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National Pg 2
 Hillary sends best wishes to Samia



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 JPM death a great loss to Africa



National Pg 5
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 'All fisheries regulations for review'



Tough job for security as crowds bid JPM farewell

By Guardian Reporters, Mwanza

SECURITY forces yesterday had a tough job of controlling grief-stricken multitudes that turned up to pay last respects to the late President John Magufuli in Mwanza city.

By 5am, the venue of the event—the CCM Kirumba Stadium—was full of mourners from Mwanza itself as well as neighbouring regions of Kagera, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Mara. Also flocked at dawn was the Mwanza International Airport where the body arrived from Zanzibar.

Security units from the military, police, paramilitary and municipal auxiliaries had to put a strong cordon at the airport entrance and the stadium to keep at bay mourners bent to come close to the casket, against all odds.

After the plane carrying the body touched down at 7:30am, security officers lined up on both sides of Makongoro Road to allow the military hearse and convoy to make it though slowly to the stadium.

Regional authorities had announced earlier that people line up on the sides of the road in neighbourhoods where the convoy would pass, but many thronged the airport instead of remaining home and lining up on the streets. They then started to jog several kilometers to the stadium.

The convoy left the airport at 8:08am and crawled through a number of Mwanza city suburbs including Ilemela, Sabasaba, Iloganzala, Pasiansi, Nyamanoro and stopped for a minute at the house of Selemani Nassoro where the late Magufuli

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The motorcade with the hearse carrying the casket bearing Dr Magufuli's body weaves through a Mwanza road, giving the city's residents the chance to bid the former president final farewell. More photos on Page 4. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Mwanza residents lay leaves on the road yesterday in honouring former president Dr John Magufuli as the motorcade with the hearse carrying the casket bearing his body headed from the city for Kigongo ferry and onwards to Sengerema and Chato. Photo: State House



This is shortly after the motorcade arrived at the premises of the former president's Chato residence yesterday. Inset: The casket bearing his body is moved into the residence. Story on Page 2. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JPM last respects bring Mwanza, Geita to a halt

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MWANZA city yesterday came to a standstill for better part of the day as all roads led to the airport and later CCM Kirumba stadium where residents paid last respects to the late president John Magufuli.

ordinarily bustling central business district found padlocks on shops and empty streets in a scene that has not been witnessed in recent years.

Hawkers who normally dot the streets of Mwanza were nowhere to be seen as well as bodaboda riders who on ordinary days move to and from all directions.

Finding a commuter bus in

N TO PAGE 2





The paying of last respects to former president Dr John Magufuli well under way at Mwanza city's CCM Kirumba Stadium. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tough job for security as crowds bid JPM farewell

FROM PAGE 1

once stayed when he was already Works minister, proceeding to Bwiru Corner, Ghana Street before entering Furahisha Road and finally the CCM Kirumba Stadium.

The song Magufuli Jeshi (Magufuli one-man-army) was sung by the crowds, including women who walked or partly ran along the path of the convoy from the airport to the stadium.

Upon arrival, security had another tough job of stopping the sea of people from entering as the stadium was already full to capacity ready for the official function.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who chairs the national funeral committee, said at the ceremony that he had a message from President Samia Suluhu Hassan who wished people of Lake Zone strength during these difficult moments and asked Tanzanians to remain one people and work to achieve an even more united and prosperous Tanzania.

After the viewing of the body by public officials and guests present, it was driven around the stadium for the crowd to pay last respects, then left for Chato district in Geita region where Magufuli's burial is set to take place tomorrow.

The convoy used the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge in Missungwi district where it stopped for 10 minutes to allow residents to pay their last respects. Apart from boasting a modern bridge that has replaced ferries, this is also home village of the late president's widow, Janeth Magufuli.

The late President Magufuli died in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday last week. Announcing the death on a televised address to the nation, then-Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said that he succumbed to a heart condition he had been battling for nearly 10 years.

The VP was sworn in last Friday to take over as Union President in sync with the constitution, hence making history as the first woman president in Tanzania and major partner states in the East African Community (EAC) zone.



The song Magufuli Jeshi (Magufuli one-man-army) was sung by the crowds, including women who walked or partly ran along the path of the convoy from the airport to the stadium

Hillary Clinton sends best wishes to President Samia

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER United States presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has sent her best wishes to Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan days after she took over the presidency in the East African nation.

Samia became the first woman President in Tanzania on March 19, following the death of John Magufuli who succumbed to a heart disease on March 17.

Taking to her Twitter to congratulate the new president, Clinton sent her best wishes to Suluhu acknowledging she is the first woman to hold the highest political office in Tanzania.

"Best wishes to @SuluhuSamia, Tanzania's new president and the first woman to hold the office, as she leads and serves her country," she said.

Clinton's message came days after US vice president Kamala Harris also gave Samia a shoutout and wished

her all the best as she took over after Magufuli's death.

Kamala expressed confidence that Samia was fit for her new role and will steer the country in the right direction and further assured her of the support from her government.

"The United States stands ready to work with you to strengthen relations between our countries," Kamala Harris said in a tweet sent on Saturday, March 20. Similarly, Opposition leader Raila Odinga was among the Kenyan leaders

who hailed Samia after she took the oath of office.

Samia said she was confident she would do an impeccable job, thanks to the guidance and teachings she received from her late boss, Magufuli.

"Those who have doubts if this woman has what it takes to lead Tanzania. I want to tell you that whoever has stood here is the president of the Republic of Tanzania whose gender is a woman."

JPM last respects bring Mwanza, Geita to a halt

FROM PAGE 1

the city was a hustle as public service vehicles became rare from early hours of yesterday as some routes were interrupted due to temporary closure of the busy road to the airport as well as to Kirumba Stadium.

Some city residents said death has robbed the region and the country of a great leader, a man who used a preponderous portion of his time and energy to develop the country.

Residents were interviewed randomly during the ceremony to pay last respects to the late leader which took place at the CCM Kirumba Stadium, saying they will fondly remember Magufuli for the rest of their lives for the developments that he has implemented not only in Mwanza but in the Lake Zone as a whole.

One of the residents of Furahisha Street in Ilemela district, Nyamwiza Mkatesi said every time he looks at the projects that have been implemented in the area, and realises that the initiator has died, he feels bad.

"What he has done will be remembered forever because we will be thinking that there was a president who did things that were thought to be impossible. Today I have decided to close my shop to come and say goodbye," he said.

Another resident, Francis Dickson said the late president's death was a big blow as he

openly declared that he needed to protect the under privileged.

He said Tanzanians had great trust in President Magufuli because he had shown light on various areas, and locally with regard to renovation of MV Mwanza.

What would similarly not be forgotten in Mwanza was the Furahisha Bridge, the construction of Ilemela district hospital and solving various land conflicts, the resident underlined.

Meanwhile fishing activities came to a stop at Kalema in Chato district, Geita Region as fishermen gathered with other people in the streets to view the passing carriage bearing the body of the late president.

Kamesa Malima, leader of the local version of community-based Beach Management Units (BMUs) overlooking the use of appropriate fishing gear said fishing activities would stop for two days, as Chato residents and nearby areas take time to pay their last respects and participate in the burial ceremony tomorrow.

A sardines trader in the area, Nyamakanja Eliud, said the late national leader had helped them a lot since the time he was a minister. Many women had benefited during his period in leadership, she added.

Today I have decided to close my shop to come and say goodbye



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi signs a condolence book at Kikwajuni in Zanzibar yesterday on former Dr Magufuli's passing. Photo: State House

...Body arrives in Chato at 6 p.m.

THE body of former president Dr John Magufuli has arrived at his home in Chato District, Geita Region, yesterday evening. It was received by large crowds of grief-stricken residents, most of brandishing green branches.

The convoy bearing the body arrived at around 6 p.m. with the

motorcade backed overhead by two military helicopters.

People started lining up at midday as the motorcade left Mwanza for the several hours' journey to Chato in the next-door region, with security personnel making intense efforts to prevent curious youths from darting to

touch the military hearse bearing the casket with the body.

The road kept narrowing as crowds surged close to the vehicle and, upon arriving at the late president's Chato residence, the two helicopters continued circling overhead for a while. Chato residents will today have

the chance to bid farewell to their late fellow town resident after an emotional reception of the casket bearing motorcade all the way from Mwanza.

The burial is slated for tomorrow after a mass at the Catholic parish he used to attend as a Chato resident.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah pays his last respects to former president Dr John Magufuli at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza city yesterday. Photo: PMO

JPM death is huge loss to Tanzania and Africa, says (rtd) judge Bwana

By Guardian Reporter

PUBLIC Service Commission (PSC) chairperson retired judge Dr Steven Bwana has said he has been immensely grieved by the death of the late President Dr John Magufuli, saying Tanzania, the government and the whole Africa have been dealt a huge blow for losing a leader who did not hesitate to take decisions for the interests of the nation.

Dr Bwana was speaking in Dar es Salaam in a special interview saying: "Late Dr Magufuli will be remembered for his great work, people with eyes have to see and he has left a big mark as legacy for Tanzanians in various areas."

He was a leader who sacrificed in serving the people aimed at bringing them development.

Dr Bwana said personally he will remember him for his tireless in re-instilling people's faith in their government in standing by justice.

He re-instilled discipline,

accountability and good governance in the public service, including making sure public servants deliver better services to the people.

He said late Dr Magufuli was also able to improve health services infrastructure, education, road infrastructure to enable easy transportation of people and goods, adding that all these were clearly discernible by all.

He said he hold high hopes that Dr Magufuli's successor, President Samia Suluhu Hassan and other government leaders will carry on from where he left by working hard for the benefit of all Tanzanians.

"We should continue mourn the death of our beloved leader, late Dr Magufuli by praying to God to rest his soul in peace."

He was a leader who sacrificed in serving the people aimed at bringing them development.

Clerics in Ruvuma Region mourn Dr Magufuli

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

CLERICS in Ruvuma Region continue to mourn for the late President John Mgufuli who passed away in Dar es Salaam on March 17 this year.

Tanzania Muslim Council (BAKWATA) Sheikh for Ruvuma Region, Shaaban Kitete says Tanzania has been dealt a huge blow for losing former President Dr John Magufuli.

Sheikh Kitete said Dr Magufuli's death was a big test for Tanzanians including leaders of his party and

the government, in particular poor Tanzanians who Dr Magufuli had always fight for their economic development.

Speaking to this paper early this week he said government leaders who were close to Dr Magufuli were still needing to receive his instructions that were full of wisdom by the help of God to assist Tanzanians in various areas.

He said when Tanzanians were still in grief he was praying to God to stand for and guide them towards consolation.

Sheikh Kitete who is also Ruvuma

Region Kadhi and chairman of its peace committee involving all religious denominations extended his condolences to the government and the ruling CCM, Dr Magufuli's family and all Tanzanians.

He called upon national leaders to ensure to follow all the directives Dr Magufuli issued during his presidency, particularly the projects he had initiated - road and rail construction, hospitals and health centres, schools and water projects.

For his part, Redeemed Assemblies of God Bishop Simon Silwimba, speaking to this paper

during his leadership Dr Magufuli had a wide vision by seeing the importance of his duties while serving Tanzanians as he used to put God foremost to guide him.

Bishop Silwimba said during his five years at the helms, he used to mobilise for prayers before God by appointing special days for prayers, and provided Tanzanians with great confidence in the fight against coronavirus.

He said he also mobilised Tanzanians to love God and to work hard to raise their economic

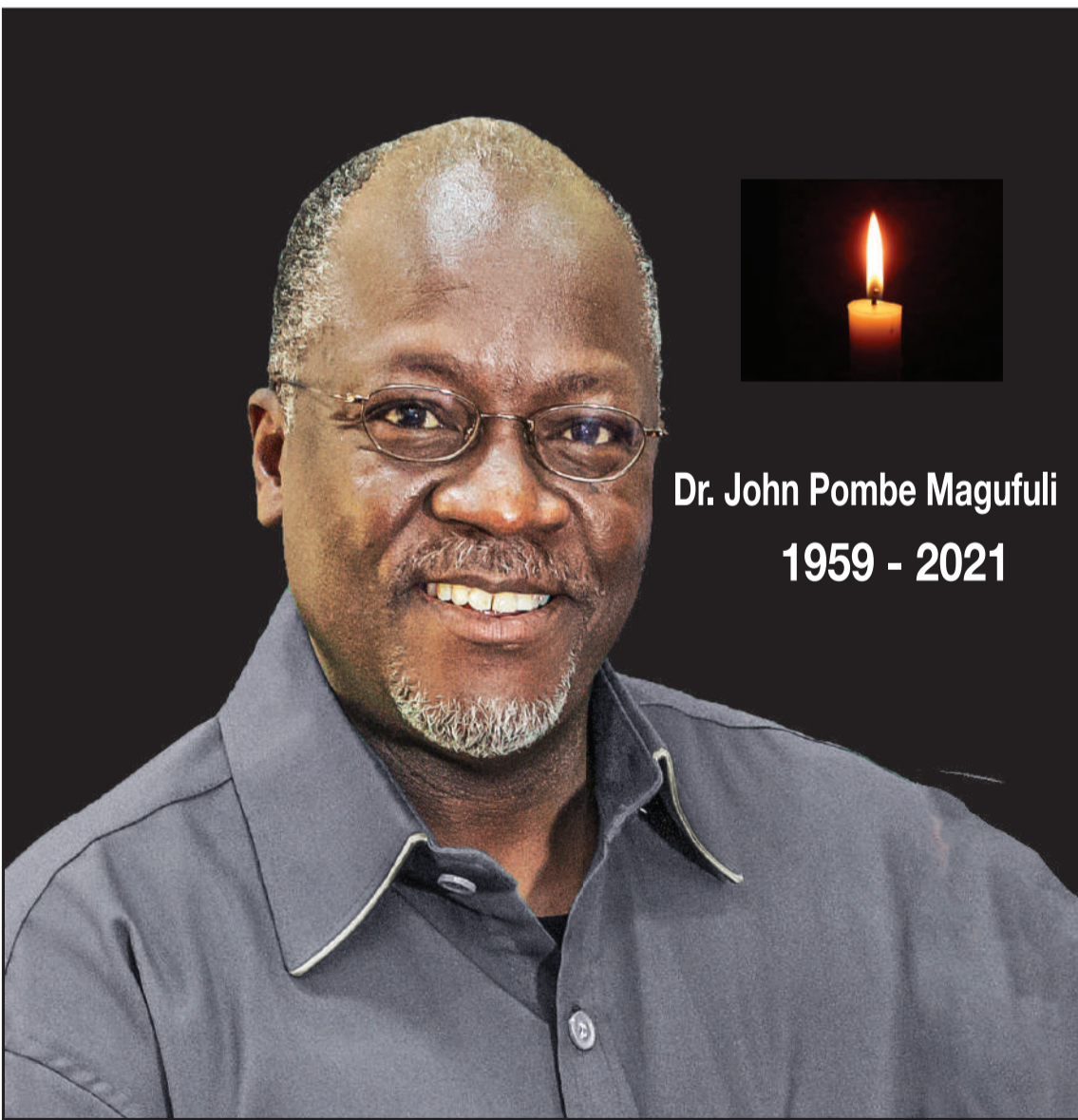
wellbeing and that of Tanzanians as well.

ELCT Ruvuma Diocese Bishop Amoni Mwenda told this paper that the death of President Magufuli is a great grief for the country's history, as he was a God fearing man, a true patriot, and used to follow up implementation of various projects he initiated for the benefit of his people.

Bishop Mwenda called on Dr Magufuli's successor, Samia Suluhu Hassan to emulate him by working hard as well as praying to God for guidance.

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT DELEGATE OF HAI AT HAI PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 01 OF 2021 IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE FEDILIA SHSIAEL LEMA AND IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE FEDILIA SHSIAEL LEMA

BY KHALFAN ALLY KHALFAN NOTICE OF MENTION OF PETITION (Made under rule 68(4)) TAKE NOTICE that the above petition has been set for mention on the 9th day of April 2021 before Hon. J.G. MAWOLE - SRM. Dated at HAI this 19th day of MARCH, 2021



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Ariel Glaser Pediatric Aids Healthcare Initiative (AGPAHI) are deeply saddened by the untimely death of our beloved President, His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli. The late Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli will be remembered by the AGPAHI community for his staunch patriotism, innate desire to expedite the development of Tanzanians as well as his bold and resolute vision for the country.

AGPAHI joins all Tanzanians and fellow mourners across the globe during this difficult period.

May His Soul Rest in Peace



CONDOLENCES

Rest in Eternal Peace
Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
An Outstanding Son of Africa

(1959 - 2021)

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of GF TRUCK join fellow Tanzanians in mourning the death of His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, The President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Your visionary and passionate leadership will be remembered always. Rest in Peace.

Mwanza mourns, bids JPM final farewell



The motorcade with the hearse carrying the casket bearing Dr John Magufuli's body heads for Mwanza's CCM Kirumba Stadium, where residents of the lakeside city and its environs paid their last respects to the former president yesterday. Photos: Guardian Correspondent



A mourner weeps upon seeing the casket bearing the former president's body, as the hearse entered CCM Kirumba Stadium.



A Mwanza resident all in tears after paying her last respects at CCM Kirumba Stadium yesterday.



A cross-section of the multitudes that turned up at CCM Kirumba Stadium to bid former president Dr Magufuli final farewell.



Mwanza residents visibly distressed as they waited for their turns to pay their last respects to the former president.



A young scout salutes as the casket bearing former president Dr Magufuli's body is driven into CCM Kirumba Stadium for the solemn occasion.



MV Mwanza, which ferried the motorcade with the hearse carrying the casket bearing former president Dr Magufuli's body, leaves Kigongo in Mwanza Region for Busisi on the Geita Region side of the creek - and onwards to Chato District.



It's all grief and tears as the casket bearing the former president's body is driven into CCM Kirumba Stadium ready for the paying of last respects.



The body of former President Dr John Magufuli arrives at Mwanza Airport yesterday. Photo: PMO

Dr Magufuli used to value us - PWDs in Mbeya region say

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PEOPLE with disabilities (PWDs) in Mbeya Region have said they received with great shock the passing away of President John Magufuli, because he used to value them by providing them with loans from ten per cent from local councils' internal revenues. Mbeya Region's PWDs Association chairman Jimmy Mwambepo said late Dr Magufuli cared for the poor and that is why he pushed for legislation that

required local councils to extend loans to vulnerable groups in the society - women, youth and PWDs. He said the loans helped them to unfree themselves from poverty as they were able to start various projects for income generation. "In short the late Dr Magufuli valued us, he was a true leader and cared for the poor in deeds, we hereby ask government officials to hold his deeds in high esteem," he added.

Mwambepo said late Dr Magufuli tried his level best to build friendly infrastructures for PWDs at various public as well as private institutions, as well as reducing the killings of the people with albinism. Mbeya Region PWDS chairman for the Women Wing Bahati Bukubilo said during his leadership Dr Magufuli provided them with representation in various leadership positions in the government. SizaMwahula, representing

fellow PWDs appealed to President Samia Suluhu to stand by all those projects initiated by Dr Magufuli during his presidency as well as fighting for their rights in various issues to enable them advance economically. She said they hold high hopes that President Samia will continue with all that initiated by her predecessor by building a robust economy including the availability of loans to vulnerable groups.

JPM stood for country's interests - former SAU presidential candidate

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FORMER Sauti ya Umma (SAUI) presidential candidate in 2020 General Election Mutamwega Mgahywa has said the late President John Magufuli stood for the country's wide interests in deeds.

Mgahywa issued the remarks when he spoke to this paper here on Tuesday soon after he signed the book of condolences following the death of Dr Magufuli.

He said since he knew Dr Magufuli in 1995 when they both became Members of Parliament, he remembers him for his right decisions that stood for the nation's interests without any favour or fear.

"Dr Magufuli was a leader who sacrificed himself for his countrymen and used to implement his decisions correctly for the benefit of all Tanzanians without fear," he added.

He said since the time he was Works deputy minister, and later as full minister in various ministries, he worked professionally without any fear while implementing an issue that he believed in.

He added that late Dr Magufuli managed to raise Tanzania's economy because he invested in important infrastructure that enabled the country to attain middle income status.

Mgahywa said they knew each other in 1995 when the travelled together in a plane from Mwanza to Dar es Salaam to be sworn in after they won their parliamentary seats.

He said after they were sworn in they continued to have good relations despite he was from the opposition TLP by then.

He said while in Parliament he asked for the construction of roads in his constituency and the government later worked on his request.


He added that in the 2020 Elections he vied for the presidency, but his votes could not make him president, and Dr Magufuli was elected.

"I'm here in Dodoma for paying last respects to him but I intend to travel to Chato to participate in the burial at his home village," Mgahywa added.

He said personally he will continue to support the new President Samia Suluhu Hassan because she is the right choice for the job as she was close to the late President.



Dr Magufuli was a leader who sacrificed himself for his countrymen and used to implement his decisions correctly for the benefit of all Tanzanians without fear



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How to apply
Please complete the application form at www.railwaychildren.org.uk/jobs and return it to jobs.mwanza@railwaychildren.or.tz indicating a position you are applying on email subject. **Please note** that Railway Children will only accept applications made using this application form and will not accept CVs or Covering letters.

Closing Date: 2nd Apr 2021 at 5pm East African Time.


Due to the number of applications often received, only those to be invited for interview will be informed of the outcome of their application. Applicants who have not heard within two weeks of the closing date should assume they have been unsuccessful.

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Poisonous cosmetics, expired food removed from market in the southern regions - TBS

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

MORE than 600 cosmetics shops, food and café have been registered in Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions since 2019, when such roles were assumed to Tanzania Bureau of Standards

Speaking the TBS Inspector in Southern Zone, Buliro Magesa, said that inspection carried between March 3rd and 17th, 2021 in Lindi municipality, Kilwa and Mtama districts show that a total of 41 cosmetics shops, food and cafes were registered in the said areas making a total number to be 601 from 560 in the past.

Magesa said that during inspection, officials from the Bureau in collaboration with other organs, removed from the market a consignment of cosmetics with poison ingredients (hydroquinone, mercury) and expired food worth 1.35m/-.

"TBS continues with registration of food premises, cosmetics cafes and godowns for preserving such goods to ensure consumers on standards and safety," he elaborated.

He said up to now, the Southern Zone has received a total 488 new applications from traders who want to register food premises, cosmetics and cafes. According to him, once approved it would increase the total number of registered premises to 1089.

Meanwhile, TBS Principal Public Relations Officer, Roida Andusamile said that the bureau would continue to register and certify quality of various products as its part of implementing one of its roles as stipulated in the Standards Act No 2 of 2009.

She said that TBS would persist to emphasize cosmetics and food traders to ensure that they are registered and renew once the registration period expires.

She added that traders or citizens have to understand that the bureau has directed its efforts to help them and protect a consumer hence it has to ensure that all products sold in the market meet required standards and avoid any harm.

"We ask traders to utilize services provided by the bureau since it is there to serve and help them in removing business hurdles resulting from failure to adhere to standards," she insisted.

The finance act No 8 of 2019, shifted the roles of registration of premises, food and cosmetics to TBS in 2019 which was earlier done by the then Tanzania Foods and Drugs Authority (TFDA).



We ask traders to utilize services provided by the bureau since it is there to serve and help them in removing business hurdles resulting from failure to adhere to standards



Tanzania Breweries Ltd Plc managing director Philip Redman pictured at the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's Office yesterday signing book of condolences on former president Dr John Magufuli's passing on March 17. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Handeni man kills friend over a debt

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

POLICE in Handeni District, Tanga Region have detained Sameli Alisei for killing Christopher William, his friend and Bondo resident from Kwamagome Ward in the district, allegedly over 3,000/- debt.

Tanga Regional Police Commander Blasius Chatanda said the incident happened Monday, March 22 this year in Handeni during the night.

"The body of the deceased has been badly disfigured from machete wounds, hence it was decided to bury it the following day as the deceased had no relatives in Handeni.

"After the killing, the police were able to arrest the suspect and we are continuing with investigations, after which he will be taken to court for charges against him," the RPC said.

Speaking on the incident, the wife of the deceased Balbina

Sure said on Monday March 22 at around 10:00 pm when her husband was asleep, the suspect came to the house and called him to come outside, but she answered that her husband was already asleep.

Thereafter the suspect started shouting saying he had come for his money. Balbina said the noise he was making awoke the deceased and went out of the house and started arguing both of them wielding machetes.

She said finally the deceased was overpowered and slashed him many times on his body.

Handeni District hospital doctor-in-charge, Dr Hudi Shehdadi said before postmortem was conducted on the deceased, they discovered he was heavily cut on many parts of his body.

"We shall conduct further postmortem and our report will be submitted to the police but I suggest the body should be buried as soon as possible," he added.

Livestock and Fisheries ministry to review all the fisheries regulations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN efforts to solve challenges facing fisheries sector, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has embarked on a process to review all the fisheries regulations, Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki has said.

He noted that several stakeholders in the fisheries sector have raised pertinent issues that can only be solved by reviewing the regulations and specifically overhaul the Fisheries Regulations, 2009.

The minister added that the ministry decided to take action following complains raised by other stakeholders, precisely fishermen from along the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika on the amendment of the Fisheries Regulation, 2020.

He mentioned some of the challenges raised by stakeholders as fishing using

ring nets during the day in the Indian Ocean, measuring fishing nets using mesh gauge as outlined in the regulation and full moon fishing of sardines.

"In effort to solve the mentioned and other challenges, the ministry will review the Fisheries Regulations, 2020 and other areas that derail development sustainable fishery in the country" said the minister.

Minister Ndaki assured the public, especially fishery stakeholders that include fishermen, fish traders and traders on fishing equipment that the ministry is doing all it takes to ensure all players in the sectors operate through common understanding.

He issued four directives for immediate implementation as the ministry awaits recommendation from team of experts formed to look into the challenges raised by

stakeholders.

He directed the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) to conduct a research on fishing using ring nets within two weeks and submit report to the ministry, thereafter the ministry shall issue a statement.

On the measurement of fishing net size as outlined in the 2020 regulations, the minister said his ministry in collaboration with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) shall determine the right measurement, stating that stakeholders should revert to using venier caliper and not mesh gauge.

The minister stated that the ministry shall issue guideline on the full moon fishing of sardines, adding that it is estimated to occur within six to seven days in a month.

He stressed the importance of solving challenges facing the fisheries sector, noting that

employs many Tanzanians. According to the minister, statistics show that in 2020, the sector provided 202,053 direct jobs to fishermen and some 4.5 million other people indirectly.

While expressing his readiness to address challenges faced by stakeholders in the sector, the minister called for cooperation in the fight against illegal fishing in the country's water bodies.

He also called for cooperation to help stop illegal exportation of fish products and control of revenue generated by the sector.

On the same note, he warned traders of fishing equipment and manufacturers to produce and sell the fishing gear legally. He urged local government authorities to cooperate with the fishing communities at their areas and strongly oversee fisheries resources in accordance with the law.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in Dodoma Region has called on small entrepreneurs to start producing sustainable products instead of waiting for national and international exhibitions in order to expand their businesses for competition in the market.

The call was given by SIDO official in Dodoma, Nyangusi Mollé when explaining the importance of producing quality food products made by various small entrepreneurs.

"Before making your products you must think of

the market, what the demand is and you must learn from others," he said.

He said the organization has been providing training in various techniques in making products from hides and skins, soap and others hence they should also be innovative to go in tandem with market needs

He also called on small entrepreneurs to grab training opportunities in order to improve their businesses and techniques to reach both internal and external markets.

He said an entrepreneur is supposed to have a work plan and should be proficient in knowing the location of the markets for his/her products.

Dodoma Region's SIDO Project Officer Stephano Ndunguru called on small entrepreneurs to adopt the procedure of looking for new information that would assist to expand their businesses.

He said SIDO wants to see small entrepreneurs use the opportunity to progress with the products they make as this

would assist them to identify the products demanded by the markets.

Isack Mota, a small entrepreneur urged fellow traders to merge by establishing groups that would help in accessing loans from financial institutions.

He said as for now, the population of Dodoma city was increasing after the government shifted to Dodoma hence it was important for entrepreneurs to mobilise themselves to grab the growing market.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF FUNDING

Railway Children Africa (RCA) is a registered NGO in Tanzania and an affiliate of Railway Children UK - an international charity that fights for vulnerable children who live alone and at risk on the streets, where they face abuse and exploitation.

RCA has extensive experience working with highly marginalized, hard-to-reach children and young people in the East Africa region. Currently, RCA is working in partnership with twelve Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) providing both funding and technical support. The CSOs are in six major cities, namely, Mbeya, Iringa, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Mwanza. In addition, RCA has direct implementation work in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam. RCA's primary aim is to enable and create positive, sustainable change in the lives of hard-to-reach, marginalized children, and adolescents. We put exceptional care and effort into improving the lives of everyone we serve. In its 10 years of existence in the country, RCA has established an MOU with the government and collaborated with it in several initiatives, including defining objectives of the National reintegration guidelines.

In Mar 2021, RCA signed a grant agreement with Legal Service Facility (LSF) worth TZS 300,000,000/= to implement a twelve-month project with the aim of equipping community members in the urban settings of Ilemela and Nyamagana districts with skills and knowledge on the rights of street connected children and youth and domestic workers and improve access to justice through legal empowerment approaches.

For further information please email: RCA@railwaychildren.or.tz

WWW.RAILWAYCHILDREN.ORG.UK

WE FIGHT FOR CHILDREN LIVING ON THE STREETS

RAILWAY children Fighting for street children

RAILWAY children Fighting for street children



The magnitude of this Mwanza resident's grief calls for no description. She was among the multitudes eagerly following the proceedings as the motorcade with the casket bearing Dr John Magufuli's body drove into the city's CCM Kirumba Stadium yesterday ready for the paying of last respects to the former president. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAHA mourns JPM, vows to work together with Samia

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA Horticultural Association (TAHA) Managing Director Dr Jackline Mkindi has said her association will remember late President John Magufuli for his genuine intention to improve agriculture in the country.

Dr Mkindi issued the remarks after signing the book of condolences for Dr Magufuli's death at the office of Arusha Regional Commissioner adding that that TAHA received with great grief the news and that they will remember him for his implementation of various development projects that focused in making commercialising the country's agriculture.

"During his leadership Dr Magufuli officially launched Tanzania Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II that identified priority areas in the country's agricultural development whose implementation has continued since 2018," Dr Mkindi said.

She explained that some of achievement attained in the agriculture sector during his time in leadership include policy improvement that saw the availability of farm inputs and better farming equipment at affordable cost including quality seeds, pesticides and various production technologies.

"We shall also remember him for his genuine intention to develop the horticulture sector through various strategies as spelled down

in his speech while inaugurating the 12th Parliament including the purchase of cargo plane to simplify transport of vegetable and fruits to foreign countries," she added. "He stressed in the development of the horticulture industry due to its fast growth in the country...truly we shall we shall continue to remember him and hold in high esteem his vision, patriotism, audacity and his self-sacrifice," Dr Mkindi added.

She explained that the late Dr Magufuli put in place an enabling environment for the agriculture business to flourish by investing in infrastructure including roads, electricity, ports railways and airports.

She said they will continue working closely with the government and fervently support the Sixth President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure the work left by Dr Magufuli is continued for the benefit of the nation.

On behalf of the agricultural sector and all women in the sector, Dr Mkindi congratulated President Samia Suluhu Hassan saying they were ready to work closely with her government as they believe she is endowed with wisdom and better judgement for the country's development.

"He stressed in the development of the horticulture industry due to its fast growth in the country...truly we shall we shall continue to remember him and hold in high esteem his vision, patriotism, audacity and his self-sacrifice"

Mourning pushes back EACOP signing

By Special Correspondent, Kampala

A DEAL involving Uganda, Tanzania and Total has been pushed back, following the death of President John Magufuli.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni announced there would be 14 days of mourning. The president said a three-way deal had been planned to be signed on March 22 in Entebbe.

This suggests the agreement on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) might be signed in early April.

The Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) issued a statement

confirming that the Tilenga and EACOP plans had been pushed back to April.

Museveni, and his wife Minister of Education and Sports Janet Museveni, signed a condolence book for the Tanzanian leader at the High Commission of Tanzania in Uganda.

The Ugandan president said Magufuli's death was a "great loss", noting the Tanzanian leader's impact in his own country and beyond.

Museveni also noted that March 22 was the anniversary of the defeat of Idi Amin by combined forces from Tanzania and

Ugandan freedom fighters.

"It is a challenge for those who are still alive to continue the struggle as we did in the past because when we lost our comrades we never gave up. And because we never gave up, we succeeded and even this time we shall succeed," he said.

Passing the torch

Magufuli's funeral was held on March 22 in Chato. The president was last seen in public on February 27. According to Kenya's Daily Nation he was flown to Nairobi on March 7-8 but returned to Tanzania on March 11.

Tanzania's vice president - now president - Samia Suluhu appeared on television on March 17 to say Magufuli had died. The Daily Nation newspaper reported he died on March 11.

The official cause of death is heart disease. Magufuli largely denied the impact of COVID-19 but some have suggested he may have died from this.

EACOP will be the world's longest heated pipeline. It will run from Hoima in Uganda to the Tanzanian port of Tanga. It will cost \$3.5 billion, with banks expected to provide \$2.5 billion.



TRADE MARK
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Growing Prosperity Through Trade

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REQUIREMENTS GATHERING, ANALYSIS, DESIGN, BASELINE COLLECTION AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT OF THE ELECTRONIC CARGO TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE PROPOSED ETHIOPIA – DJIBOUTI CORRIDOR

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200707

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 Requirements Gathering, Analysis, Design, Baseline Collection and Quality Management of the Electronic Cargo Tracking System for the proposed Ethiopia – Djibouti Corridor.

The Terms of Reference and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com. The closing date for submission of this tender is on or before **Wednesday, 21st April 2021 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 mailbox using the email address, procurement@trademarka.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.



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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-02-01	Construction of Wire Fence at Perimeter Fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil/Building Contractor with minimum Class 6 CRB registration Experience working with similar works in last 2 years Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
2	BUL -21-02-02	Electrical & Surveillance Installation Works For SML Perimeter Fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical Contractor with minimum Class 3 CRB registration Experience working with similar, electrical & installation works in last 3 years Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. Dallmeier authorised and accredited technical staff - surveillance Company to have more than 5 years of experience
3	BUL -21-02-03	Road Construction Works around SML Perimeter Fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Contractor with minimum Class 4 CRB registration Experience working with similar works, earthworks in last 3 years Should have fleet of equipment's - Dump trucks, Loaders, Excavators, Pneumatic compacting roller, Bulldozer, motor graders etc Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
4	BUL-21-02-04	Electrical & Surveillance Installation Works For SML Perimeter Fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical capability and Experience on supply for similar projects. Manufacturer's authorizations for supplied products Dallmeier authorised distributor Company to have more than 5 years of experience

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA – Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 31 March 2021. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Tanzania and China: Trustworthy friends and sincere partners forever

CHINA established diplomatic relations with Tanganyika and Zanzibar on December 9, 1961, and December 11, 1963, respectively. When Tanganyika and Zanzibar were united and became Tanzania on April 26, 1964, China extended its diplomatic ties to it.

In 1968 Tanzania's Founding Father of the nation and first Presidents Julius Nyerere was received by Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai on his visit to Beijing.

From the outset of bilateral relations, China has assisted Tanzania with a variety of economic aid programmes. The most notable early aid project was the TAZARA Railway built from 1970 to 1975 with Chinese funding, labor and technical assistance.[1] The 1,860 km railway connects landlocked Zambia with Dar es Salaam. The Chinese government sent as many as 56,000 workers, and has continued to aid the railway in the decades since.

From 2000 to 2011, there are approximately 62 Chinese official development finance projects identified in Tanzania through various media reports. These projects range from the Chinese government's efforts to launch the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank, to a loan of \$400 million to help alleviate the Kiwira coal mine's financial problems, and the construction of the Benjamin Mkapa Olympic Stadium, namely the National Stadium now Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In 2013, the friendly and cooperative relations between the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania further developed, and their cooperation in various fields yielded new fruits.

The two countries had close high-level exchanges and deepened their political mutual trust. In March, former Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete sent a congratulatory message to Xi Jinping on his election as the Chinese president. In April, former President Kikwete sent a message of condolences to President Xi for the earthquake in Lushan, Sichuan Province.

On 24-25 March, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Tanzania. During the visit, he had talks with President Kikwete and met respectively with President of Zanzibar Ali Mohamed Shein and former Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa. The two countries agreed to build and grow a comprehensive partnership of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. They issued a Joint Communiqué between the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, and signed 15 cooperation documents that cover trade, financial investment, infrastructure and culture. President Xi delivered a speech entitled "Trustworthy Friends and Sincere Partners Forever" at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Center, in which he

elaborated on the principles of sincerity, real-results, affinity and good-faith which guide China's policies toward Africa.

The two countries maintained close party-to-party and military-to military interactions.

Economic and trade cooperation between the two countries delivered notable results. China became Tanzania's biggest trading partner and second biggest source of foreign investment. The two sides signed an agreement on investment promotion and mutual protection. Construction of the Mtwara to Dar es Salaam Natural Gas Pipeline started. Equipment began to be installed at the Tanzania modern agriculture demonstration park. The Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre, which was built with Chinese assistance, was handed over to the Tanzanian side. The solar power project was completed. And the office building project of the Tanzanian Foreign Ministry progressed smoothly.

The two countries conducted vigorous cooperation in people-to-people exchange. Encouraging progress was made in the China Cultural Centre project. Two more Confucius Institutes were opened in the University of Dodoma and the University of Dar es Salaam. The second batch of Chinese TV operas in the Swahili language were on air in Tanzania. Delegations from the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, and the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association visited Tanzania. The Tanzanian culture minister attended the first Roundtable meeting for Sino-Africa Cultural Industries in China. An exhibition on China's higher education was held in Tanzania.

In the same background Chinese President Xi Jinping this week sent a message of condolences to new Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the passing of the country's President John Magufuli.

In his message, on behalf of the Chinese government and people as well as in his own name, Xi expressed deep condolences, and extended sincere sympathies to the Tanzanian government and people as well as President Magufuli's relatives.

Calling him an outstanding leader of Tanzania, Xi said that President Magufuli had made positive contributions to promoting friendly cooperation between China and Tanzania and between China and Africa during his lifetime.

Magufuli's death is a huge loss to the Tanzanian people, and the Chinese people have also lost a good friend, Xi said.

Noting that China cherishes the profound traditional friendship between China and Tanzania, Xi said that China is willing to work with the Tanzanian side to deepen their comprehensive cooperative partnership, so as to bring more benefits to both countries and their peoples.

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THE WORLD MOURNS

President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli

We Waswahili Say

"Tutakukumbuka daima!"

The English Say

"We Will Miss You!"

The French Say

"Vous allez nous manquer!"



To avoid water conflicts in Africa, stop playing the colonial card!

By Harrison Mwilima

AFRICAN countries need to stop using colonial-era treaties to hoard water resources. Instead, states need to focus on sustainable water management to mitigate the impacts of climate change, says DW's Harrison Mwilima.

As we mark World Water Day, I would like to take this time to remind African countries to stop taking advantage of colonial-era water agreements to benefit from shared water resources.

Instead, African countries need to pursue united strategies to combat looming water crises across the continent.

When colonial powers created the artificial borders of African countries, inland water bodies such as lakes and rivers were often used to mark these boundaries. In cases where a water source was shared by different countries, the colonial powers drew up their

own agreements on how they would be used -- without the consent of the people who were living in those territories.

When the wave of independence swept the continent, African countries decided to retain those inherited borders. However, today, this means interstate tensions often arise whenever resources are discovered or become scarce in these shared water bodies. In such situations, the water agreements drawn up by the former colonial powers are used by some countries for their own gains.

Africa's longest river, the Nile - which flows through 11 African countries - is the source of the most recent water tensions. Egypt and Sudan want to preserve colonial agreements drawn up by Britain that allocate the Nile's water to the two countries and also grant Egypt power to veto any river projects.

However, in 2011 Ethiopia announced plans to construct a

massive hydroelectric dam. When Ethiopia announced in 2020 that it had started filling the dam with water from the Nile, Egypt cried foul, arguing that Ethiopia needed to comply with the colonial water treaties. Ethiopia, meanwhile, maintains it is entitled to the shared use of the Nile's water.

Colonial water agreements have also led to a dispute over a shared lake between Tanzania and Malawi - known as Lake Nyasa to Tanzanians and Lake Malawi to Malawians.

The discovery of oil and gas in 2011 brought an Anglo-German treaty signed in 1890 back to the fore. The treaty allows Malawi - which, back then, was a British protectorate under the name of Nyasaland - exclusive rights to use of the lake.

However, Tanzania claims the lake should be a shared resource in accordance with international law.

These are just two examples of many showing how easily

colonial-era treaties can spark water conflicts between African countries. But while both sides bicker over who is entitled to what, it's crucial to remember that many African counties are at high risk of water scarcity. Climate change has left the continent even more vulnerable to droughts and floods.

One in three people across Africa already doesn't have sufficient access to water supplies.

To tackle these challenges, African governments need to come together and think beyond the needs of individual states. Playing the colonial card to secure access to water resources does nothing to mitigate the water challenges African countries are facing - and will continue to face in decades to come.

What we need now is the sustainable management of water resources, so that the water needs of today's population can be met, without jeopardizing water security for future generations.

The job of leaders is not to have all the answers - but to ask the right questions

By Styli Charalambous

THE year 2020 started as a year of hope and excitement. The documentary **Influence that we had helped bring into the world was screening at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Held in January every year, it was my first stop before heading to New York to join a cohort of classmates from all over the world as we kicked off the inaugural Media Innovation and Leadership Course at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.**

The programme was founded to equip media leaders with the skills and thinking required to take the industry into the post-great disruption era. A mix of MBA-style classes infused with product and technology sprints, the plan was to do four in-person bursts over the year in New York supplemented with a ton of reading and a final capstone project. A certain pandemic had other plans and, after just one visit to New York, we pivoted to weekly online sessions that became our two-hour shelter in the Covid-19

storm, each Thursday afternoon. Having just completed the course, I can reflect on some of the biggest learnings from a year of geeking out on media issues and learning with and from some of the brightest minds in the business.

By the end of the first week, it was clear how much there was to learn and how the news industry had fallen behind in developing leaders. Successful efforts in strategy, innovation and organisational design do not happen by chance; they take hard work and much thinking - conscious effort that needs to be carved out from daily firefighting.

We learnt about the fabulous term "ambidextrous organisational design" as a way to address the Innovator's Dilemma, first posited by Professor Clayton Christensen. We would come to learn that the news industry's story of digital transformation was a classic example of how successful business operations hijack the resources and bandwidth of any new ambitions, especially those that may be remotely competitive activities.

Leaders have to create a culture of innovation where anyone is capable of the next big idea, not just the executive team. To

do this, we must have a clear vision and mission to direct organisational efforts. Without these clearly defined and mapped against audience needs, it is likely that teams will lose focus and be dragged into muddy waters. Setting a strategy and goals are worthless without measuring progress against those efforts, and data is key. But we must measure what matters, and what matters is how we are fulfilling our mandate to serve the public and achieving impact with our work. We need diversified revenue streams that align with our mission and the potential to grow.

The business of journalism does not require putting men on the moon and, even if it did, there would be textbooks for that. There is much we can learn from other industries or from the leaders in our own field when it comes to building a culture of innovation, building new revenue streams or new functions. Too often we think that our business problems are unique and that makes us special. Spoiler alert: we aren't.

Product design thinking is new to the news media but has been the basis for launching many tech products and services into the stratosphere. Christensen,

again, prompted us to ask what is the "job to be done" by this product? And for whom? Working backwards from audience needs, testing hypotheses and iterating is the most effective framework to reduce the risk of new project launches. Whether it be launching newsletters, membership programmes or designing homepage layouts, to create value we must first service a need.

Diverse teams can create a beautiful cacophony of thoughts, words and voices. But to do so requires more than a legal tickboxing effort but one where the culture permeates inclusivity. The industry has much work to do in this space but, with committed leadership, it can get there. It has to. Although, this is one area the American media industry is definitely not leading in.

After this year of study, I now realise the only thing that awaits us on the other side of change is more change. It is incumbent on us to build organisations that are robust, can drive multipronged efforts and be led and managed by flexible thinkers who are constantly inquisitive. And, finally, it's not the job of leaders to have all the answers, but rather to ask the right questions.



Kizimba: Model billed to unlock potential of agriculture

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

WITH lack of financing being cited as a major constraint to agriculture development in the country, a new business model that solves the same challenge stands a chance of unlocking the potential of farming.

Launched in Morogoro last week by Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda, Kizimba Business Model is an entrepreneurial approach in agriculture sector development where a block of land is developed with all necessary infrastructure and facilities divided into small units called Kizimba (separate unit) and leased or transferred to individual farmers.

Speaking at the launch which took place at the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) grounds on Tuesday, the minister said the model is a game changer as it eases access to credit—the hitherto bottleneck to venturing into agriculture and agribusiness.

“We call upon financial institutions to create enabling environment for youth to access to credit facilities through Kizimba Business Model which guarantees increased production and productivity,” he said.

He said the ministry will continue working with SUGECO in various areas such as building and strengthening irrigation infrastructures, ensuring availability of agricultural input and extension advisory services to increase productivity.

The minister commended SUGECO for offering opportunities to young graduates to learn practical skills and training on how to start their own businesses.

“Agriculture contributes 28 per cent to GDP which is equivalent to one third while more than three-thirds of the national workforce is engaged in agriculture and this clearly shows that the contribution of agriculture is very small compared to the number of people engaged in agriculture,” he said.

Explaining on the model and how it works, Executive Director of SUGECO Revocatus Kimario said the approach has its origins in the local government authorities whereby business structures are built with necessary infrastructure and divided into units.

According to Kimario, the model identifies the off-takers to guarantee the market for the produce or product within the blocks. This results in uniform quality, reliable supply, farmer empowerment in price negotiation, and overall competitiveness of the sector. A Kizimba block is composed of individual entrepreneurs operating as a cluster.

Following Kizimba success in the business sector, it is hoped that the model will work efficiently in agriculture sector.

The director said Kizimba Business Model will be established through build and transfer, build and lease, build, lease and transfer and finally build and operate.

He said the model comes with assured markets, inclusive resource mobilization for agriculture development, and better lending environment for both commercial and development banks.

“We believe that Kizimba business model will create skills and employment for the youth. It also generates revenues for local government authorities. The most innovative part of it is to connect all actors in the ecosystem to support agriculture,” he said.

The model targets all Tanzanians but most important the youth and women so that they can invest in the sector, generate income, create employment and support industrialization drive.

Vice Chancellor of Sokoine University of Agriculture Prof Raphael Chibunda said the institution will continue working with the Ministry of Agriculture in efforts aimed at transforming agriculture from subsistence farming to thriving and profitable agribusinesses.

He said the university has managed to establish agribusiness farms around the institution.

Speaking at the event, Cuso Tanzania Country Representative Romanus Mtung'e said the organization has partnered in the initiative to support SUGECO reach many young farmers on agribusiness for creation of competent human resource relevant to market demand.

He said Cuso facilitated the mapping exercises of farms to create blocks which are now ready for distribution to targets groups under lease and transfer system.

Kizimba business model is a real estate business approach in agriculture and agribusiness development that originates from local government authority's business infrastructure and facilities development.

This initiative adopted the same approach used to establish block farming for specific value chains. The model is adopted as innovative financial products best fit in agricultural and agribusiness value chains development under partnership between Cuso International and SUGECO.

The plan targets two crops first which are mangoes and beans business value chains opportunities because the initiative has identified market demand and off-takers and has the projected investment and



Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (centre) SUA Vice Chancellor Prof Raphael Chibunda (right) and SUGECO Director Revocatus Kimario (Left) during the launch of Kizimba Business Model in Morogoro last week. Photo by correspondent Gerald Kitabu.

employment opportunities.

The approach's value proposition includes to ensure youth and women employment, increased farmers' connection to global value chain, enhance contribution of agriculture to the national GDP, and enhance stable and inclusive economic growth and substitution of importation of industrial raw materials.

Funded by the government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, Cuso International is implementing a seven year “SHARE” programme, an initiative that aims to enhance the performance of local Tanzania partners to deliver more inclusive, innovative, and environmentally sustainable development initiatives.

In December 2020, Cuso International signed a partnership agreement with SUGECO, a youth and agribusiness incubator established since 2011 to promote youth and women engagement in agriculture and agribusiness value chains that enhances skills development, technology transfer and provision of space for innovation ecosystem to bridge agribusiness skills gap in Tanzania.

AS AT		AS AT	
31.12.2020		31.12.2019	
(Amount in Million Tshs)			
A. ASSETS			
1 Cash	3,545	2,955	
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	14,184	21,842	
3 Investment in Government Securities	20,280	21,172	
4 Balances with Other Banks and financial Institution	34,926	32,749	
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-	
6 Interbranch Float items	-	-	
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-	
8 Customers' Liabilities on Acceptances	-	-	
9 Interbank Loan Receivables	-	-	
10 Investments In other Securities	-	-	
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances)	132,804	113,652	
12 Other Assets	3,649	3,378	
13 Equity Investments	-	-	
14 Underwritings accounts	-	-	
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	2,264	1,349	
16 TOTAL ASSETS	211,652	197,097	
B. LIABILITIES			
17 Deposits from Other Banks and Financial Institution	24,256	5,847	
18 Customers Deposits	140,666	149,691	
19 Cash Letters of Credit	-	-	
20 Special Deposits	-	-	
21 Payment orders/Transfer payables	-	-	
22 Bankers Cheques and Drafts Issued	74	183	
23 Accrued Taxes and Expenses payable	46	38	
24 Acceptances Outstanding	-	-	
25 Interbranch Float items	-	-	
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	-	36	
27 Other Liabilities	3,385	1,898	
28 Borrowings	-	-	
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	168,427	157,693	
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (15 MINUS 29)	43,225	39,404	
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			
31 Paid up Share Capital	10,000	10,000	
32 Capital Reserves	-	-	
33 Retained Earnings	28,607	27,277	
34 Profit (Loss) Account	3,697	1,103	
35 Other Capital account	921	1,024	
36 Minority Interest	-	-	
33 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	43,225	39,404	
34 Contingent Liabilities	9,423	12,413	
35 Non-Performing Loans and Advances	2,943	2,495	
36 Allowances for Probable Losses	1,689	893	
37 Other Non-Performing assets	-	-	
D FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS			
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets (%)	20%	20%	
(ii) Non Performing loans to Total gross Loans (%)	2%	2%	
(iii) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits (%)	82%	74%	
(iv) Loans and Advances to Total Assets (%)	63%	58%	
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	89%	85%	
(vi) Deposits Growth	6%	17%	
(vii) Assets Growth	7%	14%	

CURRENT YEAR			COMPARATIVE YEAR (Prev. Year)		
01.01.2020 TO 31ST DEC, 2020			FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31ST DEC, 2019		
1 Interest Income	15,166	14,811			
2 Interest Expenses	5,317	4,843			
3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	9,849	9,968			
4 Bad debts written off	896	4,036			
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	34	464			
6 Non - Interest Income	1,445	1,906			
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/Loss	430	618			
6.2 Fees and Commissions	1,002	1,278			
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-			
6.4 Other Operating Income	13	10			
7 Non - Interest Expenses:	5,112	5,639			
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	2,269	2,427			
7.2 Fees and Commissions	540	625			
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	2,303	2,587			
7.4 Other Provision	-	-			
8 Operating Income/(Loss)	5,252	1,736			
9 Income Tax Provision	1,555	634			
10 Net income (loss) after Income Tax	3,697	1,103			
11 Other Comprehensive Income	-	-			
12 Total Comprehensive Income/(loss) for the year	3,697	1,103			
13 Number of Employees	48	49			
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	370	110			
15 Number of Branches	4	4			
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	2%	1%			
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	9%	6%			
(iii) Non Interest Expenses to Gross Income	45%	47%			
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	6%	7%			

The rule of law is under threat in our country

BY JUDITH FEBRUARY

AS former president Jacob Zuma seeks to defy the Zondo Commission - and in so doing, the Constitution - the message sent is one of impunity writ large. The ANC has become almost apologetic about the Constitution it helped craft 25 years ago.

Don't discount our powers;
We have made a pass
At the infinite.

Robert Frost, Kitty Hawk

A delegation of the "Top Six" within the ANC recently visited Jacob Zuma in an attempt to persuade him to appear before the Zondo Commission and fulfil his constitutional obligation. That one of the members of that delegation, Secretary-General Ace Magashule, is himself facing criminal charges shows just how far the party has strayed from its ethical centre.

The same party mobilises its members to cheer on those who face corruption charges for stealing from the poorest of the poor in the VBS Bank scandal, holds vigils at court ahead of Zuma's corrup-



Brazilian President-elect Jair Bolsonaro and his predecessor, Michel Temer. File photo

tion trial appearances and turns a blind eye to men in paramilitary gear stationed outside Zuma's Nkandla homestead.

In the background the mostly unintelligible Bathabile Dlamini mobilises the ANC Women's League into action in defence of the corrupt and incompetent. A ragtag bunch of Zumarites including Carl Niehaus and Tony Yengeni (a convicted criminal) lead the charge for Zuma as they spout words like "radical economic transformation" and declare "white monopoly capital" the enemy of progress in our country. All binaries in service of a dangerous populism.

Others within the ANC like Jessie Duarte, Gwede Mantashe and Ngoako Ramatlhodi have in the past felt comfortable enough to attack the judiciary.

Aiding and abetting the corrupt faction within the ANC is the EFF, now comfortably positioned as defenders of the compromised Public Protector while their leaders themselves are implicated in the VBS scandal.

It is convenient to attack both the Constitution and the judiciary. They do so to protect their own interests and to keep the networks of State Capture in place. The repercussions of Zuma's defiance of the Constitution must therefore be seen in the context of a governing party that has lost its way and an emboldened Zuma who has repeatedly shown himself capable of constitutional vandalism.

Let us make no mistake, we are at what political theorist Achille Mbembe, whose seminal work, *On the Postcolony*, continues to define much of the debate around the characteristics of post-colonial Africa, calls a "negative moment" - a culmination of the Zuma years that were marked by a lack of openness and transparency, by increased securitisation of the state, marked inequality, economic paralysis, intolerance and the abuse of democratic institutions. This is also a moment of disease and unease as South Africa's unemployment rate has reached record levels of 32.5% and inequality deepens.

A near decade of State Capture means the kitty is bare. Higher Education, Science and Technology Minister Blade Nzimande robbed Peter to pay Paul when he announced funding for universities amid student protests last week. Something will have to give in this toxic mix of impunity, want and the everyday violation of rights.

When Madiba inaugurated the first Constitutional Court he told us it would be "a court on which hinges the future of our democracy". How right he was.

He went on to say at the adoption of the final Constitution in 1996: "Constitutionalism means that no office and no institution can be higher than the law. The highest and the most humble in the land all, without exception, owe allegiance to the same document, the same principles. It does not matter whether you are black or white, male or female, young or old; whether you speak Tswana or Afrikaans; whether you are rich or poor or ride in a smart new car or walk barefoot; whether you wear a uniform or are locked up in a cell. We all have certain basic rights, and those fundamental rights are set out in the Constitution."

It has now become fashionable to blame Madiba and the Constitution for everything that has gone wrong in post-apartheid South Africa. Given the challenges South Africa faces, it is easy (and perhaps inevitable) to slip into reductionist thinking about the Constitution itself - that it is an imported liberal concept and not worth the paper it is written on. Many blame the Constitution for the lack of transformation within our society. It is a limited argument as it ignores the politics of the day, as well as the corruption and mismanagement that often lie at the heart of our inability to ensure that basic rights are protected.

When Zuma calls the Constitution "their" document, we all know what he is trying to do when he eschews ownership of it. In a world of cheap populism and easy answers, now more than ever we need to dispel what is reductionist and ahistorical.

Former Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs is a charming storyteller. He talks of his debates on constitutionalism with his old friend, the late Kader Asmal, with humour and relish. Sachs never misses an opportunity to explain the ANC's debates on the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. In these confusing times of noisy debate about constitutionalism, his recollections are worth pondering.

Sachs describes the pre-1990s rights debates within the ANC as difficult and often fierce. It is a powerful counter-narrative to some of the current criticisms of the constitution-making process. He tells of how reason prevailed and the party, under the astute and principled leadership of OR Tambo, supported the concept of a Bill of Rights when the moment arose. "OR" was set upon constitutionalising aspects of the struggle and, in Sachs's words, "learning from every source" and "widening the embrace" of the ANC as a movement and its thinking. Tambo's (and the ANC's) strategic position on the Bill of Rights was that it would exist to "protect everyone", black and white, rich and poor, and, in Sachs's words, that the Constitution itself was needed as protection against arbitrariness by all leaders and indeed, to be used "against ourselves". That was in 1988.

Sachs's recollection is important for its wide reach into the past.

South Africa in 2021 is in a markedly different place compared with 1988. We have the right to speak, write what we like, and more importantly, the context within which we do so has changed. The choice we made to be a constitutional democracy was not an accident, nor was it one that went without any debate and argument within the ANC and other parts of society. The commitment to fundamental rights and against the arbitrary exercise of power was deliberate. That our transition to democracy was flawed cannot be disputed. That much still needs to be done to fundamentally change the lives of those who suffer all kinds of exclusion is without doubt. Yet, the Constitution remains a transformative and progressive instrument for bringing about such change.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

COMMERCIAL DIVISION

AT DAR ES SALAAM

MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL CAUSE NO. 37 OF 2020

WINDING UP PETITION

(Pursuant to section 281 of the Companies Act, No. 12 of 2002)

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, No. 12 of 2002

AND

IN THE MATTER OF COMPULSORY WINDING UP OF WIA GROUP LIMITED

(Made Pursuant to Rule 99 (1) of the Company (Insolvency Rules) G.N. No. 43 of 2005)

TAKE NOTICE that VODACOM TANZANIA PLC (the "Petitioner") of 15th Floor, Vodacom Tower, Ursino Estate, Plot No. 23, Old Bagamoyo Road of P.O. Box 2369, Dar es Salaam, on 17 September 2020 presented to the High Court of Tanzania (Commercial Division) a winding up petition praying for Orders under the Companies Act, No. 12 of 2002 to wind up WIA GROUP LIMITED, ("the Company"), of 2nd Floor, Barclay's House, Ohio Street, P.O. Box 5117, Dar es Salaam and appointment of an official liquidator of the Company.

The petition is scheduled for hearing at the High Court of Tanzania (Commercial Division) at Dar es Salaam on 1 April 2021 at 09:00 am before Honourable Nangela, J.

The Petitioner is being represented by IMMMA Advocates of IMMMA House, Plot No. 357, United Nations Road, Upanga, P.O. Box 72484, Dar es Salaam.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT any person intending to appear at the hearing of the petition (whether to support or oppose the petition) must give notice in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, No. 12 of 2002 and the Companies (Insolvency) Rules, 2005.

Gaspar Nyika
Advocate for the Petitioner



CORRECTION.

Pact Tanzania apologize to the public due to an error on public notice issued on 18th March 2021, below is the correct notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN PACT TANZANIA AND WAMATA (WALIO KATIKA NA MAPAMBANO NA AIDS TANZANIA)

Notice is hereby given to the public that, effective 7th January 2021, WAMATA (Walio katika Mapambano na AIDS Tanzania) ceased to be our partner in the implementation of USAID Kizazi Kipya project and, therefore, WAMATA has no mandate whatsoever to implement USAID Kizazi Kipya project on behalf of Pact Tanzania.

Whoever deals with WAMATA on any issue(s) pertaining to the implementation of USAID Kizazi Kipya project will be doing so at their own risk and Pact Tanzania shall not be held liable for any loss, damage or liability arising directly or indirectly from the engagement or transactions conducted by WAMATA.

Country Director
Pact Tanzania



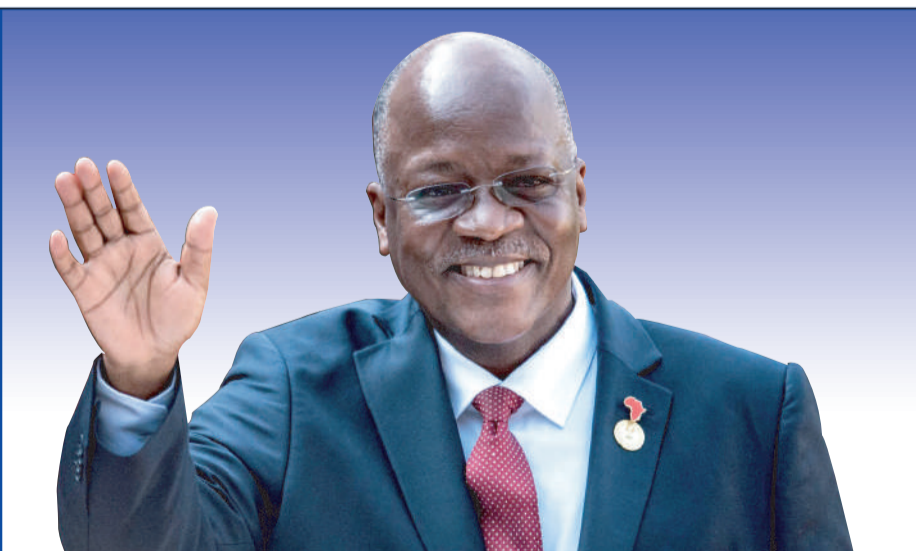
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REST IN PEACE
DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI
1959 – 2021

The board of Directors, Management and staffs of Demeter Financial and Insurance services limited would like to convey his heartfelt condolences to the president of the united republic of Tanzania and the Commander in chief of the armed Forces Mama Samia Suluhu Hasani following the loss of the late President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli. The company joins His family, friends loved one and the rest of Tanzanians in Mourning this National Tragedy.

May his Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.
Amen

Experts call on ECA to support states' bid to effectively respond to COVID-19

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

EXPERTS of the Conference of African Ministers have suggested the need for the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to support advocacy by member States for the extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) until at least the end of 2021, freeing up an additional \$8 billion for recovery in 2021 and providing much-needed liquidity to respond to the crisis.

The experts, who commended the think tank for its advocacy and substantive support for a new issuance and re-allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to low- and middle-income countries, called on the Commission to mobilize support for a Special Drawing Rights re-allocation mechanism that is commensurate with the development financing needs of African countries.

Member states were encouraged to work collectively to ensure they have a common voice and position on the issue of SDRs.

G7 Finance Ministers agreed Friday to support the issuance of new SDRs which will help developing countries better respond to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The experts were concerned by the adverse socio-economic and health impacts of the pandemic on African economies, coupled with their limited fiscal and monetary tools to respond to the crisis, which they said would most likely derail efforts to build forward better and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063.

On Covid-19, the experts commended various initiatives undertaken by ECA to support Member States in leveraging the adoption of the African Union Commission and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Joint Continental Strategy for Covid-19 Outbreak in March 2020 as a blueprint and master plan for coordinating regional efforts to ensure synergy and minimize duplication, to save lives and support African social and economic development.

They commended the various initiatives undertaken by ECA in supporting member States in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights on vaccines, debt relief and the issuance of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund.



The experts requested ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to assist African Member States in putting in place continental strategies and policies to facilitate the production of vaccines on the continent, improve pooled procurement, particularly through digital technologies, as exemplified by the African Medical Supply Platform, and leverage the use of digital tools in national supply chains for improved accessibility for all.

This will improve affordability and accessibility of vaccines and assist in generating

inclusive economic growth, stimulating job creation, and eradicating poverty for the continent's socio-economic development and sustainable growth.

The ECA was urged to continue supporting member States in vaccine procurement, including through additional funding available from debt relief of the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, development finance institutions and SDRs.

On the African Continental Free Trade Area, the experts urged the ECA to provide technical support to its Member States, the African Union Commission, the secretariat

of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and regional economic communities, in respect of agricultural development, industrialization, high-priority continental infrastructure projects, digitalization, implementation of national strategies for the AfCFTA, and phase II and phase III negotiations.

On data and statistics, they called on Pan-African organizations and partners to work in close collaboration and foster synergies to support African countries, in particular those with the lowest levels of statistical development, to mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The experts said steps should be taken to ensure that key targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 are incorporated into national development plans as well as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to expanding current national data systems to new data frontiers, such as earth observation and geospatial big data, in support of integrated spatial planning and inclusive and sustainable growth.

On civil registration and vital statistics, the experts urged African Governments to invest in fully functional legal identity systems, with a foundation built on strong civil registra-

tion systems that start at birth and end at death, and digitize processes, from notification to certification, to transform civil registration systems from slow, passive, and reactive systems that depend on in-person attendance, to systems that are dynamic, interoperable, resilient, proactive, and agile.

Among many other recommendations, the experts called on the ECA to establish an African expert group on gas to advise member States on how to unlock the potential of gas in industrialization and the transition to clean energy.

A Dar woman pioneers in hydroponic farming

By Special Correspondent

"OUR lettuce is free from pesticides and other industrial chemicals," 47-year-old Mwamy Mlangwa confidently puts the tagline on her business card.

Mlangwa is the owner of Mwamy Green Veggies—a company that grows vegetables through hydroponic farming, one among the first of its kind in the country.

Hydroponic farming is the practice of growing plants in nutrient solutions without the use of soil. Compared with traditional farming, it requires less space and has better temperature control to cope with the tropical climate here, said Mlangwa, whose farm is located on the outskirts of the commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

"By running a hydroponic farm, we do not need to go outside the city to be a farmer, this kind of farming caters for the needs of the people in the city who have limited space," she said.

Besides, since the vegetables are grown inside the greenhouse, the damage brought about by pests, weeds and diseases can be reduced to minimum, she said, adding that vegetables harvest quickly in nutrient solutions, only taking 28 to 30 days. Mlangwa, the mother of two children, started the business four years ago after acquiring the technology in Israel, and is now selling her high-quality vegetables to restaurants, hotels, safari camps and international airlines.

Without using pesticides, her vegetable are very popular in these places. Like many other businesses domestically and

globally, Mlangwa said her business was also much affected after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic last year as hotels are closed due to reduced number of tourists to Tanzania. However, she is optimistic about the future of her business as she already started another farm outside Dar es Salaam where she can expand the vegetable varieties to include tomatoes, eggplants, red, yellow and green peppers.

The farm is also a popular place for field research. Mlangwa said that students majoring in horticulture and agriculture from the University of Dar es Salaam and the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro Region come to her farm every three months for field attachment programs and case study.

Many greenhouses do not survive here because the farmers do not have sufficient knowledge on how to run them, like how to control the water and heat for the vegetables to grow in greenhouses, she said. Mlangwa said she was delighted to see these young students are interested in learning hydroponics and also have the energy and capability to engage in hydroponic farming in the future.



By running a hydroponic farm, we do not need to go outside the city to be a farmer, this kind of farming caters for the needs of the people in the city who have limited space



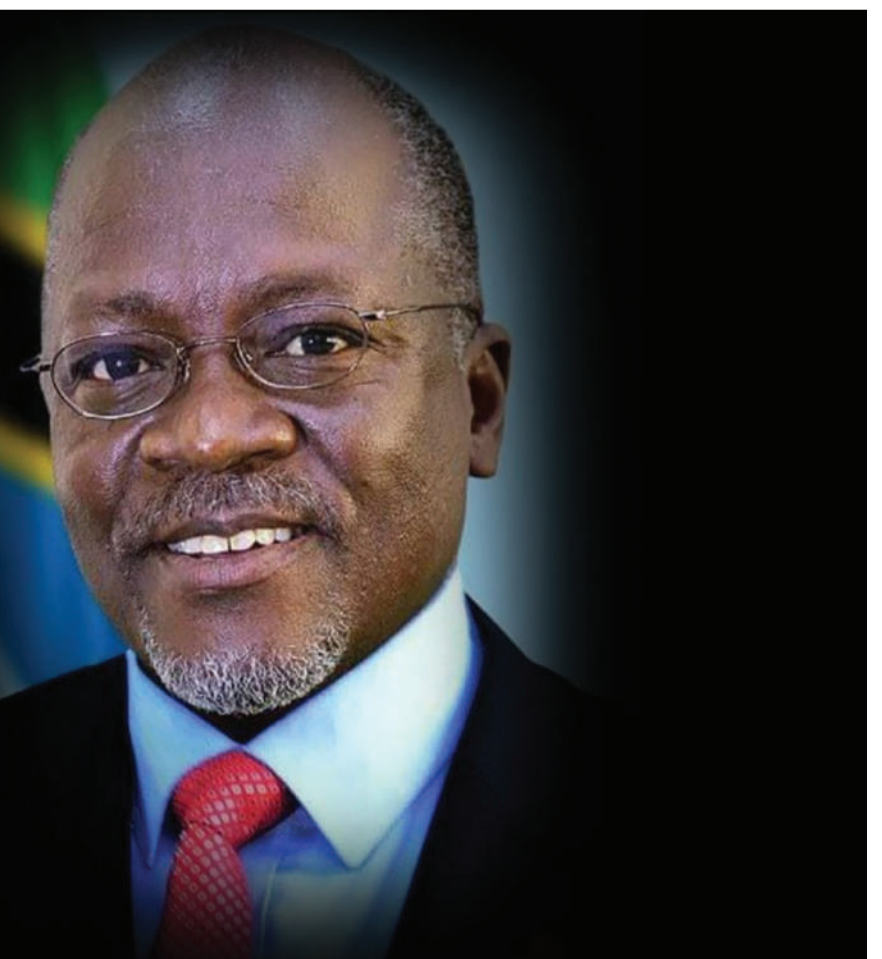
Workers take care of vegetables grown at the hydroponic farm in Dar es Salaam

Rest in peace

TANZANIA 5th PRESIDENT

John Magufuli

1959-2021



To curb teen pregnancies, empower youth with information

By Dr Florence Temu

ON 8 March the world celebrated International Women's Day, a day set aside to celebrate women's achievements and lobby for accelerated progress towards gender equality. But as millions of men and women across the globe used their voices and platforms to #ChooseToChallenge, not much was said about the threat that is silently spreading through Sub-Saharan Africa; one characterised by stories of young girls who have become mothers prematurely, often after being coerced into having unprotected sex.

The World Bank estimates that 5,500 Tanzanian girls drop out of school each year as a result of teen pregnancy, while the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey of 2015/16 reported an increase in the teenage pregnancy rate among girls aged 15-19 years, from 23 per cent in 2010 to 27 per cent in 2015. While sexual initiation occurs at an increasingly younger age (less than 15 years), as a result of cultural practices such as early marriage as well as peer pressure, a corresponding spike in the adolescent fertility rate is reported, with at least one in seven girls conceiving in their adolescent years. The same survey puts the use of modern contraceptives at 18.9 per cent amongst teenage girls, with the unmet

need for contraceptives standing at 26.5 per cent within this demographic.

Teenage pregnancy and the unmet need for modern contraceptives continue to negatively affect the health status of adolescent girls and young women in Tanzania. It is an unfortunate reality, and one that requires us to consider various measures and interventions to curb the impending crisis.

Like in many developing countries, access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services remains a challenge in Tanzania. According to a recent Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA, yet to be released to the public), while there has been a steady increase in the availability of adolescent-friendly SRH services in the country over the years, their reach is still suboptimal, with only 38 per cent of health facilities employing health personnel trained in youth-friendly skills.

These worrying statistics underscore the need for multifaceted efforts, supportive social and cultural systems to prevent teenage pregnancies. We need to have the right policies in place, with funded strategies that prioritise resource allocation in support of adolescent



and youth-friendly reproductive health services. This will promote ease of access to the right information and services for sexually active youth.

The arguments against providing such access are centred largely on morality and culture, with health workers who provide SRH services to youth often accused of encouraging immorality among young people. As such, girls become easy victims or scapegoats where the lines between culture, religion and human rights are often blurred.

We cannot continue to shy away from discussing the factors that expose young girls to misinformation on sex, early sexual activity, teen pregnancy and the resultant stigma, higher maternal mortality, forced marriage and sexual violence. We need to address the root causes of this threat to our national prosperity: poverty, poor education, lack of access to SRH information, and unfair and dangerous cultural practices that dehumanize young girls and women.

Comprehensive sexuality education for in-school and out-of-school youth needs to be geared towards preventing early sex initiation and harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), which expose girls to early and forced marriage. This education also needs to promote life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and effective communication, health and well-being, and enhance the dignity of young people. More healthcare workers need to be equipped with basic skills in youth friendly SRH services, and access to these services expanded and mainstreamed in all healthcare facilities.

It is encouraging to note that several organisations, including Amref

Health Africa, are delivering interventions to curb the rise in teenage pregnancies. For example, Amref, through the DREAMS programme, is working with adolescent girls to empower them through provision of age appropriate SRH education geared towards delaying sexual activity and addressing harmful traditional practices such as early marriage. Our aim is to strengthen linkages between school retention, school-based sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education and youth-friendly health services, and by so doing keep more girls in school.

In the past two years we have reached close to 21,000 adolescent girls and young women with SRH, menstrual hygiene and gender violence response and recovery services, contributing to an increase in the school attendance rate from 65 per cent in 2017 to 81 per cent by the end of 2019 in regions such as Shinyanga, Simiyu and Magu in northern Tanzania. By addressing these issues from the grassroots level, we hope to empower a generation that can change the course of a nation and guide Tanzania towards holistic prosperity.

Our collective interventions in health and education need to be based on human rights principles. Access to education, right information and SRH services are fundamental human rights. Enshrining these rights is not about promoting immorality; it is about empowering youth with the information and services they need to keep themselves safe, make the right choices and give them a better chance at completing their education and contributing meaningfully to economic growth and development.

Children should not be having children. So as we seek to safeguard the health of our young people, let us also offer them sociocultural, political, moral, psychological and legal protection. Our statements and actions should not contradict our wishes for our young generation.

(The author is Country Director - Amref Health Africa, Tanzania)

National political advisor suggests enhancing scientific, technological support for rural vitalisation

By Qian Yibin

LI Xuelin, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, submitted a proposal suggesting that relevant authorities speed up efforts to support the development of cold chain logistics for agricultural produce to the just-concluded annual session of the CPPCC National Committee.

Relevant authorities should intensify efforts to support major agricultural provinces in addressing weak links in infrastructure that hinder the production, marketing, and transport of agricultural products, pay attention to the construction of facilities for the storage and preservation of produce, encourage business entities to build specialized storage and preservation systems in places of production, and boost the online circulation of agricultural products by facilitating the construction of storehouses for agricultural products in production areas, Li suggested.

In addition, efforts should be made to further enhance the image of signature farm products as products with high quality and reasonable prices, so as to promote the efficiency of the agricultural sector and increase the income of farmers, noted Li, who is also the head of Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences in southwest China's Yunnan province.

These suggestions are based on a lot of research carried out by Li in Yunnan last year. In an effort to fully understand the current situation of agricultural development of Yunnan province and find effective approaches to rural industry development, Li visited more than 60 counties in 16 cities and prefectures of the province last year to have close exchanges with farmers.

"During my field trips, I felt deep-



Villagers in Jino ethnic township, Jinghong city, southwest China's Yunnan province, picking spring tea leaves. File photo

ly that agricultural technologies are crucial for rural industry development," Li said. He provided targeted technical guidance for farmers in his field research based on local needs for developing characteristic agricultural industries, and mobilized an expert team of Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences in compiling a series of popular science books on rural industry development for ethnic groups with relatively small populations.

Yunnan is an important producing area of fresh agricultural products such as fresh cut flowers, vegetables, fruits, and wild edible mushrooms. During his field trips to various places of the province, Li noticed that although these products have enjoyed rapid increase in sales to areas outside the province, the sluggish growth of local cold chain logistics industry has become a short slab hampering greater success of Yunnan's agricultural sector.

Most of the fresh agricultural products of Yunnan province are transported by road, Li said, adding that 95 percent of these goods are preserved in transit by regular

ice bottles and ice bags, while only 5 percent of the fresh farm produce are transported via cold chain. It's estimated that the whole province is faced with a theoretical shortage of 3,000 refrigerated vehicles, according to Li.

In order to gain detailed information about the requirements for cold chain transportation of different agricultural products, Li led a team to several cities of Yunnan province, including Kunming, last August.

They conducted investigations in logistics companies, fruit wholesale markets, and leading vegetable planting and marketing enterprises, and visited ports in Yunnan province to learn about the cold chain transportation of agricultural products imported from neighboring countries.

Based on their investigations, Li and his team members compiled a report on the construction of cold chain logistics facilities for agricultural products in Yunnan province for reference of relevant authorities.

People's Daily



International Labour Organization

Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA)

Skills Anticipation

Terms of Reference

Mapping of existing Labour Market Information and Skills Anticipation systems institutions, data infrastructure, capacities and approaches (Tanzania)

These Terms of Reference (1) provide background information on the SIFA Skills Anticipation Project, (2) outline the framework for the assignment, (3) describe the specific inputs and outputs required from the consultant and (4) list the terms and condition of the assignment.

1. Background and Rationale

Africa's young population is rapidly growing and expected to double to over 830 million by 2050. If properly harnessed, this increase in the working age population has the potential to support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive economic growth across the continent. However, even though several countries in the continent registered fast economic growth over the past decades, this has not kept pace with the growing numbers of new job seekers. While 10 to 12 million youth enter the workforce each year, only 3 million jobs are created, leaving vast numbers of youth unemployed. According to the World Bank, youths account for 60% of all of Africa's jobless. The large number of young people who are not in education, employment or training but also the lack of demand-oriented skills development leads to the fact that young people in particular do not find adequate employment. This is one of the greatest challenges for the socio-economic development of Africa.

The skills development landscape in most African Countries typically consists of public and private providers and is often highly fragmented and poorly coordinated. Skills development programmes on the other hand normally lack demand-orientation and quality and neither meet labour market demand for skills nor social demand for accessible skills development that can lead to better employability. The lack of accepted labour market relevant skills development outcomes and provision standards means that comparability and quality assurance of programmes and certificates is often not possible. This has a negative impact on the reputation of skills development, and also hinders articulation in the education and training system as well as labour mobility. As a result, a shortage of skilled workers and at the same time high unemployment, even among graduates from skills development programmes is a very common phenomenon in most African countries.

This coupled with tensions between a rapidly growing young population and the relatively low pace of job creation are cause for more determined action and partnerships for more informed skills development approaches and more and quality jobs for young African. The high number of youth not in education employment or training, and the estimated 95 million of youth in sub-Saharan Africa who are uneducated, unemployed or engaged in precarious jobs represent a serious challenge for African decision makers and practitioners.

The tripartite representation of International Labour Organization (ILO) agrees that countries that have succeeded in linking skills to gains in productivity, employment and development have targeted skills development policy towards three main objectives:

- Matching supply to current demand for skills;
- Helping workers and enterprises adjust to change;
- Building and sustaining competencies (1) for future labour market needs.

Such a strategy includes anticipating and delivering the skills that will be needed for future labour markets.

Against this background, the African Union (AU) has adopted a set of strategies to address medium and long-term aspirations for a more prosperous Africa. Notably, the Agenda 2063, the African Youth Charter (2006); the Continental education strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025); the Continental TVET Strategy (2014); and an initiative to boost education, technology and innovation (C10) Championing Education, Science and Technology.

The Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) is a Project of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) supported by the German Government and European Union. It seeks to contribute toward the AU's agenda for a more prosperous Africa. Under the EU Funded SIFA component on Skills for Youth Employability (SYEP), the AU is collaborating with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement Skills Anticipation capacity development interventions.

The Skills Anticipation Component aims to facilitate identification and anticipation of skills as an integral part of national labour market information systems (LIMS). The main objective of this new component is to ensure more effective matching of skills supply to skills demand in the labour markets of targeted AU Member States. Interventions under this component will contribute towards the overall SIFA objective of enhancing the employability of the African youth.

2. Assignment Objective

The overall objective of the assignment is to map the existing data sources/providers, review current practices, capacities and institutional arrangements for labour market information and skills anticipation in Tanzania and to provide concrete recommendations for improvement of existing systems and structures.

3. Application procedures

For interested and qualified candidates, please visit the link for more information and applications procedures. Note that the deadline is on 30 March 2021



Thursday 25 March 2021

Defunct China Bank employees cherish life under NMB prowess

By The Banker Reporter

EMPLOYEES of the defunct China Commercial Bank Limited who joined NMB Bank Plc under a Bank of Tanzania brokered deal, have expressed their excitement at being part of the country's most profitable bank.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues upon officially being taken over by NMB last week, a representative of the CCB employees, Phales Kiwanga described the move as being wishes becoming horses for them to ride.

"Initially, we saw no light at the end of the tunnel since our ultimate fate remained unknown but we were elated after learning of NMB's interest to acquire CCB because you are a giant in the industry," Kiwanga said.

He said life was a horror after BoT placed CCB under statutory administration in November last year because most of them could only think of a bleak future. "We thank NMB management for timely completion of the takeover agreement, a move which means a lot to us. We used to spend sleepless nights wondering what the future held for us," he added.

The taking over of CCB by NMB was neces-

sitated by illiquidity and capital inadequacy of the Chinese lender hence falling below the central bank's regulatory needs. The central bank said it allowed CCB to be acquired by NMB to protect interests of depositors, creditors and the financial sector in general.

"So when NMB Bank acquired our troubled bank early this month and announced that it will employ us, we anxiously looked forward to joining the bank's 3,400-strong workforce," Kiwanga noted saying all the 12 bankers taken aboard by NMB on March 15, know that they have joined the most successful local bank in the market hence assured of their careers.

Throughout the colourful function to welcome the new employees held at NMB head office in Dar es Salaam, their faces glittered with sparks of joy and could hardly hide their excitement at big expectations.

Emotionally motivated, they equally expressed and showed all signs of readiness to diligently work for their new employer with commitment to serve the over four million customers of the top lender in the market.

Welcoming the new employees, NMB's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna said the market's largest bank is the safest place to be for any ambitious career



NMB Bank Plc's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna speaking in Dar es Salaam last week to welcome former China Commercial Bank employees after acquiring the defunct bank. Photo courtesy of NMB.

banker. "You have joined the safest bank in the country, which is the market leader in terms of assets, balance sheet, profitability, branch network and quality banking solutions," Zaipuna said while noting that currently NMB has 226 physical branches throughout the country, located at almost every administrative district of the government.

A gesture to welcome the former CCB employees, Zaipuna gave them NMB identity cards as a sign of formally incorporating them into its operations. "I am aware that you have come already with the responsibility to foster commercial relations with clients of China Commercial Bank who have also joined us. I promise you will be accorded all the needed support in your endeavour to fulfil this goal," she noted. Introducing the new workers, NMB's Chief Human Resources Officer, Emmanuel Akonay said their drafting means completion of all requirements of acquiring CCB as per BoT regulations.

Gulf's banking sector ripe for wave of mergers as profitability declines

ABU DHABI

A NEW wave of mergers and acquisitions could take place within the GCC's banking sector as profit margins are pressured due to pandemic-induced headwinds, according to S&P Global Ratings.

The need for recapitalisation as provisions for bad loans rise and the asset quality deteriorates also supports the case for the consolidation of financial institutions in the region, Mohamed Damak, senior director for financial institutions ratings, said.

"Ultimately, lower profitability could start a new wave of M&A, and we think this wave, if it starts, will be different from what we have been observing so far," Mr Damak told a webinar on Wednesday. "It might involve consolidation across different GCC countries, or consolidation across different emirates here [in the UAE]."

Profits for most regional lenders, like their international peers, shrunk last year as they proactively allocated funds to cover potential loan losses. Loan book growth has also slowed and margins are under pressure amid historically low interest rates.

GCC banks have already experienced significant M&A activity after the three-year oil price slump that began in the middle of 2014. Shareholders who held stakes in more



Mohamed Damak, senior director for financial institutions ratings at S&P Global.

than one lender - typically regional governments and related entities - drove consolidation, creating stronger financial institutions with more robust balance sheets to better face tougher operating conditions.

The first wave led to the creation of some of the strongest financial institutions. First Abu Dhabi Bank, the UAE's largest lender, was formed through the merger of National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank in 2017.

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank also completed a three-way merger with Union National Bank and Al Hilal Bank in 2019. Last year, Dubai Islamic Bank completed its acquisition of competitor Noor Bank to create an Islamic lender with total assets of more than Dh275bn (\$75bn).

In Saudi Arabia, the kingdom's largest lender National Commercial Bank, is edging closer to its takeover of smaller rival Samba Financial Group that will create a lender with a 31 per cent market

share by assets.

Kuwait Finance House and Bahrain's Ahli United Bank have also been in cross-border merger talks, but these were postponed in April last year. A new wave of mergers will be more opportunistic and spurred by economic rationale, Mr Damak said.

"It would definitely require a more aggressive stance by managements to clear hurdles ... convincing for example boards or shareholders ... to accept to be diluted," he said. "That exercise might

be easier if they have to recapitalise their banks anyway." Moody's Investors Services in October said the need for consolidation is more intense among smaller banks who face being "crowded out" by larger competitors.

S&P said that given the tough operating environment faced by the region's corporate sector, banks face a "lower-for-longer profitability" trend. "The higher cost of risk and the decline in margins will drive profitability down," Mr Damak said. He expects an increase in non-performing loans in the region from 3.6 per cent on average last year to about 5-6 per cent in the next 12-24 months, as regulators gradually withdraw forbearance measures.

Sectors including real estate, construction, hospitality and consumer-related business are likely to put pressure on banks' asset quality going forward. "It remains to be seen whether we are going to see any additional intervention from the governments to reduce the risk of banks' balance sheets," he said.

In the UAE, the economy has been underpinned by more than Dh388bn worth of local and federal support measures to help cushion the impact of Covid-19 on the economy. However, liquidity within the banking system is already back to pre-pandemic levels, the Central Bank of the UAE said earlier this week.

World Bank sees \$6bn wasted on plastics in Southeast Asia

KUALAR LUMPUR

MORE than 75% of recyclable plastics in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines are left to waste. Southeast Asian countries lose out on as much as \$6 billion a year as most of their single-use plastics are thrown out rather than recovered and recycled, the World Bank said in a new study.

More than 75% of recyclable plastics in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines are left to waste, representing a "significant untapped business opportunity" in the circular economy, according to the report issued Tuesday.

Thailand, which has the largest petrochemical sector in Southeast Asia, recycles the smallest portion of its plastic waste at less than 18%. While Thailand has shown growing interest and increased investment in recycling

facilities, few of them are linked to the country's resin manufacturing businesses, the study showed.

In both Malaysia and the Philippines, major brands in the packaging and fast-moving consumer goods industries are opting for more recycled content in their products. However, most recyclable suppliers are small- and medium-sized enterprises that often don't have the scale, management systems or technologies to meet the demand.

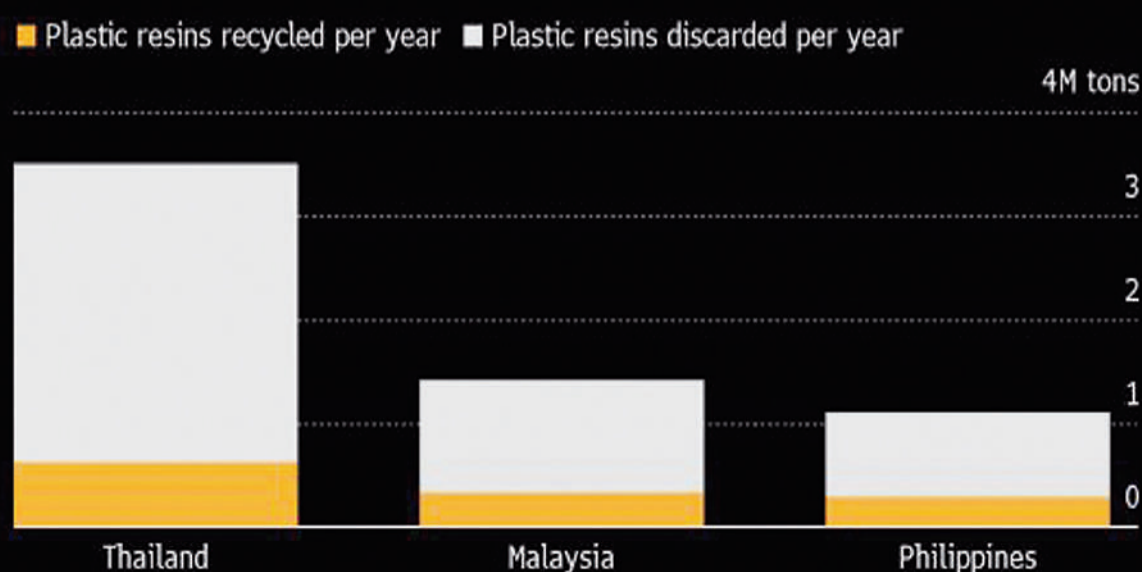
"These studies show that there is an untapped opportunity to reap environmental and economic benefits with clear and complementary interventions from the private and public sector," said Ndiame Diop, World Bank country director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

Setting recycled-content targets, mandating "design for recycling" standards, and imposing waste-collection requirements per industry can unlock additional material value for Southeast Asia, the bank said. Governments should also consider increasing sorting efficiency, restricting disposal of plastic waste in landfills, and phasing out non-essential plastic items.

Building up the business model for plastic recycling will help divert waste from landfills, reducing the risk that it leaks into waterways, the World Bank said. As much as 13 million tons of plastic waste enter the world's oceans each year, with Asia responsible for more than 80% of it. The Philippines and Thailand are the third- and sixth-worst plastic polluters in the world, respectively, according to World Bank data.

Garbage Pile-Up

Southeast Asia recycles only about 25% of its plastic waste each year



Source: World Bank
Note: Study focuses on PET, LDPE, HDPE and PP resins.

Bloomberg

A graph showing East Asian's garbage pileup.

UBA Bank head wants men to help women manage work, family life



UBA Bank Tanzania's head of marketing and corporate communications, Brendansia Kileo stresses a point during a panel discussion with members of staff and customers in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo courtesy of UBA Tanzania.

By The Banker Reporter

MEN have a critical role to play in ensuring that women strike a balance between their professional working life and that of managing families, United Bank for Africa Tanzania Limited's Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, Brendansia Kileo has said.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during a panel discussion to mark International Women's Day recently, Kileo said in maintaining a balance of social and working life the bank decided to have male colleagues air out their perception or opinions on the topic and share various initiatives to support women in attaining the desired balance.

"We have included men to be able to get the ideas they are thinking as partners to support women so that they can fulfil their dreams and responsibilities when they are at home and at work," she said adding that the UBA Tanzania dialogue involving members of staff, was aimed at maintaining a normal work life balance.

"Within the society we see many

women failing to fulfil their dreams or overwhelmed by work responsibilities, many men do not provide the necessary co-operation to ensure such dreams are realised," Kileo added.

She further noted that UBA Bank Tanzania management chose the topic to encourage cooperation between the genders so that they can work together collaboratively to achieve their goals both at work and home by solving various challenges that arise in the course of their lives.

Speaking during the panel discussion, UBA Bank Tanzania's Chief Finance Officer, Chomete Hussein said that in order to develop a work and home life balance, men need to be more cooperative by assisting their counterparts in their social roles without stereotyping the chores or roles for being for male or

female.

"By assisting your partners with their roles, you make their responsibilities less a burden and ease their balance of work and family life," Hussein said adding that men, as heads of families have the responsibility to ensure that their female partners achieve their goals and dreams in life.

Backing her peers, UBA Tanzania's Chief Operations Officer, Flavia Kiyanga said a mother is a person who has many responsibilities to the family because in African traditions, the mother has to manage the house which includes children.

"However, times are changing and women are becoming more exposed and independent with time hence it's high time for men to change their way of thinking because women are becoming independent,

conscious and courageous instead of looking at them as a threat," Kiyanga noting that they should be viewed as a source of support, growth and strength.

The dialogue was also joined by UBA Tanzania's Head of the Public Sector, Mathias Ninga who said that men and women are both heads of the families so there is more of a balance if the two genders agree on equal responsibilities to the family.

"All family members must be patient in their daily lives due to challenges they face, so it is good to listen and consult to make sure they achieve their goals," Ninga said while pointing out that even though a mother may not be financially contributing to the family, but she devotes valuable time, patience, creativity and experience to ensure things are running smoothly.



Central Bank of Kenya governor, Patrick Njoroge.

Sh569bn loans risk CRB listing as virus reliefs end

NAIROBI

BORROWERS holding restructured loans worth Sh569.3 billion risk listing with credit reference bureaus (CRBs) after the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) allowed banks to review debt for those hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CBK Tuesday said that March 2 marked the end of the period for the loan repayment reliefs extended to borrowers facing economic hardships related to the pandemic. The regulator allowed banks to reschedule payments for customers days after the first Covid-19 case was reported in Kenya on March 13, 2020. Borrowers who still have outstanding restructured loans will have until June 3 to regularise them, paving the way for blacklisting of defaulters with CRBs from September.

The regulator said that the Sh569.2 billion or a third of the Sh1.7 billion loans that had been restructured at the height of the crisis will not enjoy the relaxed terms, including suspension of interest payments.

"In accordance with standard procedures, borrowers whose loans were performing before March 2, 2020 but were restructured and subsequently went into arrears, will have three months (up to June 3, 2021) to regularise their loans," said the CBK.

Defaulters look set to appear in the books of Kenya's three CRBs – Metropol, TransUnion and Creditinfo International – from September after the expiry of the 90-day notice. The number of loan accounts negatively listed with CRBs hit 14 million in January this year, underscoring the struggles Kenyans are having with repayments.

Blacklisted accounts jumped 45 percent in the five months between August and January after the CBK lifted a three-month listing moratorium. Data from CRBs showed that the number of loans accounts in arrears for more than 90 days had jumped to 14,035,718 by January this year, up from 9,673,258 in August 2020.

Loan defaults between March 2020 – when the first coronavirus case was reported in Kenya – and December stood at Sh71.26 billion and the strain on banks' balance sheets is expected to persist for months ahead.

The one-year period for the emergency loan restructuring measures had softened the blow on many bor-

rowers who suffered sudden pay cuts and retrenchments as firms sought survival in a period of tumbling revenues.

Official data showed that about 1.72 million workers lost jobs in the three months to June when Kenya imposed a lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus, slowing down business activity and triggering large-scale layoffs and pay cuts.

Many workers who had tapped unsecured loans on the strength of their salaries to purchase goods such as furniture and cars and meet expenses like school fees have struggled to keep up with repayments in the wake of retrenchments and pay cuts.

Companies that had borrowed based on the forecast of cash flows have also been struggling to repay their bank loans, even as they defer capital projects such as launching new products or extending supply in new areas.

While the economy is showing signs of recovery, firms are yet to roll back the pay cuts and freeze in hiring. The CBK yesterday noted that over 95 percent of the outstanding Sh569.3 billion restructured loans were being repaid in accordance with the softened terms.

Reinstatement of older terms means thousands of borrowers will be expected to put up with higher loan servicing costs. The loan relief initiative is among the last stimulus policy measures to be unwound by the government.

Authorities reimposed charges on mobile phone-based transfers of small amounts of cash at the end of last year, having removed them in March to encourage cashless transactions and curb the spread of the virus. In January, the government also reversed payroll and income tax cuts, unveiled last April to prop up demand in the face of the economic shocks caused by the pandemic.

Kenya, which had reported 123,167 cases of Covid-19 infections and 2,048 deaths by yesterday, is currently gripped by a third wave of infections, which is stretching its health facilities. Economic growth slowed to 0.6 percent last year, initial estimates show, well below the government's earlier forecast of 6.2 percent, as the pandemic hit tourism, suppressed exports and eroded jobs. Official data for the full year are due next month.

GTB sets sights on Kenyan bank

NAIROBI

GUARANTY Trust Bank (GTB) has announced plans to buy a rival bank in Kenya, adding to the growing list of Nigerian lenders closing acquisitions locally to grow market share. The bank, which is listed on Lagos and London bourses, said it wants to tap into East Africa's biggest economy.

"I think the place we will still like to do business or do an acquisition is Kenya," GTB's managing director, Segun Agbaje told reporters during an investor call, responding to a question about whether there was a plan by the lender to acquire another bank. GTB is just one of several Nigerian banks that have begun expanding into Kenya's 40-plus bank market. The Nigerian banks reckon they will ride on the billions of dollar flows in annual trade between Nigeria and Kenya to gain market share, a pointer that it targeting trade finance.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in January 2020 gave nod to another top Nigerian lender - Access Bank - to expand into Kenya by acquiring Transnational Bank, a mid-tier lender associated with former president Daniel Moi and his associates. The deal saw Nigerian banks deepen their presence in Kenya with United Bank of Africa (UBA) and GTB already in the market.

GTB with assets worth over Sh1 trillion, also has presence in 12 other countries including Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Zambia, Liberia, Tanzania, Cote D'Voire, Rwanda, Uganda, China and the UK. In Kenya, GTB has 15 branches in major towns countrywide in-



GTB's managing director, Segun Agbaje.

cluding Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nanyuki, Thika and Meru.

Kenya has witnessed renewed interest by global banks, since the CBK lifted a licensing moratorium in March 2017. Kenya's banking sector has enjoyed huge

growth amid innovation to help satisfy huge unmet needs among consumers, according to a report by consultancy McKinsey. They include America's largest bank JPMorgan Chase & Co, which said earlier it was mulling over a Kenya entry.

MARKETTRENDS

Absa Bank Kenya 2020 pretax profit drops on rising impairments

NAIROBI

ABSA Bank Kenya on Tuesday reported a 47% drop in 2020 pretax profit reflecting higher impairments due to effects of the pandemic.

Kenya's central bank allowed lenders to provide relief to customers, such as loan restructuring and payment rescheduling, from mid-March 2020 after the first Covid-19 cases were reported in the region. Absa said pretax profit fell to 5.6 billion Kenyan shillings (\$51 million) from 10.8 billion, while impairments rose to 9 billion shillings from 4.2 billion.

"The bank's performance was significantly impacted by a two-fold growth in impairment as customers struggled to keep up with loan repayments due to the economic effects of Covid-19 and pro-active provisioning for an uncertain future," it said in a statement. "In line with this, the management took a decisive action to increase provisions in order to best position for future potential credit losses."

The central bank said on Tuesday that March 2 marked the end of the period for allowing banks to restructure loans for borrowers hit by the pandemic. Borrowers who still have outstanding restructured loans will have three months until June 3 to regularise them.

Absa told a virtual briefing that in 2020 it restructured 62 billion shillings, or 30% of its 103 billion shillings loans in 2020. It said its net interest income rose slightly to 23.4 billion shillings from 23.1 billion shillings. It said it had an exceptional cost of 3.2 billion shillings from 1.6 billion shillings a year before, on account of Absa's separation from Barclays Bank, which affected its performance.

Public should keep environment clean as there is no planet B

By Godwin Semu

IN Tanzania, it is estimated that the quantity of municipal solid waste generated amounts to more than 10,000 metric tonnes per day. However, nearly 50 percent ends up disposed through the local methods of burning or burying.

By year 2015, it was estimated that, of the total population, each person was producing an average solid waste of between 0.5 and 0.8 kilograms per day. What we do with the waste that we produce in activities daily, is now the world's biggest headache.

Littering is a deliberate act

Littering is amongst the leading contributor to urban waste management challenges. What irks the most is the fact that; the majority of littering happens intentionally. People find it completely normal to throw away

freely cigarette butts, food wrappers and disposables. As a result, most of this rubbish swiftly ends up in our water bodies. What is this doing to our planet? Simply put, destroying it.

There can be several arguments as to why people litter, which includes the prevalence of existing waste and the absence of collection equipment such as dust bins, but the truth still stands, 85 percent of littering is mostly a deliberate act. When pressed with severe repercussions and penalties, people tend to do the right thing, they stop careless littering. Also, those who grow up in a disposable society, have a tendency to end up being disposers and vice versa.

'Usitupe taka hapa' is now a joke

It is annoying to see signs like 'Usitupe takataka hapa' in areas full of solid waste which shows



that no one really cares. It feels like the campaigns have fallen on deaf ears. Either the one installing the signs are not authoritative enough or the defaulters just find them too common to obey. That is where we are as a society. It is becoming clear that the reason most people litter is not

because they think it's ok, but because they think it's the easier thing to do. They know it is wrong, but they do it because it's easy, anyway.

Say no to noise pollution,

For most people in big cities like Dar es Salaam, noise pollution is supposed to be a 'normal' everyday phenomenon. That is to say, it appears to be normal for the local pub next door, to host live music till late hours. This is common in our neighbourhoods which have become hubs of uncontrolled sounds and blares. People in this city seem to have decided to soldier on like it's part of the urban lifestyle.

No, it is not normal, and it shouldn't be allowed to be. Though the impacts and adverse effects of noise pollution cannot be immediately felt, there is a big chance of ending up with health effects such as loss of hearing ability, birth complications, and even high blood pressure.

It is a collective effort

As a society, we need to get serious in highlighting collective social disapproval against littering and other forms of pollu-

tions including noise. The fact that no one dares to litter around controlled areas such as army and police barracks, tells us all we need to know, about the need to change mindsets and behaviours.

If one can be conscious enough not to litter in certain areas fearing repercussions and consequences, hence be mindful enough to not litter at all, then let's apply stringent rules to get tough against such unbecoming behaviours.

In addition, there is nothing wrong for our city fathers to borrow a leaf from other cities like Kigali in Rwanda and Moshi Municipality in Kilimanjaro Region.

Apart from adopting strict regulations or bylaws against indiscriminate littering, Kigali and Moshi, have special cleaning programs involving all residents every Saturday morning with everyone compelled to participate in cleaning the environment around neighbourhoods.

These weekly exercises, have worked out remarkably. We should all remember that we have no planet B where we can free after the current one is turned inhabitable. Let's take good care of the one we have.

Banking profits plunged by R50bn in 2020

JOHANNESBURG

WHEN the major South African banks announced their results over the last two weeks, the management teams of each noted the exceptional challenges of an unprecedented economic environment during 2020.

According to an overview of banks' results by PwC, aggregate headline earnings for all of the banks declined by more than 48% in 2020 compared to the previous financial year, return on equity more than halved from 17.8% to 8.3%, and provisions for bad debt increased by 2.5 times.

Looking at the actual figures, the headline earnings of the large retail banks that published their results recently declined by more than R50 billion from nearly R85 billion in 2019 to R43.6 billion last year, with PwC noting that the combined profit of the banks is now lower than in 2013.

The results showed that the major reason for the decline was the increase in provisions for bad debt. In reality, policies and accounting rules pertaining to the provision for bad debt means these provisions are likely to turn out to be real losses, rather than just book entries. The figures indicate that thousands of households are facing severe financial difficulties.

The PwC analysis included the annual results of FNB, Nedbank and Standard Bank for the year to end December, while Absa's interim results for the six months to December were combined with that of the second half of the previous financial year to be able to compare the annual figures. Investec and Capitec were excluded due to a different product mix and different reporting periods.

Costa Natsas, financial services leader of PwC Africa, noted during a presentation of the PwC analysis that the SA economy started 2020 with the lowest economic growth since the 2009 financial crisis, and then it became worse. "Because financial services, and banking in particular, function at the epicentre of the broader economic context, banks' financial performance is closely tied to the economies in which they operate," says Natsas.

"The severe disruptions and risks brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic are clearly

evident in the major banks' results for the year ended 31 December 2020. "When the history books complete the accounting for 2020, [they] will recount a profound period - one that altered the trajectory of lives and livelihoods, societies and economies, businesses and households - on a global scale," says Natsas.

PwC mentions a few stark truths about the SA economy: "The economy has laboured under structural constraints, deteriorating growth trends, worrying unemployment levels and limited fiscal space that [had] been well documented long before Covid-19.

"Quantifying the domestic economic performance of 2020, as Statistics SA notes, makes for sobering reading. While the 7% contraction in the South African economy in 2020 represents a cardiac arrest driven by crisis conditions, it does not diminish the declining domestic economic trends that have

prevailed for more than a decade," according to the analysis.

The analysts note that inflation-adjusted GDP per capita peaked in 2014 and has been declining since then, which highlights the extent to which struggling economic growth has battled to keep pace with population growth.

They says SA was in some form of lockdown for 279 days during in 2020, with the consequence that GDP per capita decreased to 2005 levels. Personal finances, as evidenced by the banks' financial results, took a beating.

PwC identified several common trends in its analysis of the banking sector's results: Driven by a steep increase in credit impairment charges of 2.5 times against FY19, the major banks' combined headline earnings and return on equity fell to 2012 levels; The second half of 2020 saw credit performance and business volumes faring relatively better than expected



Francois Prinsloo, banking and capital markets leader for PwC Africa.

BANKING & FINANCE

compared to the first half-year as lockdown restrictions eased, but were still far worse than pre-pandemic levels; and None of the banks declared interim dividends and some passed on final dividends as well, citing capital preservation and the uncertain earnings outlook as reasons for these decisions.

Francois Prinsloo, banking and capital markets leader for PwC Africa, says that while the major banks' results are reflective of an intensely challenging operating environment, they also reveal SA bank's resilience. His take on the analysis brings two aspects to the fore, namely that banks' technology-enabled and customer-centric strategies will feature prominently going forward, and that SA banks are financially strong.

There is an undeniable flight to digital and mobile banking platforms - a trend that pre-dates the pandemic - and 2020 saw record volumes of banking transactions conducted through lower-cost digital channels across all customer segments, says Prinsloo.

However, he adds that branches are not "dead" and that the major banks recognise that their branch networks will continue to play a central role in their overall distribution strategies in the future, but that the size, scope and configuration of the physical branch network will most likely be different.

When the pandemic started, banks shifted their strategic focus from managing profitability and delivering stakeholder returns to managing operational stability and ensuring balance sheet resilience, says Prinsloo. He says this resulted in both technology infrastructure and customer service levels holding up without major incident despite the sudden increase in digital transaction volumes.

If one looks at the banks individually, the results all show continued increases in the cost of networks and technology while staff costs increased very little. Prinsloo mentions that all the major banks maintained their capital levels comfortably above regulatory requirements and none needed to make use of any of the relaxations announced by authorities.

Banks did not use relief measures offered by authorities. Rivaan Roopnarain, PwC Africa banking partner says a key take-away is that SA banks are well managed. "Banks have shown their ability to respond purposefully to crisis conditions. "For the majority of the major banks' management teams and their people, 2020 will have been the most difficult and complex year on record," says Roopnarain.

He took a good look at what the management teams predicted for the future, saying that uncertainty will continue from a public health and from an economic standpoint. "The common consensus is that of more uncertainty ahead.

"Some of the major banks have cautiously indicated in their results announcements that they are hopeful to have seen the bottom from an earnings perspective. Early indicators emanating in the first quarter of 2021 show a sliver of positivity - with increased client activity, retail credit collections and early-stage debt relief showing a few promising trends," he says. "The major banks hope that earnings trends return to more business-as-usual levels as impairments stabilise. Consequently, a strong focus on credit collections is likely to be a key theme of activity in 2021.

BoE's Sarah Breedon: 'Central banks must focus on net zero'

LONDON

THE Bank of England's Sarah Breedon said central banks must focus on climate change as she backed a new study calling on global financial regulators to adopt "clear" green strategies to support the economic transition to net-zero.

Ms Breedon, executive director of UK deposit takers supervision at the BoE and executive sponsor for climate change, said the sooner central banks start the process "the smoother the path to net zero", with fewer economic costs and financial risks incurred along the way.

"We are all clear that we should think about net zero as we go about doing our central banking jobs - the interesting question then is how we go about doing it," Ms Breedon told a webinar hosted by the London School for Economics on Friday.

The new report - Net Zero Central Banking: A New Phase in Greening the Financial System - from the Grantham

Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, the London School of Economics and the Centre for Sustainable Finance, urged central banks, including the BoE, to deliver a net-zero roadmap to confront the risks of climate change.

While the first signs of financial authorities starting to align their operations with net-zero are beginning to emerge, the report noted, a systematic approach is now required. "As guardians of macroeconomic and financial stability, central banks and supervisors now need to introduce explicit strategies to support the transition to net zero," the report said.

"The rationale for central banks and supervisors is two-fold: first, achieving a net-zero economy is the best way of minimising the risks of climate change to the stability of the financial system and the macro economy; and second, central banks and supervisors need to ensure that their activities are coherent with net-zero government policy."

While many countries including the UK have now set net-zero targets ahead of the Cop26 United Nations environmental summit, to be held in Glasgow in November, many central banks have failed to outline how they will ensure "their activities are coherent" with their government's decarbonisation policies.

Co-author of the report Nick Robins, professor in practice - sustainable finance at the Grantham Research Institute, said to limit global warming to 1.5°C global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide need to fall about 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by about 2050.

Mr Robins said central banks must integrate climate change into monetary frameworks to account for its impact on economic outcomes, with signals that some central banks are already aligning their activities with net zero.

"In the run-up to Cop26, this is the moment for central banks and



Bank of England's climate change chief, Sarah Breedon.

now."

The UK was the first G20 country to set net-zero targets for 2050, while UK finance minister Rishi Sunak's budget statement earlier this month included plans to change the remit of the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee.

Mr Sunak said the remit must "reflect the government's economic strategy for achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is also environmentally sustainable and consistent with the transition to a net-zero economy." In response, the BoE said it will provide more information on "adjusting the Corporate Bond Purchase Scheme to account for the climate impact of the issuers of the bonds we hold".

The move was welcomed by green campaigners who criticised the bank last year for including bonds issued by energy companies and other businesses with significant greenhouse gas emissions in asset purchase programmes designed to support the economy.

Mr Bailey defended that decision last year by saying prioritising Covid ahead of climate change was the "right response in the face of such an emergency."

Ms Breedon said while the BoE's corporate bond portfolio is "small" at £20 billion (\$27.89bn), the lender is "trying to develop an approach that if it were applied across the financial system as a whole ... it would drive the outcomes that we wish to see."

"It's not enough just to buy green, we need to support the economy wide transition to net zero," she said. The new report urged central banks including the BoE, the Bank of France, the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve System, to work together on their net-zero strategies.

WORLD

Capitalism and greed gave Britain its vaccine success, PM Johnson says

LONDON

CAPITALISM and greed gave Britain its success in vaccinating its population, Prime Minister Boris Johnson told lawmakers in a closed meeting, praising pharmaceutical companies for developing a shot in record time.

The comments, reported by The Sun newspaper, were made by Johnson dur-

ing a Zoom meeting and could inflame a row with the European Union which is considering a ban on vaccine exports to Britain.

"The reason we have the vaccine success is because of capitalism, because of greed my friends," The Sun newspaper quoted him as saying during a meeting with Conservative lawmakers to rally them to support coronavirus restric-



Prime Minister Boris

tions.

The Sun reported that he later added: "Actually I regret saying it" and that he asked lawmakers repeatedly to "forget I said that". An unidentified source told The Sun that he was not discussing the row with the EU.

Johnson's Downing Street office declined an immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

Asked about the comment, Home Secretary Priti Patel said she was not in the meeting.

"The prime minister always acknowledges the strong success that we've had in terms of the vaccine, not just the rollout, which is incredible, but also our ability as a country

to develop the vaccine, and the role that pharmaceutical companies and science and technology has played in that," Patel said.

Britain is gradually easing restrictions under a plan underpinned by the success of the national vaccination campaign, which has seen more than 28 million people receive a first vaccine dose.

On Tuesday, an EU official said the European Commission will extend EU powers to potentially block COVID-19 vaccine exports to Britain and other areas with much higher vaccination rates, and to cover instances of companies backloading contracted supplies.

Agencies

UN adopts China-sponsored resolution on rights cooperation

GENEVA

THE United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on Tuesday adopted a China-sponsored resolution, calling on the states and other stakeholders to engage in constructive and genuine dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights, based on universality, impartiality, objectivity, indivisibility, non-selectivity, non-politicization, equality and mutual respect.

The resolution, titled "Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights," also calls upon all states to uphold multilateralism and encourages other stakeholders, including international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to contribute actively to this endeavour.

It emphasizes that interna-

tional cooperation should be actively carried out to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries.

It also proposes that the Human Rights Council hold a meeting in a timely manner on the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations during and after the pandemic in order to better share experiences and good practices.

Introducing the draft resolution to the UN body, Chen Xu, head of the Chinese Mission to the UN in Geneva, said: "The pandemic once again shows that countries must step up consultation and cooperation, and uphold and practice multilateralism so as to effectively address global challenges, promote



Chen Xu, head of the Chinese Mission to the UN in Geneva

peace and development, and realize the goal of full enjoyment of human rights by all."

To this end, he explained, China and the resolution's co-spon-

sors including Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Syria, Venezuela and a number of other countries, called for upholding multilateralism, conducting constructive

dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect, strengthening human rights technical assistance and capacity-building, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and jointly building a community of shared future for human beings.

According to the Chinese diplomat, before presenting the draft resolution, China had, in a transparent, open and constructive manner, held two informal consultations, exchanged ideas with various parties and took on board reasonable suggestions for amendment.

"China's initiative on the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights is in line with the shared aspiration of the international community," Chen said.

Xinhua

Netanyahu's future unclear as partial results project Israeli election stalemate

JERUSALEM

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's prospects for retaining power looked uncertain yesterday after partial results in Israel's fourth national election in two years projected no clear path to victory.

Though an official result was still hours - or days - away, with about 88% of votes counted, it appeared that Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud, would have to cobble together an unlikely coalition that might include Jewish ultra-Orthodox, ultranationalist and Arab parties to secure another term.

Barring any surprises from the remaining uncounted votes, the electoral landscape raised the likelihood of yet another national ballot.

Tuesday's vote followed three other inconclusive elections in

which neither Netanyahu, 71, nor his centre-left opponents won a majority in the 120-seat parliament.

As it stands, Likud was projected to be the largest party with 30 seats, fewer than its current 36. The opposition centrist party Yesh Atid, which is headed by 57-year-old Yair Lapid, trailed with 17 seats.

Lapid had hoped there would be enough parties in the anti-Netanyahu bloc to oust the veteran leader who has been in power since 2009.

On social media, Netanyahu had claimed a "huge victory" over the groups trying to unseat him, though he did not repeat the claim in an election night speech at a Likud rally, saying only that its projected number of seats was "a great achievement" and that he hoped to form a "stable right-wing gov-



ernment".

HORSE-TRADING

It usually falls on the leader of the biggest party to try to form a government, and that could take weeks of back-room dealings. Netanyahu may have to woo Jewish religious parties who joined his previous gov-

ernments, as well as far-right parties, and possibly even a conservative Islamist Arab party that is teetering on the vote threshold and has not ruled out working with Netanyahu.

Another potential king-maker is Naftali Bennett, 48, a former defence minister who favours annexing parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. His hawkish Yamina party is projected to win seven seats, though Bennett, seemingly a natural partner, has yet to say he would back Netanyahu.

Should such a narrowly based, right-wing government emerge, it would likely be at loggerheads with the Democratic administration of U.S. President Joe Biden over issues such as Palestinian statehood and engagement by the United States with Israel's arch-enemy Iran over its nuclear pro-

gramme.

An alliance with Netanyahu's opponents from the centre-left seemed to be a political stretch.

Netanyahu had campaigned on his leadership credentials based on a world-beating COVID-19 vaccination rollout that has enabled nearly 50% of Israelis to receive two vaccine shots already.

But charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, which Netanyahu has denied in an ongoing corruption trial, as well as economic hardships during three nationwide coronavirus lockdowns, have weighed on his popularity.

Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, a non-partisan think-tank, said exit polls showed the country remained divided and that a fifth national election remained a real option.

Agencies

In Colorado, trauma from mass shootings lingers for generations

BOULDER

AN 80-year old man, a pair of soldiers in military garb and a 20-year-old student were among the stream of people braving cold mountain winds to lay flowers at one of the makeshift memorials for 10 victims of Colorado's latest mass shooting.

There have been so many shootings in this Western state in the 21 years since two students massacred 13 people before killing themselves at Columbine High School in Littleton that generations of residents have seen similar memorials erected for the dead.

"We have to re-evaluate our morals and values," said Mike Tucker, 80, a retired marketing executive. "We seem to have lost the ability to distinguish those."

His voice cracked and he blinked back tears as he lay a bouquet at Boulder Police headquarters in honor of Eric Talley, a policeman killed along with nine others in Monday's massacre.

Another memorial sprang up at the site of the shooting - a King Soopers grocery store - where people wept silently as they placed flowers and votive candles along a 100-yard stretch of chain-link fencing set up to contain the crime scene.

One placed a sign that said, "Pray for Boulder." Nearby, a man softly played the cello. FBI investigators swarmed around a black SUV in the parking lot.

Police on Tuesday identified 21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa of Arvada, Colorado as the suspect accused of killing shoppers and workers in a hail of bullets at the supermarket, marking the United States' second mass shooting in a week and adding to the state's tragic history of deadly massacres.

"We all share Boulder's pain - pain that hits home," John Hickenlooper, the state's former governor, now a U.S. senator wrote on Twitter on Tuesday, tolling the names of schools and locations where mass shootings occurred: "Columbine, Arapahoe, Platte Canyon, STEM School Highlands Ranch, Planned Parenthood, Aurora - and now Boulder."

The litany of places where Colorado's shooting attacks have occurred over the last two decades resonates deeply and personally for many residents. Columbine, the suburban high school, remains one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history. In Aurora, a gunman killed 12 people and wounded 50 at a screening of the Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises" in 2012. And this week, Boulder.

Littleton resident Jane Dougherty's children experienced their first lockdowns in elementary and middle school at campuses next to Columbine. Now her granddaughters hide in kindergarten lockdowns. In 2012, Dougherty's sister, Mary Sherlach, was murdered in the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

"People don't understand how many of us have been affected multiple times by gun violence," said Sandy Phillips, whose daughter, Jessica Ghawi, was murdered at "The Dark Knight Rises" showing. "I always say you're one bullet away."

One of her daughter's college professors - a woman who helped her students process their grief after Jessica's death - lost her own husband in the Boulder shooting, said Phillips, now an advocate for survivors of gun violence.

Another factor is copycat actors, said Dave Cullen, who has written books on mass shootings at Columbine and Marjory Stoneman High School in Florida.

"Having it happen in your community and over and over, it's just really real and plausible for you to try it too if you're so inclined," he said.

The epidemic of mass shootings and the trauma left in their wake are certainly not limited to Colorado.

"I don't think we're ahead of anybody else - it's a national problem," said Marilyn Whittaker, a retired school psychologist who lay flowers at the makeshift memorial at the Boulder police headquarters.

But in Colorado, where violence has occurred again and again, the trauma is palpable.

Dougherty looks around for an exit every time she's in a crowded public space. Her daughter is afraid to take her new baby out in public.



Stephanie Kaiser becomes emotional as she places flowers at the site of a mass shooting at King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado, U.S. (File photo)

China wins wide support from international society for its decision to improve electoral system of Hong Kong

BELARUS, on behalf of 70 countries, recently delivered a joint statement at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council to reiterate their support for China's practice of "one country, two systems" in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), emphasizing the special administrative region is an inseparable part of China.

Belarus said in the joint statement that Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs and should not be interfered by external forces. It also urged countries to respect China's sovereignty and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and other internal affairs of China. Another 20-plus countries also voiced support for China's position

and measures on Hong Kong-related issues in their respective remarks at the Human Rights Council.

Such voice of justice jointly made by developing countries fully proves that facts always speak louder than words, and justice will never fail to prevail.

Non-interference is an important principle of the UN Charter and a basic norm governing international relations. The HKSAR is an inalienable part of China and its affairs are China's internal affairs that brook no interference by any external countries, organizations or individuals.

However, some Western countries have repeatedly meddled in Hong Kong affairs, and blatantly supported and provided shelter for "anti-China"

forces inside Hong Kong.

Regarding the decision of the National People's Congress, the top legislative body of China, to improve the electoral system of the HKSAR, some Western politicians once again suppressed China under the banner of human rights. However, their acts are doomed to fail in front of international justice.

The electoral system of the HKSAR is China's local electoral system. The design, development and improvement of the system are China's internal affairs, and no foreign country has any right to interfere with them.

The Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots, as well as international personages that truly care about the stability and prosperity of the

special administrative region, believe that to improve the HKSAR's electoral system and implement the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" is what's needed to advance the cause of "one country, two systems" and safeguard the long-term stability of Hong Kong, as well as a constitutional power and responsibility of the NPC. It is constitutional, lawful and justified.

"We stressed that Hong Kong is an integral part of China," said Yuriy Ambrasevich, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations, adding that China has the sole authority to make any decisions to maintain Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability. The weird arguments by some Western politicians fully exposed

their double standards. Loyalty to the motherland is a basic political ethic of all public office holders and aspirants anywhere in the world. However, facing China's legal decision to improve of the HKSAR's electoral system and implement the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong," these Western politicians are extremely anxious, trying to unscrupulously lash out at the China with trumped-up charges.

The international society knows clearly why these Western politicians are reacting like this. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, executive director of Center for International Strategic Studies, Islamabad, noted that to comprehensively implement the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" is a correct and very

important measure adopted by China. However, some countries are making troubles for China out of the issues related to Hong Kong, he added.

A just cause gains wide support, and an unjust one enjoys none. Any attempt to impede justice will end up in vain.

Hong Kong will surely enjoy a brighter future, as China has an unswerving resolution to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests, and to ensure long-term stability and prosperity of the HKSAR and the stability of the "one country, two systems" principle. All powers in the world that support justice stand at the right side of history.

People's Daily

E-commerce, green energy to drive Africa's recovery

NAIROBI

DESPITE challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic has created new opportunities for Africa's digital economy to offset the big losses caused by the disease, a report on the impact of the coronavirus on e-commerce said.

The report, launched by the UN Economic Commission for Africa calls on the African Continental Free Trade Area, or AfCFTA, to create a harmonized protocol to accelerate the growth of the digital economy on the continent.

"This important protocol, if harnessed correctly, has the potential to coordinate and facilitate cross-border e-commerce, regulatory cooperation, digitalization as well as the promotion of electronic goods and services originating from within Africa," said the report entitled "COVID-19 Impact on E-Commerce: Africa" on Saturday.

The report said the growth of mobile technology, among other factors, built a fertile foundation that could be buttressed by developments in venture capital and funding, online payments, and logistics.

In his keynote address at the launch, Jean-Paul Adam, the director for technology, climate change and natural resources management at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said the commission was emphasizing recovery and a reset in responding to the pandemic, and that the youth were a critical part of this strategy.

"We need to reset our development framework for Africa to succeed and digitalization will play a key role in this. Young people are key agents of that reset."

Agencies

Putin dismisses criticism of Sputnik from abroad

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Monday dismissed criticism of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine from abroad, stressing that the battle against the pandemic should be depoliticized.



Putin also said he was about to get the job. "A vaccination is a voluntary choice of every person, their personal decision. By the way, I intend to do it tomorrow myself," Putin said in a meeting on Monday discussing increased production of the vaccines.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin might take one of three Russian-made vaccines on Tuesday.

The state-sponsored Sputnik V vaccine is yet to be approved for widespread use in Western countries, despite Moscow's insistence it is safe and effective, and the slow rollouts of vaccination campaigns in Europe.

"We are not imposing anything on anyone ... Whose interests are such people protecting of pharmaceutical companies or the interests of citizens of European countries?" Putin said in a televised meeting with health officials.

Russia registered Sputnik V in August, ahead of large-scale clinical trials, prompting worries among some over the fast-tracked process.

Reviews have subsequently been largely positive, with leading medical journal The Lancet publishing results showing it safe, with an efficacy of more than 90 percent.

"Despite the deliberate discrediting of our vaccine, more and more countries are showing interest in it," Putin said.

In order to achieve the common goal of a high level immunity against COVID-19 in Russia and elsewhere, joint efforts are needed, Putin said.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said at the meeting that experts from the European Medicines Agency will go to Russia on April 10 to review clinical trials conducted on the vaccine.

The Amsterdam-based agency this month launched a rolling review of Sputnik V, a key step toward its being approved as the first non-Western coronavirus jab to be used across the 27-nation bloc.

Australian PM apologizes for raising harassment allegation

AT a media conference on Tuesday, Morrison had said he would drive cultural change amid mounting public dissatisfaction over a series of allegations about the mistreatment of women, and conceded there had been unhappiness with his handling of the issue.



But during the event, he became involved in a terse exchange with a journalist from News Corp's Sky News and claimed the company was investigating a harassment complaint made by a female staffer.

News Corp Australasia's executive chairman, Michael Miller, rejected the claim outright. Newspapers of the media group, which are generally supportive of the conservative government, ran front pages criticizing the Prime Minister on Wednesday.

"I accept their account. I was wrong to raise it, the emotion of the moment is no excuse," Morrison wrote in a post to Facebook late on Tuesday.

The fracas derailed Morrison's attempt to repair his standing with voters, in particular women who have been angered by how the alleged rape of a young government staffer by another government staff member seemed to be initially seen as a more of political problem than a potential criminal case.

Agencies

Report rebukes claims on Xinjiang

By Cui Jia

PEOPLE from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region who choose to work outside the region are mainly influenced by high-paying job opportunities, their families and friends, and the social environment, according to a new research report.

Also, unlike the claims made by certain Western think tanks, they are entirely able to decide on the place and period of their work by their own free will, according to a report published on Tuesday by the Institute for Communication and Borderland Governance of Jinan University in Guangdong province.

The allegations that minorities in Xinjiang are subject to "forced labor" and the workers are "closely monitored, live in guarded dormitories and have their freedom of movement restricted" prompted the investigative research, in which 70 people from the Uygur, Kazak, Kyrgyz and Tajik ethnic groups who have been working for five companies in Guangdong province were interviewed.

The report said 36 percent of the interviewees were attracted by higher incomes while 24 percent were introduced to the jobs by family and friends. In addition, 13 percent of them chose to work outside Xinjiang so their children would have better educational resources, the



Local residents in Kuqa, China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, pose for pictures in a peach orchard, Feb. 24, 2021. File photo

report said.

The after-tax monthly income of 474 workers from Xinjiang in the five companies ranged from 4,500 yuan to 5,500 yuan (US\$691-US\$845). Their average annual income was about 60,120 yuan in 2020, while the average annual disposable income of Xinjiang's urban residents in 2020 was 34,838 yuan, and that of rural residents was 14,056 yuan. So it's not difficult to see that the annual income of the Xinjiang workers

in Guangdong was much higher than people in their hometowns, the report said.

Also, Xinjiang workers are free to leave their workplaces after work to meet with friends and go shopping and traveling. Their employers have no connection with "restriction of movement" or "surveillance" in any form. The workers also said they were able to change their employer according to their own needs and preferences, the report added.

During the interviews, the workers from Xinjiang also talked about their plans for the future. Though there were differences in their plans, the decisions of all were significantly influenced by their experiences of working away from Xinjiang.

The report said 45 percent of the workers hoped to continue working for their current employers in order to earn more money, while 31 percent planned to use their savings to start a business in their hometown in Xinjiang, and about 23 percent planned to permanently live in Guangdong, the report said.

Unfortunately, in the name of protecting human rights, the "forced labor" accusations and sanctions imposed on companies that employ Xinjiang workers have threatened the labor rights of Xinjiang people, the report added.

Xinhua

Container ship runs aground in Suez Canal causing traffic jam

SINGAPORE

SEVEN tug boats have come to the aid of a container ship that ran aground in the Suez Canal on Tuesday and blocked other vessels from transiting one of the world's most important waterways.

Shiptracking data on Refinitiv Eikon showed the tug boats surrounding the Rotterdam-bound vessel, which appeared in the tracking maps to still be grounded.

The 200,000-tonne vessel en route from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean ran aground at about 7:40 am (05:40 GMT) on Tuesday after the ship suffered a blackout, port agents GAC said on its website.

GAC said 15 other ships in the northbound convoy behind the vessel were detained at anchorages waiting for the canal to be cleared. A southbound convoy was also blocked, it said.

The container ship, the Ever Given, is 400 metres long, 59 metres wide, and can carry up to 20,000 20-foot equivalent (TEU) shipping containers.



This picture taken on Nov 17, 2019 shows a container ship sailing through Egypt's Suez Canal in the canal's central hub city of Ismailia.

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) could not be immediately reached for comment.

Nearly 19,000 ships, or an average of

51.5 ships per day, with a net tonnage of 1.17 billion tonnes passed through the canal during 2020, according to the SCA.

About 12 percent of the world trade

volume passes through the man-made canal, which is a major source of hard currency for Egypt.

Tankers have started to pile up near the Suez Canal as they wait for the container ship to be moved.

"This can have impact on freight very much. If it lasts longer, it can lead to shipment delays both ways," said a Singapore-based ship broker.

The impact on oil and gas flows will depend on how long it takes to clear the container ship, industry sources said.

"If it extends to, say, weeks it will of course disrupt all shipping in a major way," said Ashok Sharma, managing director of Singapore-based shipbroker BRS Baxi.

"But I think there should be sufficient resources available and pretty much in close proximity to deal with the situation quickly, in days rather than weeks," Sharma said.

Two LNG tankers are stuck at the canal unable to pass through and by Thursday may swell to six, a second Singapore-based shipbroker.

Agencies

China has confidence, strength to achieve bright economic prospects

CHINA, by setting a target of achieving a GDP growth of over 6 percent in its government work report this year, signals to the world its resolution and confidence to keep promoting economic recovery.

The target, without cap, aims to guarantee a lower limit. It will ensure economic growth while creating space for structural reform. The target also reflects the country's confidence and strength, as well as its adept skills of macro control.

From a long-term perspective, GDP is still considered as a major index in the draft of the 14th Five-Year Plan. It's because economic growth is a comprehensive indicator, and for a developing country like China, development is still a foundation for solving all problems.

Economic growth target can guide local governments, departments and fronts to work for the same and concrete goal, concentrate strength on reform and innovation, promote high-quality development, and form concerted efforts.

Besides, the 14th Five-Year Plan mainly adopts qualitative descriptions but contain quantitative methods, which enables the country to cope with risks and challenges in a more proactive manner with more composure. Besides, it can also make development more flexible, and is conducive to guiding parties involved to focus on improving development quality and efficiency.

China has the confidence and foundation to achieve an economic growth of over 6 percent this year. In the first two months, China's total goods imports and exports expanded 32.2 percent year on year, and its exports jumped 50.1 percent. The country's box office revenue hit 12.26 billion yuan (\$1.88 billion) last month, making the world's highest single month record in a single market. These figures indicated the great resilience, strong dynamism and bright prospects of the Chinese economy.

A GDP growth of over 6 percent is more than a quantity target. It also guides the country to optimize economic structure and shift development modes.



Container terminal of Liangyungang Port, east China's Jiangsu Province. File Photo

The government work report not only requested the country to draw up an action plan for carbon emissions to peak by 2030, but also raised a series of practical measures in advancing reforms in key areas and fostering new growth drivers. It will further promote China's sci-tech independence, stimulate the country's energy for innovation, and promote high-quality economic development.

The target of achieving a GDP growth of over 6 percent mirrors a people-centered development philosophy. It was because of effective pandemic control that China became the first major economy to have achieved positive growth. Behind such achievements were the principles of serving the people and relying on the people.

The target will greatly boost livelihood and benefit millions of households. To ensure livelihood construction has become a consensus of NPC deputies and CPPCC members. This year's government work report is like a task list that covers every aspect of livelihood, from education to health care and elderly care.

Seven out of the 20 major indicators in the draft outline for the 14th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development and Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035 are about livelihood. By bringing more tangible benefits to its people, China will not only better realize justice and equity in its economic growth, but also build more sustainable domestic demand.

It is believed that China will achieve a better performance than a GDP growth of over 6 percent this year, laying a solid foundation for its 14th Five-Year Plan. In the long run, the country is also expected to maintain steady and long-term economic development, and realize high-quality development while maintaining reasonable growth.

People's Daily

World's biggest elephant herd opened for hunters to kill 287

BY BLOOMBERG

BOTSWANA is offering rights to shoot 287 elephants as the southern African country, which has the world's biggest population of the animals, tries to breathe life into a hunting industry stalled by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The hunting season will begin April 6, with licenses to kill leopards, zebras and buffaloes also on sale, according to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. The restart of hunting in Botswana last year, after a ban imposed by former President Ian Khama in 2014 was lifted, was largely thwarted by restrictions associated with the coronavirus.

With the disease still raging across large parts of the world, including southern Africa, hunting operators will face an uphill battle to maximize earnings. Most hunters who visit the region traditionally come from the US, while a smaller number come from Spain, Eastern Europe and Russia.

The restart of hunting in Botswana last year, after a ban imposed by former President Ian Khama in 2014 was lifted, was largely thwarted by restrictions associated with the coronavirus.

"International clients such as those from the U.S. can come in under difficult conditions, but several European Union countries have lockdowns in place preventing travel to Botswana," Debbie Peake, a spokeswoman for the Botswana Wildlife Producers Association, which includes hunt operators among its members, said by phone. "The industry has put in place the strictest protocols in camps and among staff to protect clients."

Khama's successor, Mokgweetsi Masisi, lifted the suspension, enraging conservationists who said the move would harm the \$2 billion per annum photo safari industry. The government argued that the country's 130,000 elephants were destroying crops and occasionally trampling villagers and their numbers needed to be kept in check.

Botswana's neighbors including South Africa and Zimbabwe allow elephant hunting.

Xinhua



SPORT



Yanga Princesses' head coach, Edna Lema.

Yanga Princesses still in Women's Premier League title race - coach

By correspondents Ismail Tano & Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA Princesses' head coach, Edna Lema, has revealed that so far there is still no certainty in the Women's Premier League title quest, despite the one-point difference between her side and league leaders Simba Queens.

Yanga Princesses lost the league's lead after conceding a 3-0 defeat to Simba Queens in a clash which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam early this month.

Simba Queens lead the standings with 39 points, with Yanga Princesses placed second with 38 points after taking part in 15 games.

Edna said: "My team still have high hopes of doing well this season and possibly winning the Women's Premier League title despite the fact that we are behind by a point with the Simba Queens."

She disclosed: "One point in football is not much and anything can happen so every team should play and win their matches, as for the championship, the league's climax will sort it out."

"We still have a chance to do well and achieve our goal of winning the championship so our fans should continue to support us and hope."

According to FIFA data from a 2019 survey, women account for just seven percent of licensed football coaches worldwide.

Tanzania's Edna is one of a handful of female football coaches. She is currently the assistant coach of Twiga Stars, which is the country's senior national women's soccer team. Yanga Princesses have never beaten the Women Premier League's defending champions, Simba Queens, who won the

title last season.

Simba Queens are standing up tall in all four games they played against Yanga Princesses.

Edna opened up about her football journey as she never thought she would one day become a football coach.

Discouragement, few opportunities, and no female role models made her path a difficult one. She credits her confidence and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for where she is now.

She stated: "I can say they are behind my success through the immense support they continue to give me to ensure I reach my goals."

This is because when you talk of the three female coaches in the country Edna Lema's name is one of them so I am grateful to TFF and I believe they have good plans for me," The Gaffer submits.

Edna has been coaching the national women U-17 team for four years now.

Female coaches still face skepticism from some Tanzanian fans but many are supportive.

She noted: "They are quite capable. If they attend more courses they will do even better."

Even if soccer followers look at their performance, female teams did well in various competitions last year and the U-17 team went on to COSAFA finals and won under Edna's tutelage.

Globally, only a handful of female coaches have crossed over to coach men's teams.

Edna is optimistic that she may be the first to do so in Tanzanian football.

She stated: "So I want to see myself one day train a male team at whatever level. To see that I can successfully execute what I envision as I face the men."

With every coaching session, Edna hopes and prays for a future that has more women coaching the game she loves.

Cheka set to feature in non-title fight next month

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER being out of action for more than two years, Tanzania's veteran professional pugilist, Francis Cheka, is expected to trade punches with compatriot, Shaban Kaoneka, in Arusha on April 28.

Cheka had been out of the ring since December 26, 2018 when he lost by Knockout (KO) to compatriot, Abdallah Pazi.

The Morogoro-based pugilist then hardly stepped into the ring and he decided to relocate to Mozambique.

He has now started training to prepare for the coming fight.

"I'm back in boxing and I believe I will have more years to be seen in the ring," the veteran pugilist noted.

In the next month's bout, Cheka will fight against Kaoneka, the only boxer in the country to ever beat Hassan Mwakinyo.

Kaoneka, nevertheless, was beaten by Suleiman Kidunda in a fight, which took place at Mlimani City Hall in Dar es Salaam.

Cheka noted: "It looks like he is not a less competent boxer, he has a good record and history in professional boxing, I've started training to make sure I do well and get back to

boxing."

"My fans have been asking me why I'm not coming back, I decided to stay away and regroup, but now I'm back with new strength," Cheka, who will now be fighting in Lightweight division, stated.

The former World Boxing Federation (WBF) Super Middleweight champion comes from a family, which is involved in boxing, given his younger brother, Cosmas, is also a boxer who holds Universal Boxing Organization (UBO) International Super Lightweight title.

The 38-year old Cheka, who hopes to make his return to boxing next month, has participated in 44 bouts, winning 32 by KO, losing 10 and two fights were declared draw.

His opponent, Kaoneka, has taken part in 30 bouts, winning eight with five wins being KOs, losing 15 bouts and seven bouts were declared draw.

Kaoneka did not win for two years from 2018 to 2019 with lack of boxing event moreover contributing to the situation.

The pugilist returned to winning ways in 2020, beating Kassim Somboko via Technical Knockout (TKO) on February 6. Kaoneka made his debut on May 14, 2016 against Mwakinyo.

SPORTS

The event and the art: When tragic moments bring about good funeral, memorable songs



Dar es Salaam's Kijitonyama choir performs at an occasion for paying last respect to the body of Tanzania's fifth phase President, John Pombe Magufuli, at Uhuru Stadium in the city last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THE PAST week has seen an outpouring of grief all over the country and plenty of creativity among artists on the life and works of the late national leader, John Magufuli.

The more noticeable comparisons relate to emotions on the death of founder president Julius Nyerere and distantly, one time Prime Minister Edward Sokoine who also died in office.

Less remarkable comparisons have been made on the level of artistic creativity during this event and the death of Mwalimu Nyerere in 1999, who obviously wasn't the sitting president but had an incomparable grip on the hearts of the broad masses of the people.

That is why comparisons are fitting in the current period as well, as the intensity of emotions and public show of pain has been incomparable with anything in the past, where again the only possible refrain was the death of the founder president more than 20 years ago.

One point that caught attentions of pundits in various situations was the intensity of expression of emotions in the wake of the death of the founder president on October 14, 1999, which has strictly speaking not been replicated even during this period.

The issue is to figure out what is missing, if it is the artistry that is lacking or the event doesn't square up.

A range of pundits maintains that the art is defective or below what would have been aspired for, pointing out the late Captain John Komba, leader of Tanzania One Theatre (TOT) which created memorable songs after the

death of Mwalimu.

The view expressed in that regard is that Capt Komba hasn't been replaced by any comparable artist, in which case the gap is visible in the sort of songs that have been compiled in the wake of the fifth phase president.

The other view doubts that position, affirming that it is an event that creates the necessary creative energy, making visible or available the sources of attaining that creativity.

One line of reasoning favoured by the first line of thinking is that Capt Komba was for instance quite knowledgeable in the funeral songs of his Ngoni tribesmen in Ruvuma region, thus he would conduct a thematic adaptation from old Ngoni funeral praise singing to the new situation.

His songs on the death of Mwalimu were such an epic that they reminded a number of 'Bible thumpers' what the prophet Ezekiel is told in chapter 43 of his book, at the beginning, that funeral songs of Israelis for their kings when they die were annoying to divinity.

It is more or less what Capt Komba created, that Tanzania was now orphaned.

There are various ways of crossing the limits of faith when composing funeral songs, but the nature of the trespass is in each instance distinctive thematically, in what it realistically says of the deceased leader.

The late TOT superstar crossed the limit by making Mwalimu virtually a household father of the people of this country, whereas that rank is reserved to divinity, in which case the passing away of the leader is a moment of sorrow and an aspect of thanksgiving for the blessing of the life of the departed leader.

By and large these limits haven't been crossed this time but a semblance of spiritual indiscipline was heard too. A well known Bongo Flava rapper is said to have declared - and later apologised - that he was angry with divinity for having 'killed' the departed leader, an atrocity to anyone who has faith, but the rapper may have imagined he was being patriotic.

This sort of declaration shows the personal anger - even with the highest possible entity that controls fate - in which case it is testimony that he believes those listening to him will accept that this death was

totally unwarranted, and believes he can declare even to divinity that sort of testimony, which is in actual fact gross indiscipline.

'My ways are not thine ways, saith the Lord' is what the prophet Isaiah was told (ch. 55 line 8); soon they will know what ends this has served.

Back to the issue on the special creativity of Capt Komba, namely that his acute sense of creativity was tied up with the limits of extrapolation of the significance of that event, and the words were penetrating because of this element as well.

Otherwise as merely an adaptation of tribal funeral lyrics, why should there not be at least one or two other artists at this period who know something about rites of praising the departed in this or that language, customary practice?

The reason isn't a deficit of art but of blessings, that no inspiration reached anyone as to reaching such limits in this instance, and thus relatively mundane creations were heard on the airwaves, with some penetrating creations from new artists like 'Nandy', etc.

Sports associations express needs to President Samia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AS Tanzania mourns the loss of former President, John Pombe Magufuli, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has brought back hope in the sports family which has expressed its trust in the country's new leader.

Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta)'s Secretary General, Judith Ilunda, states although there are many sports in the country that are still down, she believes that President Samia's administration will take action to elevate sports which are experiencing slow progress.

Judith stated: "Most importantly they should look after our national teams so that they can participate in international competitions, Chaneta promises to do well under the government supervision."

"As the late President Magufuli said now he is gracing the sports industry, we also believe in his successor, we pray for our mother in her responsibilities," she noted.

Innocent Mallya, Tanzania Judo Association's Secretary General, says it is mainly Samia's government's commitment to support national teams.

"We ask the government to look after us, but it should also focus on improving stadiums as most of the games in the country are in indoor sports, we ask our government under Mama Samia to remember other games by building a modern stadium," he disclosed.



Denis Makoi, Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA)'s chairman, says the association has high hopes for President Samia, but he advised the administration to come up with a good policy that will have a positive impact on the sector.

He noted: "Sports are not only about teams winning but also encouraging and knowing how many citizens participate in sports."

He disclosed: "The nation should have more people participating in sports, sports should be improved in schools, there should be adequate infrastructure,

professionals, equipment and so on, let's not just look at how the team wins."

"That responsibility remains with the national associations and federations, the Government should focus on developing the sports sector in its breadth," the TTA official added.

Athlete Alphonse Simbu said as he and fellow athletes promise to honour the late President Magufuli by doing well at the Olympics games this year.

"I had a dream of winning an Olympic medal and one day handing it over to President Magufuli, but God has taken him away before I fulfilled my dream, but I promise to do the same for Mama Samia," Simbu, who is one of athletes that will represent the country at the July Olympics in Japan, noted.

Simbu pointed out the needs of the athletes representing the country internationally are well known so they are confident Mama Samia's government will be with them.

He promised to fight to bring fame to the country.

Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF)'s president, Phares Magesa, noted construction of courts is the federation's main request to the government.

"During Magufuli's reign, many regions were encouraged to build basketball stadiums, so we believe that enthusiasm will be maintained and our government will back other sports, including basketball, to fulfil the construction of the National Indoor Stadium," he said.

Southgate spoiled for choice as 'home' Euro 2020 awaits for England

LONDON

THREE World Cup qualifiers against San Marino, Albania and Poland over the next week provide England manager Gareth Southgate with his final chance to experiment before he names his squad for the delayed Euro 2020.

The Three Lions will enjoy home advantage for most of the Euro as they aim to end a 55-year wait to win a major international tournament.

Wembley host all three of their group games against Croatia, Scotland and the Czech Republic, as well as both semi-finals and the final.

Fans could even be back in stadiums by June and July to cheer Southgate's men on thanks to the speed of the UK's coronavirus vaccination roll out.

The pressure is on the England boss to build on a surprise run to the World Cup semi-finals in 2018, especially given the rich resources he now has to choose from.

AFP Sport looks at the big decisions that await Southgate in the coming months.

Goalkeeper

One of the few areas where England are not blessed with a world class talent is in goal.

Jordan Pickford has retained his status as number one despite a number of costly errors for Everton.

However, Pickford is absent this week due to a rib injury, handing Burnley's Nick Pope his long-awaited chance to prove himself in competitive games at international level.

Pope has proven himself to be a reliable Premier League shot-stopper, but his distribution has counted against him.

Dean Henderson could therefore emerge as Pickford's challenger. The 24-year-old has started Manchester United's last seven games, but may lose his place when David De Gea returns from paternity leave after the international break.

Defence

Southgate will be judged not only on what personnel he picks, but what system.

The former Middlesbrough boss largely used three at the back in Euro 2020 qualifying, but there have been calls for him to find space for more of his attacking talent.

A return to form from United's Luke Shaw and Manchester City's John Stones helps solve two problem positions should Southgate

revert to a back four.

Shaw will challenge Chelsea's Ben Chilwell at left-back, while Stones is expected to start alongside Harry Maguire at centre-back.

The depth of talent at right-back means Trent Alexander-Arnold has been dropped for his dip in form for Liverpool after an outstanding season in 2019/20.

Reece James will battle the more experienced Kieran Trippier and Kyle Walker for that role.

Midfield

Despite the absence of Jack Grealish and James Maddison due to injury, Southgate's latest squad is still blessed with an array of young creative talent.

Phil Foden, Mason Mount and Jude Bellingham will be looking to cement their places in the squad for the summer.

At 28, Jesse Lingard is now one of the older heads in the squad and has earned a recall after a bright start to a loan spell at West Ham.

But a lack of game time at Tottenham looks set to end Dele Alli's chances of an international return.

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson faces a race against time to prove his fitness for Euro 2020 after groin surgery.

West Ham's Declan Rice and Calvin Phillips of Leeds are the two holding midfielders in pole position if Henderson fails to make it.

Forwards

Captain Harry Kane and Raheem Sterling have been England's reliable source of goals since the World Cup.

Fitness permitting, both seem guaranteed to start the Euro with the final place in the front three coming down to battle between Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho.

There is fierce competition just to make the squad in the front line.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin's prolific season for Everton has seen him edge ahead as the reserve for Kane at number nine.

Bukayo Saka is included in the latest squad, ahead of Mason Greenwood and Callum Hudson-Odoi, who were named in the Under-21 squad for the group stages of their own European Championship this month.

Leicester's Harvey Barnes is also a contender as only a knee injury robbed him of a call-up this month.

AFP

Beckham: Man United's Solskjaer doing 'incredible' job

LONDON

DAVID Beckham has told ESPN that his former Manchester United teammate Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is doing an "incredible job" at Old Trafford.

Beckham and Solskjaer enjoyed seven successful years together at United between 1996 and 2003, winning five Premier League titles, the Champions League and an FA Cup.

United are second in the league this season and on course to record back-to-back top three finishes for the first time since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

Solskjaer also faced criticism this season after the club were dumped out of the Champions League in the group stages and suffered a dip in form after going top of the table in January, but Beckham believes the Norwegian is the right man for the job.

"I've seen some of the criticism but I suppose when you are a manager of Man United when they've had success over the years that they've had, there was always going to be a point where people get criticised, whether it's the players, whether it's the owners, whether it's the manager," he told ESPN in an exclusive interview.

"Ole's been in the game long enough to be able to take any kind

of criticism. He's very quiet, he gets on with his job, and I think he's done an incredible job down at United.

"The results are starting to show that. Hopefully it continues because the fans love Ole, we all love Ole and we all want him to do well. So when the criticism comes, he's one person that can take it."

Inter Miami owner Beckham also said that England can win the rescheduled European Championship this summer.

Euro 2020 is set to go ahead as planned in June after the tournament was postponed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the former England captain is confident Gareth Southgate's side can lift the trophy for the first time.

"Over the years, I've always done the same thing, even when I was playing for England and we were going into World Cups and European Championship," Beckham added.

"Whenever anyone said to me: 'OK are we going to win?' I'd always say yeah. Whether we did or we didn't, I'm always proud of my country and I'm proud obviously of the amount of times I've played for England and captained England, the European Championships and World Cups I've played in so I'm always gonna say yeah, we'll win." (Agencies)

Can Barcelona afford to sign Haaland? Probably not, but they can't afford not to



Erling Haaland

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

LET'S imagine for the sake of argument that while Erling Haaland is not on the transfer market, his contract is definitely available. He has a queue of suitors and Borussia Dortmund stand to triple their investment a year ahead of the Norway forward's reported €75 million release clause kicking in, making him available to sign for a lower set price.

Let's also admit, to advance things, that while Barcelona might have left it too late to become Spanish champions (we shall see in what promises to be an excruciatingly tight title run-in) they are unquestionably playing the best football in La Liga right now. Now let me assure you that despite the global debt at Camp Nou being more than €1.1 billion (just roll that figure around your brain for a moment or so), president Joan Laporta is desperately keen to sign this phenomenon of a kid who very few teams seem to know how to shut down and whose goal-scoring stats, so far, are historically good.

Laporta not only soared to victory in the recent Barcelona presidential elections because of the stellar achievements of his first Camp Nou reign, but on the promise of greatness awaiting in the near future. The first couple of times he produced this trick as a new president of the Catalan club, the results were Ronaldinho and Samuel Eto'o. Two of the greatest footballers, the biggest characters and the most important figures in the entire history of Laporta's club.

One of the things that the present situation has in common with 2004 and 2005, when the Brazilian World Cup winner and the Cameroon Olympic gold medalist were signed, was that each was betrothed to someone else.

Ronaldinho's deal to move from Paris Saint-Germain to Manchester United was verbally agreed between the two clubs' senior executives but, still, he ended up winning the Ballon d'Or, the Spanish title and the Champions League at Barcelona -- not in Old Trafford red.

Eto'o's playing rights were split between Mallorca and Real Madrid. I interviewed him once and he considered himself to have won the Champions League with Los Blancos, despite having made no starts and enjoying a total of 53 minutes on the pitch during their 1999-2000 tournament win -- in fact, he listed it as one of the five proudest achievements of his career.

In theory, this maverick, exhausting, scintillating, born winner was due to play out the rest of his career for Florentino Perez's club, and what an absolutely dynamite footballer he would have been for Madrid. But, somehow, Laporta (and his vice-president Sandro Rosell) managed to persuade Perez that the wiser move would be to take the club's minor share of the purchase price (€24m)

and move on. What a mistake.

Just by coincidence, the third club president involved in those 2005 negotiations was Mallorca's Mateu Alemany, who Laporta has said he wants to become Barcelona's new director of football. So far, so good.

The reason that Laporta is desperate to repeat those two stunning rabbit-from-the-hat pieces of magic is that Haaland, right now, looks like a once-in-a-lifetime force of nature. Brutally strong, immensely quick, tall, aggressive and blessed with what looks like an infallible ability to finish every kind of opportunity (from the feasible to the unbelievable), this is the kind of striker you either try to sign or you fear living in lifelong regret.

That kind of regret is something Barcelona have already had to suffer, given that they turned down the chance to sign Cristiano Ronaldo from Sporting Lisbon and chose Ricardo Quaresima instead. Just imagine the entire history of Ronaldo and Lionel Messi being rewritten from the beginning, with the pair growing up at the same club.

Back to the present day.

Stranger things have happened than it turning out that Dortmund's own director of football, Michael Zorc, is telling the stone-cold truth when he says that Haaland will be playing for the Yellow and Black next season. Or than the Leeds-born 20-year-old, who just became the fastest and youngest to score 20 goals in Champions League history, deciding that he owes some youthful loyalty to Dortmund and opting to stay.

But, football being as it is, money and ambition usually talk loudest. Which is why even though Laporta is mad keen on being able to say the phrase: "Leo Messi, meet Erling Haaland ... Erling, meet the greatest footballer who ever lived," when introducing the new teammates to one another, there's a brutal process lying in wait if the deal is to be made.

At very minimum Real Madrid, not to mention Liverpool, Manchester City and Chelsea, are determined to win a player who is so devastatingly difficult to face that he gives defenders nightmares several weeks before actually having to play against him. Each of those clubs has distinctly better financial firepower than Barcelona, a less pungent debt situation and can offer Haaland a bunch of things on and off the pitch that make them premium contenders for his signa-

ture.

Nor is it to be forgotten that when Barcelona signed Ousmane Dembele from the Westphalian club for around €105m in 2017, they hugely annoyed Zorc and his board of directors by seeming to approve of the player going on strike so that he'd be granted his move to Catalunya. Matters like that tend not to be forgotten.

But, of course, the fact that Madrid like the idea of signing Haaland is just catnip to Laporta. Imagine his frisson of *schadenfreude* if he could capture the player who threatens to dominate the scoring scene for the next 10 years, thereby convincing Messi to stay on at Camp Nou and thwarting Perez into the bargain. It's enough to make one throw caution to the wind and abandon all financial prudence. You can see his case, can't you?

Even though his immediate priorities are to pay off the debt in delayed wages for his players (which must, by now, amount to nearly €100m), to pay off or persuade creditors owed another couple of hundred million to be patient, and convince Messi to stay, Laporta has always been the guy who wants everything. Immediately. No arguments.

But is there an argument, now, for Laporta to show self-restraint, to accept that time and tide are against him and that he needs to grit his teeth and not even put Barcelona in the race for Haaland. To raise funds in order to become competitive for that high-stakes game, Laporta wouldn't simply need another high-interest investment fund loan, on top of all those vast debts he's inherited, he'd have to move Philippe Coutinho on (for a much-reduced fee compared to the €160m they spent to land him) plus one of Dembele and Antoine Griezmann, the latter of whom was not cheap either when signed for €120m from Atletico Madrid.

Looking at Barcelona and their current form, is that the right option? Both Frenchmen have shown character and maturity to emerge this season as key players for the club and teammates who now understand and dovetail with Messi.

During the first 14 domestic matches of Ronald Koeman's reign, the Blaugrana were barely scoring at a rate of two goals per game. Since then, the following 14 La Liga matches have yielded scorelines, and no defeats, that shows a goal

average touching three per match.

Moreover, it's not just that Messi, Griezmann, Dembele, Martin Braithwaite and others are hitting the net, there's the small matter of Ansu Fati's return to action to factor in. We live in a butterfly-memory era of world football, and some may have forgotten that Ansu is another standout, mould-breaking talent. He's already the youngest this-that-and-the-next-thing for both club and country, and he's the youngest ever scorer in the Champions League. Ansu is different from Haaland in so many ways, but united with the Norwegian in possessing something truly exceptional for which Barcelona haven't had to pay €160m.

Right now Barcelona play with verve, they are keeping the ball better, using Koeman's version of 3-5-2 to stretch and penetrate opposition and, in Paris a few days ago, there was the hint that the Champions League buffetings they were taking at the hands of PSG, Juventus, Liverpool and AS Roma might be a thing of the past.

Compared to the forward positions, there's little doubt that Barcelona require a first-class central defender, proper high-quality cover at left-back or that they should be trying to sign a robust, clever, athletically and mentally sharp central midfielder who can begin to mimic the best of Sergio Busquets.

What with these tasks and the general need to repay huge debts while generating new revenue in order to draw Barcelona back from the financial precipice, would you be frantically chasing Dortmund, Haaland and his famously avaricious agent Mino Raiola with a €160m bank draft? Or would you be willing to watch a generational talent turn up at Real Madrid and torture you, in football terms, for the next handful of seasons because there's more important Camp Nou housekeeping to see to first?

Choose honestly, write your answer down on a piece of paper to review in five or six years' time to see whether your decision holds up to review. Then admit to yourself that, come what may, Laporta will pursue the signing of Haaland until either: he joins Messi at Barcelona or is presented as a new player at Madrid, Bayern Munich, Manchester City, Chelsea, Liverpool or wherever.

Because that's the way Laporta, and almost every big-club president, rolls. Let battle commence.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Can Barca afford to sign Haaland?

Probably not, but they can't afford not to

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi

Yanga forwards will improve, says coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi, has said that all of the outfit's forwards will return to their best and perform well in their upcoming matches.

Midfielder, Deus Kaseke, is currently Yanga's top goal scorer, while the outfit's forwards, Michael Sarpong and Yacouba Songne, have scored four goals apiece.

Forward Ditram Nchimbi has one assist while fellow strikers, Waziri Junior and Fiston Abdulrazack, have scored one goal apiece for the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) leaders.

A total of 36 goals have been scored by the outfit after taking part in 23 matches for the 2020/21 season.

The outfit's former head coach, Cedrik Kaze, was sacked on March 7 for what was described as a team's poor performance.

Kaze made it clear that the biggest problem was in the offensive line, which was struggling to score.

Mwambusi has thus made it clear that he is starting to work on the weakness.

The tactician stated: "Team preparation is implemented in every area, including scoring, which has been a major problem for the players."

"I believe that through the practice we are doing everyone will be ready to show their potential and will build confidence in our future matches," he said.

Mwambusi joined Yanga earlier this season as an assistant to Zlatko Krmpotic, who was later sacked and was replaced by Kaze.

Prior to that, Mwambusi, the former Mbeya City FC head coach, had been Yanga's assistant coach about three times.

In this season Mwambusi served as an assistant coach at Yanga in 18 league games and he helped them win 13 games while posting draw in five games.

Yanga recently offloaded their technical bench, led by Kaze, who had served the team for 142 days.

Kaze steered Yanga to clinching this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament, leaving the club leading the VPL standing with 45 points.

Other members of the outfit's technical bench, who were fired, include Kaze's assistants, Nizar Khalfan, Edem Mortotsi and goalkeepers' coach Vladimir Niyonkuru, and club security officer, Mussa Mahundi.

Wheelchair Tennis Association to organise Magufuli Open tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Wheelchair Tennis Association's officials say they will hold a tournament, known as 'Magufuli Open', to honour the departed President for his sound and inclusive policies.

The newly formed association's Secretary General, Riziki Salum, said they are saddened by the death of President Magufuli and, to honour him, they have suspended all wheelchair tennis activities in the country.

The tactician noted they will, later this year, host a tournament to remember the President.

He said they are saddened by the untimely death of President Magufuli, adding the association was formed during the reign of the departed President hence the need to honour him with a tournament.

He noted: "President Magufuli was an action-oriented leader, he will be remembered for ages to come, he was a president of all the people, no wonder many people are flocking to pay last respect to his body."

"We were preparing for the Kenya Open, which will take place in May, but we have suspended all activities," he disclosed.

He stated: "We always have annual BQ Open Championship, which is a flagship event for wheelchair tennis, this year it will be named Magufuli Open, if all goes well the tournament will be an annual event, the departed did a lot for the country."

"He had sound and inclusive policies, the best way to honour and remember him is to host a tournament in his name," he said.

During Magufuli's reign, Tanzania's wheelchair tennis team competed at two BNP Paribas tournaments in 2018 and 2020.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is the International Tennis Federation (ITF)'s flagship event for wheelchair tennis. Teams compete at the event through qualification at zonal level.

The body of President John Pombe Magufuli will be laid to rest in Chato tomorrow.

Ten wheelchair tennis players were attending preparations for the Kenya Open Championship which is slated for May 26-28.

The national wheelchair tennis team are expected depart for Kenya on May 23. The contingent will consist of six boys, four girls and two officials.

In a previous interview, Salum appealed to well-wishers to help the association with 4.6m/- which will be used for meeting transport costs, accommodation and other expenses.

The Kenya Open Championship always attracts many players from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and hosts Kenya.

Tanzania's national wheelchair tennis team have in the past competed at BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Turkey and Italy.

Taifa Stars face Equatorial Guinea in crunch AFCON qualifiers' match



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Nairobi recently to shape up for 2021 Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, this afternoon play unpredictable Equatorial Guinea in Group J tie of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers at Estadio de Malabo in Malabo.

Taifa Stars have four points from three games and, if they want to keep their quest for booking a place in the AFCON finals live, today's match is a must-win game for them.

Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, said he is happy with the morale in his camp and the availability of all his players.

The Dane said this afternoon is a defining moment in their quest to keep alive their 2022 Cameroon AFCON finals' qualification.

He said he is looking forward to the game which is very crucial to his side's ambitions of qualifying for the AFCON finals two times in a row.

"The squad is ready for the game against Equatorial Guinea, it will not be an easy game but we are prepared,

our aim remains the same, qualifying for AFCON finals," he said.

Poulsen noted the availability of all foreign-based players is a boost for the team against Equatorial Guinea and Libya.

Taifa Stars were camping in Kenya for about two weeks, where they played a build-up match against the hosts, which ended with the former losing 2-1.

Four days after the Equatorial Guinea game, Taifa Stars will host Libya in the qualifiers' clash, aiming at winning and joining Tunisia, who have already qualified from the group.

With all his players at his disposal, the Danish coach will be spoilt for choice and knowing that he will face a side largely made up of performers plying their trade in Spain, Italy and Belgium, he must advice Taifa Stars to exercise caution while trying to balance attacking and keeping opponents at bay.

Taifa Stars' players include Aishi Manula, Juma Kaseja, Metacha Mnata, Shomari Kapombe, Kennedy Juma, Mohammed Hussein, Hassan Dilunga, Mzamiru Yasin, Jonas Mkude, John Bocco, Himid Mao, Salum Aboubakar, Iddy Selemani 'Nado', Shaban Chilunda, Deus Kaseke and Abdul Suleiman.

Others are Israel Mwenda, Mbwana Samatta, Simon Msuva, Bakari Mwangeto, Kelvin Yondani, Laurent Alfred, Nickson Kibabage, David Bryson, Yasin Mustapha and Faisal Salum.

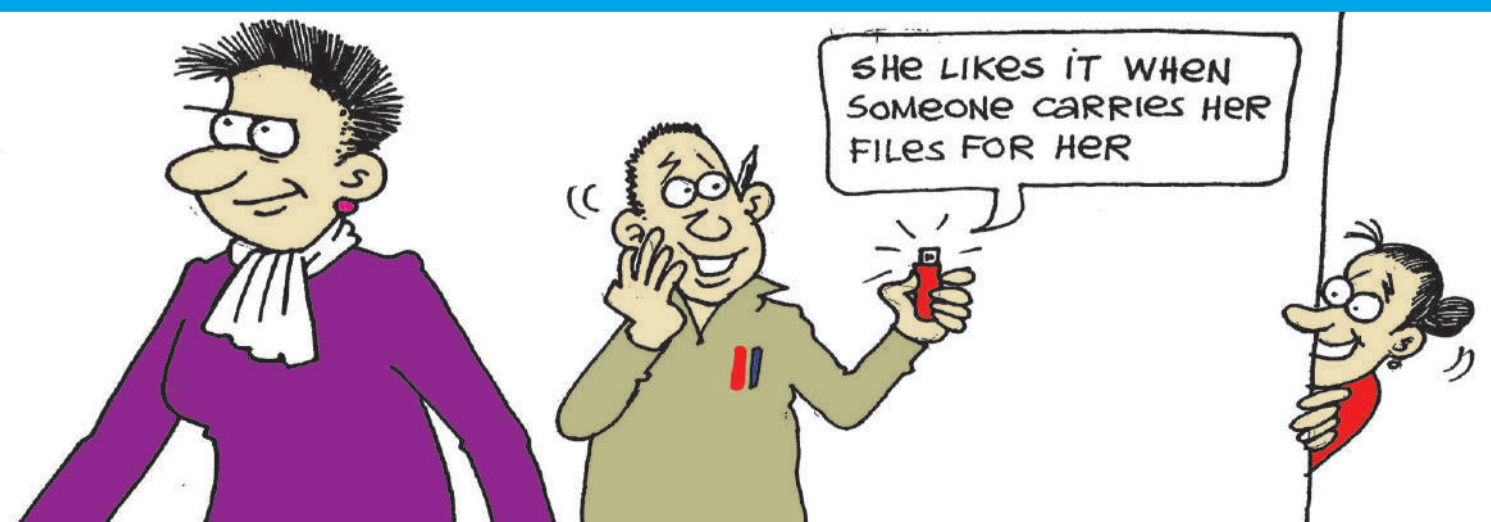
Taifa Stars are placed third in Group J with four points while Equatorial Guinea have six points and sit third in the group.

The last time the two teams met, Taifa Stars won courtesy of goals scored by Simon Msuva and Salum Abubakar, while the visitors' goal was netted by Pedro Obiang.

“

I believe that through the practice we are doing everyone will be ready to show their potential and will build confidence in our future matches

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

DADAZ. A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastafrika 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