cabinet due

China's vaccine cooperation gains momentum worldwide

BEIJING

WITH Chinese-made vaccine shots reaching people in more countries, booming vaccine cooperation with China worldwide is injecting confidence into the global fight against the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic.

VACCINATION DRIVE

Serbian health authorities approved the use of Sinopharm's COVID-19 vaccines on Monday evening, two days after a million doses were imported from China, enabling the country to start mass immunization of its population.

One million doses of Sinopharm's vaccine arrived in Serbia on Saturday and were welcomed at the Belgrade Airport by President Aleksandar Vucic, who confirmed that he will receive the vaccine himself.

Meanwhile, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved the Sinopharm vaccine for emergency use amid rising cases of COVID-19 in the country.

A handout by DRAP on its official website late Monday read that Sinopharm, one of the two vaccines approved by the authority, has been given emergency use authorization after evaluating its safety and quality.

Also on Monday, Brazil launched its mass vaccination campaign against the virus simultaneously in each state, after Brazil's health regulatory agency on Sunday authorized the emergency use of two vaccines, one by the Chinese company Sinovac as well as the other by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

In Azerbaijan, senior health officials on Monday took their first inoculation of the Sinovac vaccine, marking the beginning of mass immunization against COVID-19 in the country, according to state-run news agency AZERTAC.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

The Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices of Serbia and its employees "assessed the necessary documentation and scientific evidence in a highly professional and thorough manner according to all European Union and World Health Organization (WHO) standards, which confirmed the quality, efficiency, and above all the safety of the Chinese vaccine," Pavle Zelic, an official with the agency, told local media.

"As an ordinary person and the president of Serbia, I am convinced of the quality of the Chinese vaccine, which will be decided by our competent agency," Vucic



A medical worker receives a dose of China's Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine at the Sabiha Uzun Maternal Child Health Center in Ankara, Turkey on Jan. 15, 2021. (Xinhua)

said when welcoming the arrival of the Chinese vaccine on Saturday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday he did not see any side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine that he received the previous day.

On Thursday, Turkey started its mass vaccination program with the COVID-19 vaccines developed by Sinovac.

Specialists decided that "the best vaccine for Azerbaijan is the vaccine of the Sinovac company," as it has passed clinical tests in many countries, said Azerbaijani Health Minister Ogtay Shiraliev, when addressing local media after being inoculated on Monday.

Similarly, "Azerbaijan got the most safe and effective vaccine," said Shahmar Movsumov, assistant to the president of Azerbaijan, as he praised the Chinese-made jab two days earlier.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

As an increasing number of countries started mass vaccination, the world final-

ly sees the light at the end of the tunnel. Yet, even in some developed countries, the public is not satisfied with the vaccination campaigns.

In the United States, health experts and officials have blamed states for slow vaccine rollout. The country planned to immunize 20 million Americans by the end of 2020. However, only about 12.28 million total doses have been administered as of Jan. 15, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Also, the slowdown in vaccine arrivals has sparked complaints in Europe.

More worryingly, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday warned of the moral consequences of the lack of COVID-19 vaccines for poorer countries, saying that the higher-income countries are privileged compared to the developing countries.

"More than 39 million doses of vaccine have now been administered in at least 49 higher-income countries. Just 25

doses have been given in one lowest-income country. Not 25 million, not 25 thousand, just 25," he said.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for solidarity with developing countries in the context of COVID-19 and pre-existing inequalities and injustices.

Vaccines must be a global public good, available to everyone, everywhere, he said. The good news is that China has, on various occasions, pledged continuous efforts in global COVID-19 response.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has recently said that China will continue to advance global cooperation on epidemic response, strengthen joint prevention and control, and assist countries and regions in need.

"We were the first to pledge to make vaccines a global public good, bearing in mind the greater good of humanity," he said.

James Nyirenda, a biochemist in Zambia, said China is providing support to Africa at a critical time to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

"China has really helped. We are yet to see test kits or even vaccines from the West and other big countries," said Nyirenda.

Xinhua

EU eyes scheme to share surplus vaccines with poorer nations

GENEVA

THE European Union (EU) wants to set up a mechanism that would allow the sharing of surplus COVID-19 vaccines with poorer neighbouring states and Africa, the EU health chief said yesterday.

The EU, with a population of 450 million, has already secured nearly 2.3 billion COVID-19 vaccines and candidates from six companies, although most of them still need regulatory approval.

"We are working with member states to propose a European mechanism to share vaccines beyond our borders," EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides told EU lawmakers yesterday, confirming a Reuters report from December.

She stressed the mechanism would get vaccines to poorer countries "before COVAX is fully operational", referring to the global scheme co-led by the WHO set up last summer to ensure a fair distribution of COVID-19 shots across the world.

Kyriakides said the EU vaccine-sharing scheme should prioritise health workers and most vulnerable people in the Western Balkans, North Africa and poorer Sub-Saharan African countries.

The EU official said the EU could give some vaccines to COVAX which would then distribute them to poor



Healthcare worker prepares a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a large vaccination centre open by the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality and Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center in the Israeli coastal city. (AFP)

countries.

WHO

Following two weeks of reports of a decline in coronavirus cases, likely due to the holiday period, an overall upward trend was observed in the first few weeks of 2021, a senior World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Monday.

Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, said at the ongoing 148th session of the WHO Executive Board that some 5 million cases of COVID-19 were reported last week globally.

The number of newly reported deaths has also shown a similar trend, with

more 93,000 deaths reported last week, and the figure is likely to reach 100,000 deaths per week very soon, he said.

Globally, as of 2:55 pm CET (1355 GMT) on Monday, a total of 93,611,355 confirmed cases, including 2,022,405 deaths, had been reported to WHO.

According to Ryan, although nearly 84 percent of deaths involved people over 65 years old, it is important to note that some 16 percent of all deaths were recorded among those aged between 25 and 64.

The WHO official also said that the more cases a country has, the higher the mortality impact will be in the country's population.

Museum displays history of 13 large trading houses in S China's Guangzhou

Thirteen Hongs Museum, a thematic history museum located in Guangzhou Cultural Park, also the site of a business area consisting of thirteen hongs, or large trading houses, in China's Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), has brought people closer to the history of foreign trade in Guangzhou, capital city of south China's Guangdong province.

Over 2,000 years ago, Guangzhou was an important stop along China's ancient Maritime Silk Road. From the year 1757 to 1842, the thirteen hongs served as a special zone approved by the court of the Qing Dynasty for trade with European countries and the U.S., and have been of great significance for the economic and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries.

Established in 2016, the Thirteen Hongs Museum aims to showcase the evolution of the thirteen hongs with a large amount of historical documents and cultural relics from both home and abroad.

The first floor of the museum is set up with a permanent exhibition, which mainly displays the history of Guang-

zhou as a major trade port with European countries and the U.S. in the Qing Dynasty through historical documents and materials.

A grand mural painting in the center of the first floor presents a magnificent scene of boats of the thirteen large trading houses gathering at the trade port of Guangzhou, while a big bowl conspicuously put in the middle of the exhibition hall gives out warm tones under the light.

The big bowl glazed using a unique technique of Guangzhou is the first cultural relic the museum has collected after its establishment, according to Li Li, an exhibition planner with the Thirteen Hongs Museum.

It was a souvenir specially ordered by a foreign merchant ship to commemorate its voyage to Guangzhou, Li added.

The inside of the bowl is printed with the reign tile of the year 1757, which signifies the ties of the bowl and the thirteen hongs, Li pointed out.

Li has participated directly in the construction and operation of the museum, and has rich knowledge of the exhibits

in the museum as well as the history of the thirteen hongs.

From 1757 to 1842, Guangzhou was designated as the only foreign trade port by the court of the Qing Dynasty, Li noted, adding that during the period, the city dominated China's trade with foreign countries, thus driving the rapid development of the thirteen hongs.

Each exhibit represents a period of history. The 4,700 pieces (sets) of collections in the museum have mirrored the culture of the ancient Maritime Silk Road, the values, spirits and culture passed down for generations in the Lingnan region (including Guangdong) as well as the cultural exchanges between China and the Western countries.

Besides the a permanent exhibition on the first floor, the museum showcases in a special room on the second floor all the donations from Wang Heng and his wife, Feng Jie, which comprise a large proportion of the collections in the museum.

"Over 100 years ago, the goods from the thirteen hongs were loaded onto boats and then taken to countries

around the world from here. Now we need to find them and bring them back to the museum," said Wang, who was also recognized as an honorary director of the museum.

Wang believes that the thirteen hongs is not only a part of Guangzhou's history, but also a calling card of the city. He thinks it necessary for Guangzhou citizens to learn about the history of the thirteen hongs.

The collections in the museum have been increasing with each passing day. All of them came from donors like the Wongs.

To effectively protect cultural relics not only requires vigorous support and strict supervision from the government and relevant departments, but also the participation of social forces, Li noted.

While enriching collections, the museum has also engaged in academic research in recent years. It has promoted a lot of research on the thirteen hongs, the ancient Maritime Silk Road as well as specially glazed porcelain of Guangzhou.

People's Daily

SPORT



JKT Queens' attacker, Zabela John (R), negotiates her way past Ruvuma Queens' player, Swamu Salum, in a recent Women Premier League's tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba Queens, Alliance Girls players improve race for Women Premier League's top scorer honour

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THIS season's Mainland Women Premier League's race for the top goal scorer honour has gained speed, with Simba Queens' attacker Oppah Clement and Aisha Juma of Alliance Girls putting pressure on JKT Queens' Fatuma Mustapha, currently leading the race.

Fatuma has netted 20 goals, she has though taken part in two consecutive matches without notching a goal.

The JKT Queens' forward has been scoring for her team in almost every match she has played.

Opposing clubs' defenders closely marked her when JKT Queens locked horns with Ruvuma Queens and Yanga Princesses and her scoring form was therefore kept in check.

The situation has seen Aisha and Oppah that have scored 13 goals and 12 goals respectively boost their quest for the top goal score honour after Fatuma emerged as the top scorer in the women top flight for three consecutive seasons.

However, Fatuma has stated that despite the fact that her closes challengers are in good form, they will not get hold of her in the race.

She maintained she still has a chance to score more goals in future matches and once again emerge as the top scorer this

season. She disclosed: "In fact, the games against Ruvuma Queens and Yanga Princesses were tough as our opponents are very good.

"If you talk about the best teams in the league you can't leave those two," she noted.

"However, it is not bad for me to go without scoring in those games as I believe I will score more goals in future matches with my opponents and I'm not afraid of them at all because I believe they will not reach me," she noted.

Other players chasing the award for best goal scorer are Hasnath Linus (Baobab Queens), who has scored nine goals to stay level with Yanga Princesses' Aisha Massaka and Baobab Queens' other attacker Jamila Rajabu.

Women Premier League's goal getters:

Fatuma Mustapha (JKT Queens) 20

Aisha Juma (Alliance Girls) 13

Oppah Clement (Simba Queens) 12

Hasnath Linus (Baobab Queens), Aisha Masaka (Yanga Princesses), Jamila Rajabu (Baobab Queens) 9

Khadija Petro (TSC Queens), Shelda Boniface (Simba Queens) 8

Amina Ramadhan (Ruvuma Queens), Mwanahamisi Omari (Simba Queens) 6

Donisia Minja (JKT Queens), Grace Yusuph (Yanga Princesses), Kadosho Shaban (Simba Queens), Agnes Pallangyo (Tanzanite Queens) 5

Philomena Daniel (Yanga Princesses), Aliya Fikiri (Alliance Girls), Rehema Mohamed (Mlandizi Queens) 4

Kyrgios slams 'tool' Djokovic as Australian Open tensions run high

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA'S Nick Kyrgios dismissed world number one Novak Djokovic as a "tool" as a backlash grew against tennis players flown in for the Australian Open during a raging pandemic.

Kyrgios joined a wave of criticism of the Serb for reportedly issuing a list of demands for quarantined players who have arrived in Melbourne and Adelaide on chartered flights.

The arrival of more than 1,000 players and staff, including four people who tested positive, has raised hackles in a country which is largely coronavirus-free, and especially in Melbourne which came out of a four-month lockdown in October.

"Djokovic is a tool," Kyrgios tweeted, after the Serb led a chorus of player complaints about conditions in locked-down hotel rooms.

At least 72 players have been barred from leaving their rooms for two weeks after coronavirus cases were detected on their charter flights into the country.

Others are allowed out of their rooms for up to five hours a day to train under strictly-controlled conditions.

The 33-year-old Serb and reigning Australian Open champion is among several stars -- others include Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka and Rafael Nadal -- who were allowed to fly into Adelaide where they enjoy better facilities such as balconies on their hotel rooms, unlike the majority in Melbourne, the Australian Open's host city.

But Djokovic reportedly issued a list of demands in a letter to Tennis Australia that included moving

quarantined players into private homes with tennis courts and getting them better meals.

Australian media zeroed in on the demands, portraying them as petulant and selfish, while showing images of Djokovic not wearing a mask in a players' minibus, which would be required in most taxis and rideshares in Australia.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews smashed back Djokovic's demands. "There's no special treatment here. Because the virus doesn't treat you specially, so neither do we," he said on Monday.

In Australia many are also questioning why the players and staff were flown in for the event, when tens of thousands of Australians remain stranded overseas.

Meanwhile Kyrgios also took aim at fellow Australian player Bernard Tomic's girlfriend, Vanessa Sierra, after she complained in an online video about cold food and having to wash her own hair in quarantine.

"I don't mind Bernie but his Mrs obviously has no perspective, ridiculous scenes," Kyrgios said on Twitter.

Djokovic's actions around the tournament are being closely watched, in part due to his seeming nonchalance about the virus in the past.

Last year, the 17-time major champion organised a series of exhibition events in the Balkans at which social distancing was minimal.

He and several other players later tested positive for the virus, as well as his wife Jelena.

Despite the controversies, the Australian Open is due to begin in Melbourne on February 8, having already been delayed three weeks.

AFP

SPORTS

Azam FC's goalkeeper David Kissu problem

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IN the just ended mini-transfer window, Azam FC managed to sign Ugandan goalkeeper, Mathias Kigonya, on a two-year deal.

Kigonya, capped seven times for Uganda's national team, Cranes, joined the Ice Cream makers as a free agent from Zambia's Forest Rangers.

In the main transfer window, Azam FC made some interesting additions, breaking the bank to buy Zimbabwean Prince Dube.

In addition, they added strength in depth in the form of central midfielder, Ally Niyonzima, Ayoub Lyanga and goalkeeper, David Kissu, arrived from Kenya's Gor Mahia.

Awesu Ally also joined following the conclusion of his contract at Kagera Sugar, where he spent two years playing regular football. There was also Thierry Akono who arrived from Cameroon.

At the start of the season, it appeared Azam had made significant additions to their squad to sustain a title race challenge in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

They won their seven opening games and were comfortably at the top.

Then regression came swiftly with a 1-0 defeat to Mtibwa Sugar. It appears it has affected all departments of the team.

Azam FC was beaten 1-0 by Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC because the instincts were not there to react as quickly as sharp opponents, who snaffled up rebounds.

They were beaten by Yanga because they are painfully shy getting towards the goal themselves.

They had no shot on target in the 1-0 defeat to Yanga at their own backyard at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

All the confidence they generated in the opening seven matches of the season has dried up.

All the progress in making them harder to beat, more resilient, capable of seeing through a plan, has evaporated.

The entire squad attracted criticism however the frailties in between the sticks stood out more than anything.

Goalkeeper Kissu could not be relied on to catch a ball and command his



Azam FC's shot stopper, David Mapiyano.

penalty area, and the team looked weaker because of that.

Kissu had a strong start, keeping six clean sheets in his first seven games of the season before mistakes permeated his game.

He slowly became a liability. His defenders appeared to have lost confidence in him and he had lost confidence in himself.

In fact he did not even complain about being dropped admitting he was going through a low confidence moment.

Azam FC faced Namungo, with Benedict Haule in goal, as they scrapped to an error-strewn 2-2 home draw to the latter last month.

When Haule, who has been a third choice goalkeeper for much of his Azam FC career proved not to be the answer, the club had to start an U-20 goalkeeper, Wilbrod Maseke.

The youngster did well by keeping two clean sheets in his matches but it was too risky to let their campaign depend on an untested rookie.

Azam FC has conceded 10 goals in 17 league games-twice as many as VPL defending champions, Simba, have.

Kissu has played just once more since then. One of those was another outing to forget as Azam FC lost 2-0 to Zanzibar's

KMKM in a friendly duel last week.

He is finished at Azam FC, there really is no way back for him now. His confidence is at zero, and so is head coach George Lwandamina's confidence in him.

Kigonya has been brought to take Kissu's number one spot. Azam were so desperate to address their goalkeeping situation by going as far as offloading striker, Richard Djodi, to free the foreign players' spot needed to sign Kigonya.

The desperation to sign Kigonya speaks volumes for Kissu's Azam FC future.

On a practical level, Kissu being out of the side gives him an opportunity to work on different things as a goalkeeper, technical stuff, improving himself mentally.

For a man who expected to be Azam FC's No.1 keeper for the long term after joining the outfit from Gor Mahia, this is perhaps the most challenging time of his career.

Even before Kigonya's arrival, he was dropped to the stands in favour of Maseke and Haule.

Dropping from number one to third choice must be the hardest thing to deal with.

Dar basketball player signs for Malawi outfit

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



Amin Mkosa

TANZANIAN basketball player, Amin Mkosa, has officially signed for Malawi basketball giants, Bravehearts Club, on a three-year deal.

Mkosa had been playing for Dar es Salaam's Kurasini Heat Club that was battling it out in the Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League.

The power forward has been signed to bolster Bravehearts Club ahead of the squad's participation in the FIBA Africa Club Championship slated for this year.

Bravehearts Club's patron, Griffin Kalua, was quoted by a Malawian publication, Daily Times of Malawi, as saying his team are on a serious mission to conquer Africa, hence they need to sign Mkosa to strengthen their squad.

Mkosa was supposed to land a deal for a professional career with Bravehearts Club early last year only to be delayed for a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The forward is due to start his new career this month and he is scheduled to head to Malawi this week to join his new team.

"I thank God that everything went well, we have already agreed to sign a three-year contract which, among others, includes scholarship for further studies in Malawi," he said.

He added during his stint there he will pursue a degree in marketing, while playing for the side.

Mkosa added that it is a good deal, adding he targets to play well for the side in expression of his gratitude to he club for trusting him.

The player also said it was a dream come true for him to play for Bravehearts and he is ready to offer them his services.

The Tanzanian has been signed to bolster Bravehearts' squad ahead of their participation in the FIBA Africa Club Championship scheduled for this year. The former Kurasini Heat Club's forward had as well turned out for Uganda's Power Basketball Club.

He firstly won the RBA League's trophy in 2017 with Savio Basketball Club and during his long wait, Mkosa was given a chance to play for Dar es Salaam's other outfit, Kurasini Heat Club.

The player helped Kurasini Heat Club clinch the 2020 RBA League's top honour for the second time in his career.

He also won the 2020 National Tournament and the National Basketball League (NBL), hed the same year.

He was voted as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the two tournaments' finals.

CHAN is 'the most scouted tournament in the world' for young talent

By Ed Dove, Special to ESPN

UGANDA coach Johnny McKinstry has talked up the advantages of the African Nations Championship for the continent's home-based players, ahead of the Cranes' CHAN opener against neighbours Rwanda on Monday.

The biennial tournament, exclusively for players who currently ply their trade in their own nation's domestic league, represents an opportunity for local stars to test their mettle in a continental context and against Africa's finest home-based players.

The tournament, essentially for a country's second string, has proven to be a rich hunting ground for heads of recruitment, player agents, and scouts from around the world, and McKinstry believes it's an invaluable opportunity for African players.

"I've been told before by CAF that the CHAN is the most scouted tournament in the world, in terms of the credentials that get handed out to scouts, agents, for tournaments across the world," McKinstry told ESPN, "so it's a really great opportunity."

"[The CHAN is] a really interesting and unique approach that CAF have taken to promote the exposure of domestic talent across Africa," he added.

"It gives the opportunity for players playing domestically in the African leagues which maybe don't have as much exposure."

In the past, the likes of Yves Bisouma, Shehu Abdullahi, Nayef Aguerd and El Arbi Hillel Soudani moved to Europe on the back of strong CHAN performances, while Real Valladolid and Morocco defender Jawad El Yamiq was recruited by Genoa in the midst of the

Atlas Lions' run to the final in 2018.

"Not all domestic African leagues have television contracts or have games being played online etc," McKinstry continued, "and so CHAN is a great opportunity for those boys."

"[They can] represent their country at a continental level against some of the best countries in Africa, but it also puts them in [the view of] clubs all around the world to see that talent and get access to it in a very straightforward way."

Cranes players will be aware of the opportunity that the CHAN represents, with several members of Sebastien Desabre's 2018 squad subsequently going on to bigger and better things after impressing for the East Africans in Morocco.

Of that squad, Milton Karisa, Nelson Senkatuka and Muhammad Shaban all secured moves to Morocco, Derrick Nsibambi, Taddeo Lwanga and Allan Kyambade moved to Egypt, while Moses Waiswa is currently in South Africa's PSL with SuperSport United.

The biggest success story is centre-back Timothy Awany, who now represents FC Ashdod in the Israeli Premier League and has become a key figure in the Cranes' senior side.

"Football has been growing in Uganda over the last 10-15 years," McKinstry continued, "and we've seen the senior men's national team reach the last two editions of the Africa Cup of Nations."

"This is the fifth edition in a row that Uganda will play at the CHAN itself so it's an opportunity to create that steady conveyor belt of talent rising to the top level of world football, and that can only be good for Ugandan football as a whole."

(Agencies)

Blend it with Beckham: Neville hired to coach Inter Miami

MIAMI

PHIL Neville and David Beckham won Premier League championships together at Manchester United. They're teaming up again with hopes of winning more trophies with Inter Miami.

Neville was hired Monday as Inter Miami's coach, reuniting with Beckham - a co-owner of the MLS club. Neville was released from his contract as coach of England's women's national team earlier Monday in anticipation of the move, and hours later the deal with Inter Miami was announced. "I have known Phil since we were both teenagers at the Manchester United Academy," Beckham said. "We share a footballing DNA having been trained by some of the best leaders in the game, and it's those values that I have always wanted running through our club."

Also Monday, Inter Miami said it hired Chris Henderson as chief soccer officer and sporting director. Henderson spent the last 13 seasons with the Seattle Sounders in a similar capacity, helping them win two MLS Cups.

Beckham, part of Inter Miami's ownership group and someone who spent several years trying to get MLS back in South Florida

before the team finally got on the field for the first time in 2020, has deep and longstanding ties with Neville. They played 275 matches together and were teammates at Manchester United for more than a decade. They are also part of the ownership group for Salford City, a fourth-tier team in England.

"This is a very young club with a lot of promise and upside, and I am committed to challenging myself, my players and everyone around me to grow and build a competitive soccer culture we can all be proud of," Neville said.

He will formally start at Inter Miami once he gets a work visa.

Neville led England to the Women's World Cup semifinals in 2019 and had said he was planning to keep that job until after the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics. But when the Inter Miami job opened earlier this month - the team called it a mutual agreement to part ways with Diego Alonso - speculation rapidly intensified that Neville was on his way.

The hirings of Neville and Henderson are part of a major off-season makeover for Inter Miami following an inaugural season that resulted in a playoff berth but was still generally disappointing.

AFP

Leonardo: PSG interested in signing Messi

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain sporting director Leonardo has said the club are interested in signing Lionel Messi as his contract with Barcelona comes to an end this summer.

The Argentina international has been free to negotiate with clubs outside of Spain since Jan. 1 and sources told ESPN in December that PSG were exploring the option of signing him.

"Great players like Messi will always be put in PSG's list. Of course, it is not the time to talk about it or to dream about it. But we are sat at the big table of the clubs following this closely," Leonardo told France Football.

"Actually, no, we are not sat yet but our chair is reserved there, just in case. Four months [before the end

of the season] in football, it is an eternity, especially at this time."

Any potential move would involve a major financial commitment from PSG - especially as the club try to work out extensions for Kylian Mbappe and Neymar.

The two players are contracted with PSG until June 2022.

"I hope they are convinced that PSG is a good place to be right now for a very high level and ambitious player. We just have to find an agreement with their desires, their demands, our expectations and our possibilities," Leonardo added.

"We are not begging them: 'Please, stay.' It is more argued than this. The ones who really want to stay will stay. We exchange regularly and I have good vibes on both those cases."

(Agencies)

Morocco begin bid for back-to-back CHAN titles with victory

DOUALA, Cameroon

YAHYA Jabrane converted a retaken penalty to give Morocco a 1-0 victory over Togo Monday in Douala as they seek to become the first back-to-back winners of the African Nations Championship (CHAN).

In the second match of a Group C double-header at the Stade Reunification in the Cameroonian economic capital, Rwanda and Uganda drew 0-0.

Jabrane had his first spot-kick saved by Abdoul-Moubarak Aigba, but the goalkeeper moved forward off his line before the penalty was taken.

Aigba dived to his right again when the kick was retaken on 27 minutes, but Jabrane planted the ball into the unguarded side of the goal.

Morocco had more chances in a lively match, but the heroics of Aigba and wild shooting meant that for the fourth time in the first six matches of the tournament, a solitary goal secured maximum points. The Moroccans are the favourites along with hosts Cameroon and twice champions the Democratic Republic of Congo to win a competition restricted to home-based footballers.

They are captained in Cameroon by Ayoub el Kaabi, the nine-goal star when hosts Morocco triumphed three years ago after winning five of six matches, including hammering Nigeria 4-0 in the final.



Moroccan Zakaria Hadraf (L) and Togolese Ayayi Zonor contest possession during an African Nations Championship (CHAN) Group C match in Douala Monday. (Agencies)

Togo, the only debutants among the 16 challengers, have experienced glory and gloom en route to a tournament that was postponed twice last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

After scraping past Benin in their first qualifier, Togo stunned Nigeria to secure a place at the sixth edition of the Nations Championship.

But tragedy struck twice in the build-up to Cameroon with the deaths of stars Kossi Kouidagba, from malaria, and Toyi Awi, who collapsed clutching his chest during a training session.

Meanwhile, Rwanda exceeded expectations by holding eastern Africa neighbours Uganda in a match that offered little excitement.

Uganda, who are coached by Northern Ireland-born Johnny McKinstry, continue to disappoint in the Nations Championship with just one victory in 13 matches spanning five editions.

The Nations Championship is a dress rehearsal for the 24-team Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) next January and February when hundreds of Europe-based professionals like Senegalese Sadio Mane will head for Cameroon.

Stadiums in Douala (two), Yaounde and Limbe are being used for the Nations Championship and two more, in Yaounde and Garoua, will raise to six the number for the Cup of Nations.

AFP

Aubameyang shows why he's key to Arsenal's top-four quest

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

ARSENAL's post-Christmas revival will really gather pace if Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's brace in this 3-0 win over Newcastle signals a return to form.

For 50 minutes or so, this appeared likely to be another evening spent in the shadow of his former self, bereft of confidence and lacking conviction when chances presented themselves.

With just a quarter of an hour played, Bukayo Saka burst into the box and tried a shot across goal which Newcastle goalkeeper Karl Darlow touched away with his outstretched right foot. The ball came quickly to Aubameyang just beyond the far post around three yards out and he could only steer his shot off the far upright with the goal at his mercy. The speed with which the ball came to him, via a late deflection, offered small mitigation but it was a chance he should have converted and one he surely would have done had he been anywhere near his best of late.

Just before the interval, Aubameyang had another chance to cut in from the left and try his luck but the 31-year-old could only produce a tame effort off target. And so when Thomas Partey released Aubameyang five minutes after half-time for another run at Newcastle right-back Emil Krafth, the odds were against what happened next.

Suddenly, the old Aubameyang appeared. The one who helped Arteta and Arsenal thrive in 'Project Restart' and helped guide them to an FA Cup final success with goals against Manchester City and Chelsea.

The Gabon international burst forward with intent, shifted the ball onto his left foot, and in a flash fired a shot past Darlow. It was reward, not least for his perseverance.

"That's what he has done through his career and mentally you have to be really strong in order to do that," said Gunners boss Mikel Arteta. "He has come out of a difficult period. We have been missing his goals a lot. Today he has come back and scored two, and contributed to the team to win and this is exactly what we need. So I am really pleased for him."

It was only Aubameyang's second Premier League goal since Nov. 1 but one that eased frustrations on a night when Arsenal dominated the ball but struggled to translate that superiority to the scoreline.

Thomas Partey, making his first start since Dec. 6 following a thigh injury, looked utterly unflustered throughout, misplacing just three of his 58 passes all evening. Sterner tests are to come for Arsenal's £45 million summer signing but there were encouraging signs given the midfielder's lack of action due to injury since arriving from Atletico Madrid.



An in-form Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang remains one of the division's biggest dangers, a lesson Newcastle were harshly reminded of on Monday. (Agencies)

Meanwhile, youngsters Emile Smith Rowe and Saka continue to inject joy into the Gunners' play, taking advantage of some dreadful defending and to combine for Arsenal's second.

It felt apt that Smith Rowe continues to show signs of being able to take up a creative mantle once the preserve of Mesut Ozil, who is now in Turkey ahead of a move to Fenerbahce. Smith Rowe is said to have been one of several youngsters to look up to Ozil even during his spell in the wilderness but the quickest way for everyone to move on is for the 20-year-old to continue on like this.

"The manager tells me so much to play free, clear my mind, and be confident," Smith Rowe told Sky Sports. "If I make a mistake he tells me to carry on. I'm so happy to play for a manager like Mikel and to get these opportunities."

Cedric Soares, selected ahead of Hector Bellerin at right-back, capped a composed display with an assist for Aubameyang to tap home a second. It is the first time Aubameyang has scored more than once in a game since that FA Cup final - he was denied the chance to pursue a hat trick after coming off with what Arteta described as a small "stomach issue" - and since signing his new contract in September, there have been accusations in some quarters of a drop off in intensity from the Gabonese.

However, his tally of just eight goals for the season including the

Community Shield is the product of a number of factors beyond a loss of confidence, not least the poor chance creation the Gunners suffered with during that spell before Christmas when they lost five out of seven games in all competitions.

Aubameyang has now scored in his last four games against Newcastle and Arteta's hope will be this is the beginning of a renaissance given the tougher opposition that lies in wait: potentially Southampton twice in four days before Manchester United, Wolves, Aston Villa, Leeds, Benfica and Manchester City.

But everyone has to start somewhere. Steve Bruce made eight changes to the team that lost 1-0 to Sheffield United but there was little discernible by way of a reaction and in the end, this was a nice confidence-builder for the home side, their fifth win in six games (including their FA Cup third-round win against Bruce's men nine days earlier).

This was also Arsenal's fifth consecutive clean sheet, the first time they have managed such a run in 12 years. Align that with a revived Aubameyang and Arteta may well be on to something.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Morocco begin bid for back-to-back
CHAN titles with victory**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Dates for 2021 Akhwari Marathon announced

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of John Stephen Akhwari International Marathon will be held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium in Arusha in June, the race's organizer disclosed yesterday.

Sylvester Orai, the race's director, said preparations for the marathon are going on smoothly and he asked all interested runners, both local and foreign, to register for the event which will be held on June 6.

He disclosed the race's main purpose is to honour Mzee John Stephen Akhwari (pictured) who contributed immensely in the history of athletics in Tanzania as he is one of the very first young Tanzanian athletes to represent the country in international competitions.

Last year's event was postponed due to coronavirus crisis, the organizer stated this year they expect more than 800 both local and foreign athletes to compete.

"The John Stephen Akhwari International Marathon is duly registered with National Sports Council (NSC) and it is also recognised by the Athletics Tanzania (AT)," he said.

He disclosed, "This year it will be held on June 7 in Arusha, the main purpose of the race is to honour Mzee Akhwari who contributed immensely in the history of athletics in the country."

"He is one of the very first young Tanzanians to represent the country in international athletic competitions. He is most famous in Mexico City Olympics in 1968 where he left a mark, bringing a new meaning to the word 'never give up'," he said.

Orai said the race further gears towards seeing to it athletics stakeholders work hand in hand with the government in its drive to identify and nurture young talents to pick up from the initiative of the nation's athletic legends.

He said at this year's event will have three races, 21km, 10km for both men and women and 2km race for kids.

Orai said kids are greatly encouraged to compete at the event since one of the purposes of the race is to identify young talents for proper training to enable them to represent the nation in major competitions future.

He said the race's organizing committee is looking for sponsors, noting prizes to be handed over to winners will be announced early in June.

He noted, "The event could not take place last year due to coronavirus crisis, but this year the John Stephen Akhwari Marathon will be held."

"We are asking the corporate world, institutions and organizations to come forward and support us both materially and financially," he said.

This is the second year in a row that the Akhwari Marathon is being held. The first edition, which took place in 2020, involved more than 800 athletes from within the country and beyond.



Annadil Burhani cricketers clinch 2020 TCA Seifee Cup tourney trophy



Annadil Burhani Cricket Club players in a group picture after clinching the 2020 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Seifee Cup tournament's top honour with five-wicket victory over GP team in the final, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM'S Annadil Burhani Cricket Club has clinched the 2020 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Seifee Cup tournament's trophy, notching five-wicket victory over General Petroleum (GP) team in the final, which took place in the city early this week.

Annadil Burhani Cricket Club organized the 10-over formatted tournament, which started on November 21 last year, in cooperation with TCA in a bid to boost cricket promotion at the domestic level.

Fourteen sides from across the city took part in the competition, with all games taking place at Annadil Burhani oval.

In the exciting final GP team had chance to bat first and recorded 68 runs all out in 10 overs, with skipper Maqsood Alam and Naseer Yatoo playing pivotal role in the club's acquisition of the total.

They experienced a wobbly start to their quest for an imposing score, given the openers, Basit Raza and Kashif Adnan, faced early dismissals.

Alam thereafter took the pitch to help GP take control of the innings with his 16 runs, which consisted of three fours.

After another wobble that had a reliable batsman, Humayun Taj, facing an early exit, Yatoo improved his club's quest for a good total with his 13 runs which included a six.

Middle order batsman Sultan Qureshi chipped in with nine runs.

Firoz Hatim Dahodwala had most wickets for Annadil Burhani Cricket Club, ending his spell with three wickets and leaking 15 runs in two overs.

Murtaza Kaderbhai was equally impressive, ending with two wickets and conceding seven runs in two overs.

With a modest target of 69 runs in their sight, Annadil Burhani cricketers smoothly got down to successful chase, dropping five wickets in 8.5 overs.

Opener Abbas Adamjee's brief spell had him posting 10 runs, fellow opener Mufaddal Seifuddin put his experience to show and won the clash for his team, ending with 34 runs not out.

Skipper Mustafa Lukmanji chipped in with his 11 runs, Quresh Karimjee thereafter forged an unbeaten partnership with Seifuddin, ending with five runs not out.

The hard working Taj ended his bowling spell with three wickets, his efforts however did little to help GP team bounce back and keep their opponents in check.

The GP team had booked their place in the showpiece's final with an impressive eight-wicket victory over Union SC in the first of the last four fixtures, which took place last weekend.

The tournament hosts, Annadil Burhani Cricket Club, had to make it to the final via a rather tough route, given they had to feature in an Eliminator, which saw them notch an 18-run win over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) to make it to the second semi-final.

Annadil Burhani Cricket Club then came up against Union SC, the first semi-final losers, in the second semi-final, which ended with the hosts commanding a nine-wicket victory.

Atif Salim, TCA information officer, noted: "This was the first ever outdoor cricket tournament that Annadil Burhani Club has recently hosted in its history, it was held with the blessings of their community religious leader, Syedna Mufadal Saifuddin."

He noted: "Annadil Burhani emerged as champions after the incredible two days of their participation in the last four and final, which showed champions' character they showcased."

"The outfit, in the process, made it three wins out of three tournaments in the T10 format in the last three seasons."

The final's Man of the Match prize went to Mufadal Hassanali (Annadil Burhani Cricket Club), the tournament's best batsman honour was won by Shiraz Shokat (Union SC) who amassed 178 runs (99 balls) in seven matches.

Firoz Dahodwala (Annadil Burhani Cricket Club) was presented with the event's best bowler prize, given he took 17 wickets in nine matches with an economy rate of 7.3.

The Man of the Series' prize was won by Athuman Kakonzi (Union SC), he ended with 204 runs (111 balls) and six wickets (economy rate of 5.3).

Harab Motors LTD, Burger 53, Skewerz Restaurant, London Health Centre, AP Dental Clinic, Dar City Promotion, Diamond Stationery, INGCO and Jambo were the tournament's sponsors.

Simba SC set to resume training for VPL, CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) defending champions Simba SC will regroup in Dar es Salaam on Sunday for full training ahead of local and international games.

Simba SC's information officer, Haji Manara, said they expect players, who are not with the senior national team 'Taifa Stars' in this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals in Cameroon, to start camp in the city in readiness for the VPL and CAF Champions League's group stage.

The club currently has no head coach as Sven Vandebroek, the then head coach, left the team and his assistant, Suleiman Matola, who guided the team to the final of the just ended Mapinduzi Cup competition in Zanzibar, is with Taifa Stars in Cameroon. He said Simba players, apart from those who are with Taifa Stars in Cameroon, were given time to rest and they are expected to start arriving in the city this week.

Manara said he is confident that the players who were given time to rest would maintain good fitness level ahead of the international and local fixtures.

However, Manara said, Simba's new head coach will be announced this week so as to train the team, but, in case the coach is not unveiled this week, youth team's head coach, Nico Kiondo, will be with the first team's caretaker coach.

He stated: "We expect to announce our new head coach this week, he will go straight to train the team as training is expected to start on Sunday, our new coach is a person with a reputable record in football."

"But in case we fail to unveil him before Sunday, our youth team's head coach, Nico Kiondo, will train the team for days, youth team's head coach drilling the senior team is the best practice around the world," he said. He also maintained that his side will defend the VPL this season, saying they have every reason to defend the championship.

"We have every reason to defend the league's top honour this season, I don't see any team which can stop us, we will defend it," he said.

Simba have boosted their squad by signing new players, namely Perfect Chikwende from Zimbabwe and Taddeo Lwanga from Uganda.

The team are also linked to Congolese Karim Kiekie, Peter Mudawa and Nomore Chinyerere from Zimbabwe, Nigerian Junior Lokosa and Tanzanian Abdulmajid Mangalo.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV
WEDNESDAY

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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