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NEMC: Pollution adamant in soup



Appeals: NEC cautioning 'unopposed' candidates

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has warned candidates who sailed through unopposed not to celebrate yet before its appeals window elapses.

The Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Charles told the media here yesterday that it was an error for a section of the media to publish names of CCM aspirants whose opposition adversaries were disqualified.

Dr Charles said 24 hours are mandated for lodging appeals after the announcement of approved candidates: for presidential, parliamentary and civic posts.

Therefore, those who were busy congratulating aspirants who initially hit a walk-over after disqualification of their opponents were engaging in premature celebration, he stated.

"The appeals window closes today (Wednesday) at 4pm; yet some people were congratulating one another and celebrating since Tuesday. That was wrong," he said.

Reacting to reports that NEC presiding officers may have intentionally disqualified opposition aspirants to give CCM a walk-over, the director defended the decisions, saying the rules were followed as axed office seekers failed to meet nomination approval conditions set by the law and statutory regulations.

The list that did rounds on social media since Tuesday and published by a section of mainstream outlets showed that scores of CCM candidates had sailed through unopposed after their opposition rivals were disqualified.

"NEC conducts its duties as per rules and regulations. We have set conditions for every area including presidential, parliamentary positions and councilors, so if a candidate fails to fulfill the required terms and conditions, no one should be blamed," Dr Charles said.

"Whenever you see someone whose nomination hasn't been approved, then he/she must have violated or failed to meet some of the requirements. NEC cannot just disapprove someone from the process for its own interests, no; there are laws that guide us in this."

He however said that the commission was yet to receive any objections on the candidates who have already returned their forms.

"A candidate is eligible to be announced as a

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Left: CCM Zanzibar presidential candidate Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi receives an endorsement form from the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) chairman Retired Chief Justice Hamid Mahmoud Hamid at ZEC office yesterday. Right is Alliance for Tanzania Farmers Party (AFP) Zanzibar presidential candidate Said Soud as he receives his endorsement form at the ZEC offices. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



Kitilya, co-accused reimburse 1.5bn/- in plea bargaining pact

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general Harry Kitilya and co-accused persons have agreed to pay the state 1.5bn/- for them to be set free.

This comes after they successfully negotiated with the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the High Court has been told.

DPP Biswalo Mganga told the economic crimes division of the court on Tuesday afternoon that he had received a letter from Kitilya and his co-accused persons, asking to enter a plea bargaining agreement.

Kitilya, plus former head of investment banking at Stanbic Bank Shose Sinare, former chief legal counsel with the bank

Sioi Sumari and two former senior Finance ministry officials Bedason Shallanda and Alfred Misana have spent four and half years behind bars since they were first arrested and charged with 58 counts of organised crime, forgery, falsifying documents, obtaining money by false pretences, money laundering and occasioning the government a loss of 12bn/-.

"After negotiating with the accused persons who confessed to having committed the crimes, I decided to drop 57 counts out of the initial 58," Mganga told presiding judge Immaculata Banzi.

The DPP went on to say that his office had no previous criminal record of the individuals and asked the court to accept

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Africa, wild poliovirus free, gets certification

GENEVA

THE Africa Regional Certification Commission yesterday certified the WHO African Region as free of wild poliovirus after four years without a case.

With this historic milestone, five of the six WHO regions - representing over 90 percent of the world's population - are now free of the wild poliovirus, moving the world closer to achieving global polio eradication.

Only two countries worldwide continue to see wild poliovirus transmission: Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

congratulates the national governments of the 47 countries in the WHO African Region for today's achievement.

"Ending wild polio virus in Africa is one of the greatest public health achievements of our time and provides powerful inspiration for all of us to finish the job of eradicating polio globally," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (pictured).

"I thank and congratulate the governments, health workers, community volunteers, traditional and religious leaders and parents across the region who have worked together to kick wild polio out of Africa."

Strong leadership and innovation were instrumental in stopping the wild poliovirus in the region. Countries successfully coordinated their efforts to overcome major challenges to immunizing children, such as high levels of population movement, conflict and insecurity restricting access to health services, and the virus's ability to spread quickly and travel across borders.

In addition, the continued generosity and shared commitment of donors - including

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Candidate wore full veil dress to foil 'abduction'

By Guardian Reporter

ELECTIONEERING drama kicked off yesterday as a male ACT-Wazalendo candidate for Pangani parliamentary seat in Tanga region stormed offices of election presiding officer in full veil to dodge 'abduction.'

In Dar es Salaam, the main opposition Chadema candidate for Ubungo constituency lodged an appeal against the CCM candidate Prof Kitila Mkumbo, alleging that the academically-turned politician did not correctly fill his nomination forms.

In the first incident, ACT-Wazalendo released



In Dar es Salaam, the main opposition Chadema candidate for Ubungo constituency lodged an appeal against the CCM candidate Prof Kitila Mkumbo

photos of Faraji Msagati in a 'niqab' at the offices of the Pangani District Executive Director with a caption saying he did so to elude people who planned to 'arrest' him on trumped up charges.

An ACT statement said Msagati arrived at the offices to submit an appeal against CCM candidate Jumaa Awesu and submit his response to another appeal lodged by the ruling party candidate.

"He (Msagati) resorted to dressing this way to dodge people who were out to 'arrest' him before he could submit his response to the appeal and submit his own appeal," reads the

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National Environment Management Council (NEMC), director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the increasing noise pollution from entertainment halls, bars and places of worship, which is against the Environmental Management Act, 2004 (EMA) and 2015 Regulations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Candidate wore full veil dress to foil 'abduction'

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statement. On the other hand, Chadema posted in its official social media account that its candidate for Ubungo and former municipal mayor Boniface Jacob had submitted an appeal challenging Prof Mkumbo's candidacy.

"Our candidate has asked the presiding officer to disqualify Prof Mkumbo for faults in filling his nomination forms," reads the post.

Earlier, Chadema announced through social media that its union presidential candidate Tundu Lissu was heading to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) headquarters in Dodoma to lodge an appeal against "one of the candidates."

"Our presidential candidate and his running mate are heading to the offices of the National Electoral Commission in Dodoma to submit appeal forms against another candidate for union presidency,"

reads the post.

This was followed by a post by Lissu who said he had arrived at the NEC offices, promising to give more info later. "We are already within National Electoral Commission (NEC) offices; watch this space," he said.

Lissu is among candidates who were on Tuesday formally approved by NEC in Dodoma as nominated Chadema presidential candidate in the October 28 General Election.

Another candidate who is likely

to make a strong showing is ACT-Wazalendo's Bernard Membe, who served nearly 10 years as Foreign Affairs minister under fourth phase president Jakaya Kikwete.

He sought the ruling party's nomination to succeed Kikwete but was defeated by then Works minister Dr John Magufuli. The changes in governance that followed - and grumbings in CCM ranks - saw him be sacked from the party recently and join ACT-Wazalendo.

Appeals: NEC cautioning 'unopposed' candidates

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formal candidate for a certain position 24 hours from the day of submission, if there is no objection submitted at the commission. Then NEC will declare the candidate to vie for the position," he specified.

Dr Charles also warned media organizations who have been announcing nominated candidates,

processes and results without confirmation from the commission.

"Let me remind political parties and candidates that the code of ethics for election will start to be applied from the word go, that is today (August 26), so they should be careful in whatever they do because we will take stern measures upon those who violate the underlined ethics," the director added.

Kitilya, co-accused reimburse 1.5bn/- in plea bargaining pact

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the agreement so that the individuals who collectively agreed to pay the said amount could process the payment.

In its submission before the ruling, the defence team led by advocate Alex Mngongolwa said his clients were first-time offenders, noting that Kitilya was a senior citizen and the rest, although youthful, had families to take care of.

However, now that they had confessed to having committed a crime, Judge Banzi slapped them with a fine of 1m/- each or spend six months in prison.

Kitilya alone faced 43 money laundering counts, while Sinare, who is also a former Miss Tanzania, was charged with two counts of forgery, two counts of uttering false documents and five money laundering counts. Kitilya, Sinare and Sumari were jointly facing one forgery count.

Shallanda and Misana were jointly facing one count of use of documents intended to mislead their principal, while all five accused persons were jointly facing one count of leading organised crime, one count of money laundering, obtaining money by false pretences and occasioning a loss to the

government.

The court was told that that between February 20, 2012 and June 1, 2015 in various places in Dar es Salaam, jointly and together all accused persons with others not in court, intentionally organised a criminal racket for obtaining money from the government of Tanzania, thereby causing a loss of \$600m.

The prosecution further said that between March 15, 2013 and January 10, 2014 in the city, with intent to defraud, all accused persons obtained USD6 million from the government of Tanzania.

The court heard that the accused falsely pretending that such money was a facilitation fee payable to Enterprise Growth Market advisors (EGMA) Ltd for facilitating, together with Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, a loan to the government amounting to \$600m.

They were charged with money laundering, namely that between March 18, 2013 and January 10, 2014, they engaged themselves in a transaction involving USD 6 million by withdrawing it from an account maintained at Stanbic Bank, while knowing it was proceed of crime.

Sustain Africa's development projects, expert tells Adesina

By Special Correspondent, Abuja

AN agribusiness expert has urged the president of African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina to sustain the development projects in Africa to tackle poverty on the continent when re-elected.

President of the Nigerian Young Farmers Network (NYFN), Promise Amahah was speaking ahead of the election of the bank to choose a new president scheduled for Aug. 27.

Adesina is the sole candidate contesting for the AfDB top job during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which holds between Aug. 25 and Aug. 27.

He explained that the AfDB current president had brought a lot of development projects and investments to the continent, hence the need to sustain them in his second term in office.

He said Adesina had opened up Africa for international cooperation and visibility, saying that it was first time in the history of the bank that it gained so much international mileage and penetration as AfDB achieved more through global partnerships and cooperation.

Amahah said that Africa had gone from being an object of scorn to everyone's bride, noting that with Adesina style of leadership, countless regional forums on African partnerships began to take place globally.

"Adesina has done so much, he opened up the continent to more foreign direct investments, strategic engagements which led to continental paradigm shift.

"It is my expectation to see him doing more in showcasing the "new" Africa to the world.

"The AfDB presence in Africa through Sector Specific Strategic Interventions across Africa, well thought out and sector specific strategic projects are either completed or ongoing in various countries.

"Infrastructural investments have been opened and agricultural potential unlocked, real sector investments for manufacturing as well as support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's)

opened up too.

"A further icing on the cake is the renowned Agro industrial zones which has greatly accelerated agribusiness in Africa. AfDB has become a household name due to the last mile impact of projects and policies centered on socio-economic development," he explained.

According to him, Adesina's inspirational leadership has led to massive psychosocial transformation, especially among young Africans who are in dire need of such leaders as role models.

The expert said he was happy that Adesina came out clean over the unfair trial on corruption allegations from who he described as enemies of African progress in the height attempt to pull him down but had triumphed over them.

Amahah, however, charged AfDB AGM to address the challenges of unemployment and insecurity on the continent.

"In my honest opinion, insecurity and unemployment should top the discussion during the AGM of AfDB. Taking a broad look across Africa, you will notice that issues of insecurity are in the front burner. From Mali to Nigeria, insecurity is currently ravaging the continent.

"There cannot be any meaningful development and investment without security. Bold ideas require a safe environment to thrive. The rising cases of insecurity and unemployment in the continent require a strategic approach and call to action by all stakeholders.

"The AGM should consider deeply the root causes of rising insecurity and unemployment. Identifying gaps and inefficiencies fueling these issues will ensure a more pragmatic and timely discussion" he added.



It is my expectation to see him doing more in showcasing the "new" Africa to the world



Tanzania Revenue Authority Commissioner General Dk Edwin Mhede talks to tax payers at a seminar about the new tax electronic system in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Africa, wild poliovirus free, gets certification

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governments, the private sector, multilateral institutions and philanthropic organizations - to achieving a polio-free world helped build the infrastructure that enabled the African region to reach more children than ever before with polio vaccines and defeat wild polio.

"During a challenging year for global health, the certification of the African region as wild poliovirus-free is a sign of hope and progress that shows what can be accomplished through collaboration and perseverance," said Rotary International President Holger Knaack.

"Since 1996, when Nelson Mandela joined with Rotary, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and governments of the African region have achieved something remarkable. Today's milestone tells us that polio eradication is possible, as long as the world remains committed to finishing the job. Let us work together to harness our collective energies to overcome the remaining challenges and fulfill our promise of a polio-free world."

The resources and expertise used to eliminate wild polio have significantly contributed to Africa's public health and outbreak response systems. The polio programme provides far-

reaching health benefits to local communities, from supporting the African region's response to COVID-19 to bolstering routine immunization against other vaccine-preventable diseases.

"While this is a remarkable milestone, we must not become complacent. Continued commitment to strengthening immunization and health systems in the African region is essential to protect progress against wild polio and to tackle the spread of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2), which is present in 16 countries in the region. Pockets of low immunity mean such strains continue to pose a threat and the

risk is magnified by interruptions in vaccination due to COVID-19, which have left communities more vulnerable to cVDPV2 outbreaks."

"The GPEI calls on countries and donors to remain vigilant against all forms of polio. Until every strain is eradicated worldwide, the incredible progress made against polio globally will be at risk.

"The WHO African Region's success against wild polio has shown the world that progress against some of the biggest global health challenges is possible. The GPEI is grateful for every person, partner, donor and country who helped bring about this incredible achievement."



CCM candidate Vunjo constituency Dr Charles Kimei (C) waves to his supporters on his way to return his form to Returning Officer in Moshi Urban, Kilimanjaro Region on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Experts, policymakers call for integrated sustainable waste management in cities

By Henry Mwangonde

FOLLOWING heightened concerns raised over the environmental impact of Covid-19 waste, experts and policymakers are calling for a solution to the wider problem by instituting an integrated waste management system in cities.

The integrated waste management is a comprehensive waste prevention, recycling, composting, and disposal programme which encourages conservation in ways that most effectively protect human health and the environment.

Speaking at a symposium on waste management held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) director general Samuel Gwamaka said an integrated waste management was one that views waste as a resource.

He said there is need the integrated system would be a solution to the wider problem, partly through strengthening a network of key players in waste management such as government authorities, manufactures, waste collectors and suppliers of waste as raw materials.

"Waste management has now become an issue because of population growth and other factors, therefore we need to come up an integrated system to manage them," he said.

The symposium was organised by Tindwa Medical and Health Services (TMHS), which is taking the lead and an organisation tasked to handle COVID-19 waste and has teamed up with other entities such as Jielimisho Kwanza-Training and Consultancy Company and Human Dignity and Environmental Foundation (HUDEFO) to address challenges related to the management of waste.

TMS managing director Dr Chakou Halfani said the idea to host the symposium came from the fact that there has been issue in waste management in the country.

"We therefore saw that there is need to bring stakeholders together and discuss as well as come up with a comprehensive integrated solution to the waste management challenges," said Dr Halfani.

During the symposium, experts shared experience and opportunities in hazardous and non-hazardous waste management and recycling sector.

Among issues that took centre stage include emerging infectious diseases (such as viral pandemics) and waste management challenges, Management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste success and challenges in Dar Es Salaam, Waste Management in Tanzania (Framework, implementation challenges and opportunities and Business

Opportunities in the Circular Economy.

TMHS- is a sole proprietorship based in Dar es salaam-Tanzania focusing on emergence health services covering ground and air rescue, medical supplies, occupational health and safety services and trainings.

According to a United Nations report of 2018 on Solid Waste an estimated quantity of Municipal solid waste generated in Tanzania to be more than 10,000 tonnes per day with indicative generation rate ranges from 0.1 - 1.0 kg/cap/day.

Since 2015 TMHS established department of Waste and environmental services to support government and other stakeholders safeguarding our environment through provision of hazardous waste management services covering onsite collection, transportation and destruction, conducting environmental impact assessment and consultancy services.

Dar es salaam only accounts for 55percent of waste generated which are piled up at open spaces, sewer pipes, roads and human residents and only 45percent is sent to the authorized dump site, equivalent of only 1,200 tonnes of total generated solid waste.

The Dar es salaam City Council estimated that Dar es salaam city alone could be generating over 12,000 tons by 2025.

By Getrude Mbago

TCU opens window for Form 6 leavers to apply

TANZANIA Commission for Universities (TCU) has opened its first window of application for university studies calling on Form Six leavers and those who are eligible to start sending their applications to the respective universities.

According to TCU executive director Prof Charles Kihampa, the window for the first time of application commences officially from August 26 to September

25, this year. Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday Kihampa said: "We have officially announced that our application window for the 2020/21 academic year is now open, anyone who is eligible is welcomed to send applications at any university of his/her choice," he said.

He urged the applicants and the

general public to avoid being misled by some dishonest people who claim to provide services on how to join higher education institutions in Tanzania.

"We have three groups of people who are eligible to apply for higher studies and these are Form Six leavers, ordinary diploma and those with foundation courses from the

Open University of Tanzania (OUT). All information on how to apply and minimum requirements are found in the TCU website and respective varsities," Prof Kihampa said.

He said that those with certificates obtained from foreign countries should submit their certificates to the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) or National Council

for Technical Education (NACTE) so as to obtain certification on their qualifications before applying.

Meanwhile, Prof Kihampa encouraged the students to utilise various career development opportunities which will be exposed during the forthcoming universities exhibition slated from September 31, this year.

Organised by the TCU, the six-day exhibition will bring on board over 70 higher learning institutions at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam.

"Once again, we are organising the 15th university exhibition and we encourage those seeking space to study in higher learning institutions to attend the exhibition so as to observe, review and decide where to send his/her application. This is also a forum where participants may learn various job opportunities," he added.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

TASAF in final touches to ensure beneficiaries get payments online

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has finalised systems to ensure that all its beneficiaries start receiving their payments electronically, a move which is aimed to curb ghost recipients.

TASAF's executive director Ladislaus Mwamanga said this yesterday here during the meeting with news editors from various media outlets in the country.

According to him, the implementation of the second phase of the TASAF's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) will phase out the cash payment system to poor households as it was in the previous phases.

He said that through the e-payment, beneficiaries will be receiving their monies, through mobile phones or bank accounts.

Mwamanga said that in the previous phase, the cash transfer process required TASAF beneficiaries to attend a community meeting prior to receiving payment; rural women spend hours waiting for the cash.

"TASAF is expected to spend 2trn/- to implement the programmes in the coming four years whereby 185 district councils will be reached both mainland and Zanzibar. In the past phase, the Fund spent 1.7trn/- to support poor households," he said.

He also said that a total of 1320 households graduated from the programme after their economic conditions were improved.


For his part, Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Emmanuel Kalobero urged journalists to educate the public on the importance of the programme.

He emphasised that

beneficiaries need to be well taught on how to spend the funds and opportunities given by TASAF for their development.

Kalobero commended the government for implementing the anti-poverty programme which has benefited millions of poor Tanzanians for years.

"I also congratulate those who have graduated from the programme after having improved their livelihood, I encourage others who are still in the programme to properly utilize the funds by initiating income generating activities to earn more," he said.



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION: RFQ N° UNFPA/PROC/RFQ/2020/009

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Assessment of Adolescent and Youth Participation in Decision-Making Structures and Processes in Selected National Institutions, Regional Administration and Local Government

Introduction
Adolescents and youth are the fastest growing segment of Tanzania's population with the age group of 10 to 24-year-olds making up 33 per cent of the total population. The large number of adolescents and youth in Tanzania means that their involvement in various decision-making structures and processes is essential.

Evaluation Objectives

Main
The study aims to assess the level of adolescent and youth participation in various decision-making structures to inform policies, programmes and strategies and the extent to which structures systematically institutionalize adolescent and youth representation/participation ensuring their voices and perspectives are included in decision-making, especially on issues that affect their lives.

Specific

- To review existing policies and decision-making structures of selected national institutions, regional administration and local government for the inclusion of adolescent and youth participation and/or representation.
- To identify barriers, challenges and other hindrances to adolescent and youth participation in decision-making.
- To offer policy, structural and programmatic recommendations for institutionalizing meaningful adolescent and youth participation in decision-making structures and processes.

Qualifications
The assessment will be conducted by an institution that must have a good track record and extensive experience in planning and conducting assessments, particularly in the field of adolescent and youth development and/or participation.

Duration of the consultancy
The duration of the consultancy is for 24 working days over a two-month period. The study is expected to commence in September 2020.

How to apply
The Request for Quotation (RFQ) template and Terms of Reference (TOR) for this consultancy are posted on the UNFPA Tanzania Country Office website accessible at <http://tanzania.unfpa.org>. Within the site the RFQ N° UNFPA/PROC/RFQ/2020/009 and TORs can be found at <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/submission/request-quotation-rfq-n%C2%BA-unfpa-procrfq2020009-%E2%80%99Assessment-adolescent-and-youth>. Interested firms or institutions can send their application documents i.e. technical and financial proposals to tanzania.office@unfpa.org

The deadline to submit application documents is 09 September 2020 (5 pm Tanzanian Time).

UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer.



Introducing Our New Managing Director

The Board of Directors of Ecobank Tanzania is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Charles Asiedu as the Managing Director of the Bank.

Charles has been with Ecobank for 21 years. He started his career in Ecobank Ghana as an Internal Controller and Auditor, was later promoted to the position of Remedial Manager in the Risk Management Department of Ecobank Ghana. He was then transferred to the Group Office as Group Financial Control Officer and later became the Group Financial and Regulatory Reporting Manager.

He was appointed as the Executive Director, Corporate Bank for Ecobank Malawi following which he was later made the Managing Director for Ecobank Malawi, the position he has occupied for the last 7 years.

He holds a Bachelors' degree in Administration Accounting (First Class Honours) from the University of Ghana and MBA (Financial Management) from the University of Hull, UK. He is a Fellow of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA), UK.

Charles will be responsible for leading and growing Ecobank's business in Tanzania.

The Board and Management of Ecobank Tanzania Limited would like to take this opportunity to welcome Charles and congratulate him on his appointment.



Mr. Michael Sallu
Board Chairman

ecobank.co.tz




The Pan African Bank

Do not use mosquito nets in fishing - call

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

Free or subsidised mosquito net (MN) distribution has been an increasingly important tool in efforts to combat malaria in recent decades throughout the developing world, making great strides towards eradicating this hugely detrimental disease. However, there has been increasing concern in the natural resource management and healthcare communities over alternative use of MNs, particularly in artisanal fisheries where it has been suggested they pose a threat to sustainability of fish stocks.

Tanzanians have been warned not to use mosquito net provided by the government designed to prevent the spread of malaria as fishnets or in garden farming.

The caution was given yesterday by the Assistant Director of the Department of Health in the Ministry of State, the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Rashid Maftah speaking to reporters here on the campaign to eradicate malaria that included free mosquito net distribution to the people countrywide.

He said the government was continuing with the campaign aimed to eradicate the disease and so far over 47 million mosquito nets have been distributed for free in the country's various regions.

He said there were many earlier complaints that the nets were small compared to some of the people's beds but as for now the complaints have been worked on and they were now distributing mosquito nets of various sizes.

Maftah said in the ongoing exercise they have distributed more than 100 per-cent of the mosquito nets and praised the fifth phase government for stressing the issue of Tanzanians' health for free distribution of the nets.

He added that the mosquito nets distribution campaign involved three phases so far the first of which involves three regions including Rukwa, Mbeya, Songwe and the second phase will involve Iringa, Singida and Dodoma,

and appealed to the people to come out to get free mosquito nets.

He said the campaign's achievements and its reception by the people was attributed to public awareness provided to the people before the start of the exercise.

The deputy manager of the National Malaria Control Programme Dr Samuel Nhiga said comparing with five years ago, malaria's prevalence has gone down among the regions.

He mentioned the regions still with low malaria prevalence as including Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Iringa and Njombe.

He however, said he will come to give the official report but as for now the government has been vigorously fighting the disease in the regions to its lowest prevalence even though the goal is to eradicate it by 2030.



...there were many earlier complaints that the nets were small compared to some of the people's beds but as for now the complaints have been worked on and they were now distributing mosquito nets of various sizes



Vodacom Tanzania Plc. head of department strategy, consumer insights and customer value management (CVM), Jackson Walwa briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the firm's new Jimixie Bundle where customers can now create their own bundle mix at their own cost and preference. Left is the firm's director for consumer business unit Linda Riwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Higher Education Loans Board (ZHELB) has suspended issuance of loans to all government employees to give room for the unemployed youth to get loans.

ZHELB says the procedure began this year and aims to provide opportunities for students who performed well in examinations to get the loans.

The board's director, Iddi Haji Khamis revealed this to reporters yesterday in his office here.

He said the government has embarked on the procedure to ensure that costs for studies of all government employees are met by the Ministry of

ZHELB suspends loans to Z'bar govt employees

Public Service.

He added that the number students has been going up every year and students completing their diploma studies, hence the step will ensure the funds remain and spent on students who enroll in higher education institutions.

Khamis however, said apart from the increase opportunities via the

procedure, the board is required to reduce the number of students it sends to study in foreign countries in fields which can be obtained in Tanzania, adding that Tanzania has more than 60 higher learning institutions that produce experts in various fields.

"Last year we had more than 400 students abroad and the sum of money spent on them was huge relatively

compared to those in colleges in the country, including tuition, allowances and other expenses," Khamis said.

The representative from Mainland's Higher Education Students Loan Board (HESLB) Francis Mshumba appealed to them grab the opportunities provided by the government to ensure every student gets the loan to enable him/her pursue further studies.



Lorries pass through a valley along Mbozi road in Temeke district in Dar es Salaam yesterday known as light industrial area which is said to have been under construction. However, for unknown reasons the contractor had abandoned the project. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Dodoma grape farmers appeal for insurance services

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GRAPE farmers in Dodoma Region have appealed to the government and financial institutions providing insurance services to protect them from various unforeseen disasters.

The call was given here yesterday by grape farmers in Matumbulu village in the outskirts of Dodoma City when speaking to this paper.

Daniel Ngoima, one of the farmers cited the reasons for insurance coverage stems from poor harvests this season due to long rains.

"We grape farmers have no insurance coverage and in the event a big disaster, as it happened this season, we end up with very little yield," he said.

He said that grapes do not need much water hence in the event of prolonged rains, they get destroyed, adding that many farmers did not get any grapes at all.

Another farmer, Victoria Zablon said grapes do not need a lot of water, hence she ended up with little harvests.

She said that grape farming in Dodoma involves two seasons - dry

and rainy season and the best season is the dry season.

In regard to the markets, she said for those who harvested the crop this season they ended up with good prices as buyers went directly to them.

She added they have always been unsure on the availability of reliable markets for the grapes, but for those who managed to harvest received good prices.

She said the prices this year ranged from 1,500/- to 2,000/- per kilogramme and which farmers earned right from their farms.



We grape farmers have no insurance coverage and in the event a big disaster, as it happened this season, we end up with very little yield

IITA, EAGC sign agreement to tackle aflatoxins in grains

By Guardian Correspondent

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) have signed an agreement to work together to tackle aflatoxin contamination of grains.

The agreement which was signed yesterday in online meeting, will among other things, promote best practices and proven technologies to manage aflatoxins in the East African region.

Speaking moments after the signing ceremony Kenton Dashiell, IITA deputy director general said that the partnership will include promoting the use of Aflasafe, an innovative, safe, and natural product that drastically reduces aflatoxin contamination in maize and groundnuts as part of an integrated aflatoxin management strategy.

"The technology was originally developed by the United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and is widely used in the US. IITA, in partnership with the USDA, has successfully adapted this technology for use in many countries in Africa," he noted.

He said: "Aflatoxin contamination is a serious food safety issue in sub-Saharan Africa and also a major impediment to trade. We are therefore excited about this partnership with EAGC that will, among others, support efforts to create awareness on aflatoxin and mitigation strategies."

This includes the use of the very effective, safe, affordable and easy to use aflasafe technology.

"This will help towards the realization of our vision for an aflatoxin-free, food-secure Africa," he said.

For his part, the EAGC executive director, Gerald Masila, stated: "by reducing aflatoxin contamination in grains to safe levels, Africa could meet international food safety standards, thereby creating a huge opportunity

for increase in grain exports potential."

He said that EAGC, on the other hand, seeks to identify best practices in food safety and quality control among grain value chain actors to increase their potential in intra- and inter-African grain trade.

"The MoU will leverage each organization's comparative advantage to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of advocacy, research, capacity development, and awareness creation," he said.

Masila said EAGC and IITA will work together to shape quality grain production, support market linkages for increased regional grain trade, promote the implementation of EAC staple foods standards and aflatoxin control, and mobilize resources to attain and manage aflatoxin standards.

The MoU is also intended to increase cooperation through knowledge and experience sharing as well as mobilization of resources to maximize desired outcomes.

The Aflasafe technology had been registered for commercial use and transferred to the private sector for scale-up. To date, 14 products have been registered in 10 countries (Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique) with more under development in 12 countries.



This will help towards the realization of our vision for an aflatoxin-free, food-secure Africa



Kilombero Sugar Company head of growers department Hans Veenstra (R) and chairman of the association of Kilombero Valley cane growers Bakari Mkangamo (L) display the cane supply agreement signed by the two parties during a signing ceremony held at Kilombero Sugar Company premises. The agreement will allow Kilombero cane growers to supply cane to the factory for one year. Looking on (not mentioned) is Kilombero Sugar Company growers development manager. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kilombero Sugar signs one-year rollover cane supply contract with growers associations

By Guardian Reporter, Kilombero

KILOMBERO Sugar Company (KSC) has signed a one-year roll over cane supply agreement with cane growers associations in Kilombero, a move that will provide operational guidelines between the two parties on quality of cane, quantity as well as prices.

Speaking at the signing ceremony held at the Kilombero Sugar Company premises on Tuesday, KSC Growers Development Manager, Job Zahoro said the sugar company's management acknowledges the contribution of Kilombero cane growers who supply at least 45 percent of the total cane needed by the sugar factory.

He said the large quantity of cane supplied by farmers to factory, is among the factors for signing of the agreement which will put in place conditions for both parties to formalise and coordinate the process of supplying cane to the factory.

"We signed the last cane supply agreement three years ago, which was a three-year agreement, but this time around we decided to sign a one year rollover agreement due to the fact that our anticipated expansion project will change many aspects of our operations including the quantity of cane needed and technology," said Zahoro adding by the end this year's agreement, both parties will meet with growers to discuss challenges and changes of operations that will be affected by expansion of the factory.

KSC Head of Growers Department, Hans Veenstra said the decision to sign the one-year agreement was mainly due to the new factory expansion which was unfortunately put on hold due to the global pandemic.

"We all know that it is the set of rules that guides us through our daily operational processes. More

importantly though, here at KSC we see Kilombero growers as key stakeholders in our business and we remain committed to a stronger relationship with our growers going into the future," he noted.

Veenstra added that the company looks forward to further collaborate with cane farmers.

He added, "we will now enter into a new long term cane supply agreement which will also encompass the possibility of the new mill expansion. It is important that this new agreement ensures that all stakeholders in the Kilombero valley, our community, growers and KSC grow successfully and sustainably into the many decades ahead."

Speaking on behalf of Kilombero cane growers, Bakari Mkangamo said they are pleased by the cane supply agreements they have been signing with the sugar company considering that the agreements are beneficial to them and also provides them with guidelines as well as guaranteeing them markets for their cane.

"We are pleased to sign another cane supply agreement with Kilombero Sugar because this gives us a guarantee that the sugar company will purchase our cane, and also through this agreement we get to address challenges facing us and outline how the challenges in question would be addressed by both parties," said Mkangamo.

Veenstra added that the company looks forward to further collaborate with cane farmers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Z'bar's CCM and AAFP presidential nominees pick up forms from ZEC

TWO Zanzibar presidential nominees yesterday picked up nomination forms from the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) through their political parties.

The two are CCM's nominee Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi who arrived at ZEC offices at 9.00am and AAFP's Said Soud who arrived at around 11.00am.

They were presented by ZEC Chairman Retired Zanzibar Judge Hamid Mahmoud.

Speaking at the Kisiwandui CCM headquarters after he was handed the forms DR Mwinyi said in case Zanzibaris elect him as their president he will strengthen the economy and will not tolerate tax evaders.

He said among his priorities from

his party's Election Manifesto for 2020/25 is to strengthen the industrial and tourism sectors for employment creation.

Dr Mwinyi said strategies are in place to prepare the youth to enter job markets by strengthening tourists and fisheries colleges that would attract the youth to deep sea fishing activities.

He said in order to attain CCM Manifesto goals he plans to create 300,000 jobs that would enable the youth to enter the job markets as well in self-employment.

"I would like to convey good news to the opposition that CCM has not split after the nomination process, we are united and all those who were aspirants will be seen during the campaign period," he said.

He said his campaign will be conducted scientifically with the CCM Manifesto as the vision to bring development to Zanzibaris and change their living standards.

He also stressed for peace and tranquility during the campaign period by avoiding inciting chaos at rostrums

to ensure Zanzibaris were united.

For his part, Said Soud, the AAFP candidate said in case he was elected president he will develop all that is good done by the outgoing President, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, and added that his campaign will be 'mobile' to ensure he reaches all Zanzibaris asking them to vote for him.

He also reiterated his earlier pledge that he would buy bajaj tricycles for reporters because they were fighters just like those of the Tanzania Peoples' Defence Forces (TPDF).



Growing Prosperity Through Trade

ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE FEASIBILITY AND OPTIONS ASSESSMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A LOGISTICS FACILITY AT JIJI GA, ETHIOPIA

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200059

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid for trade organization funded by a range of donors and development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. TMEA is headquartered in Nairobi with branch offices in EAC Partner States, Horn of Africa, and DRC Congo. TMEA is progressively expanding its operation to the southern region to cover Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. TMEA is supporting several initiatives aimed at improving regional prosperity through reduced barriers to trade and improved business competitiveness. TMEA invites bids from eligible bidders for the Feasibility and options assessment for development of a logistics facility at Jijiga, Ethiopia.

The Terms of Reference and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submission of this tender is on or before **Friday, 25 September 2020 on or before 10.00 a.m. (Ethiopia Time)** as stipulated in the tender documents.

Interested and qualified **reputable consultancy firms/consortiums MUST** submit separate technical and financial proposals through TMEA's Procurement mail box using the email address, procurement@trademarkea.com. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB. Only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.

215873401

UBUNGO PLAZA LIMITED



TENDER NO: PA/114/HQ/2020/21/C/03

FOR

PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR RESTRUCTURING AND FACILITATION OF PROCUREMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL CHAIN OPERATOR AT UBUNGO PLAZA LIMITED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

25TH AUGUST, 2020

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Ubungo Plaza Limited during the Financial year 2020/21. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the **Provision of Consultancy Services for Restructuring and Facilitation of Procurement of an International Hotel Chain Operator at Ubungo Plaza Limited.**
- The Ubungo Plaza Limited now invites eligible **Individual Consultants** to indicate their interest in providing the services which include: **Strategic Sourcing of an International Hotel Chain Operator, Hotel Contract Management, Contract Negotiation, Hotel Operation and Strategic Management for the period of Two (2) Years.**
- Interested **individual consultants** must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services by submitting consultant's profile, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc. Interested individual consultants must also submit Financial Proposal in writing.
- You are requested to submit your written expression of interest, one original detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Financial Proposal plus **Three (3) copies** of detailed CV and Financial Proposal in writing by **Friday 15th September, 2020** at 11:00 am. The Detailed CV and Financial Proposal shall each be enclosed in a separate envelope and marked **"Detailed CV" and "Financial Proposal"** respectively. The two envelopes shall then be enclosed in a single envelope and marked **"Proposal for the Provision of Consultancy Services for Restructuring and Facilitation of Procurement of an International Hotel Chain Operator at Ubungo Plaza Limited** and submit to the following address:
- Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.
- The opening of CVs shall take place immediately after the deadline for submission, at the **Ubungo Plaza Limited, 1st Floor, UPL Board Room, Ubungo Plaza, Morogoro Road.** Applying individual consultants are invited to attend the opening ceremony.
- A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 as amended in 2016 and the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 - Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016 (hereinafter called Procurement Regulations).
- CV's shall be evaluated on the basis of the criteria shown in the Terms of Reference. Only individual Consultants scoring above 75% shall be engaged (depending on their availability) to carry out the assignments during the Financial year 2020/21.
- Prospective Individual Consultants are required to collect the Terms of Reference from the **Secretary, Tender Board whose address is indicated on paragraph 4 above** during working days (Monday to Friday) between 08:00am-16:00pm.
- Any request for clarification with regard to this assignment shall be addressed to the undersigned not less than seven days before deadline for submission. The Client shall respond to clarifications received within three working days from the date of receipt of query.
- Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

The Secretary Tender Board,
Ubungo Plaza Limited,
1st Floor, Ubungo Plaza, Morogoro Road,
P.O.Box 55613,
Dar Es Salaam.

Yours sincerely,
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
UBUNGO PLAZA LIMITED,
P.O.BOX 55613,
DAR ES SALAAM.**

215873501

Workers in Mwanza industries commend the region's labour department over its good administration

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

WORKERS from various industries situated in Mwanza have commended the labour department in the region on how it has worked hard to address disputes between them and employers.

Speaking here in separate interviews, the workers said that in the recent months disputes between them and employers have decreased tremendously owing to serious interventions done by the department.

Masumbuko Magai, one of the workers noted that the situation has helped much to maintain tranquility at work places and make working conditions friendly that stimulate them to work hard.

Another worker, Josephat Mabula pointed out that an organisation that has no disputes with workers is also likely to have high production as most of the time is used for gain and not solving problems.

Labour Officer In-Charge in Mwanza Region, Oddo Hekela said that it is a must for labour officers to visit industries frequently and talk to workers as well as employers and advise them the best way on how they can avoid disputes among them.

"I have been visiting various industries all over the region from time to time and sit with workers and employers giving them advice on how they can do away with conflicts," Hekela said.

According to him, the office is also educating workers on the importance of respecting jobs for their own development as the opportunities are scarce and on the contrary once they

lose them they will have nowhere to get the daily bread.

Hekela has called upon human resource managers or officers to strictly observe labour administration principles at their workplaces as that element is one of their duties in bid to keep disputes at bay.

He noted that the labour department in Mwanza region has opened doors for employers to go and get education and understanding on labour administration to enable them run their duties without disputes with the workers.

"Conducive labour administration is important for operations of activities at work places because one of the factors for production is human resources who are supervised according to the law and regulations," he said.



I have been visiting various industries all over the region from time to time and sit with workers and employers giving them advice on how they can do away with conflicts



A road grader employees at work along Mwakangale road in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam which had been destroyed during the recent rainy season. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

NEMC pledges to take noise pollution adamant to court

By Guardian Reporter

THE Director General of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Dr Samuel Gwamaka has warned that adamant people guilty of noise pollution will be taken to court.

But, he assured that no one would be victimised. "No one will be made a victim of the steps we intend to take; no persecution. Rather, we shall enforce provisions of the Environmental Management Act, 2004 (EMA) and its 2015 Regulations on noise pollution and vibrations

originating from industries, business/entertainment points and educational institutions."

He said that the laws and regulations were very explicit on the matter, noting that initially the council would focus on Dar es Salaam and neighbouring regions.

The council, Dr Gwamaka said had provided enough education, warnings on the issue and some culprits fined. "It is high time we took steps based on the provisions of the EMA and the 2015 regulations to contain the situation," he said.

Dr Gwamaka said noise pollution was on the rise, despite steps already taken by the council which included warnings and fines.

"We have been receiving complaints from the public regarding noise pollution from entertainment halls, bars and places of worship. Because of that kind of noise people are unable to concentrate while reading or studying, sick people are gravely disturbed, on the whole people cannot rest peacefully at night," he explained, adding that that in turn hampered victim's production

abilities and effectiveness.

He said owners of buildings and points where noise originates should ensure noise remains in the limits allowed by the law and owners should be considerate to other members of the public.

"It is not the intention of the council to prevent people from doing business, or curtail freedom of people enjoying themselves or freedom of worship. Far from that; the law says owners of such houses must ensure noise does not travel long distances and affect others," he said.



Director of global education link (GEL), Abdulmalick Mollel, speaks to graduates who studied at different universities abroad during one-day training on employment opportunities organised by firm and conducted by officials from public service recruitment secretariat (PSRS) and government employment services unit (TaESA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Utilise government's portal, public recruitment body tells job seekers

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PUBLIC Service Recruitment Secretariat (PSRS), has urged youth who seek employment through government system to put correct information and get prepared when they are called for one to one interview.

Mtage Ugullum, PSRS's Information and communications technology (ICT) officer made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to graduates who completed their studies abroad through the overseas education Agency-Global Education Link (GEL) during the one-day trainings on how they can secure job after their studies.

Mtage said some youth intentionally put wrong information of their education background in the government employment portal and at the end of the day they are disqualified when employment opportunities appear.

The training which was coordinated by GEL was conducted by officials of PSRS and government Employment Services Unit (TaESA) which is under Prime Minister's Office.

"There is another problem among youth, they ask for a job but when they succeed they don't go where they are located, remember there were so many of your colleague who applied for the same job and didn't succeed so if you think you don't fit for a certain job don't apply because you deny others opportunities," she said.

She said youth must consider directives deployed by the employment portal when applying for the job vacancies and also verify their academic certificates to the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) or accredited lawyers.

Head of TaESA Coast and East Zone, Jane Sorogo said: "There are plenty of vacancies for the graduates to undergo internship in different public and private companies and advised them to visit TaESA offices where they will be educated on how to apply for the opportunities."

"We have taught them on stages to go through when they apply for the job because many of them don't know how to do that after their studies, also we

told them the personality of someone who can be employed because you can have all certificates but you are not employable," she added.

She said discipline must be number one priority for youth when they go for interviews, dress properly and they must know the employer's expectations.

Abdulmalick Mollel GEL director said some students who studied abroad have complains that they are not considered in employment opportunities when they come back after their studies.

He said GEL is striving to create the bridge to enable students who study abroad meet employers in public and private institutions after they complete their studies to reduce complains that they are not considered in those opportunities.

"Our minister for foreign affairs Professor Palamagamba Kabudi visited one country and met with one of the student abroad and one of his complains to the minister was what the government do for students who study abroad after they complete their studies arguing that when they come back they don't know where to start," he said.

He said some graduates complain that they do better in interviews but they are not considered because their fellows are backed by god fathers.



We have taught them on stages to go through when they apply for the job because many of them don't know how to do that after their studies, also we told them the personality of someone who can be employed because you can have all certificates but you are not employable

TCCIA to set up large scale poultry farm in Dodoma

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industrial and Agriculture (TCCIA) in Dodoma Region is set to establish large-scale poultry farm that will increase production of chickens and eggs.

The useful initiatives to be implemented in Dodoma will also incorporate installation of a special department for the additional value chain of the popular consumed fowls.

The envisaged plans, according to TCCIA's regional director, Idd Senge, is to install a number of modern incubators, a special unit for chicken rearing and eggs production, as well as a center for slaughtering and attaining additional value chains for the produced chickens.

"We have decided to come with the idea to implement this project after realising presence of acute shortage of availability of chickens and eggs in capital city, being propelled by rapid increase in human population," he expressed.

He observed that the capital city was

to keep on experiencing an uptick in the number of hotels, lodges, restaurants and other food selling outlets, the situation which has automatically propelled to rapid demand for chicken meat and eggs.

"Despite the impressive trend over improved demand for chicken meat and eggs, most of the chicken are still being slaughtered and prepared poorly, without observing health precautions," he said.

"This project eyes to ensure mass production of chickens and eggs in order to quench the on-going thirst, but also, to assure professional

slaughtering of the chickens," he observed.

Senge added: "The project will involve opening of a vast super market, specific for selling chicken meats, as well as other related items."

Pertaining the side of additional values chain, Senge said: "The plan is to make sure for effective uses of each and every thing from chickens, apart from only the meat."

Giving specific details, he said the plan is to use chickens' flour to produce diverse domestic products, whereby the birds' fertiliser will be processed to animal feeds.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

Absence of toilets expose over 1,000 pupils of Sirari Primary School to waterborne diseases

MORE than 1,000 pupils of Sirari Primary School are at risk of being affected by waterborne diseases due to lack of toilets, a situation forcing them to comfort themselves in nearby bushes.

Due to the situation, parents and guardians at Sirari Ward agreed during a meeting recently that each household should contribute 1,000/- to rescue the

kids. The Chairman for the school's committee Samwel Togo said the parents had wrongly translated the free education agenda and left everything to the school even the issue

of infrastructure. "We are reminding parents that despite the free education agenda by the government, there is need for parents to contribute especially on infrastructure building," he

said. He said due to poor hygiene infrastructure at the school, the huge number of enrolled students at the school this year, about 60 pupils use one hole.

In another development, the head teacher for the school Kennedy Muniko said due to the Coronavirus holiday, about 84 pupils have not reported to school saying there is no information about their

whereabouts. "In normal circumstances there is no way more than 84 pupils have not reported to school, we call upon parents and guardians to ensure these are hunted from wherever they are," he said.

He said parents who have married off their children as well as those who are using their children for economic activities will be face the law including being taken to Court.



Women selling tomatoes and other greens at a garbage dump near Sabasaba market in Dodoma region having ignored health hazards yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Police, political parties sign contract for peaceful election period in Tanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

POLICE and political parties in Tanga Region have met and put up strategies for a peaceful atmosphere during the election campaign period and after results are announced.

Speaking to reporters in his office early this week, Tanga Regional Police Commander Blasius Chatanda said the police has met with the Regional Defense and Security Committee and all political parties in the region and agreed for the need to conduct peaceful campaigns without insults or incitement so as to maintain the existing peace and tranquility.

"We agreed that Tanga Region should remain as it is now, during the campaign period, polling day and after results are announced and we call for each one to be accountable for this to happen," the RPC said.

He cautioned that in the event there would be some people going against

this agreement by causing breach of the peace, the police will not hesitate taking stern, legal measures against them.

"We are well mobilised to ensure the entire election process goes smoothly and safely in the region, we have enough arms, we are well prepared physically and mentally," he said.

He also denied what he called unfounded concept held by the people and followers of political parties that the police always work for the government in power, saying they only follow the country's laws, and not otherwise.

Rashidi Jumbe, the region's Chairman of ACT-Wazalendo who is also the party's candidate for Tanga Urban parliamentary seat said the meeting with the RPC and his Defense and Security Committee agreed to conduct peaceful and civilized campaigns to ensure peace prevails.

Jumbe said, they, as political parties


have called on RPC and leaders and followers of the ruling party (CCM) to stop creating environments that would incite chaos in the city.

"The RPC has just told us that we should not create the situation for the police to use tear gas, but we have already witnessed the ruling party in various processions while the time for that was yet to come, this points to breach of peace," Jumbe added.


Tanga Regional Chairman for CCM's Parents Wing hailed the RPC for involving political parties in his meeting as this will stress maintenance of peace and that stern measures are taken against ill-intentioned people during the election period.

He also refuted claims from the opposition that the police were favouring the ruling party.

The meeting was attended by leaders from various political parties including CCM, ACT-Wazalendo, CHADEMA, NCCR-Mageuzi, UDP, CUF and TLP.



FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE STANDARD FORM (CONSUMER CONTRACTS) REGULATIONS 2014 (REMINDER)

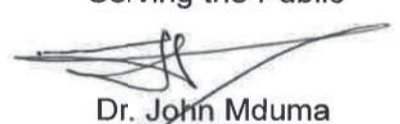
The Fair Competition Commission (FCC) is an independent government institution established under the Fair Competition Act, No.8 of 2003 (FCA) to promote and protect effective competition in trade and commerce and protect consumers from misleading market conduct. It also enforces the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963 as amended (MMA) against counterfeit goods.

All Service Providers, the Business Community and General Public are hereby informed to **TAKE NOTICE** that:

1. The Standard Form (Consumer Contracts) Regulations, 2014 were published on 29/08/2014 under Government Notice No.305.
2. The FCC is mandated to review and register all standard form consumer contracts.
3. It is mandatory for all service providers and the business community to submit all standard form consumer contracts currently in use for registration and review by the FCC.
4. All consumer complaints against standard form consumer contracts in use or objections against proposed standard form consumer contract shall be filled with the FCC.
5. Infringement in the use of standard form consumer contract(s) shall be penalized as provided by the law.

For the full text of the FCA, MMA and the said Regulations please visit our website at www.competition.or.tz

Serving the Public



Dr. John Mduma
DIRECTOR GENERAL

August, 2020

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TEL: +255 (0) 22 2926128/29/30/31; FAX: +255 (0) 22 2926126, EMAIL: info@competition.or.tz, WEBSITE: www.competition.or.tz

CUF candidate praises police for retrieving his nomination forms

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Urban parliamentary candidate through CUF tickets, Abeid Mlapakolo has praised the police in Morogoro Region for retrieving his nomination forms after they were snatched from him by unknown people.

Mlapakolo said the incident happened yesterday morning while he was going to return them to the returning officer before 4.00pm on August 25.

He said while he was outside the offices of the Returning Officer suddenly a group of people emerged and started attacking him before running away with the forms.

He also appealed to the police to strengthen security at various areas as the country approaches general elections following rampant increase of incidents of lawlessness.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa confirmed the incident and named the suspect as Jumbe Yassin (34) who has already been arrested for questioning.

Meanwhile, Police in Coast Region are holding one man for the abduction of Martine Sultan, Chadema candidate for Kerege Ward Councillorship seat in Bagamoyo District.

Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa said the incident happened on August 22 this year at Manofu area in Kerege Ward when four people, all believed to be male abducted Sultan.

RPC Wankyo said after receiving that information, the police took up the issue and were able to arrest one of the suspects at Janga Village near Mlandizi, Kibaha District.

He said the cause of the incident was still not known and three other suspects were still at large.

RPC Wankyo said investigations on the incident were still continuing and appealed to the people with any information regarding the incident to cooperate with the police.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
AT DAR ES SALAAM**

COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 8 OF 2020

GA INSURANCE TANZANIA LIMITEDPLAINTIFF

VERSUS

GOLDSHIELD INSURANCE SERVICES (EA) LTDDEFENDANT

DECREE:

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays for judgment and decree against the defendants as follows:

- a. The sum of Tshs. 83, 592,938/= per paragraphs 3 and 4 hereof.
- b. Interest on the said sum of Tshs. 83,592,938/= at the commercial rate from the date of default of payment to the date of judgment
- c. Interest on the decretal amount at the court rate from the date of judgment till the date of payment in full.
- d. Costs of this suit
- e. Interest on the costs at the rate of 7% per annum the date of award thereof till full and final payment of the same
- f. Further or other relief this Honorable Court may deem appropriate and fit and grant.

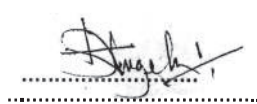
This matter is coming up for Default Judgment on 19th day of August, 2020 before Hon. Dr. Deo John Nangela, Judge and delivered by Hon. H.S Mushi Deputy Registrar in the presence of Yusuph Sheikh, Advocate for plaintiff and in the absence of defendant.

THIS COURT DOTH HEREBY ORDER THAT:

Default Judgment is hereby entered in favour of the plaintiff as follows:

1. The Defendant is ordered to pay to the plaintiff a sum of TZS 83,592,938/=
2. The defendant is hereby ordered to pay interest on the above sum at the commercial rate of 15% per annum, from the date of default of payment to the date of this Judgment until.
3. The defendant is hereby order to pay interest on the decretal amount at the Court rate of 7% from the date of judgment till the date of full payment.
4. The Defendant is condemned to pay the Plaintiff all costs pertaining to the prosecution of this suit.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this day of 19th day of August, 2020.



Dr. D. Nangela
JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)

Extracted on 19th day of June, 2020



THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA
Plot No 772 Block F, Vijibweni Area
P.O.BOX 36246, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
Phone: +255 743 905 829 E-mail: hr@uaut.ac.tz.

INVITATION OF TENDER BIDS FOR PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES AT UAUT

The United African University of Tanzania is a Christ-Centered Higher Learning Institution located on the Plot. No. 772, Block F, Vijibweni, Kigamboni Municipality, Dar es Salaam.

The Vice Chancellor invites applications from qualified and reputable firms to be considered to provide services as follows:-

- 1) INTERNET SERVICES – FIBER CONNECTIVITY

Interested eligible bidders must submit a written application giving the following documents;

1. Company profile
2. BRELA- Registration Certificates
 - Extract from Registrar
 - Annual subscription to TCRA up to 2020
3. TRA – Tax Identification Number
 - Tax Clearance Certificate 2020
4. Valid Business License from the respective Municipal

The applications should be sent online to the undersigned by
31st August 2020 at 12:00 noon

Please send all applications to hr@uaut.ac.tz; copy to ICT@uaut.ac.tz

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Restoring 'northern express' good for local tourism

ANY residents in the neighbourhood of Arusha railway stations turned up early in the week to watch a passenger train making its way to the station from the nearby municipality of Moshi, around 17 years since any trains used the railway track. Services started being restored between Dar es Salaam and Moshi as well as from Tanga from late last year and now the revamping of the railway has reached Arusha. And it comes as good news to the tourism industry, looking for ways to entice visitors to the northern circuit.

The coming of age of the revamping of railways is a sign that the slogan of a 'new Tanzania' is actually making headway in many areas - really most areas - as current reconstruction is having an easily perceptible impact in which ever sector one may choose to single out. This revamping of the railway would have in other periods have been an earth moving spectacle, but with the standard gauge setting new vision and standards in the sector, the refurbishing of the northern railway - and soon enough, a vast improvement of the Tanzania-Zambia railway, is beginning to look ordinary. Those are new standards.

That is why it was easy to comprehend the sort of excitement that was noticed in the tourist city as the passenger train arrives for a trial run. And those who know its importance were on the spot to be counted among the witnesses. In an electioneering period, it was inevitable that with the maiden passenger train voyage embarking from Moshi to Arusha, politics just had to chip in. The hand on CCM publicity chief Humphrey Polepole joined the travelers on board the train run, using the platform to remind the voters of just what the fifth

phase government is demonstrating each passing day. There was predictably no dissent.

Days are now gone when vandals would be rulers of the rail track between Tanga, Moshi and Arusha, and indeed there were plans to extend the railway to Musoma especially for inland trade with landlocked countries. The building of standard gauge railway lines in both Kenya and Tanzania changed the picture somewhat for this scenario but another is coming up, as to just how far a trans-tourism line from Tanga to Arusha and eventually to Musoma might look like. There was a lot of opposition to building a road through the Serengeti National Park in particular, but a train is more environmental friendly, even then.

It is also possible the railway and tourism authorities could think of linking the various game parks around the country to major rail networks, for instance the old central line and then the Tanga line or northern line for that matter. These lines are now earmarked as feeder networks from the major line, the standard gauge enterprise, but if concessions are issued for use and stretching railway networks further, it is possible all national parks and game reserves can be traversed across with railway carriages of a special sort, to organize round trips for a fraction of bus fares and without the cramping. Local mass tourism could be ignited from there, especially during school and college holidays for a start, or youth groups.

We have so far succeeded in raising tourist interest in the northern circuit but other areas have often been left for hunters, like the vast Selous Game Reserve now split into a park and a reserve. More is still possible.

Corruption in the time of coronavirus: WHO says unacceptable and likened it to murder

IN developed economies, the received wisdom is that the coronavirus pandemic will increase the prevalence of bribery and corruption. In April 2020, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Working Group on Bribery issued a warning that the pandemic could create environments 'ripe for corruption'. A number of law firms have issued statements and thought pieces making similar arguments.

This received wisdom is based on the argument that coronavirus - and the unique economic conditions it has created - provide new opportunities for corruption. Disrupted supply chains, emergency public procurement and shortages of key equipment will increase the incentives for wrongdoing, while disaggregated working environments will make it more difficult to detect suspicious activity. Or at least so the reasoning goes.

In the same vein, public corruption is corruption of the political process and of government agencies such as the police as well as corruption in processes of allocating public funds for contracts, grants, and hiring.

Also corruption is a form of dishonesty or criminal offense undertaken by a person or organisation entrusted with a position of authority, to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one's private gain. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. Political corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain.

Corruption can occur on different scales. Corruption ranges from small favours between a small number of people (petty corruption), to corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption), and corruption that is so prevalent that it is part of the everyday structure of society, including corruption as one of the

symptoms of organized crime.

Corruption and crime are endemic sociological occurrences which appear with regular frequency in virtually all countries on a global scale in varying degree and proportion. Individual nations each allocate domestic resources for the control and regulation of corruption and crime.

Recent research by the World Bank suggests that who makes policy decisions (elected officials or bureaucrats) can be critical in determining the level of corruption because of the incentives different policy-makers face.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has described corruption in the procurement of Covid-19 personal protective equipment (PPEs) as unacceptable and likened it to murder.

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus answered questions from journalists during a press briefing on the pandemic in Geneva, Switzerland recently. "If health workers work without PPEs, we are risking their lives, and that also risks the lives of the people they serve. It is criminal, and it is murder, and it has to stop," he said.

His remarks were in the wake of local concerns regarding corruption and funds wastage in Kemsas purchase of PPEs for health workers and other people.

Dr Tedros also expressed hope that the coronavirus pandemic will end in two years.

The WHO boss reminded his audience that the Spanish flu, which killed an estimated 50 million people from 1918 to 1919 took two years to contain.

He noted, however, that the closely-knit social system across the world has given it a chance to spread rapidly from person to person as well as across communities.

"Of course, with more connectedness, the virus has a better chance of spreading," said Dr Tedros.

Dr Tedros added that modern advances in technology can shorten the period needed to bring the pandemic under control.

New Rendevous!



We must purge corruption from the belly of the Covid-19 beast

By Omphemetse Sibanda

SOUTH Africa is in the belly of the beast of corruption, and our leaders are falling into corrupt activities like dominoes instead of being at the forefront of taming the beast.

The outcome of the gamble that the government took to introduce relaxed emergency public procurement measures is affecting South Africa's response to Covid-19. The very same healthcare sector and environment that should be improved to handle Covid-19 is fraught with corruption and malpractice in the procurement and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE). The new emergency Covid-19 procurement approach is doing more harm than good. This is the harm that Corruption Watch, in April, warned the National Treasury about.

Corruption Watch was concerned about the potential of looting and corruption under a procurement system that is an exception to the obligations in terms of section 217 of the Constitution. Section 217 requires state procurement to be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective.

"Given the rampant corruption that has characterised public procurement, procurement under the emergency instructions must be subject to tight scrutiny," said Corruption Watch's David Lewis. Speeding up the procurement processes created a fertile ground for corrupt opportunists.

The writing has always been on the wall that we are entering another phase of corruption alongside State Capture. For example, a report in the Mail & Guardian exposed the blanket scandal in KwaZulu-Natal.

The involvement of families of high-profile ANC members

Allegations abound of the abuse of power for private gain, and public loss resulting from suboptimal decisions in procurement choices or nefarious overspending on project implementation. The truth is that South Africa is in the belly of the beast of corruption, and our leaders are falling to corrupt activities like dominoes instead of being at the forefront of taming the beast. Government officials, politicians and high-ranking members of the African National Congress (ANC) are said to be wallowing in the benefits of the sea of Covid-19 corruption.

"One of the shameful achievements of the African National Congress in its 25 years of governing post-apartheid South Africa is that it's living up to the political stereotype of what is wrong with post-colonial Africa - unethical and corrupt African leaders who exercise power through patronage," as Mandisi Majavu wrote in 'The Conversation'.

The allegations of Covid-19 corruption are mounting. A report last week in Daily Maverick alleged that "the Free State provincial treasury has awarded

contracts worth R2.7-million to the sons of ANC secretary-general and former Free State premier Ace Magashule". You cannot blame the public for being sceptical and suspicious of this contract.

These revelations come hot on the heels of President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesperson, Khusela Diko, having to take leave because of a suspicious PPE tender awarded to her husband, whose company has no track record of doing business in the health and medical sector.

There are also reports alleging that a barely six-month-old company of the daughter of former Gauteng premier and ANCEC member Nomvula Mokonyane benefited from the Gauteng health department's Covid-19 procurement contract "handouts" worth between R2.7-million and R3-million to supply soap to the department.

Monopolisation of Covid-19 procurement also hit home with Ramaphosa's son Andile said to have "landed a R6-million contract to modify taxis in Gauteng to comply with Covid-19 regulations". The list of questionable Covid-19 contracts goes on and on.

As usual, many of these allegations are met with those fingered declaring their innocence. The public cannot be blamed for believing that families and children of current and former government officials are always fortunate enough to win tenders.

How to tame the Covid-19 corruption beast?

Below are a few interventions I propose:

First, let there be no holy cows in the application of the law and justice.

This intervention has been much talked about by our public officials. For instance, it was reported by Daily Maverick in 2018 that Nhlanelo Nene, then reappointed finance minister, declared that there would be no holy cows in the fight against corruption.

The government has declared that combating corruption is a national priority, while acknowledging that "corruption in both the private and public sector has a detrimental effect on the government's effort to deliver effective services to the people".

There is one problem though: in law, we often talk of appreciation of the status of things and acting with such appreciation. Unfortunately, Covid-19 tender scandals have shown that the state and our leaders are failing to act in accordance with their appreciation of the ill of corruption in ensuring accountability and prosecution of those among their ranks.

To refer to the ANC spokesperson, Pule Mabe, answering questions about Ace Magashule's sons' Covid-19 contract - not that I believe him - "we won't tolerate any looting of public resources". Not believing him stems from taking the easy way out of challenging "anyone to go and lay charges if the matter is criminal". The "no holy cows" approach

to fighting corruption means that the government and leaders of political parties cannot cling to the comrades-in-arms mantra as an excuse not to abhor corruption.

Instead, they must send a clear and strong message against kleptocrats in their ranks. This entails supporting the law enforcement agencies in their investigations and allowing the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to conduct the prosecution of members of the political elite or their families and acquaintances.

But, again, not much can be written home about our law enforcement agencies, which are captured by politicians and have a fetish for low hanging fruit (an example is the Hawks jumping to investigate the Masedo and Gigaba stories, contrary to its real mandate of combating organised crime).

Second, implement punitive findings of inquiries and commissions to instil accountability and respect of the law against corruption.

South Africa has made frequent use of commissions and inquiries over the years, with the Zondo Commission being the latest. Testimony at the commission has pointed to corruption or corrupt practices, the undue flow of money and other resources out of the public purse, and abuse of power and influence. Still, the noted acts of impropriety in the government's decision-making and by government officials have not jolted the government into cleaning its ranks of delinquent ministers and other public officials.

Instead, we often hear them being defended by conveniently resorting to legal principles such as "innocent until proven guilty in a court of law". When they close ranks in defence of their buddies, the "no holy cows" war cry against corruption is deliberately forgotten.

Third, implement the country's anti-corruption laws indiscriminately.

South Africa is not short of legal and regulatory frameworks to deal with corruption relating to the procurement of medical supplies and PPE. Since price gouging or price inflation in the provision of PPE may give rise to criminal and civil liability, use of this legislation will set a firm precedent for asset forfeiture orders against the corrupt.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Activities Act of 2004 contains clear provisions on how to deal with active and passive corruption. Nothing prevents the NPA from using this act to deal with cases of corruption and bribery, including fronting, kickbacks, and brown bags or under-the-table payments to government officials who manipulated the tendering process.

Further, under-the-table payments made to government and public officials who rigged Covid-19 procurement

contracts attract tax evasion laws. South Africa's organised crime and anti-corruption legislation imposes severe criminal and civil penalties on offenders. Yet, for some reason, there is always an excuse given to avoid enforcing the legislation against corrupt figures.

Fourth, reimagine our public procurement processes and measures.

A study by PwC on Identifying and Reducing Corruption in Public Procurement in the EU, prepared for the European Commission, noted what has been done across the EU to prevent corruption in public procurement. "[A]dministrative data on tenders, bidders, projects and contractors are collected and stored in a structured way, accessible for controls, investigations and analyses," states the report.

Fifth, maintain transparency rules during public emergencies.

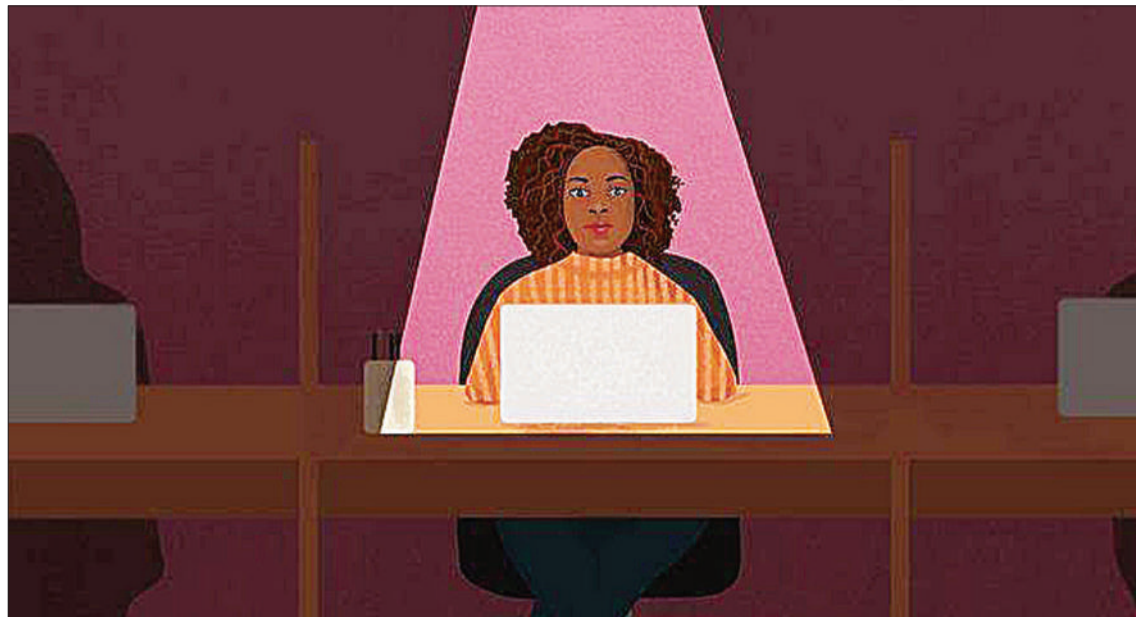
In light of section 217 of the Constitution, public procurement is generally presumptively fair and transparent. The reason is simple: public money is being spent and taxpayers have a right to know how their money is used, even during a Covid-19 emergency. Exemptions from transparency in public procurement during Covid-19, if maintained, should be properly managed. Public procurement transparency is a critical anti-corruption mechanism, even under normal circumstances.

Some countries have gone a mile further with regards to making both the bidding and procurement information publicly available. For example, Mexico - though itself bulging under the weight of Covid-19 corruption - has in place a disclosure of information system managed through the central procurement system called Compranet. Compranet is informed by the Mexican Law of Acquisitions, Leasing and Services of the Public Sector (Ley de Adquisiciones, Arrendamientos y Servicios del Sector Público, LAASSP), which makes the publication of procurement information on Compranet mandatory for federal institutions' procurement. The information published on Compranet includes tender procedures (solicitation documents, minutes of the clarification meetings and the opening of tenders), contract awards history and formal complaints.

The latest reforms of Compranet include publishing information related "to subcontracting, modifying agreements, joint bid proposals and exceptions to open tenders". These reforms are aimed at making more information available to stakeholders on public procurement processes to enable them to conduct audits to prevent corruption. The example made is that "information on subcontracting and joint bids may help competition authorities identify bidding patterns indicative of collusion and bid-rigging".

What are you waiting for?

There's a tea place in Old Town by the edge of the sea. I don't frequent it that much these days but... when life gives me too much, that's where you'll find me. Drowning it all in a steaming dark sweet cocktail of coffee, cinnamon and ginger a lot of ginger; watching the ocean outstretch like a trembling blue carpet to the other side. There's a quiet understanding between the regulars here. Though misery doesn't deserve company, we recognize we're all running away from something at least the ones I've talked to. Whether it's from a hectic long day of work, a nagging wife at home, the looming expectations of society on you or just hiding from yourself in the company of others. We're running. The upper bench for solitude and contemplation; the lower one, everybody else. It's busy most evenings, and you won't turn your head left or right without bumping into somebody's BIG plans.



THE CAREER MIRROR
With
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I remember one evening before my graduation when a heated discussion became personal on the everyday frustrations of your normal 20-something. Circling around getting a job which none of us had at that time, or internships, which were hard to come by. But then again, also none of us wanted to be employed, high on the spirits of entrepreneurship. In the perfect world, working for someone wasn't really an option for any of us.

Idea's darted back and forth. One, to start out, had plans to open a cybercafé because there weren't any in the block. Another, the water business and he spoke of a desalination plant he was already researching. Spirit's were high. Another went, and another, ideas vomited all over the place. And just like that, all went quiet until one guy chimed in.

"But why is it when we talk about entrepreneurship; our thinking is always skewed along these lines. Subscribing to the fallacy that an idea has to be 'in-your-face' and BIG to be great when most of the time, great ideas spring from the most nuanced, arising when we think along smaller lines."

"See that old man over there," He pointed to this grey beard clad smartly in a blue kanzu. "He grew up in India. He had this brother he tells me whom his family depended on. When there was an issue pertaining to mon-

ey, he was the brother you sought out. Yet surprisingly, he hardly did much the whole day. When everyone else left for work, he was asleep and was the last person to wake up. So where was this golden goose he was hiding? Turns out the brother used to wake up at 3 every morning and head to the market. His clientele was the many grocers in the city; he'd purchase whatever they needed for the day and deliver it to them. By the time the rest of the family woke up, he was done for the day and earned his freedom to do whatever he wanted, in his case, sleep some more."

I smile every time I remember that story. I smiled, even more, when I encountered that concept in MJ Demarco's book, 'Unscripted' (a recommended read). He calls it crowd-feeding. Where instead of being part of the chain, why not just serve it; provide a small convenience and the market will reward you greatly.

So long as people will be lazy, presenting convenience will have you welcomed with open arms. As long as the world isn't perfect there never will be a shortage of ideas. And the world will never lack funding for a good idea. At least that's what I think. Well then, where are these opportunities we don't see? To kick-off, I'd like to present 3 concepts I hope will stir something:

LISTENING TO THE MARKET

A common mistake new entrepreneurs make is wanting to set an enterprise in their area of specialization. "Oh! Since I'm an editor, and I'm pretty good at it, maybe I should start a publishing business," when that area is maybe saturated or the market has no need for it. A better approach when looking for what to start, when you're in need of an idea, it pays to pay attention to all the negative language used by people: I hate... this sucks... I'm tired... I wish... how frustrating... I don't like... Why do I have to... why is this... (dangerous, unhealthy, hard). Social media is full of those. More than anyone else, pay attention to what you hate, however petty and seemingly trivial.

ARBITRAGE

Arbitrage is a sort of common sense yet unconventional approach to things. Not wanting to get into the economics of it. Imagine being one of the traders in a market where you all sell tomatoes for 500 tshs. Then suddenly, one trader drops his tomatoes to 300tshs. That means the rest of you will have to match his price and sell at a loss or the customers steer towards him. That doesn't do any of you any good. So, how do you handle that? Well, an arbitrageur would notice the small window he has to buy out the other trader's tomatoes at 300tshs so

no one else has to lower their prices. The market stays as is and you still earn your profit for selling at 500tshs. Common sense? It is. But also, it's not.

Arbitrage comes in different ways. There's value arbitrage; this is when you add value to a poorly made or old existing product. Like buying old furniture and repairing them, varnishing, fixing a leg, and then reselling it at a higher margin. I'm guessing that's the deal with refurbished computers too. There's marketing arbitrage; can be as simple as taking better pictures of a product for those who sell things online, improving on the packaging and better order fulfillment. You could look more into it.

CROWD-FEEDING

And we're back at where we started. In a crowded market let's say overrun by government-subsidized restaurants, rather than being another cog in that wheel and starting your own restaurant, you could linchpin all around it and supply everything the restaurant needs instead, except for the food itself.

The best opportunities rarely come from joining the crowd, but by serving it. When people are rioting, don't riot with them, sell them water and T-shirts. When everyone has a grocery store, be like our old man from India. The thing about concepts though is that they only present us with ways

of looking for and looking at things which isn't what many of us are after. Many of us suffer from what MJ the author calls the silver-bullet syndrome. We imagine success, in this case, financial freedom to be this macro-event we hit and then everyone hands you their money, bye bye poverty, but it's never like that. All manner of success is made up of micro-processes. Daily rituals, routines and sacrifices woven into the fabric of your life. No shortcuts. Like I sometimes picture that old man starting out, perhaps talking to the first grocer, and the many no's he heard, maybe starting with one yes, maybe delivering for free for a while, maybe repeating that for years even before tasting his newly discovered elixir of wealth.

There's a laziness that plagues our society that success is this tiny secret we come along and boom, a miracle for extraordinary results. We idealise events instead of principles. Success is simple, take away that principle of idealism and respect the work. It starts by getting rid of the notion that you are special, that idea puts you in a mental state that hard work is optional for you. That's something I realise we all suffered from that day at the tea place late last year, and the reason some of us are currently in safe jobs (which we like) and others still waiting, for a silver bullet.

I'll stop with that right there lest I turn into a motivational speaker-a breed I've come to... not despise, but I'm not a fan.

We have this tendency; which has

become widespread with the rise of motivational speakers: Action-faking. Action faking is when you lie to yourself that what you're doing is contributing greatly to where you're going. That it accounts greatly in the grand scheme of things when in reality, it doesn't. It can be going on a bingeing marathon of motivational videos for hours, convinced that you're changing yourself; that it's making a difference in you when it's not. (That's a thing I have against self-help BTW being an avid consumer for years myself. After a time, you realise, you're more addicted to the act of consuming self-help content than driven to doing anything worthwhile. It's a business designed that way but...). Action faking can be having the sudden urge to clean up and re-arrange your room when you have to study, telling yourself you'll study better that way, and in the end, being content even when you did not study. Cause well, at least you have a clean room. Your brain says you did something but you didn't. In our case, action-faking can be attending entrepreneurship seminars, webinars, reading blogs and entrepreneurship books, convinced that they are preparing you for where you're headed when in reality, YOU STILL ARE WHERE YOU ARE. Staring at the starting line of this race. Until when? I ask myself. What is it I'm waiting for? What are you stalling for?

I catch myself asking myself that again and again and I'd like to ask you as well, sitting in the sidelines: What are you waiting for?

Xenophobia o'clock, once again in South Africa

BY RICHARD POPLAK

Between the years of 1905 and 1950, over five million men were coerced onto the gold mines of South Africa. Much like cattle or machinery parts, they travelled from the Sul do Save, Mozambique, packed onto the train depicted in Hugh Masekela's Stimela:

They always cuss, and they curse the coal train.

The coal train that brought them to Johannesburg.

Whooh whooh!

Hundreds of thousands of these men failed to make it home alive. Those who did, found a place denuded by centuries of forced labour – the sting of the sipais' switch had fed the bottomless mining pits in South Africa, and there was no one to fill the holes they left at home. As Charles van Onselen notes in The Night Trains, these contributions have been totally erased, despite the fact that at no point in the history of South African mining did the male population of Sol do Save make up anything less than the majority of its workforce.

For all their toil, and despite Helen Zille's Twittered assertion that colonialism was "not ONLY negative", there was zero quid pro quo.

"The colonial administration gave almost nothing back to the Sul do Save by way of the development of education, health, infrastructure or welfare facilities in proportion to the taxes it harvested," van Onselen writes. "In terms of 'trickle-down' economics the region was a disaster, and today, with seventy per cent of the rural population still living in abject poverty, the country as a whole is deemed by various United Nations agencies to be among the ten poorest on earth."



A Tanzanian woman casts her vote in a past election. FILE photo

In other words, Mozambicans were fucked six ways from Sunday.

Van Onselen's vital historical revisionism reminds us how little we understand about the recent past. African nationalism – AKA the reification of the colonial borders set up by a bunch of psychos in Berlin 135 years ago – has been one of the major tragedies of the liberation era. National borders double as the territorial limits of a ruling party's business operations, and woe betide anyone who threatens that sovereignty.

(The most vicious dressing down of any minister in Cyril Ramaphosa's epically inept administration occurred earlier this week, when Finance Minister Tito Mboweni was crapped on after criticising the firing of Zambia's central bank governor. How dare he flout the diplomatic conventions of mi casa es mi casa?)

But seriously, in a country with re-

sources dwindling under the boot of Covid-19 lockdown authoritarianism, preceded by decades of economic austerity porn, government corruption, corporate chicanery and ANC infighting, why wouldn't one hate one's neighbour? Elevated sensibilities aside, people fleeing the extended nightmare in Zimbabwe, for instance – a situation aided and abetted by the South African appeasement of Zanu-PF brutality – walk into a country with limited opportunities. Their aspirations collide with the fact that the post-apartheid economy was supposed to benefit those who were oppressed in the previous regime, and it has done nothing of the sort. Inevitably, tragically, the violence bounces back – 21 South Africans were among the 62 deaths officially attributed to the xenophobic violence of 2008. No one wins in this game.

The pressures of Covid-19 were

certain to re-up these never-dormant xenophobic sensibilities, but this time the rules are a little different. For one thing, there is a sophisticated Twitter campaign driven by the handle @uLerato.pillay, promoting the already infamous #PutSouthAfrica-First hashtag and its close variations.

Finally, xenophobia in this country is getting its social media act together. Sample Tweet:

"People of Soweto don't have affordable trains anymore. Foreigners destroyed [sic] and stole all the networks and cables. We are under siege. Zimbabweans specialise in this type of crime."

Prasa owes @uLerato a bouquet of flowers and a box of After Eights.

As Jessica Bezuidenhout noted in these pages, the Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change (CABC) has identified a "dangerously orchestrated narrative" that targets African

immigrants, alleging that they steal South African jobs, drain the public health system of resources, and are rapists, murderers, etc. Most chillingly, CABC found that the campaign might be funded by as much as R1-million a month, placing it among the most significant 4IR investments in the country.

@uLerato.pillay: How the xenophobic network around #PutSouthAfrica-First was born and then metastasised

This genuinely scary bullshit dovetails with useful idiots like former Johannesburg mayor Herman Mashaba, whose big part of MO has been crafted around an intricate Make South Africa Great Again confection. Mashaba isn't xenophobic, you understand – he just believes that South Africans in South Africa should come first. And while the business-bro-turned-politician cut his teeth in the DA and then formed his own ominous-sounding

The People's Dialogue Party, the ANC and its allies have dog-whistled their share of xenophobic commentary over the years too.

In 2015, King Goodwill Zwelithini, tenement lord of one-third of KZN, said in a speech to the Pongola community that, "We ask foreign nationals to pack their belongings and go back to their countries." This helped kick off the last serious bout of violence, but there have been numerous other examples over the years.

Now, the opportunists and fools banking off the @uLerato Tweet storm are colliding with each other to explain their rationale. Which made last weekend's Sunday Independent headline read like a punch in the nuts. "SA Under Foreign Control," it screamed. The first sign that this was a pile of hot garbage was Mzilikazi Wa Afrika's byline – Independent Media is a sort of a dumping ground for failed Sunday Times journalists. The second was that the carpet didn't match the drapes, as it were: the lower paragraphs complicated what was, as is always the case in an Independent lead story, a garbled narrative.

"Bleak future on job front for many after lockdown as companies turn to exploiting foreign migrants," it read.

The Independent's futurism is unlikely to put sangomas out of a job. But it's worth noting that the ANC is in full control of the levers of political power in this country. What's more, for the duration of the lockdown, they had corporate South Africa slaving to help mismanage their various funds, stimulus packages and charitable initiatives. There is no foreign control extant in South Africa – this is homegrown carnage, and we should be ashamed enough to own it.

Don't panic over the latest coronavirus mutation headlines

By Yasmin Tayag

Recent alarming headlines raised concerns that a new mutation in SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, was making it somehow more potent.

A Twitter moment blared: "More infectious coronavirus strain found in Malaysia." Bloomberg's headline declared: "Southeast Asia Detects Mutated Virus Strain Sweeping the World." Meanwhile, Malaysia's director general of health Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a Facebook post on August 15 that the mutated form could be ten times more infectious.

As is often the case with scary headlines, these did not tell the whole story and are worth taking with a hefty pinch of salt. The mutated form of the virus has been the dominant form in Europe, the United States and Oceania for several months, and it has more recently emerged in Asia.

The mutation in question is known as D614G, which refers to a single change in the amino acid sequence that makes up the genetic information of the virus. The amino acid that's usually at position 614, aspartic acid (known as "D") is switched out for glycine (known as "G").

And while it's important to take note of changes like that, there's currently no evidence suggesting that it makes the virus more contagious and dangerous. Or, as Bill Hanage, PhD, associate professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics, put it to the Coronavirus Blog: "It's not the thing to be writing: 'Oh my god, siren, siren, siren.'"

Mutations occur naturally as viruses replicate. Each time a virus does so, it has to copy its genome - and sometimes this process results in errors.

Some mutations are "neutral" and have no effect whatsoever, some are bad and kill the virus before it has a chance to replicate, and others do have an effect that changes the virus's characteristics.

But as Nathan Grubaugh, PhD, of



the Yale School of Public Health, explained in a previous article I wrote, for a mutation in a single viral particle to have an effect on an ongoing outbreak, it has to be passed on to future copies of the virus on a large scale. And for that to happen, the mutation must improve the virus's ability to survive and replicate.

The D614G mutation was first flagged at the end of April this year in a preprint uploaded to bioRxiv by a team led by Bette Korber, PhD, of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The preprint, which had not yet been peer-reviewed, described a method of identifying potentially dangerous mutations in the novel coronavirus. This method had singled out the D614G mutation, and it was deemed as being "of urgent concern".

The authors explained that when the variant of the virus with

this mutation is introduced to new regions, it rapidly becomes the dominant form. The mutation also occurred in the virus's spike protein, well known for its crucial role in infecting human cells.

By July 30, that paper had been peer-reviewed and accepted into the journal *Cell*. It shows that the SARS-CoV-2 variant with this mutation has indeed become the dominant form globally, that its dominance within regions may suggest an increased ability to survive and replicate, and that it's associated with higher viral loads in patients who have it.

But critics of the paper say that the evidence doesn't show that the mutation has an impact on the transmissibility, infectiousness or disease severity of the coronavirus.

In other words: Sure, it appears that the mutation has become more prevalent, but it's not

clear why. The question now is: How did this mutation get to be so fortunate? Was it really because it makes the virus more transmissible or infectious in some way or was it, as Hanage puts it, "genuinely dumb luck?"

A critical commentary on the study also published in *Cell*, co-authored by Hanage, noted: "Virus mutations can rise in frequency due to natural selection, random genetic drift or features of recent epidemiology. Because these forces can work in tandem, it's often hard to differentiate when a virus mutation becomes common through fitness or by chance. It is even harder to determine if a single mutation will change the outcome of an infection, or a pandemic."

The commentary's lead author is Grubaugh - with Angela Rasmussen, PhD, of Columbia

Mailman School of Public Health, as a co-author.

Another possible explanation as to why the mutation is so prevalent is that it was introduced to the US multiple times by many individual travellers from Europe.

It's well established that most US cases came from Europe and, if the mutated virus was already spreading there, then it's possible that it took over in the US not because it had some special ability but simply because there were just so many travellers who brought it stateside.

Another complicating factor is known as the "founder's effect". It suggests that most of the transmission in a population is caused by just a small subset of infected people, which means that, in the US, a small bunch of people who were infected with the mutated variant spread it to the majority of other people.

If this were the case, then it would make sense that the mutated variant was the most prevalent one in the US, but it wouldn't necessarily mean that the variant was more transmissible.

In the *Cell* paper, Korber and her colleagues also showed evidence that people with the mutated variant have higher viral loads, suggesting that the mutation made the virus more infectious. Other teams have found this as well.

But don't jump to conclusions, the authors of the commentary caution: higher viral load doesn't always mean more severe disease, and Korber's team didn't see any correlation between the mutated virus and hospitalisations.

Colin Parrish, PhD, a professor of virology at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (Ithaca, New York) who was not involved in the study or

commentary, says that "mutations are inevitable, and that some of those are likely to be 'human adaptive', but it is impossible to predict whether those will change either the severity or transmissibility of the virus".

He says if this mutation had a major effect, we would have seen it in the data on viral spread globally, but he is emphatic that he is "not aware of any major changes in those properties".

Paul Tambyah, MD, senior consultant at the National University of Singapore and president-elect of the International Society of Infectious Diseases, recently told Reuters that recent evidence suggests the new mutation may make the virus less lethal. He cited a decrease in death rates.

Experts interviewed by the Science Media Centre, however, caution that there's no evidence that the mutation is the reason for the decrease. "It is certainly the case that the case fatality rate is falling across the world. There are, however, other very good explanations for this decline," said Paul Hunter, PhD, professor in medicine at the Norwich School of Medicine, University of East Anglia.

In addition to Singapore, the virus with the D614G mutation has recently been detected in Malaysia, the Philippines and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

"Keep an eye on what happens in these places," says Hanage. Southeast Asia is, compared to the Americas, handling coronavirus outbreaks very well, and this means that there will be fewer introductions of the mutated variant into the population. In time it will become clear whether the variant actually is more transmissible or severe.

"Most introductions go extinct, but those that don't go big in a big way," notes Hanage.

• **Yasmin Tayag is senior editor at OneZero at Medium Coronavirus Blog, covering all science that's shaping the future.**

BY SANJA KUTNJAK IVKOVIC, ADRI SAUERMAN, ANDREW FAULL, MICHAEL E MEYER AND GARETH NEWHAM

Insight into the integrity of South Africa's police

The reputation of South Africa's police was further tarnished in the first weeks of the country's COVID-19 lockdown as videos depicting abuses went viral. Although Police Minister Bheki Cele has claimed that 'there is no police brutality' in South Africa, complaints of misconduct remain common and trust in the police is weak.

In our new book, *Police Integrity in South Africa*, we explore the dynamics shaping police misconduct 25 years after the South African Police Service (SAPS) was founded.

Democratising and professionalising policing in South Africa was a priority for the country's first democratic government. Formed one year after the 1994 elections, the SAPS was to be everything the apartheid system's 11 police forces were not: service-oriented, rights-respecting, crime-focused, restrained, trustworthy, transparent and accountable. Although numerous reforms had been completed, and much progress has been made, evidence suggests that the SAPS remains a deeply flawed organisation, characterised by malfeasance.

Through a review of relevant laws and official rules, an exploration of pertinent historical events, and an analysis of a nationwide survey of nearly 900 SAPS officers, our research offers insights into the factors and dynamics that shape SAPS officers' attitudes and the state of conduct in the organisation.

Police Minister Bheki Cele has claimed that 'there is no police brutality' in South Africa

Our survey, based on the organisational theory of police integrity, asked officers to evaluate 14 hypothetical scenarios describing police misconduct. For example, in one scenario an officer steals from a crime scene. In another, the officer shoots a fleeing suspect in the back after a non-violent confrontation.

The survey assessed officer familiarity with the SAPS rules, their expectations of discipline for such acts, and their own and their colleagues' willingness to report such misconduct.



New research highlights factors driving police misconduct in the country. File photo

Our review of statutes and rules prohibiting police misconduct demonstrates that the problem of police abuse is not one of legal or policy gaps. In fact, the country's constitution, statutory law, common law and the SAPS Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations all include norms aimed at preventing and addressing police misconduct.

Whereas any SAPS official should be able to recognise that stealing from a crime scene, unlawfully shooting someone, accepting bribes and kickbacks and falsifying official forms are violations of accepted rules and norms, between 15% and 30% of our sample failed to do so.

To interpret such findings, we

considered the survey results against the country's social and historical context. For example, one in four respondents was uncertain whether the unlawful shooting scenario was a violation of the SAPS rules. One in three could not recognise that striking a handcuffed man in the kidneys or repeatedly striking and kicking a man arrested for child abuse violated organisational rules.

Of the 1 888 officers who faced disciplinary hearings, 47% experienced no sanctions

At face value, these findings appear inconceivable. However, they need to be considered against the country's history of state and interpersonal violence. In the past, senior politicians of the governing

party have openly encouraged police to 'shoot to kill'. More recently, in the aftermath of the police killing 34 miners at Marikana, SAPS management attempted to orchestrate a cover-up and, later, to absolve the officers involved.

As the severity of the abuse described in survey scenarios decreased, fewer respondents recognised with certainty rule violations or serious misconduct. Most respondents were unsure whether addressing a motorist as 'asshole' is a violation of the SAPS rules, which it is.

Failure to recognise such behaviour as rule violations may be explained in various ways. Some officers might simply not be familiar with the official rules. Alterna-

tively, inconsistent enforcement of rules by SAPS commanders along with the disregard for rules and laws by top police and government leaders may erode the effectiveness of the rules among the rank and file.

Our data suggests that failure to address misconduct in the SAPS is supported by a strong 'code of silence'. In policing, this code refers to a shared understanding among officers that they will neither report fellow officer transgressions nor cooperate in investigations against them.

A serious path to reform should include, at a minimum, the selection of reputable leaders for the SAPS

For each scenario in our survey,

we asked officers how likely they and their colleagues would be to report the described misconduct. Although 90% said they would report serious misconduct, between 20% and 40% thought most other SAPS officers would not.

If the SAPS were indeed the police agency envisaged at the birth of South Africa's democracy, its officers should have no difficulty recognising our survey scenarios as rule violations, expecting consistent discipline for violations of these rules and expressing willingness to report serious misconduct.

Although the behaviours described in eight of our 14 scenarios should result in the dismissal of an officer found guilty in a disciplinary hearing, the majority of our respondents expected dismissal in only one scenario - accepting a bribe from a reckless driver.

Half of South Africans surveyed believe that most police are corrupt and two-thirds don't trust them. Although more than 5 000 formal complaints have been opened against police and R535 million paid out to victims of police misconduct for damages in 2018/19, just under 1% of the almost 193 000 SAPS personnel were subjected to formal disciplinary proceedings.

Of the 1 888 officers who faced disciplinary hearings, 47% experienced no sanctions because they had their cases withdrawn or were found not guilty. Of the 178 found guilty for corruption or fraud, 108 remained in their jobs. Only 12% were recommended for dismissal.

It is not surprising, then, that most respondents in our study didn't expect to be dismissed even for serious misconduct. It was similarly predictable that so many SAPS officers would abuse their authority in the first weeks of South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown.

Our conclusion is that a serious path to reform should include, at a minimum, the selection of reputable leaders for the SAPS. Leaders who are beyond reproach, and who are willing to hold transgressors accountable, able to break the organisation's code of silence and be committed to building a culture of police integrity. While there are many police commanders capable of doing so, inappropriate political interference over the years has severely undermined their efforts.

Agencies

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A study of prices of coffee in the international market has found that African farmers are earning less money compared to producers in other jurisdictions like Brazil, Colombia, and India.

The study looked at prices paid between 2000 and 2018. It notes that the average price in Africa for Arabica coffee is US\$70.4 cents per pound or half a kilogram when the price is 37.6 per cent higher in Latin America and 41.5 per cent higher in India.

The study is done by Selina Wamucii, a Kenyan agricultural company and social enterprise that markets produce from Africa's smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and fishing communities.

"Farmers in Colombia, India, and Brazil are getting higher prices on their crops compared to African countries - Ethiopia, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon," researchers concluded after studying data from the International Coffee Organization, which provides price trends for coffee exporting economies.

For instance, the study says, the price of "Brazil Naturals" coffee (a species of Arabica) for farmers advanced by 37.6 percent between 2000 and 2018 in Brazil when the rate for the same coffee in Ethiopia was only 25.3 percent.

The study also found that historical prices paid to farmers in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Uganda and the Central African Republic) for Robusta coffee are mostly lower compared to prices in Brazil and India. The price of Robusta is less than Arabica - 58.4 US cents (2,137 Shillings) per pound in Africa. Prices in Latin America and India are higher, respectively at 78.5 US cents (2,911 Shillings) and 67.4 US cents (2,469 Shillings).

"It can be said that producers of Robusta beans in African countries are also struggling with unfair prices but the difference is lower compared to Arabica sector," it said.



Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, is particularly prone to drought, farmers find it hard to live off the land and support their families. Photo: File

African coffee paid less compared to Latin America and Asia - study

Dr Ezra Munyambona, a research fellow at the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), said traditionally, Robusta grown mostly by African countries has fetched low prices

because of its caffeine content. Robusta is also low volume globally and is used as blends before re-exports.

Some studies have however said that the pricing of coffee at the international

market at times depends on the quality.

Good quality coffee earns a premium while the poor quality earns less. Coffee quality in some countries, including Uganda is compromised at different

stages in the production chain. For instance, some farmers have been fond of harvesting raw beans while others find difficulties in the drying of the beans.

Afreximbank provides \$400m to the Export Trading Group to drive agricultural productivity, resilience

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, CAIRO

THE African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has approved a \$400-million revolving global credit facility agreement for the Export Trading Group (ETG), one of the largest and fastest-growing integrated agricultural conglomerates in Africa.

The agreement will enable ETG to keep playing its vital role in the agri-foods supply chain of efficiently connecting African farmers to markets, as well as expanding access to key inputs to boost agricultural productivity in a continent with tremendous but yet unrealized potential.

According to Afreximbank's estimates, Africa spent over \$90 billion on food imports in 2019, even though it possesses up to 60 percent of the world's remaining arable land.

Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that up to 50 percent of Africa's agricultural production is lost every year from farm-to-market due to problems ranging from sub-optimal use of inputs to improper post-harvest storage, processing and transportation facilities.

These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted supply chains, heightened price volatility and could further undermine household consumption.

The facility provided by Afreximbank will address key bottlenecks faced by African agricultural exporters, aggregating large values of produce in order to give small and medium-scale enterprises access to regional and international markets.

Expanding ETG's work in this

area will reduce post-harvest losses through better access to yield-enhancing inputs and more robust networks to get output to regional and international markets while helping boost the scale and productivity of African farmers to position Africa as the world's bread basket. It will also support the vital flow of food supplies across the continent amid the disruption triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

ETG is focused on uplifting farming communities by connecting smallholder farmers with international markets, expanding mechanization and processing capabilities, and increasing knowledge around quality inputs, irrigation, post-harvest techniques and yield-enhancing practices.

Kanayo Awani, Managing Director of Afreximbank's Intra-African Trade Initiative, said: "Afreximbank remains committed to supporting African nations navigate the COVID-19 pandemic; at the same time, we remain focused on boosting agricultural productivity and accelerating the diversification of exports to strengthen the resilience of African economies."

This facility will not only support African farmers through the disruption caused by the pandemic but will provide added impetus to ETG's vital work connecting the continent's small and medium businesses to the agricultural networks and avenues critical for growth. With the African Continental Free Trade Agreement on the horizon, the timing is opportune to shape a more productive and resilient agricultural sector—delivering both prosperity and food security for the continent's future."



Researchers help inform cassava new breeding details worldwide

NEW YORK

SCIENTISTS in Cornell University's NextGen Cassava project have uncovered new details regarding cassava's genetic architecture that may help breeders more easily pinpoint traits for one of Africa's most vital crops.

Their findings are reported in a study published July 31 in *Plant Molecular Biology*.

The scientists analyzed large breeding populations measured extensively over successive years and stages of selection in multi-environment field trials in Nigeria. The genome-wide association analysis explored genomic regions most responsible for desirable traits in cassava, a food crop that provides the main source of calories for 500 million people across the globe.

The scientists found more than 40 quantitative trait loci associated with a total of 14 traits, responsible for characteristics such as disease responses, nutritional quality and yield. The traits were classified broadly into four categories - biotic stress, quality, plant agronomy and agro-morphology.

"Our findings provide critical new entries into the catalogue of major loci available to cassava breeders," said Ismail

Rabbi, a molecular geneticist and plant breeder at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and a member of the NextGen project. "These markers should greatly improve cassava research and provide another powerful tool for the breeders' toolbox."

"Cassava is an incredibly useful food and industrial crop today and will be more so in the future as climate change reshapes agriculture everywhere, but first we must better understand its complex genome," said Chiedozi Egesi, NextGen program director and co-author on the study.

Based in the Department of Global Development, the NextGen Cassava Breeding project supports scientists from many disciplines with advanced technologies and methods. The project works to empower smallholder cassava farmers in sub-Saharan Africa by developing, releasing and distributing improved cassava varieties.

Plant diseases and pests like cassava mosaic disease (CMD) and cassava green mite are major constraints to cassava production in Africa, India and across Asia, including Vietnam and Thailand. Infections of CMD can lead to yield losses of 82%, or more than 30 million tons each year.

"A complete understanding of cassava's genetic architecture is the critical step needed to accelerating genetic improvement and bring lasting benefits to farmers and consumers who depend on this crop for food and income throughout the world," said Egesi, who's also a visiting scientist in the Department of Global Development and an adjunct professor of plant breeding and genetics in the School of Integrative Plant Science, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

While the findings revealed novel genomic regions, it also revealed additional markers associated with previously measured traits.

Data from the study was made freely available through several commercial genotyping service vendors. The scientists plan further studies using germplasm from other regions, including East Africa and Latin America, which they say should bolster the catalogue of major effect loci available for molecular breeding.

Study co-authors include Cornell adjunct professor Jean-Luc Jannink and researchers from IITA and the National Root Crops Research Institute in Nigeria. Researchers from the Boyce Thompson Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service also contributed.

Standards watchdog embarks on awareness training for SMEs

BY CORRESPONDENT FELIX ANDREW

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has embarked on a special campaign to train and capacitate Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) with essential skills and knowledge so as to enable them improve their products and compete in local and foreign markets.

In an interview with this paper, TBS research and training manager Hamis Mwanasala said that SMEs play a very crucial role in development.

He said that through its research and training unit, the bureau has been training stakeholders so that they certify good and other services for more benefits.

"The research department provides training on management system standards, as well as training for SMEs who have undergone short training at Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and those registered by various public institutions but due to competition they have to arrive at TBS for certification in order to increase the value of their products," he said.

"We want to train and help them increase the confidence of their products to consumers because of certification and they are assured of their health safety," he said.

He said that by selling certified products it increases consumer confidence and the value for money.

Citing, he said most cooking oil processors have been keeping their products in poor condition as a result of failing to access the formal market due to low standards.

"Because most consumers want to use certified goods, this is why TBS is compelled to train SMEs and change the way they do their business" he added.

Mwanasala added the organization also provides training to people working in industries especially during production for standards translation. Other groups which receive training are those clearing goods at ports.

"We have also received applications from deaf people in Tanga and Kigoma and we want to go there and train them on procedures for certification", he added.

He added that another role which is done by his department is to provide training concerning health and safety.

He said industries must control danger objects which might enter during the production process citing grain milling machines.

The official further said that it is important for every production place to have a system that would identify the production date of every raw material in order to easily recognize incase of any problem.

According to him, TBS is proud of the number of applicants seeking to certify their goods.

"Once we provide training to different groups of entrepreneurs we have a system of getting feedback in order to see whether they understood or not," he said.

Citing he said in January this year they went to Bukoba town in Kagera region where they trained 117 people and last month they returned to evaluate on the effects of such training, most of them understood and have sent applications to TBS seeking a mark of quality.

"About 80 people brought their application and 15 of them have succeeded to secure the quality mark after meeting the required conditions, others are still working on irregularities," he noted.

He assured the public that TBS will continue to provide sustainable training to enable more SMEs change and increase their income.

"The education that is given to the general public is aimed at increasing awareness on TBS services such as standardization, calibration, product registration, certification and training."

CANBERRA, Australia

On July 25 2020 the Japanese bulk carrier MV Wakashio with 3,894 tonnes of fuel aboard ran aground off the coast of Mauritius. By 9 August over 1000 tonnes of oil had seeped into the pristine waters off the coast of this beautiful island haven. This spill was so large that it was even visible from space <https://www.livescience.com/mauritius-oil-spill-from-space.html>

Naturally, this accident led to a state of panic in the country. Not only would the pollution emanating from the oil spill lead to a strong hit to the economic mainstay of the country (fishing, tourism etc.) and ruin the environment around it, but also efforts to control the spill would be very expensive, subject to considerable uncertainty, and fraught with risk during the corona pandemic. Mauritius and its 1.3 million inhabitants depend crucially on the sea for food and ecotourism, having fostered a reputation as a conservation success story and a world-class destination for nature lovers. However, the clean-up after the spill posed formidable challenges. As noted by commentators it is not even clear who would be liable to pay for the clean-up of the environment.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/08/mauritius-oil-spill-puts-spotlight-ship-pollution/> There is the additional complication that Mauritius lies on a very busy shipping lane - particularly for fuel. Although cleaning up of waters is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 14) there is little clarity on the institutional and legal mechanism to support a clean-up after an oil spill, particularly near small island nations. In this particular case, some help has

Recent Mauritius oil spill in policy and historical context



been forthcoming from the Japanese but the clean-up is far from complete and there is the risk that the ship may break up.

In a historical context two facts about oil spills stand out <https://www.itopf.org/knowledge-resources/data-statistics/statistics/> First, reflecting better technology and improvement in practices, over the period 1970-2019 the number of large oil spills (>700 tonnes) has come down quite significantly. The decline in medium term spills (7-700 tonnes) has also been quite spectacular. The number of medium (large) spills was

543 (245) in the 1970s, 360 (94) in the 1980s, 281 (77) in the 1990s, 149 (32) in the 2000s, and 44(18) in the 2010s, even though the volume of fuel transported has increased very sharply over this period. Second, at the individual times of occurrence spectacular large spills near major ports have received more policy and media attention. By way of comparison with the spill near Mauritius the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil tanker accident in Alaska spilled 37,000 tons of crude and, of course, garnered considerably more media and policy attention. Although the Mauritius

oil spill counts as a large oil spill the fact that it has not occurred near a major port and has occurred against the backdrop of the corona pandemic makes it less likely that it will stimulate long-term policy action.

Since international waters, including the waters off the coast of Mauritius, are a public good, it is ordinarily difficult to price the consequence of a mishap occurring in such waters. In the case of the Mauritius oil spill the Japan P&I which provided insurance cover to the ship's owner, Nagasaki Shipping Company, has attested that it will carry out

all its insurance obligations to the ship's owner. This would include removal of the broken ship and the clean-up. However, the Mauritius government would need to depend on the local courts to recoup the environmental losses. Whether these courts have the wherewithal and the resources to adjudicate such cases involving large and powerful shipping companies and insurers is another matter.

It is at this point that the importance of the development of international norms for deciding on the environmental costs becomes evident. It is clear that when the damage is caused by multinational shipping companies backed by large insurers the adjudicating authority should have the backing of some sort of international law for fixing liabilities. Local courts in Mauritius cannot be expected to seek adequate compensation from powerful international actors. A clear set of guidelines on fixing damages should be agreed on by all nations. Although this will require an enormous amount of goodwill and effort from various nations it has the potential of generating other beneficial spinoffs, e.g., the scope of fixing liabilities for oil spills could be expanded to include other environmental damages inflicted on international waters including the dumping of waste into the seas and the consequences of ship breakups in the high seas. Currently, as reported by UNCTAD not all countries agree on norms for fixing such damages. This needs to be sorted out at the earliest. In the absence of such agreement future oil spills, especially those near the coast line of small island states, will continue to wreck considerable economic and environmental damage.

Agencies

Suddenly, news media events work at scale ... and other lockdown upsides

By Jacqui Park

AS events move online, they're becoming more about the journalism and less about the event itself. And that's good. The rethinking is opening up new ways of telling stories and new ways of engaging audiences with new channels for distribution.

When Covid-19 forced media organisations to close IRL (in real life) events, we saw a rush of postponements, then cancellations and then events repurposed online. At first, content-wise, these were the old in-person events shrunk down to the small screen. The production values encapsulated that early-pandemic Zoom meeting hostage video vibe.

In other words: the industry's initial reaction was to shift the off-line product to on-line - much as it did when newspapers first went digital in the 1990s.

Now, it's being re-imagined as a new medium that demands a profound rethink as virtual news media events take live-journalism into a scaleable distribution channel. News media events are the big journalism innovation of now!

Going virtual inevitably changed the WHEN and the WHERE of events. Now, it's forcing all media organisations - both start-up and traditional - to rethink the harder questions: the why and the how.

According to a recent Forbes report, on-line event revenues last year were about US\$77 billion. Turbo-charged by the stay-at-home Covid-19 pandemic, online event revenues are expected to explode to over US\$ 400 billion this year. Like so many other media trends, expect 2021 to be like we thought 2025 might be.

Pandemics wait for none of us, and it has been fascinating to watch the industry just knuckle down and get on with it. The result is that we're seeing a new medium - a new distribution channel - for a new type of journalism emerge before our eyes.

We're ready to draw a few tentative conclusions about what this might mean. My conclusions are based on watching what has been happening, drawing on my own experience organising events - largely of-and-for media.

I also had the opportunity to moderate a long discussion courtesy of WAN-IFRA (the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers) with three people at the forefront of re-imagining events: Razlan Manjaji from the South China Morning Post (SCMP), Zhang Lihui from Caixin and Angus Peckham-Cooper from WSJ and Dow Jones international events which has



Clockwise from top left: Jacqui Park, Angus Peckham-Cooper, Lihui Zhang and Razlan Manjaji address the Asian Media Leaders eSummit.

provided valuable examples.

How did we get here?

For about the past decade, news media have been experimenting with events using their platforms for conference branding and promotions. Many publishers have managed to grow robust revenues and audience engagement, particularly for subscriber and member models.

They've also been a means of corraling content, with speakers' comments harvested for news reports in a promotional back and forth. In the before-Covid times, these were almost always in person, although some events would be streamed in whole or part or subsequently repackaged for YouTube or podcasting.

With bans on gathering - and hesitation within once-were reliable IRL attendees - coupled with travel restrictions for speakers and guests, news media have pivoted these events from live to virtual.

So what does that mean? Here are eight takeaways, all based on the one big idea that each new medium, each new distribution channel, teaches us: the medium is the message!

One: Centre the journalism. Streamed events: everyone is doing them! What's the unique offering of news organisations? Their journalism, of course.

To carve out a space, news media need to focus on their key strengths: original and analytical journalism and interview skills with public figures and smart people. Drop set speeches and panel discussions with the same tired talking points. Maximise conversations fuelled by journalism.

With the loss of physical constraints, the

journalism can be deeper: speakers don't have to give up days to join in - you can get the best available, although so can everyone else.

Two: It's a delivery channel - integrate it with all the others. News media have spent the past quarter-century learning how to maximise content distribution through multiple channels, as we've transitioned from print and broadcast to the web and social media.

This emerging medium needs to be integrated with all the others. This can mean streaming through your platforms of choice, breaking it down for social or positioning the virtual event as a step in the unfolding of a story. Prepare your audience by linking them in with earlier reports on the event subject.

Three: It's less about the brand, more about the community. Live journalism is a way of bringing the audience inside the journalistic process, to involve them in the conversation and develop more intimate relationships. Many of the technology platforms are optimised for chat. Let's see how successful engagement builds on that.

Building the community builds the brand. A successful events channel can drive benefits through subscriptions. For Caixin Media, subscriptions are now more than half their revenue, up from 20 per cent last year, which she credits in part to their ability to expose their public interest journalism to a broader audience via the online events. Incidentally, Caixin Media is a Chinese media group based in Beijing known for investigative journalism. Caixin means 'News Fortune' in Chinese.

Four: Suddenly, events can scale...And scaled online events have two impacts on income: numbers go up - sometimes dramatically, and costs go down. The loss of all the constraints on IRL events vanish, including the time out for

the audience and venue size for organisers. In real life, events can get too big to be enjoyable. Not so on the internet, where audiences can reach into the millions.

The ability to scale also means that one can do a lot more: This year the SCMP (Hong Kong-based English-language newspaper South China Morning Post, founded in 1903) team has scheduled more than 45 virtual events, up from 12 live, in-person events the previous year. Caixin doubled the number of online events in the first half of 2020 to 33 from 15, Zhang Lihui said.

What does this mean for pricing? What will people pay? Should it be a stand-alone offering with its own charge for participants, as events have historically been? Or should it be part of the subscription? Or a premium offering?

The value of your content will most likely provide the answer. Manjaji notes that although the price point is different, virtual events have higher profit margins.

The cost of producing online events - without venue, travel, accommodation - and the time it takes to produce them comes right down. It'll take time for market prices to sort themselves out. In the meantime, it's worth experimenting: some organisers are asking participants to set their own price, while others are cutting costs to around half.

Five: ...But networking doesn't scale - yet! Virtual events shed a key inherent value of real-life events: the coincidence of who you might meet, the intimacy of corridor chats, or the chance person-to-person talks with big names. Maybe networking doesn't scale. Or maybe we haven't worked out how to make it work yet.

While the technology is catching up, most event platforms struggle with networking, because it's not central to their design.

Dow Jones has a task force to figure out the networking opportunities and how to curate the important meetings and is looking outside journalism and events to the experiences of dating and gaming websites.

Both Caixin and SCMP think that the future value of IRL events may lie in exclusivity with limited closed-door events building scarcity where the networking effect can be replicated.

Image for post

Clockwise from top left: Jacqui Park, Angus Peckham-Cooper, Lihui Zhang and Razlan Manjaji speaking at the Asian Media Leaders eSummit.

Six: What do sponsors and partners want? Take your sponsors with you. This virtual events space is new for them, too. Right now, they have few to no off-line options. But if the virtual event delivers what they want - access to audience, alignment with news media values, thought leadership opportunities - they'll come along. News media managers understand the value to sponsors, particularly where they are able to reach larger audiences both in real time and after the event.

Caixin's Zhang says exposure for event sponsors has surged as virtual events produce greater public engagement and, in turn, higher impact both domestically and internationally. Their 2020 summer summit - which drew about 2,000 participants previously - was watched by five million people via live stream this year.

Seven: Production values matter - and so does the platform. It's a professional distribution channel - shift resources from organisation to production. SCMP's Manjaji says they've found that the preparation cycle for virtual events is half that for in-person events. They're resources you can leverage for production, to fund the bandwidth you need. Make sure that you've got a platform that works for what you're trying to do. The Dow Jones events team tested 70 products before settling on one that worked best for them.

Eight: How do you keep your audience's attention? News media conference organisers estimate that the online attention span for each individual participant at the moment is from one to two hourly sessions a day. Most seem to be moving to two hours a day spread over several days - maybe even a week apart.

It means that virtual news events became shorter but more spread out. There will be more of them, maybe more personalised offerings. Watch the data and respond.

And the future? The best way to figure out what works is to try different things! There's still plenty that we don't know: How will networking work? How will speakers come to understand the value proposition for them? And, as we emerge blinking into the light of post-Covid possibilities, what happens?

SCMP says its future plan is fewer in-person events. It's looking at a hybrid model where, perhaps, the IRL component will be a premium offering for sponsors and attendees. Manjaji says the key to making the hybrid model work will be to plan for the online and live audiences equally.

Peckham-Cooper is mean while also looking to a future of hybrid offerings. Guiding their journey into hybrid events is the idea of 'experienced by few shared by many'. "There's a real appetite to allow end-users to choose their preference and the hybrid world allows that," he said.

He adds that, given how far we've come in the past four months, he's keen to see what's next. "It has been an amazing transformation of the industry. I'm kind of excited to see what they can develop moving forward."



Thursday 27 August 2020

Absa Group focusing on digitisation after profits plunge

By Francis Kajubi

IN a bid to continue serving the broader African market amidst the coronavirus outbreak, Absa Group Limited is set to embark on heavy investment in innovation.

Presenting half year results for this year, Absa Group CEO, Daniel Mminele said as the pandemic affects nearly all the 12 countries where the bank operates, the future is investing heavily in digital banking especially for the retail segment.

"While uncertainty remains high, the group is well-positioned with a strong capital and liquidity position allowing it to continue supporting its customers. With the decisive actions that have been taken in the first half to improve balance sheet resilience, the group expects the second-half impairment outcome and returns to improve," Mminele said while reporting an 82 percent profits decline.

He said interim earnings after impairments increased four-fold to R14.7 billion while impairment charges rose as customers and clients struggled to repay debts as the group took decisive action to increase impairment provisions



Absa Group CEO, Daniel Mminele.

against future potential credit losses. The bank has embarked on digitization of its retail and business banking clusters since the outbreak of the pandemic that has led to improving efficiency and customers' experience. Digital active customers

grew by 12 from December last year to over 1.7 million customers. The group CEO further added that for 2021, the bank hopes that the South African economy will rebound to 2.4 per cent alongside 5.7 percent growth of gross domestic product.

Absa group regional growth has stabilized no matter the effects of COVID-19 in South Africa.

"Two thirds of the banks employees are still at work across the region following the pandemic outbreak. On June the bank approved R500

million in business loans as part of the government guarantee scheme which makes economic activities accelerate," the group CEO added.

Absa group's Financial Director, Jason Quinn said that the bank's revenue remained resilient and its operating costs were well managed and responded against the COVID-19 outbreak, resulting in encouraging pre-provision profit growth of nine percent.

"Our capital and liquidity levels are strong and will allow us to further support our customers as we emerge from the crisis," Quinn said adding that during the first half the bank rebranded over 300 branches that included new offices, over 860 ATMs, over 17,000 point of sales and over 1.2 million electronic cards regionally.

The number of digital banking customers alone grew by 28 percent which resulted into growth of digital transaction volumes by 77 percent. Growth in mobile lending also increased strongly, Quinn noted.



Bongwi Mbunge, partner at Mazars South Africa's advisory division

Banks' strategies lack integrated ESG criteria

JOHANNESBURG

Banks around the world have not yet fully integrated environmental, social and governance criteria (ESG) into their strategies.

A report by Mazars reveals just three out of the 30 banks assessed demonstrate best practice across a wide range of sustainability factors, with 10 banks showing a sustainable approach across some factors and more than half (17) the number of banks showing limited evidence of a sustainable approach across most factors.

Room for improvement

After assessing banks such as Barclays, BBVA, Citi, Credit Suisse, Santander, Standard Bank and UBS among others, Mazars found no banks to be 'outstanding' - a scoring reserved for banks with a positive score in more than 90% of the criteria. Benchmark criteria included culture and governance, risk management, reporting, targets and more.

The report comes at a time when banks are reflecting on their purpose and values as the rise of social movements reshape how financial actors ensure what they invest in is not just environmentally sustainable but also socially inclusive. The international assessment, undertaken by Mazars' London office, focused on European banks and included African, Southeast Asian, and American banks for illustration purposes.

Bongwi Mbunge, a partner for advisory services, Mazars South Africa, says that although Mazars will not reveal the details of each bank's individual score, the firm does note the recently released Investec Private Bank's climate related financial report for 2020 with keen interest.

"At present, these disclosures are voluntary, yet we need this kind of anticipatory leadership across the board. Banks are being called upon, to make transparent climate-related financial disclosures and to commit to policy changes in relation to fossil fuel lending. South African banks have made progress in their engagements with stakeholders on the policy and reporting, considering thermal energy and fossil fuel policy," says Mbunge.

She says that there is still room for improvement in climate-related disclosures in climate-change scenario planning. This is the area where South African banks, in particular, will need professional support and greater stakeholder engagements in determining the action plan towards responsible banking.

Rating agency GCR withdraws ratings on African Banking Corporation

By The Banker Reporter

THREE African Banking Corporations entities have their national rating scale withdrawn by Johannesburg based GCR Ratings.

In a new report, GCR said it has withdrawn the national scale long term and short-term issuer ratings assigned to African Banking Corporation Holdings, African Banking Corporation Botswana Limited and African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited without affirmation as no additional analysis was performed.

"The ratings were withdrawn for business reasons. Accordingly, GCR will no longer provide ratings or analytical coverage for the above said entities. The ratings were last reviewed in November 2019 for ABCH and BancABC Botswana; and December 2019 for BancABC Tanzania," the statement noted.

In 2019, GCR affirmed ABC Holdings' national scale rating of B(BW) while maintaining rating watch evolving. "GCR affirms the BBB-(BW)/A3(BW) ratings of African Banking Corporation Botswana; maintains rating watch evolving. GCR downgrades African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited's rating to B+(TZ); outlook stable," the rating agency added.

The report further attributed the move to the range of risks emerging from the political, legal, economic and social conditions of a country that have adverse consequences affecting investors and creditors with exposure to the country, and may also include negative effects on financial institutions and borrowers in the country.

GCR traces its origins back to 1996 when it was established as the African arm of the New York Stock Exchange-listed Duff & Phelps. Following its rapid growth, GCR has since established

itself as the leading rating agency in Africa, accounting for the majority of all ratings accorded on the African continent.

Through its local presence in Mauritius, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe, GCR has the largest rating team in Africa

which gives it unmatched on-the-ground presence, as well as easy access to market participants.

GCR is licensed as a rating

agency in a number of markets, including Kenya with the Capital Markets Authority, Nigeria with the Securities and Exchange

Commission, Zimbabwe with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and Mauritius with the Financial Services Commission.



Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango speaks at a past event.

Telco debuts 'build your own bundle' campaign

By The Banker Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of Vodacom Tanzania Plc can now build their own personalized combinations to cater to their unique needs with preferred validity, incentives and cost.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week during the launch of the new product, Vodacom's Director for Consumer

Business Unit, Linda Riwa said over the years the company has consistently set the tone for innovation and digitization by introducing new products and services in the market because of the desire to make customer lives easier, smarter and more fulfilling.

"Realising that customer needs are different yet all customers want more value for what they pay for, we decided

to create this service giving them the freedom to get exactly what they want and at a cost, they are willing to spend," Riwa said. She added that with the new product, customers can design their own bundles composing of data, text messages, minutes and combo depending on what they need, at a cost, they can afford and at a validity, they prefer. "This is a testament of how

much we value our customers and are giving them the freedom to create their own bundle mix thus offering convenience and efficiency in the way customers spend" she added.

Vodacom Tanzania prides itself as a customer-centric company and has a bundle portfolio that caters for all customers depending on their specific need but it is the first time the company

is allowing its customers to build their own bundle at whatever cost they can afford. "For the first time in Tanzania, customers have control on how much they spend, and what they spend it on," the Vodacom Director noted.

Explaining on the technicalities of the new product, Vodacom's Head of Department for Strategy, Consumer Insights, Jackson Walwa said the service

is accessible to all customers and on both feature and smartphone by dialling the USSD number. "JIMIXIE is specifically designed to ensure that all our customers can buy bundles regardless of how much they have, you can buy a bundle with as low as 520/-, 630/-, 710/-, 870/- or as high as possible, in short, we are leaving no one behind," Walwa said.

Sayona Drinks introduces new packaging material for juices

By The Banker Reporter

SOFT drinks manufacturer, Sayona Drinks Limited has unveiled new packaging labels for its Twist brand in efforts to reach a wider audience as well as fob off market competition.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, Motisun Group's Director, Veer Patel said the new look Sayona Twist marks a milestone in using local talent to carry local brands to greater heights.

Patel noted that the rich history of the Sayona Twist brand is one that it is filled with innovation and optimum consumer satisfaction, one factor that is making it one of the fastest-growing local brands in the local market. "As a brand, Twist has undergone evolutions in the past as we are always looking to innovate and deliver exceptional experiences to consumers, the packaging is of utmost importance," Patel said.

Backing his boss, Sayona Drinks Limited's Head of Sales, Emmanuel Laswai said the new-look of the Sayona Twist brand will be appealing to consumers across all ages and is immediately available all over the country.

"The brand's effortless new packaging labels and look complement Sayona Twist's premium liquid, ensuring that it continues to be one of the most favourable soft drinks in the market,"



Group general manager of Sayona Food and Drinks, Nitin Menon addressing journalists during the launch of Sayona Twist's new packaging label which incorporates an image of its brand ambassador Rajab Abdul Kahali (C) popularly known as Harmonize in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

Laswai said noting that the new packaging labels take inspiration from the brand's original labels.

In remarks at the same event, the Sayona Twist brand ambassador, Rajab Abdul Kahali popularly known as

Harmonize, said he is honoured to work with a company that is innovative and constantly looking forward to satisfy its customers.

"This kind of attitude resonates well with the vision that we at Kondegang

have. On my part, I will continue to help Sayona Drinks engage a wider consumer segment of youths to ensure that Sayona Twist continues to be the soft drink of choice in the market," said the popular Bongofleva artist.



Akinwumi Adesina.

Top African bank chief set for the re-election after graft investigations

ABIDJAN

The head of Africa's largest multilateral is poised to be re-elected for a second term, emboldened by the support of shareholders after being cleared of wrongdoing by two probes.

African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina is set to be voted in for another five years as the sole candidate at a two-day meeting that begins on Wednesday. The 60-year-old Nigerian is seeking to unite member countries around a support program that's already seen the AfDB source \$100 billion to stabilise economies in a continent of 1.2 billion people hobbled by the coronavirus pandemic.

"African states have confidence in him and will be very conscious to express that confidence," Kalu Ojah, professor of finance and the deputy head of Wits Business School in Johannesburg, said by phone. "He needs support."

The annual gathering comes after an internal investigation and external review found no evidence to back claims by unidentified whistleblowers that Adesina helped friends and relatives secure jobs and contracts from the Abidjan, Ivory Coast-based lender.

The U.S. and several non-African members in May rejected the findings of an ethics committee probe in a move that drew criticism from several African states and leaders. Former Irish President Mary Robinson headed the outside panel that last month cleared the way for Adesina's re-election.

Amid the rift, Nigeria increased its contributions to become the largest shareholder with a 16.8% stake, followed by Germany with 7.4% and the U.S. with 5.5%. Nigeria was already the top shareholder as of April 30, but only had a 8.5% stake, according to bank documents.

Capital increase

Updates on a capital increase that the board of governors approved in October 2019, nearly doubling its base to \$208 billion, will also be discussed during the meeting, the AfDB said in a statement. The lender's representatives from the AfDB's 54 African member-countries and 27 non-African shareholders will be meeting online for the talks.

In March, the lender issued a \$3 billion social bond to help African countries deal with the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. The bank also launched a crisis-response facility of up to \$10 billion for African sovereign and non-sovereign operations.

"The pandemic has hit the region's economies hard in the wake of falling commodity prices and containment measures by governments that have led to country lockdowns," the bank said. "For several months, the bank has been extending support to regional member countries in cushioning their economies, health systems, and citizens' livelihoods from parallel health and economic impacts from Covid-19."

NEWSINDEPTH



Newly appointed Ecobank Tanzania Limited's managing director, Charles Asiedu.

New Ecobank Tanzania chief pledges to back private sector growth

By The Banker Reporter

NEWLY appointed Ecobank Tanzania Limited's Managing Director, Charles Asiedu has pledged that he will support growth of private businesses and corporations to speed up growth of the economy.

Asiedu who was named MD for Ecobank Tanzania by its board of directors earlier this week said he relishes the opportunity to ensure that the bank fully meets the needs and expectations of customers.

"Ecobank has a key role to play in helping Tanzania to grasp the immense opportunities of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and in countering the huge challenges created by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic," Asiedu stated.

He added, "I am determined to maximize the beneficial impact of Ecobank's borderless banking ecosystem and customer-centric commitment and focus throughout Tanzania."

In a statement announcing the appointment of Asiedu, Ecobank Tanzania Chairman, Michael Sallu said the new MD has a strong track record which most re-

cently included successfully leading and growing Ecobank Malawi's performance year-on-year.

"His in-depth experience of Ecobank and its pan-African purpose, makes him the ideal choice as our new Managing Director," Sallu said.

The new MD is a fellow of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) in UK in addition to having a Bachelor's degree in Administration majoring in Accounting from the University of Ghana and an MBA (Financial Management) from the University of Hull in the UK.

Prior to his new appointment, Asiedu has been Managing Director of Ecobank Malawi for the last seven years and joined Ecobank 21 years ago starting as an Internal Controller and Auditor in Ecobank Ghana, before being promoted to Remedial Manager in its Risk Management Department.

He then transferred to Ecobank Group as Group Financial Control Officer prior to becoming the Group Financial and Regulatory Reporting Manager. After this he was appointed as Executive Director, Corporate Bank for Ecobank Malawi.

Market doubts as Nedbank hopes worst is over

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's Nedbank said on Wednesday it hoped the worst impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic were over after half-year profits fell almost 70%, but its shares fell as traders tended towards a more pessimistic view.

The lender, which last week flagged a hit to its interim profits from bad debt charges, said on Wednesday its full-year profits would be at least 20% lower. But its results statement said it hoped the "worst

impacts of Covid-19 and the (Great Lock-down Crisis) are behind us" and Nedbank CEO Mike Brown said data showed some activities returning towards pre-lockdown levels.

"We expect H2 credit losses to be lower than H1," he said, adding a provision taken for potential future loan losses should not recur, although any forecasts were subject to uncertainty. Nedbank's credit impairment charge increased 202% to almost R77 billion (\$458 million) during

the six months to June 30. This lowered its headline earnings per share - the main profit measure in South Africa - to 438 cents, versus 1,435 cents a year earlier. Last week, it warned of a HEPS fall to between 402 and 472 cents.

Around R3 billion of the charge was a provision for future possible losses, less than made by some peers, such as Absa, which took a heftier hit upfront. While investors cheered Absa's approach, Nedbank's shares fell by more than 3% before

recovering to stand 1.4% lower at 0810 GMT. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange's banking index was 0.12% higher.

"Banks are finding market support for taking an extra conservative approach," Stuart Theobald, chairman at research house Intellidex, said. Brown said Nedbank would only consider dividends when guidance changed from the central bank, which has asked lenders to halt payouts to preserve capital during the Covid-19 crisis.

Africa's smartphone market proves resilient to impact of COVID-19

JOHANNESBURG

Africa's overall mobile phone market saw shipments decline 6.0% quarter on quarter (QoQ) in Q2 2020, according to the latest figures announced by International Data Corporation (IDC).

In a statement released to the media, the technology research and consulting

services firm's newly released Global Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker shows that Africa's smartphone market remained flat in Q2 2020, experiencing just 0.1% growth QoQ, while the region's feature phone shipments declined 10.6%.

According to the IDC, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on smartphone shipments has been felt differently

across the region. For example, while shipments to South Africa and Nigeria declined 16.8% and 6.8%, respectively, QoQ in Q2 2020, Egypt recorded a 2.2% increase.

Both South Africa and Nigeria adopted strict lockdown measures in April and May, which included the closure of non-essential businesses. By contrast,

Egypt adopted a more flexible approach and allowed limited hours of business operations during the second quarter, the company added.

"Transsion brands (Tecno, Itel, and Infinix) continued to lead the smartphone market in Q2 2020 with a unit share of 45.2%. Samsung and Huawei followed with respective unit

shares of 19.0% and 8.8%. In terms of value (U.S. dollar), Transsion held 30.1% share, while Samsung accounted for 27.8% share.

The average selling price (ASP) for smartphones declined 9.8% QoQ in Q2 2020, partially due to the market conditions created by the pandemic and partially due to a continuation in the

declining trend of prices. The \$0-\$80 price band has gained notable share of the smartphone market since the start of the pandemic, growing 18.2% QoQ. The availability of such devices helped brands to cope with the weak demand and price consciousness that flourished during the pandemic," reads an excerpt from the statement.

Stanbic Bank chief vows to invest in SMEs, lubricate AfCFTA process

Against the backdrop of the extraordinary circumstances faced by the global community as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Stanbic Bank unveiled its new tag line, 'It can be' and new brand promise 'finding new ways to make dreams possible,' inspiring hope and a brighter future for Tanzanians to realize their dreams. In this interview, Stanbic Bank Chief Executive, Kevin Wingfield discusses the new campaign and what is in store for its clients and stakeholders, excerpts:

Can you elaborate on what customers can expect from the bank with this new brand promise?

At a national level, this is an exciting and pivotal moment for Tanzania having recently attained lower middle-income economic status and as the government continues to invest in large infrastructure projects in priority sectors such as power, transport and water to enable industrialization and improved

livelihoods for the people. With over 150 years' experience on the continent, Stanbic Bank has the pedigree, expertise and a unique understanding of what it takes to empower economic growth. 'It can be' reinforces what we stand for as a bank. We consider ourselves partners with our clients by providing financial advisory and tailored solutions, inspiring and supporting them to take new uncharted paths to realise their dreams by being bold and innovative, more curious and responsive in their business as well as addressing the challenges surrounding their communities. By way of example, earlier this year, Stanbic Bank rolled out an entrepreneur challenge to empower and support the bold dreams held by entrepreneurs.

What role can entrepreneurs play in economic development and how is the bank helping them?

Currently, 95 percent of businesses in Tanzania are small and medium size enterprises

(SMEs), and they represent approximately 35 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Entrepreneurs are more agile than many traditional businesses hence they can deliver relevant solutions to challenges facing their communities. Additionally, with about two-thirds of the population being under 35, the youth segment is an opportunity to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit. I am delighted that our entrepreneur campaign provided us with a lot of insights in this area. We received over 600 high quality applications and shortlisted five social enterprises that are providing solutions in education, technology, environment, food and manufacturing; health and wellness. As a bank, we will continue to address the specific needs of entrepreneurs through our responsive, innovative, convenient and secure solutions that aim to improve the efficiency of their operations. We are investing in empowering customers and want to be the anchor that uplifts SMEs and help them achieve their

dreams and goals.

How does Stanbic Bank continue to contribute to the growth of the country's economy?

Through our corporate banking offerings, we are keen to continue partnering with corporations, and the government to raise their desired financial capital required for achieving their various strategic objectives. We also strongly believe that through technology and innovation we can provide sustainable access to financial services for all economic activities, a move that is critical for economic development and growth. SMEs are and will continue to be a core driver of growth in the economy. We will look to continue and increase our focus on and support of SME growth and development.

In the spirit of 'It can be,' what future do you envision for Tanzania and how does Stanbic plan to support it?

Africa is endowed with vast natural resources and abundant

human capital. In spite of the current global health crisis and forecasted contraction in global and regional economic growth, I am optimistic about the future of the continent and in particular Tanzania. We can utilize the learning from the pandemic to establish Africa focused trade policies through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as well as regional blocs leveraging on the competitive advantages in respective countries. The presence of effective trade finance is pivotal in achieving trade development and Stanbic can combine its in-depth knowledge of commodity sectors with regional and in-country expertise to develop innovative and integrated financial solutions tailored to customer needs.

As a bank, we will work collaboratively across all our markets in Africa to create an environment that allows people on the continent do business within and between countries - as well as for people across the world to do business with Africa. Africa is our home, we drive her growth.



Stanbic CEO



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme's facilitator, Senior Lecturer from College of Business Education, Mariam Tambwe talking to cross-border women traders during training in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA.

Gender networking group sharpen entrepreneurial skills for women

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

In business, there are a number of strategies that entrepreneurs use and ultimately achieve goals set by themselves in terms of self-development. But some entrepreneurs have been engaging in such activities simply for the sake of convenience.

This is stated by one of the women entrepreneurs who sells commodities inside and outside the country, is Upendo Nkwira from Manyovu in Kigoma Rural District which borders with Burundi.

In an interview, Nkwira said she has been in the business of exporting oranges to Burundi for the past two years where she buys avocados to sell in the domestic market. But like other small businesses, things are still not going well for her.

"My business has been riddled with recurring losses due to lack of customers. For example I can buy oranges for 200,000/- and get a return of just half the money because of lack of customers there," said Nkwira. She said because of such setbacks, she began to despair but now has rejuvenated after taking part at five-day workshop on how to make a business profitable rather than loss making.

Nkwira is not alone as a struggling small business owner who attended the Tanzania Gender

Networking Program entrepreneurship training. Another woman who confessed facing similar challenges is Mariam Makoko from Tanga Region which borders Kenya.

Makoko is a cross-border petty trader who like Nkwira is faced with various challenges which have hindered growth of her business. "It's tough being a cross-border trader because of a number of challenges that we face," she noted naming some of them as low demand for commodities and stringent regulations.

In all, 40 women from Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Mara and Kigoma Regions attended TGNP's training which focused on three key techniques to enable them succeed in their businesses.

The techniques included having their own brand, do market research before starting a business and also use information and communication technology (ICT) to exploit the global market.

Marketing and branding

TGNP's trainer who a Senior Lecturer from College of Business Education in Dar es Salaam, Mariam Tambwe said that in order to succeed, there are three basic techniques that are essential to achieve goals.

Tambwe said that in order to succeed, woman need to brand

their products to differentiate them from others and create own identity to maximize profits from loyal customers. "Even if you have a casual business, your brand can make you popular with people and it's not wrong to call yourself a mother of shoes to be known by that name and that becomes your business brand," she said.

The CBE expert further explained that, there are many people who sell shoes, clothes and other assorted items which need branding in order to differentiate them from others in the market.

Tambwe added that it is important that when a woman wants to do a business, she must first do market research, to determine which business is popular with customers in the market.

"A number of people who do business locally, wake up and start frying chips without realizing that maybe their prospective customers would prefer buying cassavas and as a result lose the market," she said.

She said sometimes one can assume there is magic in her business because before investing in it, they undertake market research first to establish if there is demand. "For those of you who do cross-border business, you need to be very careful because you may carry a huge consignment to

Kenya and find out that there is no market," Tambwe alerted.

ICT

The CBE lecturer told women traders that technological advancement has enabled many things including simplification of purchases through various networks and platforms using tablets and mobile phones.

"You can see the product before you buy it, so use ICT to advertise your business and not use it for useless pictorial funnies as some women have been doing," she advised while adding that through the use of information communication technology, women entrepreneurs can also access markets.

In seconding Tambwe's observation, TGNP's assistant Information Officer, Jackson Malangalila pointed out that this century belongs to science and technology hence embracing ICT is inevitable.

"According to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority 25 percent of Tanzanians use

social media as a platform to connect and discuss various activities," said Malangalila adding that social networks are also used by entrepreneurs to exchange ideas, experiences and other important information relating to their businesses.

How social media is influencing the rise of brand ambassadors

KIGALI

Last week, Miss Rwanda 2020 Naomie Nishimwe, signed a contract that will see her become the brand ambassador for Itel Mobile Rwanda in the next twelve months.

She joins a number of local celebrities helping different companies grow their sales by tapping into the presence on social media of different celebrities including musicians Bruce Melodie and The Ben, socialite Shadia Mbabazi a.k.a Saddyboo, footballer Yves Kimenyi, media personality Luckman Nzeyimana and Miss Rwanda 2018 finalist Claudine Uwase Muyango, among many others.

Nishimwe, who has been an avid social media user since 2014, says that social media can be a piece of business marketing strategy that companies are sticking to because they have realized the influence they play in promoting their products and services to a bigger number of the population.

"Let's start with one simple fact. Your business needs a social media presence no matter what. It doesn't matter if you run a small shop or a big company. It helps to connect with your customers and increase awareness about your brand in any way possible and boost your sales," said Nishimwe, who has 130,000 Instagram followers. She also boasts of over 6,500 followers on Twitter.

"Companies should learn that social media marketing will make it easy to spread the word about their products and mission. And this will benefit the two parties; the celebrity and the company owner. Basically it's a win-win situation," she added. About a decade ago, using social media was not an option for celebrities to become brand ambassadors who would sign big money deals to appear on company

promotional billboards.

However, as the world goes digital, companies' marketing strategies have changed as they are increasingly working with local celebrities targeting these celebrities by tapping into their fans following them on social media platforms.

With their social media, celebrities use their voice to create a connection between the companies that signed them and their followers on social media. When Tecno Mobile Rwanda last week signed Rwanda's music star Benjamin Mugisha, commonly known as The Ben, for a whopping Rwf42 million deal to become its brand ambassador for the next twelve months, the mobile phone retailer was banking on the R&B's influence to hook his 459,000 Instagram followers and over 15,000 Twitter followers to join the Tecno mobile family.

The Ben will every month bag Rwf3.5 million from the deal. The deal with Tecno makes a list of the contracts so far signed by the R&B singer following previous agreements to become Bel Air Wine and Onomo Hotel's brand ambassador in Rwanda. Tecno Mobile Rwanda is now working with a number of local celebrities targeting to boost sales of its phones through their influence on social media where around

\$100,000 of the total \$120,000 budget allocated on social media advertising was invested on signing brand ambassadors. Some wonder whether companies make any returns from the deals signed with its brand ambassadors.

However, Joseph Ishimwe, Marketing Manager at Tecno Mobile Rwanda, insists that the investment in these deals will not necessarily result into direct immediate sales for the company. It is about the value of the brand they can help build in the future, he said.



Miss Rwanda 2020 Naomie Nishimwe signing a contract with Itel Mobile Rwanda as brand ambassador.

WORLD

Melania Trump offers sympathy on coronavirus, racial suffering in 2020 convention speech

WASHINGTON

FIRST lady Melania Trump offered sympathy for victims of the coronavirus pandemic and a plea for racial understanding in a Republican convention speech on Tuesday aimed directly at the women voters who have abandoned U.S. President Donald Trump.

On the convention's second day, the speech's warm tone was out of step with a Republican gathering that featured harsh rhetoric about Democratic challenger Joe Biden and sometimes apocalyptic warnings about the dangers of Democratic governance.

Trump's wife acknowledged the pain of the pandemic in sharp contrast to most other speakers at the party's national convention, notably her husband, assailed by Democrats for his lack of solace during a U.S. health crisis that has killed more than 178,000 people.

"I want to acknowledge the fact that since March, our lives have changed drastically," Melania Trump told a crowd seated in the White House Rose

Garden, the president in the front row. "My deepest sympathy goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one."

"And my prayers are with those who are ill or suffering. I know many people are anxious and some feel helpless. I want you to know: You're not alone."

With opinion polls showing Trump shedding support among college-educated women turned off by his combative style, Melania Trump and other women featured on Tuesday appeared to be trying to sway the critical voting bloc ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

The first lady reflected on the racial unrest that has swept the country in the months since the death in May of a Black man, George Floyd, under the knee of a white policeman in Minnesota. Protests flared anew this week after a Black man was shot and left paralyzed by police in Wisconsin.

"I urge people to come together in a civil manner so we can work and live up to our standard American ideals," she said. "I also ask people to stop the violence and looting being done in the



First lady Melania Trump

name of justice and never make assumptions based on the color of a person's skin."

The speech by Melania Trump, whose 2016 convention address was marred by plagiarism of lines from a 2008 Michelle Obama speech, capped a day when Republicans sought to reshape the narrative around the economy by largely ignoring millions of jobs lost to the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump, 74, still scores well in opinion polls on the economy, even as approval of his handling of the pandemic and other issues has plunged.

An array of officials and everyday Americans cited Trump's efforts to loosen economic regulations, put "America First" in trade deals and preserve religious freedom as reasons to back him against Biden, 77, Barack Obama's former vice president.

"Our economic choice is very clear. Do you want economic health, prosperity, opportunity and optimism, or do you want to turn back to the dark days of stagnation, recession and pessimism?" White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said.

Trump, a former reality television star, again blurred the line between government and politics on Tuesday as he used the White House as a venue to promote his re-election bid.

The president starred in videos featuring a naturalization ceremony and the signing of a pardon to suggest that he is not anti-immigrant or a hardliner on crime - even as the convention has stressed his tough law-and-order approach.

BLEAK PICTURE

Before Melania Trump's speech, the tone at times echoed Monday's opening day, when Republicans reached out to their conservative core supporters by painting a bleak picture of a future America under Biden's leadership.

Cissie Graham Lynch, granddaughter of the late evangelist the Reverend Billy Graham, said a Biden presidency would leave "no room for people of faith." Biden is Catholic, and his faith was highlighted at last week's Democratic convention where he was formally nominated.

Pete Buttigieg, who competed in the Democratic primary before endorsing Biden, challenged the Republican characterization on Twitter, recalling a walk Trump took to a church during protests outside the White House to hold up a Bible for photographers. "They would speak of faith? The choice here is so simple. One man waves a borrowed Bible around, the other actually reads it," Buttigieg tweeted.

In an appeal to Black voters, many of whom have been alienated by his sometimes divisive rhetoric, Trump in a video pardoned a convicted Nevada bank robber, Jon Ponder, a Black man who has become an advocate for other inmates.

Agencies

Japan PM Abe 'to consult with doctors before Friday's briefing'

TOKYO

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will consult with doctors before holding a news conference tomorrow, three sources familiar with the situation told Reuters, amid worries about his health after two recent hospital examinations.

Abe (pictured) plans to hold the news conference tomorrow afternoon, the sources said yesterday. He is expected to provide an explanation about his health and talk about the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, local media reported.

The consultations with the doctors tomorrow could involve another visit to the hospital or may be carried out by phone, the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Abe has been to hospital twice in the last two weeks, including one visit of 7-1/2 hours. He has not detailed what the visits were for, instead saying he wanted to take care of his health and do his utmost at his job.

Earlier yesterday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said it was too early to talk about the next political era after Abe because his term runs until next year.

"It's premature to talk about 'post-Abe' as he still has over a year left in his term," Suga, seen as one of major contenders for Abe's job should he resign, said at a regular news conference.

Abe's close ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ally, Akira Amari, sought to dispel qualms over Abe's health on Tuesday, telling Reuters he looked better than in mid-August and would likely fulfil his tenure until September next year.

His remarks were echoed on Wednesday by the Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura who said Abe looked a "bit tired" over the last two weeks, but seemed "very well" on Tuesday and "gave us various instructions in the usual manner."

"We want him to continue to look after his health and show us his leadership," Kyodo news quoted Nishimura as saying during a parliamentary committee meeting.

Abe, the country's longest serving prime minister, has been in the role since 2012. He resigned abruptly from an earlier term in 2007 because of struggles with ulcerative colitis, a disease he has kept in check with medicine that was not previously available.

Criticized for his handling of the coronavirus outbreak and some scandals, Abe has suffered a slide in voter support to one of the lowest levels since returning to office with promises to revive the economy and bolster defence.

Agencies

Cuba accuses Google of blocking state media accounts

HAVANA

U.S. tech giant Google blocked Cuban state media accounts amid the tightening of the U.S. embargo against the island nation, said a senior Cuban journalist.

"U.S. tech giants are very dependent on the U.S. administration decisions, implementing U.S. embargo policy toward the island," Randy Alonso, director-general at popular Cuban website cubadebate.cu and Cuban television program Mesa Redonda, told Xinhua recently.

"It has nothing to do with technological issues or violation of social media regulations. What is really behind the U.S. administration stance is its geopolitical and geostrategic ambition to keep global telecommunications under its control," he added.

Alonso made the remarks after U.S. tech giant Google blocked the accounts of the Cuban daily newspaper Granma, Cuban international broadcaster Cubavision Internacional, and Mesa Redonda, barring them from accessing Youtube channels.

Although the accounts were recently reopened by Google, "the Donald Trump administration tries to silence the voice of Cuban public media, which are also banned from accessing a number of softwares developed in the United States," Alonso added.

The accounts of the Cuban Young Communist League, Prensa Latina news agency and Cuban daily newspaper Juventud Rebelde have also been censored by U.S. tech giants over the last few years.

"How far will U.S. hostility against Cuba go? How long will it last?" Yailin Orta, director at Granma, asked on social media, adding that the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba will continue to be part of the counter-hegemonic struggle.

In 2019, the Caribbean nation condemned the mass blocking of nearly 500 accounts in the island nation by social media giant Twitter, ahead of a televised address by Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, warning of an energy crisis due to U.S. sanctions against the island.

Xinhua

Pompeo's GOP convention speech sparks US House probe

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praised President Donald Trump's foreign policy record in a Republican National Convention speech on Tuesday that Democrats criticized as a breach of protocol and perhaps the law.

Speaking in a recorded video from a Jerusalem rooftop during an official trip, Pompeo (pictured), a Trump appointee widely believed to harbor presidential aspirations, said the president had defeated Islamic State militants and lowered the threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Even before he spoke, critics pounced, saying Pompeo had bro-

ken with decades of protocol in using his appointed office for partisan purposes.

The chairman of a Democratic-led US House of Representatives subcommittee announced on Tuesday an investigation into whether Pompeo's appearance broke federal law and regulations.

"The Trump administration and Secretary Pompeo have shown a gross disregard not only of basic ethics, but also a blatant willingness to violate federal law for political gain," Joaquin Castro, head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's oversight subcommittee, said in a statement.

In a letter to Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun, Castro said Pompeo's appearance was "highly



unusual and likely unprecedented," and "may also be illegal."

A State Department official told a pool reporter traveling with Pompeo that the secretary was appearing in his personal capacity and no State Department personnel or resources were involved.

John Bellinger, the top State Department lawyer under former

Republican Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, said the agency had long barred senior political appointees from partisan activity, including attending party conventions, even if they might be permitted under the 1939 Hatch Act limiting the political activities of federal employees.

Pompeo's address also appeared to violate his own instructions restating the department's prohibition on political activities - which applies to official and private time - sent to personnel in a July 24 cable reviewed on Monday by Reuters.

In his letter to Biegun, Castro wrote that it was "readily apparent" from documents in his panel's possession that Pompeo's appearance may violate the Hatch Act,

federal regulations implementing that law and federal rules.

He asked that Biegun answer a series of questions by no later than Sept 1 and arrange a briefing for lawmakers by the same date.

In his remarks to the Republican convention, Pompeo described what he called Trump's foreign policy successes, including the president's decision to move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and holding talks with DPRK leadership.

"The primary constitutional function of the national government is ensuring that your family - and mine - are safe and enjoy the freedom to live, to work, to learn and to worship as they choose," Pompeo said.

Agencies

Some tourists confused by new COVID-19 mask rules in Paris

PARIS

THE wearing of masks in some crowded areas around Paris became compulsory on Monday as part of a drive to stem a sharp rise in COVID-19 infections, but some tourists appeared perplexed about where the new rule is meant to apply.

A detailed list of more than 100 mandatory mask-wearing zones includes the popular Montmartre district, with its narrow streets, and the banks of the River Seine but excludes other famous tourist destinations such as the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysees and the huge shopping area of Les Halles.

"It's not clear at all. We're tourists so we don't know in which zones we're required to wear a



Tourists wearing protective face masks walk past the Louvre Pyramid (Pyramide du Louvre) designed by Ieoh Ming Pei, at the Cour Napoleon, in Paris, on Aug 15, 2020. AFP

mask," said Dominic Ditoma, a French tourist visiting Montmartre with his family.

"We assume it's for tourist spots but there are no signs so it's quite unclear."

A foreign tourist who gave her name as Angelica was also uncertain: "I've heard about it, it starts this morning, but I don't know about the zones, I don't know how to get informed."

Anybody aged 11 and over faces a 135 euro (US\$159) fine if caught without a mask where one is required. City hall official Audrey Pulvar defended the complex mask map - which is available on the city's website - saying that it was "evolving" and was based on criteria such as people's ability in

a given space to comply with social distancing rules.

"That's why, in certain streets, parts are affected by the measure and parts are not," Pulvar said on BFM TV.

Spike

France, like some other European countries, has recently seen a spike in new COVID-19 infections, prompting fears of a second wave. It reported 2,288 new infections last Friday, a new post-lockdown high, with the seven-day moving average at 1,486, a level unseen since late April.

People have been required to wear face masks in all closed public spaces in France since July 21.

Agencies

Wisconsin unrest flares for 3rd night over police shooting of Black man

KENOSHA, WIS

A BLACK man shot in the back by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, was left paralyzed and "fighting for his life," his family and lawyers said on Tuesday, hours before protesters and authorities clashed for a third night of civil unrest in the lakefront town.

Police in riot gear fired rubber bullets, tear gas and flash-bang rounds as they skirmished after dark with 300 to 400 demonstrators defying a dawn-to-dusk curfew outside a courthouse and adjacent park in downtown Kenosha.

The Kenosha County Sheriff's Department also deployed at least four armored patrol vehicles fitted with roof turrets from which deputies fired tear gas canisters into the crowd, many of whom hurled water bottles, bricks,

firecrackers and other objects back at police.

But there was no immediate sign of buildings or cars being set ablaze, as happened on Monday night.

About three hours after declaring the protest an unlawful assembly, authorities had managed to push Tuesday night's crowd out of the downtown park, with demonstrators scattering down streets.

The disturbances came hours after Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers declared a state of emergency and vowed to deploy additional National Guard troops in a bid to restore order in the town, while the mother of the man who was shot, Jacob Blake Jr, publicly appealed for calm.

Blake, 29, a father of six, was struck from behind at point-blank range in a

hail of bullets fired on Sunday by police who were following him with guns drawn as he walked away from officers to his car and opened a door to the vehicle.

Three of his young sons inside the automobile - aged 3, 5 and 8 - witnessed their father being gunned down, according to civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who represents the Blake family.

A bystander captured the encounter in video footage that immediately went viral, unleashing outrage over the latest in a long series of instances in which police have been accused of using indiscriminate lethal force against African Americans.

Blake, who had been attempting to break up a quarrel between two women, was struck by four of seven

gunshots fired at him, all by one officer, and there was "no indication he was armed," Crump said in an ABC News interview on Tuesday.

The police have not explained why Blake was shot.

At an afternoon news conference, Blake's parents voiced anguish over the shooting while decrying two previous nights of looting, vandalism and arson that overshadowed peaceful protests in Kenosha, a city of about 100,000 people 40 miles south of Milwaukee.

'My son matters'

"They shot my son seven times. Seven times! Like he didn't matter," Jacob Blake Sr, trembling with emotion, told reporters. "My son matters. He's a human being and he matters."

Julia Jackson, Blake's mother, said her

son "has been fighting for his life," but called for unity, saying she was praying for police officers. She also said her son would disapprove of damage done to the city, declaring, "It doesn't reflect my son or my family."

Officials, blaming outside agitators or much of the lawlessness surrounding demonstrations, said some three dozen fires were set on Monday night, mostly in an uptown, predominantly minority neighborhood where numerous businesses were burned.

Seeking to restrict an influx of traffic, authorities blocked off all exit ramps leading from Interstate-94 into Kenosha County from the nearby city of Racine south to the Illinois border along Lake Michigan.

Traffic barriers and heavy fencing were also erected on Tuesday around a

downtown cluster of public buildings, including the courthouse, police department and sheriff's headquarters, to protect them from attack.

Crump and another lawyer for the Blake family, Patrick Salvi II, said bullets shattered some of Blake's vertebrae, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down - possibly permanently. He also suffered gunshot wounds to his stomach and gastrointestinal tract, requiring surgeons to remove most of his colon and small intestine, and sustained damage to his kidney, liver and an arm, they said.

"It's going to take a miracle for Jacob Blake Jr to ever walk again," Crump said, adding that the family intended to bring a lawsuit "to hold wrongdoers accountable."

Agencies



Photo taken on Dec. 4, 2019 shows the Jianshi-Enshi expressway in Hubei Province. Stretching 70.52 kilometres, the expressway is a key poverty-alleviation project launched by the State Council with a total investment of 8.4 billion yuan. File photo

Transportation helps rural China fight poverty

THE Chinese people always say "better roads lead to better life." Therefore, transportation infrastructure must be built in advance to carry out poverty alleviation.

In the recent years, China's rural transportation has experienced drastic changes, which both facilitated rural residents, and revitalized rural development.

Five poverty alleviation cadres and representatives recently shared their stories of fighting poverty through the improvement of transportation infrastructure with People's Daily.

Xu Wenqiang, director of the Tibet Autonomous Region's transportation department introduced that the total transport fixed-asset investment of the autonomous region is expected to exceed 251.5 billion yuan (\$36.23 billion) at the end of this year.

The total mileage of Tibet's expressways was only 38 kilometers five years ago, but has now added up to 620 kilometers and will reach 1,100 kilometers based on the completion of the projects implemented between 2016 and 2020. As of the end of the last year, the total mileage of highways in the autonomous region reached 104,500 kilometers.

"Before the end of this year, all townships and incorporated villages that meet the conditions will be connected to highways, and 95 percent of townships and 75 percent of incorporated villages will be connected to hardened roads. Tourists visiting Tibet and local residents will be able to enjoy safer, more smooth and more convenient trips," he said.

Anyuan in the southwestern part of Jiangxi Province, was considered a remote county before 2013, as it cost a day to travel from it to Ganzhou, a city just 200 kilometers away. In the recent years, a vast expressway network connected with neighboring provinces has been built, introduced Luo Hongbo, an official with the department of policy and legislation under the Ministry of Transport and deputy Party secretary in Anyuan county.

He said drastic changes have taken place in Anyuan. Enterprises have invested in the county, which solved the employment problem of the local young people; the low logistics cost facilitated e-commerce and tourism.

A total of 2 billion yuan of turnover was achieved last year by the county's e-commerce businesses, and over 80 percent of townships and 32 percent of impoverished villagers are fighting poverty through e-commerce, Luo said. More than a third of the town-

ships in the county developed tourism, receiving 4.8 million tourists last year, he added.

Sertar county in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Garze, Sichuan Province was once in deep poverty. With an average elevation of over 4,127 meters, the mountainous county was isolated. Gui Zhijing, deputy Party secretary of Sertar county experienced the transportation progress there.

"After four years of poverty alleviation efforts, the county now has 2,260 kilometers of highways, and 17 townships and 134 incorporated villages have been connected to hardened roads and bus services. The county officially got rid of poverty in February," Gui said.

Last year, Sertar county attracted an investment of 130 billion yuan, and the number of hotels in the county rose from 54 to 150. Gui believes that the better transportation will bring better lives to the local people.

"The continuously improving transportation has laid a solid foundation for industrial development," said Lyu Yida, who was once the first Party secretary in Rela village, Aba Tibetan and Qiang autonomous prefecture, Sichuan Province. According to him, Rela villagers suffered severe road conditions in the past, until a 6.9-kilometer road network was constructed. The village was connected to hardened roads and bus services.

"The village established a food company in 2018 that sells yak meat and honey. The company achieved revenue of 2.6 million yuan last year, which largely reinforced the confidence of the villagers in poverty alleviation," Lyu introduced.

Wang Guangguo is the Party secretary of Dianziping village, Jianshi county, Enshi Tujia and Miao autonomous prefecture, Hubei province.

According to him, it usually took a couple of hours for the villagers to go to a fair in its neighboring township, and they had to walk along the cliffs. Thanks to the poverty alleviation efforts, the village has constantly improved its transportation, from building gravel roads to asphalt roads, connecting every household with hardened roads.

"We used to grow only potatoes, corns and soybeans, but now we started growing fruits and established a chili factory that sells our products overseas. The new roads help drive industrial development and bring wealth to the people," Wang said.



People's Daily

Before the end of this year, all townships and incorporated villages that meet the conditions will be connected to highways

Three Gorges Reservoir helps guarantee safety of China's Yangtze River in flood season

THE Three Gorges Reservoir in central China's Hubei province has served as a strong guarantee of safety for flood control efforts in coping with the frequent and massive regional floods with high flood peaks in the main streams of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River since the beginning of the flood season in last June.

From July 2 to August 20, the Three Gorges Reservoir experienced a total of five heavy floods.

On August 20, the inbound water flow reached this year's record high of 75,000 cubic meters per second as the peak floodwater of Yangtze River's fifth flood of the year arrived at the Three Gorges Dam.

In the face of the greatest flood peak since the Three Gorges Reservoir was built in 2003, 11 floodgates of the Three Gorges Dam

were opened to discharge the floodwater at a rate of 49,200 cubic meters per second.

The Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) has held 40 intensive conferences and consultations since July, giving 57 orders for withholding and discharging floodwater.

"Since the water level of the Three Gorges Reservoir is allowed to be kept between 145 meters and 175 meters, it has 22.15 billion cubic meters of storage capacity for flood control, which can have a direct influence on the flood control in the Jingjiang section and the Chenglingji section of the Yangtze River," said Chen Guiya, deputy chief engineer of the Changjiang Water Resources Commission of the MWR.

"Relieving pressure" on flood prevention in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River is

one of the most important tasks of the Three Gorges Reservoir, Chen noted, explaining that experts would always calculate relevant volumes and rates of floodwater over and over again before putting forward a plan for flood control.

Since the beginning of this year's flood season, the Three Gorges Reservoir has intercepted a total of 18.2 billion cubic meters of potential floodwater, kept the outbound flow of water at around 42,000 cubic meters per second, and recorded a maximum peak clipping ratio (the ratio by which flood is intercepted) of 33 percent.

The middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River are the major areas for flood control in the river. Surrounded by water and mountains, the Three Gorges Reservoir is not only the core of the cascade reservoirs of the upper reaches,



The Three Gorges project opens 11 deep spillway holes to discharge floodwater.

but the master key to the control of the inflow of water to the middle and lower reaches of the longest river in China.

Reservoirs have been used for flood control in 87 operations in Hunan province, 18 operations in Hubei province, and over 40 operations in Jiangxi province.

Meanwhile, over 30 reservoirs

of the middle and upper reaches of Yangtze River with the Three Gorges Reservoir as the core have accumulatively withheld more than 30 billion cubic meters of floodwater in coordination with various flood storage areas.

"The successful operation of the Three Gorges Reservoir in flood control cannot be achieved

without coordination with various areas," Chen said.

It has been the close coordination among various parts of the country, including southwest China's Chongqing municipality, Hubei province, Hunan province, as well as east China's Anhui province and Jiangxi province, that ensured the smooth implementation of orders and formed a pattern featuring coordinated operation of reservoirs of upper and middle reaches and the main stream and branches of the Yangtze River for flood control, Chen noted.

"We hold consultations three times a day, and put forward four to five plans each time," disclosed Chu Minghua, director of the No. 1 flood control office of the Department of Flood and Drought Disaster Prevention of the MWR, explaining that in order

African businesses shifting towards new technologies in response to COVID-19 pandemic, says UN report

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN businesses are shifting towards new technologies in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The report, which was jointly published by the UNECA and the International Economics Consulting Ltd., is the second comprehensive survey on the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact across Africa, the UNECA disclosed on Tuesday.

The online survey, which was conducted from June 16 to July 20 to provide insights into the effects of the pandemic on economic activity for businesses across Africa, mainly identified the challenges African businesses encountered as well as their responses to mitigate the adverse impact of the pandemic.

According to the report, the results of the survey show that the top three challenges faced by African companies in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are reduced opportunities to meet new customers drop in demand for products and services, as well as lack of cash flow.

"Companies have faced serious disruptions in both supply and market due to COVID-19, with unfair pricing seen as a major concern," the report read, while feedback from companies about government assistance "is mixed with nearly two-thirds of the respondents indicating from moderate to no satisfaction," it said.

The report also indicated that "companies are currently working at about half their capacity" as company revenues are expected to drop by about 18 percent in 2020, as compared to 2019, and lay-offs to increase by 20 percent in the next three months.

The report also noted that remote working options proved more challenging for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those dealing with goods, whose performance has been relatively more negatively affected than larger-sized companies and more generally those involved in services.

It also noted that women are more at risk of being laid-off than men, which is consistent with the fact that women tend to be employed more in MSMEs in which their primary business is related to goods.

According to the UNECA, one of the main takeaways from this survey is the very positive fact that two-thirds of the surveyed companies indicated that they have identified new opportunities in response to the crisis.

Simon Mevel, Economics Affairs Officer at the Regional Integration and Trade Division at the ECA, also stressed that firms involved in goods and MSMEs are displaying "the highest shares in terms of new opportunities identified following the crisis, which in turn is expected to be positive from a gender point of view as women are primarily engaged in MSMEs dealing with goods."

Xinhua

Experts warn more Ghanaians likely to contract COVID-19 ahead of presidential polls

ACCRA

PEOPLE in Ghana could be exposed to a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 as political party activities have intensified in the run-up to the country's general election in December, experts have warned.

The fear is premised on participants' possible contact with infected persons as candidates crisscross the 16 regions in the country to sell their

message to the electorates. Ghana has already recorded over 40,000 COVID-19 confirmed cases, and there is a fear among the populace there could be a flare-up.

Director-General for the Ghana Health Service Patrick Kuma Aboagye observed there is a risk of the virus spreading among people when they go out. The risk of infection could rise as people go outdoors, Aboagye said at a recent

press conference. Director for Advocacy and Policy Engagement at the Center for Democratic Development in Ghana Kojo Pumpuni Asante said the pandemic posed a threat to the public as political parties go about campaigning.

"The strong likelihood of the campaigns taking place in an environment where there is a continuing threat of fear of getting infected with COVID-19 further complicates the picture," he said.

Xinhua

Chinese foreign minister says visit to Europe carries four signals

ROME

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Tuesday that his Europe trip has four main purposes, namely to continue the fight against COVID-19 with Europe, support Europe's unity and development, promote China-Europe relations and boost world peace and development.

Addressing a press conference together with his Italian counterpart Luigi Di Maio, Wang said that this visit aims to enhance the China-Europe joint fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

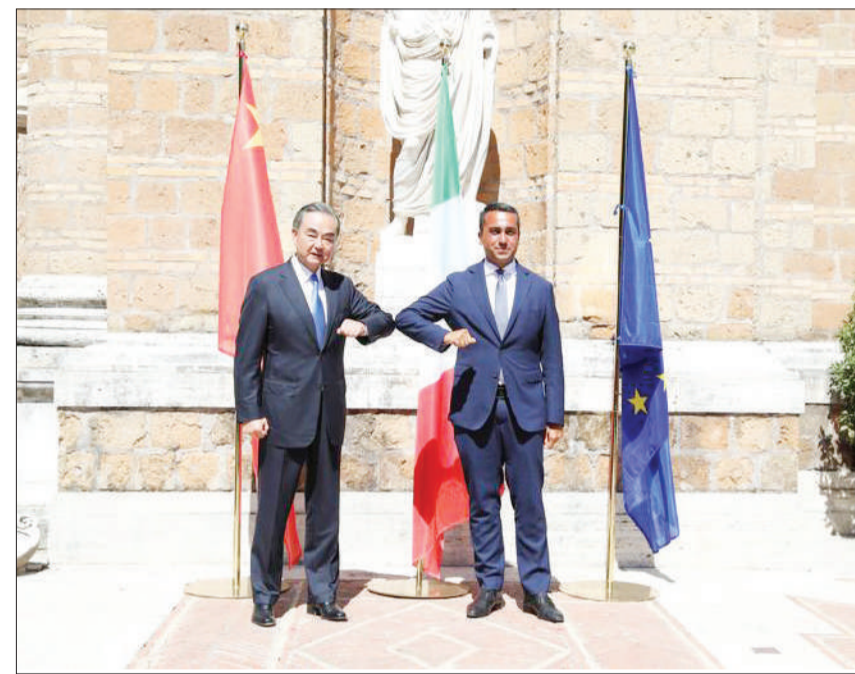
Since the beginning of this year, facing the spread of the raging pandemic, China and Europe have helped each other and become paragons of international anti-pandemic cooperation, Wang said.

China is a country that advocates reciprocity and the Chinese nation has a tradition of helping those in distress, Wang said, stressing China will never forget Europe's help when it was hit hard by COVID-19 and would never just look on when Europe faces the same plight.

Noting that the outbreak in China is now effectively under control, Wang said China, as a member of the global village, stands ready to share anti-pandemic knowledge and experience, and provide necessary support so as to help Europe defeat the pandemic at an early date.

Wang said his visit aims to continue supporting Europe's unity and development. He said a united, stable and prosperous Europe benefits not only Europe but also the world, which is a consistent and clear stance as well as a strategic judgement of China's.

At present, under the impact of the pandemic, Europe's development faces new challenges, he said, adding that



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio pose for a photo before holding talks in Rome, Italy, on Tuesday. XINHUA

China will faithfully support the European integration process through practical actions, and remain a trustworthy strategic partner as Europe strives for unity and development, he said.

Wang said his visit also aims to continue promoting China-Europe relations. Facts have shown that the development of China-Europe relations not only benefits people on both sides, but also makes important contributions to world development, said Wang.

He said that currently the momentum of China-Europe relations is good in general, but is also suffering various instigations and even sabotage by external forces. For their common interests, both sides should firm up confidence, dispel disturbances and overcome the difficulties to maintain a healthy and stable development of China-Europe relations.

Wang said his visit also aims to fur-

ther enhance world peace and development. At present, countries across the world are not only being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also facing the threats and challenges of unilateralism, protectionism and the resurgence of Cold War mentality.

As the world's two great civilizations and major forces, China wishes to strengthen communication and cooperation with Europe, hoping that both sides can jointly safeguard, by availing themselves of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the current international system based on multilateralism and make due contributions to help human history develop in the right direction, Wang said.

Italy is the first leg of Wang's European tour, which will also take him to the Netherlands, Norway, France and Germany.

Xinhua

Kremlin sees no grounds for worsening ties with West amid incident with Navalny

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin does not see any grounds for the deterioration of ties between Russia and the West amid the incident with blogger Alexei Navalny, who is in a coma in a German clinic.

"First, we don't want this. Second, there are no grounds for this," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday, answering a question if Moscow was afraid that ties with Western states would worsen amid the incident.

Moscow is totally against "pinning down any labels in the current situation and branding as poisoning what has not been confirmed," Peskov (pictured) stressed. "This is a Russian citizen who is in a coma and we want to find out what was the reason for this coma," he said.

The spokesman added that Moscow is tolerant to various hasty conclusions in a



'highly-likely style' that this was poisoning, but strongly rejects them.

The presidential spokesman explained that first it was necessary to establish the toxic agent, without which it was impossible to speak about poisoning. He recalled that doctors in Omsk were unable to find this substance in Navalny's body and it remained unknown whether the German doctors managed to do this. Peskov wished Navalny a speedy recovery.

The spokesman stressed that Moscow is interested in establishing the true

cause of the circumstances that led to blogger Alexei Navalny going into a coma no less than other social and political forces.

"We are definitely interested, no less than others, in understanding what led to the coma of the patient who is undergoing treatment in a Berlin hospital," he said.

"[As for] various hasty wordings that are so abundantly used that this was poisoning with a high degree of probability, we are patient, but we strongly disagree with that at this stage."

When asked whether the presidential administration believes it is important to study Navalny's contacts, the Kremlin spokesman said, "I would readdress that question to our law enforcement officials, law enforcement agencies that certainly have their own judgement about the expediency of such actions."

to report the situation precisely, get accurate data, and find the best solution, they often hold consultations and video conferences promptly after noticing signs of flooding no matter how late it is at night.

Scientific regulation of reservoirs is based on accurate predictions about the situation.

With more than 30,000 rainfall monitoring stations collecting data automatically and such "powerful weapons" as meteorological satellites, high precision GPS, and 5G network performing their functions, China has been able to keep its accuracy of forecast for water volume under several cubic meters and water level within centimeters, according to an executive of the hydrographic office of the Changjiang Water Resources Commission of the MWR.

People's Daily

DStv launches new soccer season

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

SUPERSPORT is the home of world's top leagues in the 2020/21 football season, starting this September on DStv, with an unmatched offering of the beautiful game from the best players in the world, all in HD!

As the 2019/20 season draws to a close, interest in the upcoming season is ramping up.

If the hype of the previous season - with Liverpool FC's momentous triumph - is any indication, the looming season is bound to be captivating.

And with SuperSport's comprehensive coverage of the most loved football leagues, with hundreds of games from Premier League, La Liga (with exclusive English commentary) and Serie A - on the new dedicated thematic channels - there's no need to look any further.

In addition to the big three leagues, SuperSport will also be bringing viewers unprecedented coverage which includes the Euro 2020 Championship, UEFA Euro 2020 Qualifiers, European qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Nations League - it is set to be a year-round football feast!

The breadth and depth of the coverage, will, as usual include build-ups with respected analysts as well as language options for commentary including Pidgin, Swahili and Portuguese - cementing SuperSport as the unrivalled football destination of choice for viewers across Africa.

MultiChoice Tanzania Head of Marketing, Ronald Shelukindo, said of the upcoming season: "Building on the euphoria of the season that just concluded, we are excited to deliver world-class football to fans as we always do."

"There's a lot to look forward to and we are proud to provide a platform for customers to experience the significant moments of the game at high quality."

Football fans in Tanzania were given a preview of the 'new normal' of live football in the last part of the 2019/20 season as a result of the worldwide pandemic, changing the dynamic of how the game is broadcast.

Other changes for this season also include team and leadership adjustments in the form of new start dates, new teams, new managers and new players.

The dates for the season to begin usually arrive in August, but the suspension and late finish due to world events, means all three of Premier League, La Liga and Serie A will kick off their new campaigns on September 12 for England and Spain, and September 19 for Italy. All three leagues are scheduled to wrap up on May 23, 2020.

In the Premier League, the trio of Leeds United, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham FC will be the 'new boys' after securing promotion at the end of last season.

West Brom and Fulham FC have been regular competitors in recent Premier League seasons, but the return of Leeds is big news.

The Whites are truly one of the biggest clubs in England and a first showing in the top flight since 2003-04 adds to the excitement and intrigue for 2020-21.

In Italy, Benevento and Crotone secured direct promotion to Serie A, with both set to appear in the top flight for just the second time in their histories, while La Liga sees Cadiz and Huesca as new members of the elite league, with the former promoted to the top tier for the first time in a decade.

The arrival of the legendary Marcelo Bielsa, the man at the helm of Leeds United, adds to the managerial spice in the Premier League, with the Argentine revered as the 'coach's coach' by the likes of Pep Guardiola.

His tactical nous will be put to the test by the likes of Guardiola, Liverpool FC's Jurgen Klopp, Carlo Ancelotti and others in a stacked line-up of brilliant managers.

Meanwhile, Italy will have the fascinating scenario of rookie manager Andrea Pirlo in charge of Serie A champions Juventus.

If the former midfielder is half as good a coach as he was a player, then the Bianconeri will be well on their way to a 10th straight title.

In La Liga, as far as new managers are concerned, it is all about who will be in charge of Barcelona.

Quique Setien's tenure ended in disgrace with the team's 8-2 annihilation at the hands of Bayern Munich in the UEFA Champions

League.

Ronald Koeman (a Barca club legend) has been confirmed to take over at the Camp Nou.

The transfer market has not really clicked into top gear just yet, but there has already been some major signings completed.

Chelsea have done amazing work by securing the services of Moroccan winger Hakim Ziyech and German striker Timo Werner, two signings which could transform them into potential Premier League title contenders.

The biggest signings into La Liga include Miralem Pjanic to Barcelona (as part of a deal which saw Arthur head in the opposite direction to Juventus).

Suso swapping Milan for Sevilla (and he's already impressed for the club in the UEFA Europa League), turns out to be a big signing as well.

Serie A has seen the arrival of two rising African stars, Achraf Hakimi from Real Madrid to Internazionale, and Victor Osimhen from Lille to Napoli.

As soccer lovers build towards the eagerly anticipated 2020-21 season - having only just seen the back of 2019-20!, the DStv disclosed, they should not miss everything new coming to the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A which will excite SuperSport viewers for the new football season!

The soccer followers have been asked to either get or reconnect to either DStv or GOtv today to enjoy the football programming on the service, popularly referred to by the hashtag #HomeofFootball.

The soccer followers can visit either www.dstv.com or www.govAfrica.com, or download MyDStv or MyGOtv to either subscribe or upgrade, and join in on the excitement.

The DStv viewers, while they are on the move, they can stream matches on DStv Now.

As we enter the Soccer season, SuperSport viewers on DStv will now be able to enjoy special dedicated channels for leagues and sports.

They include the Premier League, La Liga, WWE, UFC, tennis, motorsport, golf and several others, which will now have a home to call their own.

A list of the newly named SuperSport channels and the content the viewers can find on DStv include SuperSport Blitz, SuperSport Grandstand, SuperSport Football Plus, SuperSport Premier League, SuperSport La Liga, SuperSport Football, SuperSport Variety 1, 2, 3 and 4, SuperSport Action, SuperSport Rugby, SuperSport Cricket and the WWE Channel.

SuperSport Blitz remains the fans' home for all the latest breaking news and updates from around the sports world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SuperSport Grandstand showcases all of SuperSport's live programming with a focus on football and the best live sport across all our channels.

SuperSport Football Plus brings viewers the top UEFA Champions League matches, football from across the best football leagues in the world, game highlights, goal summaries, news and magazine shows.

SuperSport Premier League will be the home of action from England's Premier League, with the best games, highlights and coverage of EPL.

The channel will also broadcast FA Cup and other international action.

SuperSport La Liga is fans' new home for Spanish football and will focus on La Liga action, the home of El Clasico, and other international football.

SuperSport Football Plus will offer selected access to matches from the Premier League, La Liga, Serie A, African football leagues and others.

SuperSport Variety 1, 2, 3 and 4 will cover football, WWE, athletics, marathons, boxing and a range of other events, both African and international.

SuperSport Action is fans' home for combat sports such as MMA - featuring the UFC and EFC - and boxing from around the globe.

SuperSport Rugby will be the central hub for all rugby.

SuperSport Cricket is fans' home for Test matches, One Day Internationals, IPL cricket and everything involving bats and balls.

SuperSport Golf, SuperSport Tennis and SuperSport Motorsport respectively, with each channel dedicated to its specific sport.

The WWE Channel brings fans the best of action from the WWE universe.

Waluguru Original Band opts out of hiring male dancers

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

MOROGORO's dance music troupe, Waluguru Original, has disclosed it has no plan to hire male dancers, claiming the latter are currently not in demand.

Waluguru Original Band's Director, Deogratius David 'Killer Man', stated since he formed the troupe in 2014, the troupe has never used male dancers in its shows.

He was adamant the troupe's female dancers are doing a good job and they impress music fans a lot.

"The male dancers held sway in the past, but now music fans mostly want to watch female dancers put their skills to show, that is why you can see we only have female dancers in our band," he disclosed. David pointed out that Waluguru Original Band does what music fans want, as much as the approach is beneficial to the troupe and the fans.

He noted the troupe's decision to solely deploy the services of female dancers has played an important role in boosting the band's fame.

"We so far have four female dancers, Queen Ice, Super Queen, Queen Zai and Queen Lightness, they are collectively doing a great job in our troupe," he disclosed.

The troupe, which has lately won much popularity in dance music scene in the country, launched its second album, titled 'Kikao cha Wahenga', in the region recently.

The new album has six tracks, 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa



Waluguru Original Music Band dancers in action at one of the band's recent shows, which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

Mapenzi, 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngailie Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nilewe'.

The launch was accompanied by performances staged by famous domestic dance musician, Ally Choki, and another newly formed troupe, The Bambazi Band.

Dar es Salaam-based The Bambazi Band, led by experienced Congolese musician, Mul-emule 'FBI', as it was the case for Choki, impressed fans a lot in the launch.

David also reiterated his earlier comments he has set out to see to it that Morogoro regains

its enthusiasm in the music genre, the way the region did in the past.

Attracting a big number of music followers in his band's second album launch, David disclosed, is part of his efforts to see to it his plan comes to fruition.

Why donating to register players is false emergency

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL EN-EZA

FANS of city giants Young Africans SC (Yanga) have had a problem lately trying to grapple with an appeal by club chairman, Dr. Mshindo Msolla, to generate contributions among club members and supporters so that two more professional players from beyond our borders can be registered.

What this rapidly meant to say was that there is still room to register foreign players as the club has not reached the maximum number allowed.

And if the franchise holder in the registration exercise cannot do it let the members chip in as well.

That way the matter looks somewhat straightforward but it is hard to believe that the former or perhaps part time university lecturer understood it in those terms as well.

What is apparent is that there is a spirit of using an earlier situation or environment where that sort of initiative looked credible, as there was a personal oversight of registration affairs from an erstwhile sponsor, who found himself in difficulties and unable to discharge his common law responsibilities. He could not live up to members' expectations, then.

This cannot be said to be obtaining at the moment, as it is not a city merchant who is in charge of player recruitment but ostensibly a well established company, which can seek for supplementary resources from near and far if it came to that.

It means that there are no plausible chances that they needed some back up from good old fundraising methods that the chairman let out as his latest club saving initiative, seemingly still in a state of alert, and fear, as to what becomes of the club in the next few months.

It is not a statement of no-confidence but rather the lack of full confidence, except that the object of this worry was puzzling.

Fans were demanding whether it was that vital to



Yanga Chairman, Mshindo Msolla

finish up the ten registrations of foreign players that the club statutorily disposes, even without checking out to see if GSM Group had any such plans - and if not, find out whether the reason was lack of finances.

It is unlikely that the two questions would both be answered in the chairman's favor, that the club registration franchise holder was not intending to fill the ten players limit the club is allowed - and the reason was that the company lacked the necessary resources.

If there is a grain of reason in it, these terms of the matter means they debated on how many players the company intends to register, and differed on not filling the two spaces. But was there a reason to ring 'emergency'?

receiving end, as to why he sought that frontally differing with GSM Group concerning the number of players being registered right now would be a substantive issue with the members and the fans.

The only plausible explanation is that Dr Msolla knows who he works with and their sentiments, and believes in fireworks at the level of registration as the right way to build the sort of atmosphere the club needs when the new season starts.

In other words it is not a real gap that needs to be filled but the club sentiment has been let down by not being able to fill the ten vacancies available statutorily.

An aside can be added, as to whether the chairman has a candidate for recruitment, and could have wished for 'negotiation money' from the franchise holder, and failed to get it.

Then in that kind of situation it is plausible he could go out of his way and make a direct appeal to fans and supporters, calling it an emergency situation, while it is a minor difference of tactics, and indiscipline.

If anything, anyone with a working knowledge of coaching - and the chairman has more than a fair amount of such knowledge - would agree that the two vacancies be reserved until the coach knows what sort of players he needs to fill some obvious gaps.

Such players would thus be selected from a different background compared to the present where the issue is squad building with skilful and motivated players, after which the club would still need to find out what sort of players it misses, sorely, for what position.

That would be the target for recruitment in the short window at the end of the year, not using up all the cash at the moment - but then Dr Msolla is unmindful of cash, sees it is just a matter of chucking, picking.

Perhaps the point of departure of sorting out that ought to start at the

Messi divorce: 'bombshell' fax signals end of era, legal fight at Barcelona

BARCELONA

SIX-TIME Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi told Barcelona he wants to leave -- on a free transfer -- in a "bombshell" fax on Tuesday that is expected to trigger a legal battle over a buy-out clause worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Signalling the end of an era at Barcelona, where Messi is the record scorer and has won four Champions League titles, the disgruntled Argentine wants to terminate his contract "unilaterally" by triggering a release clause, a source told AFP.

Relations have plummeted this year and speculation swirled about Messi's departure after this month's humiliating 8-2 Champions League quarter-final defeat to Bayern Munich, which left Barca without a trophy for the first time since 2007.

The 33-year-old's demand sparked protests against Barcelona's under-fire president Josep Maria Bartomeu outside the Camp Nou where Messi, synonymous with the club's most successful period, is worshipped by fans.

"I don't see him anywhere else. I can't believe it," said Ruben Tejero, 28, one of about 100 fans at the stadium calling for Bartomeu to resign.

"I prefer to think it's an ultimatum given to management for Bartomeu to go."

Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan are among those to have been linked to Messi, who is among the greatest players in history and has wages to match, with a reported weekly salary of nearly a million euros.

- Drastic changes -

Barcelona have yet to react officially but are understood to believe Messi's release clause expired in June, and that he remains under contract until the end of the 2021 season.

"In principle, this clause expired on June 10, but the unusual nature of this season disrupted by the coronavirus opened the way for Messi to ask to be released from his contract now," wrote Spanish sports daily Marca.

"It's the first step towards opening negotiations over his departure, on the basis of which his release clause amounts to 700 million euros (\$828 million)."

Messi joined Barcelona's youth academy at the age of 13 and made his debut in 2004 as a 17-year-old, before going on to score a club re-

cord 634 goals.

But his future at Barca was thrown into serious doubt by the 8-2 loss to Bayern, the first time Barca had conceded eight goals in a game since losing to Sevilla 8-0 in the 1946 Spanish Cup.

The defeat has sparked drastic changes. Coach Quique Setien was sacked after barely six months in charge, and sporting director Eric Abidal was also dismissed.

According to Spanish media, Messi met with new coach Ronald Koeman last week and told the Dutchman he saw himself "more out than in" at the club.

Koeman has vowed to "fight to put Barca back on top" and said at his unveiling he was hopeful Messi would remain at the club for several more years.

But Koeman has reportedly told Luis Suarez he is no longer part of Barca's plans, delivering a similar message to Arturo Vidal, Ivan Rakitic and Samuel Umtiti.

- 'Rock bottom' -

"The club needs changes," said defender Gerard Pique following the Bayern demolition. "Nobody is untouchable, least of all me. Fresh blood is needed to change this. We've hit rock bottom."

Argentine sports daily Ole described Messi's wish to leave as a "complete bombshell", but he has had regular disagreements with the club's board in recent times.

The Lisbon loss, Barca's heaviest in Europe, exposed an ageing team that Messi repeatedly had said was simply not good enough.

He said it in February and again in July, when a rant in the aftermath of handing Real Madrid the title turned into a brutal, but honest, assessment of their season.

As his relationship with the club hierarchy grew increasingly strained, Messi also reacted publicly when Abidal appeared to blame the players for the sacking of Ernesto Valverde in January.

He also led the fightback from the Barcelona players over a dispute with the board in March regarding pay cuts during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Respect and admiration, Leo. All my support, friend," tweeted Barca great Carles Puyol, a long-time former team-mate of Messi, to which Suarez replied with two applause emojis.

Vidal also tweeted: "When you shut a tiger in a cage he doesn't give in, he fights back."

AFP

From Ballon d'Or to abject humiliation: why Lionel Messi seeks pastures new

LONDON

WHEN Lionel Messi won an unprecedented sixth Ballon d'Or in December last year, the speculation had already begun over his career at Barcelona.

The 33-year-old Argentine footballing genius was increasingly unable single-handedly to rescue his imploding club, as he had done so often in the past.

Barcelona, despite lifting the La Liga title, had collapsed at the end of the 2018-19 season, losing a 3-0 semi-final lead, including two Messi goals, to Liverpool in the Champions League.

They then dropped the Copa del Rey final 2-1 to Valencia, where the Argentine was again on the scoresheet, this time though just a late consolation.

But all that paled in comparison to Barca's barren 2020, capped by a shocking humiliation in Lisbon.

- Bayern embarrassment -

The abject 8-2 quarter-final embarrassment against Bayern Munich in Lisbon 12 days ago meant a first season since 2007 without a trophy for Barcelona.

It marked the first time Barca had conceded eight goals in a

game since losing to Sevilla 8-0 in the 1946 Spanish Cup.

But far more significant than that, it convinced the twinkle-toed talisman his final footballing years lay elsewhere.

The fallout was immediate. Coach Quique Setien was sacked after barely six months in charge while sporting director Eric Abidal was also dismissed.

Even the appointment of former Camp Nou fan favourite Ronald Koeman as head coach last week could not convince Messi to stay.

The Dutchman has indicated he will embark on a clear-out and, at 33 years old, Messi must feel he doesn't have time to wait until Koeman's rebuilt Barca are able to challenge Europe's elite.

On Tuesday, Messi informed Barcelona he wanted "unilaterally" to terminate his contract by triggering a release clause, sending shockwaves across the world of sport.

There will be no shortage of clubs eager to employ Messi, who could be snapped up on a free transfer, but the favourites look to be Manchester City, led by his former Barcelona mentor Pep Guardiola.

AFP

Messi told Barcelona he wants to leave, and this is why they should let him go

BY GRAHAM HUNTER, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

IT'S incredible to think about, but there's precedent for Barcelona and Lionel Messi to end up in court over their latest battle, which escalated Tuesday when Messi informed the club that he wants to leave after nearly 20 years of service. That the positions adopted by both parties -- the wounded genius vs. the modern version of the Keystone Kops -- mean that unless someone blinks, they'll end up back there again is astounding.

From Josep Bartomeu through departed football "brain" and sporting director Pep Segura, plus the hapless Quique Setien, his assistant coach Edu Sarabia and now the surviving "technical secretary," Ramon Planes, I can't quite imagine how they have the gall to look themselves in the mirror tonight, tomorrow or in the coming months. They have, cumulatively, taken Leo Messi's love and devotion for the club that he has made great and pretty much soiled it.

However, here we are. The fact is that my argument, given that it involves accurate historical precedent, good guidance, maturity and vision, will probably be ignored by Bartomeu and his acolytes, but here goes nothing.

The unhappiness and discord between the two sides, plus the club's continuing ineptitude, mean that it is time for Messi to leave Barcelona.

When Joan Laporta's board decided in 2008 that Messi was "too important" to the velvet revolution that was taking place at Barcelona, now that they'd promoted a B-team coach named Pep Guardiola to the first team, for him to be allowed to tilt at the Olympic football gold medal for Argentina in Beijing, the conflict was drawn-out, ill-judged and ill-tempered, and it ended with a ruling in the club's favour by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the definitive legal jurisdiction.

Back then the club's president, who has always been an arch-critic of this board and their leader, Bartomeu, was in a situation that felt, to him, as "rock and hard place" as the current one does to those in power at Camp Nou. With a couple of trophy-less years, an atrophied squad and the risk, which in 2008 felt like a huge risk even to Guardiola, of promoting an untested boy wonder at the expense of a proven winner such as Jose Mourinho, Laporta desperately wanted the new season, which included having to qualify for the Champions League, to begin with Messi in the first team -- not at risk of injury in China.

Guardiola took one of the all-time great risks of modern football and, just in the door as the big boss, defied his employers, told Messi he must go to China, argued Laporta into unhappy acceptance and then reaped the benefits when the proud Argentinian dazzled at the Olympics, won the gold medal and returned to explode like football's version of a mighty atom for the following 12 years.

Admittedly, if Barcelona now abandon their right to point at Messi's contract, which lasts until the end of next June, and avoid a legal battle to enforce their contractual superiority, it isn't as if Messi is going to go away for a few weeks, only to surge back full of gratitude. This, if he leaves, is the end -- in playing terms at least. But Messi's "burofax" to the club Tuesday asks not simply that he be allowed to leave, i.e. via a club purchasing him at a reasonable rate, it suggests that he still has access to a "get out of jail free" clause in his contract that actually expired in May.

Should "Team Messi" choose to argue that idea in court, Barcelona are currently committed to fighting back. As such, I think my comparison to the acrimonious summer of 2008 holds.

What Pep Guardiola witnessed in 2008, even when Messi was just 21, was a guy who was broken, vastly down in the dumps and likely to carry a grudge. Guardiola saw it, understood it and made a massive wager that whatever happened in the Olympics that year, it could barely be worse than depriving Messi of some-



Lionel Messi

thing he not only deserved but also knew he deserved.

What's the scenario for Barcelona's power-brokers in 2020 if they force Messi to stay against his will or, worse, go to court to enforce their right not to grant him liberty or liberty at a fair price?

The pragmatists who say "No one is bigger than the club, even if it's Messi" can be discarded as knowing absolutely zero about this situation or its protagonists. Messi, unhappy, at half-effort, negotiating midseason with a host of clubs, perhaps stripped of the captaincy and locking antlers with a new, hard-nosed, lacking-in-subtlety coach such as Ronald Koeman, is a disastrous prospect.

Not that he should be allowed to go simply because he'll sulk, of course; I'm not advocating that. He should be allowed to go because he deserves to be maximising his last couple of magnificent years in a competitive, demanding atmosphere in which daily excellence is demanded of every single employee. More than that: He should be allowed to go, either for free or for a token price because Messi is so massively above your common or garden superstar that the footballing public -- by which I mean fans, fellow players, coaches, media, sponsors and any single constituency that loves our sport -- deserve to see him thriving, happy, devastating, committed, successful and tested for the next three or four years.

The next 12 months, especially if this board remains in post until the mandatory elections next summer, promises to be, for Messi, a waste of golden time.

What makes all of this so much more disastrous for Barcelona and anyone who cares a jot for the club is that the board has been staring into on-

coming headlights, like a particularly dopey and stubborn rabbit, for many months. To lose one superstar, Neymar, because of a complete inability to either interpret a situation or do anything about it, can be regarded as careless, but to repeat the pattern with the greatest player ever is simply ineptitude on a gargantuan scale. By that I mean that when, in October 2016, Neymar rejected a contract improvement, which would have meant a vastly increased buy-out clause (up from the €222m that was written in his contract), Barcelona's board seemed completely unaware of the fact that this was a clear message: "I INTEND TO LEAVE IN THE NEXT SUMMER TRANSFER MARKET." Capital letters intended.

Right up until PSG deposited the €222m at La Liga offices in Madrid and whisked Barcelona's playing genius off to the French capital, the Camp Nou hierarchy continued to behave like the Emperor with "new clothes." Everyone else knew they had been denuded, but they were boasting of wearing peacock-feathered suits. That this scenario is repeating, just three years later, and with an all-time powerhouse talent (and asset) such as Messi defies belief. In fact, if there were football justice in the world, it should be a criminal offence, even if it resulted only in probation or tidying up roadside litter.

When Messi's people negotiated his contract renewal in 2017, they bargained hard enough that they achieved a clause stating that every summer, from May 2018 onward, he'd be allowed to leave for free if he simply told the club before the end of May that he wanted to quit.

Again, how much clearer did the Camp Nou executives need it to be that it was already in Messi's

mind that a time, like this week, might come when the club's ineptitude and the self-interest of certain office holders would force him to say, "I'm too good for you. I'm leaving." From the moment Messi's entourage left Bartomeu's office in 2017, Bartomeu and his acolytes should have been using just about every working hour to put in place players, strategies, habits, decisions and attitudes that guaranteed Messi was happy and would remain at the club until he retired. Instead, they've performed so badly that they've sickened the guy. They've made him discard both his love and loyalty of FC Barcelona -- things he has declared repeatedly and pugnaciously.

It's akin to the Pope declaring himself an atheist or Manchester United fans voting Leeds their second-favourite team.

There will be a tumult of angry opinions to follow. Everything from "Messi is disloyal" and "he can't dictate terms to the club" to "President Bartomeu must resign" and "immediate elections are vital!" But let's not lose sight of the fact that this man, irrespective of which club you love, has lit up our lives over the past 15 years.

Messi is up there, at least, with Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, Juan Manuel Fangio, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Rafa Nadal and Roger Federer -- name your sport, name your legend. Messi matches them. In fact, I defy you to argue that your life hasn't been better, brighter, jauntier, more fun, after watching Messi during his time at Barcelona. Don't let that be obscured.

Two of the few things that the skeptics have thrown at Messi have been his preference, until now, for being a one-club man, an argument against him that I've always found spurious. Only the greats excel

when they pass their entire careers in one place, doing the same things but remaining utterly imperious.

Then there's the World Cup thing. No, he hasn't won it, but yes, the Champions League is now a far more important, far more prestigious tournament, and the nonsensical idea that Maradona won his World Cup single-handedly has been a boring trope.

However, no one will deny that Messi yearns for that trophy -- as much to prove his love and dedication for Argentina, I believe, as to satisfy any personal lust for glory. Right now, I'd bet anything that the way in which Barcelona, on Monday, discarded Messi's best friend in football, Luis Suarez, had an influence in his making this move so rapidly. But I'd also bet that what lies at the heart of his disgust with standards at the Camp Nou is his desire to train and play at an ultra-competitive football club every week between now and when Argentina, hopefully, compete for the 2022 World Cup -- his last, I'd guess, as a competitive international footballer.

Where to next: Manchester City? PSG? Inter Milan? Inter Miami? I don't know what his preference is, but this move hasn't happened without him, mentally at least, choosing where he'd like to be when the season starts again.

Man City? Well, it's a safe haven and in a league he'd love, albeit that I'm sure Guardiola, given his wish for City to press teams high, would actually be the author of a City move for Messi. That would be the owners, and who could argue with their intentions?

PSG: If they could unite Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Angel Di Maria in the same team, then by god anyone not transfixed by that prospect needs help.

Inter Milan: Not the right league, not the right club, but that's an outfit that has tried so, so hard over the years to get Messi.

Inter Miami: No, just no. The city and the project might interest him, but the standard, of teammate and of opposition, doesn't fit what he needs right now.

Anyway, he has a big match to win first, one in which, if they have any decency, Barcelona's board will save themselves tens of millions of euros by gracefully conceding and saying, "We screwed up Leo. We accept it's time for you to leave. Thank you, good luck and god bless."

Sadly, though, the Camp Nou Keystone Kops are more likely to run around crashing into one another and letting the situation get worse, not better.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Messi told Barcelona he wants to leave, and this is why they should let him go

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11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kifaani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujuzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 NJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SalamaNa
"SalamaNa" is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.
Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrica RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC warms up for new campaign with big preseason wins

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

VODACOM Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, warmed up for the new campaign and Sunday's Community Shield game with two impressive victories over KMC FC and Transit Camp FC yesterday.

In the first match, which had Simba clashing with KMC FC, Clatous Chama, Ibrahim Ajib and Mzamiru Yassin scored as the former came from behind to beat the latter 4-1 at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The KMC FC took the lead with through new signing, Reliants Lusajo, before Simba levelled through Chama, then Ajibu scored to give Sven Vandebroek's side the half-time lead.

Midfielder Mzamiru, who struggled for playing time last season for club and country, scored a third goal in the second half to complete a comprehensive victory for the treble champions.

Vandebroek fielded a mixture of first-team regulars and reserves with Joash Onyango as the only newcomer in the squad that had Aishi Manula, Shomari Kapombe, Mohamed Hussein, Kennedy Juma, Joash Onyango, Jonas Mkude, Mzamiru Yassin, Clatous Chama, John Bocco, Ibrahim Ajibu, and Miraji Athuman.

In the other match, also played at Uhuru Stadium, First Division League (FDL) side, Transit Camp FC, were thrashed 5-2. Goals netted by youngster Cyprian Kipeny, who scored a brace, Charles Ilanfy, Meddie Kagere and Gadiel Michael contributed to the handsome win for Simba while Idd Mbaga scored the consolation goals for Transit Camp FC.

Simba's starting squad against Transit Camp FC included Beno Kakolanya, David Kameta, Gadiel Michael, Ibrahim Ame, Erasto Nyoni, Said Ndemla, Bernard Morrison, Larry Bwalya, Meddie Kagere, Charles Ilanfy, and Cyprian Kipeny.

Ahead of the new season, Simba have now played three warm up games following last weekend's 6-0 victory over visiting Burundian side, Vital'O FC, who were this year's guest team for the culmination of the former's week of charity activities, dubbed 'Simba Day'.

The new season will be curtain raised by the Community Shield game, to be played in Arusha on August 30.

The Tanzania Community Shield is normally contested by winners of the Vodacom Premier League and Federation Cup, but since Simba won both, they take on Namungo FC, who finished second in Federation Cup, earning a chance to represent Tanzania in the CAF Confederation Cup.

In the opening day of the 2020/21 league season, slated for September 6, Simba will travel to Mbeya to face newly promoted side, Ihefu FC, at Sokoine Stadium.

Simba won the Vodacom Premier League, Federation Cup, and Community Shield last term, and are favorites to win the top flight title for a fourth successive season. Vandebroek is well aware of the challenge likely to be posed by Azam FC and Young Africans SC (Yanga) who have been very busy in the transfer market.

Yanga new striker Yacouba Songne due in Dar today



Yanga newly recruited striker, Yacouba Songne.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BURKINA Faso striker, Yacouba Songne, is due in Dar es Salaam today ahead of completing his transfer to Young Afri-

cans SC (Yanga).

The 28-year-old Songne has already agreed terms with Yanga and the club has gone as far as announcing him on their social media platforms.

He played for Etoile Filante de

Ouagadougou before his exploits took him to Ghanaian side Asante Kotoko in 2018.

Sogne became a cult hero at the club following his good displays for the Porcupine Warriors, especially in the 2018 CAF Con-

federations Cup.

He bagged two goals and laid off five assists in a relatively successful campaign, which ended at the group stages.

After two seasons with Asante Kotoko, he fell out with the club, following unsuccessful contract renewal negotiation, which left him as a free agent in April this year.

He was linked with several African clubs including Yanga's age old rivals Simba SC before agreeing terms with Yanga.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, confirmed Songne is expected in Dar es Salaam today ahead of the outfit's Sunday pre-season bash, dubbed 'Wiki ya Mwananchi'.

"Everything is going according to plan, as you can see, Carlinhos (Carlos) arrived yesterday, Songne is due tomorrow (today). We will unveil them on Sunday," Bumbuli said.

In a bid to put last season's trophyless campaign memories behind them, Yanga embarked on a massive player clearout that saw 14 players released.

The 27-time Premier League

champions have now acquired the services of six foreigners including Congolese Mukoko Tonombe and Tuisila Kisinda, Angolan Carlinhos, and Ghanaian Michael Sarpong.

They have joined Kenyan Farouk Shikhalo, Ghanaian Lamine Moro, and Rwandan Haruna Niyonzima who were retained.

Bakari Mwamnyeto from Coastal Union, Yassin Mustapha from Polisi Tanzania, Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar, Abdallah Shaibu from USA's LA Galaxy II, Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, Kibwana Shomari from Mtibwa Sugar, and Farid Mussa from Spain's CD Tenerife are the locals who have been signed ahead of the new season.

Yanga who finished runners last season will open their 2020/21 campaign with a tricky tie against Salum Mayanga's Prisons at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city on September 6.

The outfit's first Premier League meeting with Simba SC has been scheduled for October 18.

Mount Meru Half Marathon goes hybrid with inclusion of cycling race

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE annual Mount Meru Half Marathon is being transformed into some form of Olympic this time, with the event targeting to also include cycling competition.

Previously, according to the new race Director, Mercy Michael Ntabago, the Marathon was to take place on September 27, 2020 but the dates had to be pushed forward to allow more participants, especially those from other countries to get out of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Mount Meru Half Marathon, which happens to be the oldest cross-country race in Tanzania, will now run on October 11 2020.

This year's half marathon targets serious tourism promotion and the forthcoming race has so far attracted 2000 participants from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and hosts Tanzania.

There will be 100 child runners as well as 100 bikers in the marathon.

"Part of the prizes include a package to tour some of the local attractions, in addition to



Athletes take part in a past Ngorongoro Half Marathon, which took place in Karatu, Arusha.

attractive monetary offerings," she explained.

She said that the race will this time also support the free education initiative through offering mid-day meals to some schools.

This time the event will be conducted in the form of Olympic, combining other activities such as cycling race, while prizes will also cover child participants.

Still, according to Mercy, the newly revived, oldest race in the Northern Zone, is sticking to the distance of 21 kilometers of the

main event, which gets flagged off at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in the city. There will also be a 10 kilometers run category.

But the older version of the Mount Meru Marathon, which was always billed to be the most popular sporting event in Tanzania during the 1980s all the way to the 1990s, used to cover the full 42 kilometers.

Mercy stated here that the routes will also be the same as last year's and with four weeks to go more runners and other

participating countries will be announced because enrolment exercise is in progress.

Focusing on tourism promotion, the race organizers also intend to take participants to any of the following destinations, especially the Arusha National Park located at the foot of Tanzania's second highest peak, the Mount Meru, which the event is named after.

It is still yet to be known whether last year's winners will return again to fight for and defend their

respective crowns in the next month's half marathon.

Robert Ndiwa from Kenya was last year's top winner of Mount Meru Half Marathon, posting one hour, six minutes and 26 seconds. Joshua Sule from Arusha, Tanzania was second after clocking one hour, seven minutes and four seconds.

Elisha Wema came third with one hour, eight minutes and one second, while Asha Salum emerged as winner in the women category.

China Cultural Center to hold photography competition

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE China Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam has organized a photography competition to celebrate five years of its existence in Tanzania.

The center's Director, Wang Siping, said it solicited photographic works from people of all walks of life and exhibited outstanding works which show the friendship existing between China and Tanzania, and the photographs are worth sharing.

He was one of the officials that graced the fifth anniversary of the establishment of China Cultural Center in Tanzania, which took place in the city on Tuesday.

He said the competition opened yesterday and ends mid November, noting cash prize and certificates of attendance will be handed over to winners.

The director said top winner will take home 200,000/-, the runner up gets 100,000/-, whilst 50,000/- will go to the third placed competitor

and all will get certificates.

Siping said his center solicited photographs that reflect China-Tanzania friendship, China-Tanzania culture, China-Tanzania tourism, China-Tanzania cooperation and exchanges, Chinese teaching and fighting the epidemic.

"Every growth is worth witnessing, and every memory is worth remembering. Whether it is a Tanzanian living in China or a Chinese living in Tanzania," he disclosed.

"There are many good memories stored in mobile

phones and cameras. Every photo has a story and carries the weight of time and leaves traces of the past," he noted.

"Our center solicited photographic works from people of all walks of life and exhibited outstanding works which show our friendship and are worth sharing," he said.

The China Cultural Center Director spelled out some of the conditions for the competition as the submitted works should be in JPG format, and the quality of each work is

required to be clear, the photo should not exceed 5MB and the layout is not limited.

"The works should not be the current ones only, even those taken in the past are welcome, single and group (four-eight people) photos are also welcomed," he disclosed.

"When submitting the manuscript, please indicate the title, author, shooting time and location of the work in English, and attach an introduction to the work in English," he noted.

"The works should be sent through email as any of the contestants, who does not follow the procedures, will be automatically disqualified," he said.

He also said the organizer has the right to copy, distribute, exhibit, screen, information network dissemination, compilation and other methods to use the works in the exhibition.

Awards, Siping stated, will be handed over to the top three winners and also the right to interpret this call for papers belongs to the organizer.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

