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ADDIS ABABA

LEADERS of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African liaison bloc, have urged the international community to come together to ensure fair, equitable and timely distribution of coronavirus vaccines.

Focusing on the need for particular emphasis on addressing the needs of African countries, the leaders made the urgent call at the 38th Extraordinary Assembly of IGAD Heads of State and Government, late Sunday in Djibouti.

"Noting that the COVID-19 vaccine is a public good, the Summit emphasized the need for the international community to come together to ensure fair, equitable and timely distribution of a safe and affordable

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Connecting 2,270 villages to power grid starts February

By Guardian Reporter



Dar es Salaam residents look at artificial Christmas trees along Congo Street displayed for customers to use in decorating their houses as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

POWER connection for 2,270 villages to the main power grid starts early February, in a move geared to stimulate income generating activities and to reduce poverty levels amongst the rural population.

Energy Minister Dr Medard Kalemani said in a televised interview on Sunday that contractors under the Rural Energy Agency (REA) will soon be dispatched across the country to start executing power projects so that all villages countrywide are connected to the main grid.

The government has so far managed to connect to grid power nearly 10,000 villages out of the 12,280 registered villagers across the country, he stated, noting further that the remaining 2,270 villages will be connected to the main grid by December 2022.

Customers in rural areas are required to pay 27,000/- to be connected, he stated.

Inaugurating the 12th Parliament last month, President John Magufuli said that the government had facilitated power connection to 9,570 villages in the past five years, saying only around 2,018 out of 12,228 villages registered countrywide had access to electricity when he took office late 2015.

Electricity users connected to the main grid has reached over 2.766m,



The government established REA to facilitate provision of affordable electricity as part of efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

up from 1.473m five years earlier, an increase of 1.293m new connections, he said, noting that various efforts are ongoing to ensure enough power generation enabling the establishment of the industries across the country.

Dr Magufuli mentioned projects meant to boost the country's power generation as chiefly the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (2,115 MW) in the Rufiji river basin, the 358MW Ruhudji project and the 222MW Rumakali hydropower project both located in the Njombe region.

The Ruhudji and Rumakali projects are planned to be completed by the third quarter of 2021, while other projects include the 33MW Kikonge hydropower project in Katavi region, the Somanga Fungu project for 30MW and the already completed Kinerezi I and II natural gas-powered stations that are generating a combined capacity of 398.22MW.

The government established REA to facilitate provision of affordable electricity as part of efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and poverty reduction, in line with the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

The REA Strategic Plan for 2016/17 - 2020/21 responds to national socio-economic policies and programs

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Govt shifts sea fisheries project end by one year

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

LOCAL implementation of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth (SWIOFish) has been extended by one year from 2021 to 2022 to compensate for lost time due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Rashid Tamatamah, told a press conference here yesterday that the decision was reached during a video conference that brought together different project implementation partners. The meeting was meant to assess the execution of the project.

The ministry has submitted an



The World Bank had agreed to support Tanzania to implement its blue economy agenda, with the ministry's commitment to protect marine resources

application to Treasury to extend the implementation deadline for the project from 2021 to 2022. "The World Bank has agreed to the extension of the project in an effort to help realize the targeted goals," he said.

The project has continued getting support from development partners since it took off in 2015, he said, elaborating that support partners are pleased with the implementation of the project in all areas including construction of buildings.

"This gives the government confidence to see that the project is implemented as agreed," he said.

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Police: Pupils drop out to join criminal gangs

■ Fire outbreaks reported in 31 schools during 2020

■ Road traffic crashes diminish by more than 900 this year

By Guardian Reporter

THE police force has raised concerns over an increasing wave of children dropping out of school and joining criminal gangs, calling for collective efforts to address the depressive tendency.



The Commissioner Police (Operations and Training), Liberatus Sabas (pictured) has appealed to parents and guardians to properly take care of their children and closely monitor their movements.

He however noted that the fight against criminal gangs requires commitment and stringent measures from state authorities and community stakeholders.

"The criminal gangs include those who were reported in Kibiti in Coast Region. They fled to neighbouring Mozambique after they were constrained by police in collaboration with other security organs," Commissioner Sabas said in a statement to the media yesterday.

He said the Kibiti series of incidents was among major occurrences between January and November this year, as the

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Connecting 2,270 villages to power grid starts in Feb

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embodied in the SDGs, including sustainable energy for all, the national electrification investment prospectus, the energy sector

reform strategy, the Tanzania Development Vision, the second national five-year development plan 2016/17-2020/21 and the national energy policy of 2015, he pointed out.

Govt shifts sea fisheries project end by one year

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pointing out that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, some countries issued travel bans and parties to the project were meeting virtually.

The World Bank had agreed to support Tanzania to implement its blue economy agenda, with the ministry's commitment to protect marine resources in further developing fishing activities a key element to this acceptance, he said.

Local participants in the projects include the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Deep Sea Fishing Authority.

The SWIOFish project was established in 2015, to encourage the protection of marine resources and conserving the coastal ecosystem including

beaches

World Bank data shows that the fisheries sector contributes to food and nutrition security and also provides jobs in particular for coastal populations, "often among the poorest and most vulnerable."

On average, globally fish and fish products account for 18 percent of animal protein intake. Due to population growth and rise in per capita income, demand for fish is expected to increase by 30 percent from current levels by 2030.

World Bank analysts assert that if the current trend continues without a shift in management, the poorest countries will suffer the most. Climate change aggravate these challenges with rising sea temperatures, harsher weather conditions for fishers, migration of fish to cooler waters away from the equator and shrinking fish size.



Chief Government Printer Haigath Kitala (R) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on the equipment for printing various government documents during his visit in Dodoma yesterday. Left is Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr. Binilith Mahenge and Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office Tixon Nzunda. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

A TOTAL of 200 youth from Mipa Village in Sekebugolo Ward Kishapou District in Shinyanga Region have benefitted from irrigation for their vegetable farming that has transformed their lives.

The chairman of the group, Fortina Boniphace said here over the weekend that in the past they used to live hard lives due to lack of employment, but after receiving training on irrigation farming by the Tanzania Christian Refugees

TCRS trains 200 youths on vegetable irrigation farming

Services (TCRS), their lives had changed through income generation activities.

He added that a big number of youths in rural areas depend on farming and when rain seasons end they were idle spending their time on street corners.

"We thank the TCRS for providing us with irrigation training including irrigation

equipment and now our lives have changed income-wise, as we do not have to depend entirely on rains," said Boniphace.

Sekebugolo Ward chairman Ferdinand Mpagomi congratulated TCRS for empowering the youth through irrigation farming and called on the youth to use the money they get for their own development

and not for recreation.

Mwanamina Jumanne, TCRS projects officer who deals in environmental preservation and supply of safe and clean water in arid areas said after seeing the youth idling without gainful employment, they decided to provide them with training on irrigation to relieve themselves economically.



Deputy minister in the ministry of Water Maryprisca Mahundi talks with Mbulizaga residents in Pangani District, Tanga Region during her visit to inspect water projects yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Police: Pupils drop out to join criminal gangs

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incidents brought much attention of the government as a whole.

Some pupils who dropped out of school and joined the criminal gangs were arrested, and some crossed into Mozambique and since then some of these groups they joined managed to cross into the country to conduct raids.

"We urge parents and guardians to monitor their children's movements to protect them from being recruited to join such gangs," he said, highlighting other incidents occurring this year as notably including a spate of school fires, killings caused by matrimonial jealousies, armed robbery and incidents of citizens taking the law into their own hands.

Road accidents remained common during 2020 but the number decreased compared to last year, the commissioner noted,

explaining that school fires were mostly caused by negligence and conflicts.

A total of 31 schools were burnt from January to December 2020, including 20 private and religious schools and 11 governmental schools, he elaborated.

The police force has also succeeded to reduce armed robbery cases compared to previous years, with a total of 378 armed robbery incidents reported from January to November 2019, with the number going down to 273 cases this year, he specified.

Road traffic accidents have decreased from 2,722 in 2019 to 1,800 this year, he said, highlighting that between January and November 2019, a total of 1,329 people died in road accidents compared to 1,156 deaths reported this year.

Casualties reached 2,717 in 2019 while 2,089 were injured during road crashes in 2020, he added.

By Correspondent Ebere Onwudiwe

As the great American civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., once taught, character is everything. He asked that we judge people by the 'content of their character.' This universal insight should apply to those in leadership positions as well. People may fear leaders with flawed characters, but they aren't respected. Period.

This should make you cry, if it wasn't so darn funny. What the heck is wrong with African leaders who want to be presidents for life? That's the worry expressed by Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim, the Sudanese billionaire businessman who founded Celtel and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, which promotes good governance in Africa.

I knew that Mr. Mohammed has a passion for good governance in Africa, but I had no idea that

Why have African leaders been unworthy of Mo Ibrahim Prize?

he was this straightforward and funny. As he said at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Kigali, Rwanda: "We are the only continent in the world where we have presidents at 90 years old, starting new terms. I mean, are you guys crazy or what? We see people in wheelchairs, unable to raise their hands, standing for elections; this is a joke."

And before you think it is all a gag, consider that Omar Bongo of Gabon was in power for 41 years. Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola for 38 years, Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo for 37 years, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe for 37 years, Côte d'Ivoire's Felix Houphouët-Boigny for 33 years, and the notorious Mobutu Sese Seko of

the Democratic Republic of Congo for 31 years. All of them held on to political power for more years than Jesus Christ was alive. And these are not your worst cases.

Those with this kind of obscene sit-tight record in office on the African continent are still with us: Idris Deby of Chad and Isaiiah Afwerki of Eritrea have been in power for 29 years, and we are still counting. Uganda's Yoweri Museveni and Republic of Congo's Denis Sassou Nguesso are 34 and 36 years in office, while we continue to count. And the mothers of them all: Paul Biya of Cameroon and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, have each clocked 37 and 40 years in power, respectively. Paul Biya is 87 years old.

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COVID-19 vaccine and guarantee that African countries shall not be left behind," a joint communiqué declared.

The high-level gathering was also attended by Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the African Union (AU) Commission, apart from representatives of the IGAD Council of Ministers and Committee of Ambassadors, chaired by Workneh Gebeyehu Negewo, the IGAD Executive Secretary.

The regional leaders also directed IGAD to support efforts of member states "in registering for the COVID-19 vaccine initiative, and put in place coordination frameworks to ensure equal access to the COVID-19 vaccine for vulnerable populations."

They also commended the IGAD Secretariat for admirable

IGAD, China working on Covid-19 equitable access

work in mobilizing funds and coordinating with respective ministries of member states and "directed the IGAD Secretariat to continue mobilizing the required funds and to redouble efforts in effectively combating the epidemic," it stated.

As the African continent works with development partners for liaisons towards realizing adequate access to COVID-19 vaccine to the continent's populace, China, which has been a major partner of the African continent in the fight against the spread of the virus, vowed to effectively partner with Africa in terms COVID-19 vaccine accessibility.

Liu Yuxi, head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, stressed last

week that that China "gives greater priority" to bilateral cooperation on public health.

He said that China will try to make its COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and make them accessible and affordable for all African countries."

"Looking back this year, China and Africa supported each other in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder.

"China got valuable support from the African Union and African countries when it faced the hardest period," the Chinese envoy affirmed during a ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the China-aided Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) headquarters here.



Arusha District Commissioner Kenan Kihongos participates in classrooms construction at Muivaro secondary school yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Tmaini Mafie

Charge plot owners accurate costs while formalising property, government directs

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development William Lukuvi has instructed the Principal of Ardhi Institute Morogoro (ARIMO) Huruma Lugala to work out the actual costs in the management of land formalisation by private firms so that he could set the price to be paid by every Tanzanian.

The minister issued the directives here yesterday when he inspected land formalisation exercise in Muriet conducted by ARIMO.

He said as ARIMO was conducting the exercise in Mlimani, FFU, Msasani and Muriet in Arusha it would be better if the exercise was used as a study farm to work out the true costs for the individuals to pay as private firms cannot come up with actual costs.

As for now the last rates announced by the lands minister to formalize a land area to an individual was 150,000/-.

Lukuvi said that earlier, every private firm set its own rates and when he saw unreasonably rates sometimes upwards of 400,000/-, he decided to lower the rate to 150,000/- and added that no firm had complained.

He assured Muriet residents that after the completion of the exercise, they have moved from squatters to formal land plots even though in the past they had violated the laws by unplanned construction of houses.

He said after formalisation of their land and their plots planned they will reap huge benefits including the availability of infrastructure and other basic

social services, the work which will be supervised by the city director.

He said from formalisation they will own live capital, and not dead capital as before and that title deeds will provide security for their plots and called on Arusha City officials to mobilise people to formalise their land.

Lugala, ARIMO Principal told the minister that his Institute began land formalisation exercise in Arusha's Muriet area in June this year and expect to complete at the end of January next year before embarking on other areas.

For his part, Arusha Regional Commissioner Iddi Kamanta used the occasion to thank President John Magufuli for his clemency on those who constructed surveyed houses without planning, but after the completion of the current exercise their plots will be recognised.

The RC also thanked the Ministry of Lands for establishing the Regional Lands Office in Arusha, saying its establishment has increased investment in lands services businesses and pledged to work together with the office.



As for now the last rates announced by the lands minister to formalize a land area to an individual was 150,000/-

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Nchemba challenges RITA to make sure vetted information formalised, harmonised with NIDA

MINISTER for Constitution and Legal Affairs Mwigulu Nchemba has challenged the Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) to ensure all vetted information are formalised and harmonised with the national identification authority (NIDA) for national security interests as well as to save time.

Mwigulu made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when he visited RITA headquarters accompanied by his deputy minister Geoffrey Pinda.

Mwigulu said lack of harmonisation of information between NIDA and other public

institutions is one of the major challenges which should be addressed immediately as it has been increasing costs and wastage of time.

"It is high time to harmonise all vetted information meant for public use to avoid unnecessary challenges. The minister said further that the vetted information should also be harmonised with information from other public institution like public security social funds," he said

According to the minister, experience had shown that there

are still frauds in the duplication and process of issuing certificates adding that once harmonized it will be easy to know fake documents.

He also tasked RITA to work out laws that address loopholes that lead to unfair judgment to matters related with declaring properties (mirathi).

Deputy minister Geoffrey Pinda hinted on amendments in customary law.

He said the amendments will recognise and give rights to two or more women married to one

husband contrary to as it is now.

"We need laws that promote women rights. The law must also allow issuance of marriage certificates to all those married under customary law, we want our women also to enjoy their marriages and right to own properties even if they fall under customary marriages," he said.

RITA board chairman Prof Hamisi Dihenga promised to work on the directives issued by the ministers and called for more cooperation from the staff.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Ministry initiating treasury bonds investment among ordinary people

Arusha

THE Ministry of Finance and Planning, through the Central Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has kick-started a nationwide campaign to educate and encourage all citizens to invest in treasury bonds.

The efforts started here in Arusha with the day-long seminar to that effect, attended by local business people, especially, landlords, small-scale traders, artisanal miners, motorcycle (boda-boda) taxi operators, farmers and public bus transport owners.

Held at the Regional Commissioner premises, the seminar participants came from Arusha and Manyara regions, with most of them admitting that it was the first time they learned about Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills. Realising the importance they are now calling upon the Bank of Tanzania to organise special sessions for particular groups.

"Treasury bonds are the direct, risk-free and most effective way of enabling ordinary

citizens to actively participate in the country's development projects while at the same time earning profits through simple investments," stated Lekinyi Mollle the Commissioner for Debt Management at the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Mollle listed the advantages of Treasury Bonds and Bills as investment instruments, saying they were relatively risk free because they are issued and guaranteed by the government; are transferable and negotiable.

"They can also be pledged as collateral while also when compared to forms of similar investments, the rate of return is more competitive," stated Mollle.

The Financial analyst at Bank of Tanzania, Fidelis Bernhard Mkatte was among the facilitators and explained that, when the government undertakes huge development projects such as the ongoing construction of Standard Gauge Railway Lines and the giant Nyerere hydropower plant, people can participate in

funding the projects through their investments in Treasury Bills.


"It is also the best approach in making ordinary Tanzanians own such mega projects while earning profits in the process," said Mkatte.

Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Richard Kwitega who officially launched the training sessions, extolled the importance of ordinary citizens investing in government treasury bonds so that they may get the chance of owning their country's development projects, making that nation self-reliant economically and being confident of sustainable personal gains.


Treasury bonds are long-term debt instruments with a maturity period of more than one year and pay interest on a semiannual basis. In Tanzania the Treasury bonds are issued by the Bank of Tanzania, issued at fixed interest rate and in six maturities ranging from two, five, seven, ten, fifteen and twenty years.



NMB Bank's western zone manager Sospeter Magesse (2nd L) hands over part of 400 iron sheets worth 10m/- to the Minister of Education, Science and Technology - Prof Joyce Ndalichako (C) for construction of class rooms at Ruhita and Kidiana secondary schools in Kasulu District, Kigoma. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA VIWANDA NA BIASHARA
WAKALA WA USAJILI WA BIASHARA NA LESENI



BRELA
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY

TAARIFA KWA UMMA

TAHADHARI KWA TAASISI ZA SERIKALI, BINAFSI NA UMMA KUHUSU MAKAMPUNI AMBAYO HAYAJAHUISHA (UPDATE) TAARIFA ZAKE KWA MUJIBU WA SHERIA

Dar es Salaam, Desemba 19, 2020

Wakala wa Usajili wa Biashara na Leseni (BRELA) unapenda kutoa tahadhari kwa Wizara, Mamlaka, Taasisi za Serikali, Taasisi Binafsi na Umma kwa ujumla kuhusu uwepo wa Makampuni ambayo hayajahuisha (update) taarifa zake kwa Mujibu wa Sheria.

Kwa taarifa hii, Umma unahimiza kuhakikisha Mikataba yote ya manunuzi ya vifaa au huduma (**All kinds of contractual transactions**) baina yao na Kampuni binafsi isainiwe baada ya kujiridhisha kwamba Kampuni husika imehuisha taarifa zake za mwaka katika Daftari la Makampuni kama yalivyo matakwa ya Sheria na kama kampuni hizo bado ziko hai. Kujiridhisha huko kufanyike kwa Kampuni husika kutakiwa kuwasilisha Cheti cha Usajili (Certificate of Incorporation) na nakala ya Mizania yake ya Mwaka huo (Annual returns) iliyoidhinishwa na Msajili wa Makampuni au Taarifa Rasmi (Official Search Report) iliyosainiwa na Msajili wa Makampuni.

BRELA inapenda kukumbusha Umma kuwa, kwa mujibu wa kifungu cha 128 cha Sheria ya Makampuni, Sura 212 kila Kampuni iliyosajiliwa hapa nchini (Locally Registered Company) inapaswa kuwasilisha kwa Msajili wa Makampuni Taarifa za Mwaka (Annual Returns) na kwa upande wa Kampuni zilizosajiliwa nje ya nchi (Companies incorporated outside Tanzania) na kufungua tawi hapa nchini, huwasilisha Mahesabu ya Mwaka (Annual Accounts) kwa mujibu wa kifungu cha 438 cha Sheria ya Makampuni, Sura 212.

Izingatiwe kwamba, Taarifa ya mwaka husaidia kutoa taswira halisi ya Kampuni na hivyo kusaidia mtu yeyote anayetaka kuingia makubaliano ya kibiashara na Kampuni husika kufanya maamuzi stahiki na kufahamu ni nani haswa wanahusika na utiaji saina ya mikataba.

BRELA inatoa rai kwa Wizara, Mamlaka, Taasisi za Serikali, Taasisi Binafsi na Umma kwa ujumla kuchukua tahadhari dhidi ya kampuni ambazo hazija huisha taarifa zake kwa mujibu wa Sheria, hii itasaidia kuepusha madhara ya kisheria na kiuchumi yanayoweza kujitokeza kwa kufanya kazi na kampuni ambayo haijahuisha taarifa zake kwa Msajili wa Makampuni.

"Tunaipa utu wa kisheria biashara yako"

Imetolewa na:

AFISA MTENDAJI MKUU

WAKALA WA USAJILI WA BIASHARA NA LESENI

Duwasa called upon to drill more bore holes to boost water supply in Dodoma

Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER for Water and Irrigation Jumaa Aweso has instructed the Dodoma Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (DUWASA) to drill two more bore holes to help increase supply of water in the city to at least 1.2 million litres per hour.

Speaking during an impromptu visit at Mbali within Makutupora valley where DUWASA is currently drilling a borehole that can supply 400,000 per hour, the minister urged the water authority to act swiftly and reduce water woes in Dodoma.

"Upon completion of this bore hole you should drill some other two that can produce 1.2 million litres of water per hour and solve water woes in Dodoma" he said, adding that they should be drilled at Ihumwa and Zuzu areas respectively.

The minister noted that currently DUWASA supplies a total of 66 million litres of water per hour while the actual demand is 103,608 million litres per hour.

He said the government through the ministry has given DUWASA 1bn/- to improve water supply in areas with serious shortages of water within the city, promising to follow up on the drilling of boreholes, adding the projects should be undertaken both during day and night.

Aweso expressed disappointment whereby some parts of the city have access to water while others do not have water supply completely stating that such unfairness must stop.

He explained that the government is committed to ensure Dodoma city have reliable

water supply, saying the planned construction of Parkwa dam in Chemba District is one of the strategies.

"Our country is blessed with lakes and big rivers which must be used appropriately to end shortage of water for domestic use and water from Lake Victoria had already been pumped to other regions like Tabora and plans are underway to extend water supply to Singida and Dodoma regions," he said.

He said it is the ministry's responsibility to ensure that Tanzanians have access to clean and safe water. For his part, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Eng Anthony Sanga said the team visited the drilling site to see if the project was progressing well.

"We expect to get a lot of water in this area and after drilling two more boreholes water problem in Dodoma will end," said the PS. He said the cost of drilling a 150 deep bore hole costs 200m/-

DUWASA acting director, Eng Aron Joseph noted that they decided to tour the sight at night to confirm if the drilling work was being undertaken at day and night as per the instructions. He said at least 40 metres have been drilled and the contractor is supposed to hand over the project within 60 days.

"Upon completion of this bore hole you should drill some other two that can produce 1.2 million litres of water per hour and solve water woes in Dodoma"



Kolandoto ward residents in Shinyanga municipality digging two classrooms foundation at Kolandoto secondary school following the shortage facing the school. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

4,000 farmers in southern highlands to take part in 2021 agric, trade fair

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 4,000 farmers are expected to benefit from agricultural and trade fair that will involve all southern highlands regions aimed to assist farmers economically.

The fair will be held in Mbeya Region at the TARI-Uyole farms where farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector have been invited to take part to learn various technologies invented by the centre.

Leonard Sabula, researcher on

maize, beans and soya crops who is also the fair's Coordinator told reporters at the weekend that the fair to be held in May 2021 will be participated by more than 4,000 farmers from the southern highlands regions.

"This time the Fair will be of its kind as we have made big improvements and involve many more stakeholders. So far more than 20 firms including those dealing in fertilizer have confirmed participation and I trust farmers will learn on various issues in adding value chain of

crops," said Sabula.

He said in 2020 they could not hold the Agriculture and Trade Fair due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the 2019 Fair a total of 698 participants including 371 men and 327 women participated and learned on better farming practices.

Dr Tulole Bucheyeki, TARI-Uyole director said the Agricultural and Trade Fair that involves all southern highlands regions aim to add value chain to the crops.

He said through the Fair stakeholders will get the opportunity to show their various technologies through study farms of crops planted used to train visiting farmers.

Agriculture stakeholders including Prudence Gerald, programme officer of the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) said it was the second season since the establishment of the Agricultural and Trade Fair but has already changed farmers' mindsets from traditional to technological farming practices.



Ihala District Commissioner Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija (3rd L) receives sketch drawing photo of President John Magufuli on behalf of the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner. The sketching photo event by Karibu Dodoma Festival (KDF) director Simon Mwapagata was held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ACT underscores the need for more fertiliser producing plants in country

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AGRICULTURAL Council of Tanzania (ACT) has underscored the need to have more fertiliser producing plants in the country, saying imported fertiliser is very expensive and many farmers cannot afford.

Speaking during a stakeholders meeting here, ACT programme manager Mark Magila said imported fertiliser until reaching the Dar es Salaam port costs 30,000/- but is sold at 54,000/- to farmers on the ground.

He said agriculture should not be associated with poverty as some people believe that farmers are poor people. "It is wrong to associate agriculture or farming with poverty since the agricultural sector contributes immensely to the national economy," he noted.

According to Magila there are people who have tried several things but failed terribly and resorted to agriculture as the last option thinking that it is the easiest means of a livelihood only to be disappointed.

He said many Tanzanians have the notion that those who have tried business, employment and failed can only turn to farming, noting that farmers are not poor except many of them do not know its value.

Magila explained that agricultural sector has a lot of wealth that benefits many people some of whom have invested in agriculture and profited from its gains.

However, he noted that the communication sector has helped a lot in promoting agriculture, adding that farmers, far away from the market can easily know

the price of their produce.

According to Magila, a person trading maize or any other crop cannot claim to be a farmer thus the need to differentiate between a farmer and a trader.

For his part, ACT acting director, Timoth Mmbaga also noted that agricultural sector deserves a lot of respect since many Tanzanians were self-employed in the sector.

ACT is the agricultural private sector apex organisation in Tanzania and unites all stakeholders like farmer groups and associations, cooperatives, companies and institutions whose activities have relationship with agriculture.

These include farming, livestock keeping, fisheries, beekeeping and people engaged as researchers, traders, processors and transporters.

ACT was established in 1999 under the name of the Tanzania Chamber of Agriculture and Livestock-TCAL.



It is wrong to associate agriculture or farming with poverty since the agricultural sector contributes immensely to the national economy

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Jafo calls on IRDP graduates to be creative of self-employment

THE Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Selemu Jafo has called on graduates of the Institute of Rural Development (IRD) to be creative in the development planning from the knowledge gained.

Jafo gave the remarks at the weekend at IRDP 34th graduation ceremony to award certificates to graduates.

He said instead of waiting to be employed they should use the knowledge gained to be creative in planning for their

own development and the communities surrounding them.

He also called on the IRDP graduates to be champions for the keeping the nation's peace and tranquility.

Prof. Hozen Mayaya, the IRDP Principal said in the current academic year, the IRDP's main campus had seen a big increase of new students' enrolment from 4,317 in 2019/2020 to 5,856, an increase of 26 per cent.

Prof. Mayaya said the number of graduates has also been

increasing from year to year whereas for 2020 a total of 4,072 students graduated in various fields, an increase of 27 per cent.

He mentioned other IRDP projects as including capacity building for its workers and staff in the local government for the Zanzibar government conducted from August 2019 and to end in July 2021.

He added that the project also intends to build capacity from the local government staff in the preparations of planning and

budgets that adhere to children needs.

The chairman of IRDP steering committee Prof Martha Qorro said the institute is faced with the shortage of workers in the lecturers' cadre due to an increase of students' enrolment.

She said up to November this year the Institute was short of 81 lecturers, and that as of now there are 132 lecturers, the number that was not is not enough compared to the number of students presently over 10,000.

TAWA calls for stern measures to control poaching as bush meat butchery launched

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE long awaited bushmeat butchery has been launched in Dodoma with authorities calling for stiff measures to control poaching and illegal harvesting of wildlife.

Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) officially opened the butchery in the capital as part of measures implementing a directive by President John Magufuli to make the product available to Tanzanians.

It was launched at Chang'ombe Street in the capital and was witnessed by hundreds who came to buy the commodity.

Despite a huge crowd to buy the product, most of them walked out without doing so due to the high number of orders even with the price standing at 5,000.

TAWA board chairman Maj Gen (rtd) Hamisi Semfuko launched the butchery at the same time calling upon Tanzanians to use the resources available effectively.

Maj Gen (rtd) Semfuko warned that the opening of the shops should not be a tool for unnecessary harvesting of wildlife saying his organisation will ensure it follows up on every step.

"The opening of this shop marks the opening of other shops countrywide, but let me warn that we will not hesitate to take serious legal actions against anyone who will misuse this chance," he said.

According to him, TAWA will issue special licences to specific areas across the country.

The move will now enable hotels and restaurants to include

bushmeat on the menu regularly. It is up to big fun of the wild animals flesh to beef up their wallets and experience the unique taste of their choice.

The move will also enable Tanzanians to harvest wild animals for selling and consumption.

The new development follows the review on the guidelines on the sale and harvesting of bush meat as they were issued by President Magufuli during his tour of Rubondo Island National Park on Lake Victoria, last year.

The president's directive sought to remove the barriers that prevented Tanzanians from harvesting and selling bush meat.

The meat will be sourced from licenced hunters, private zoos and remains of hunting tourism.

Such practice, he said, exists in countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"TAWA is willing to provide support to help people begin their private zoo and later harvest wildlife for commercial purpose," he said.

The chairman was quick to note, however, that the licence will only be issued for selling consumable bush meat across all the butchers.

Acting Conservation Commissioner for TAWA Mabula Nyanda told reporters that the launching of the butchery in Dodoma marked the official launch of other bush butcheries across the country.

"This is an official launch and the meat sold here has been harvested with approvals from the authority," he said.



Deputy minister of State in the President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance Deogratius Ndejemi (R) looks at a car with no registration numbers invented by Membe villagers in Chamwino, Dodoma Region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Tanzanians urged to protect water sources

By Frank Monyo

CHIEF Hydrologist from the Water Ministry's Department of Water Resources Emmanuel Nahozya has called on Tanzanians to protect water sources for them to be sustainable for future generations.

Nahozya remarks were issued at the weekend when giving an evaluation on Protraction of Water Resources in Dodoma as part of the strategy to take care of and protect water sources serving

Dodoma residents.

He said it was an appropriate time for Tanzania to make sure water resources in basins are protected to be sustainable as spelled out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He said strategies in the protection of water resources include prohibition of wanton tree cutting, bad land utilisation through farming activities using chemical fertiliser and all human activities in the water basin that may cause the water

table to drop.

In regard to water supply for Dodoma city he said: "Research conducted on the volume of water under the city of Dodoma showed that there were no signs on the drop of the water table. This is due to the rains that are continuing in areas that were researched on to be its water sources."

He said according to the city's increasing population, alternative water sources have been located to augment the existing ones to increase water supply.

"There are boreholes dug to find out whether the water table in the Makutupora Basin drops or increases from the volume of water we pump out and it gave us the answer on the volume of water we still have under the ground," he said.

He added that the Water ministry through its water resources department in Dodoma and in various large water basins has been closely monitoring the Makutupora Water Basin in tackling the water table issue.



Kigamboni resident Peter John who emerged the third winner of the ongoing Vodacom promotion dubbed "Shangwe Shangwena" tries to open the brand new car Renault KWID door shortly after the firm's handed it to him in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Looking on (L) is Kigamboni District Commissioner Sarah Msafiri. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TOSCI cautions dealers over counterfeit seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) has cautioned seeds dealers in the country to stop selling counterfeit seeds to farmers as the practice make them incur losses.

Seed inspector from TOSCI headquarters in Dodoma, Dr Mngotsha Ngomuo gave the caution in Mbeya mid this week during an inspection visit on various shops selling farming inputs by TOSCI officials from its headquarters and those from the Southern Highlands Zone.

Ngomuo said any trader who will be found selling counterfeit seeds legal steps will be taken against him/her including court action, as the acts hinder government efforts to strengthen agriculture.

He mentioned counterfeit seeds as those that have not been approved by the institute and provided with a label, those that have expired and those being smuggled into the country.

"There are seeds that have been smuggled from neighbouring Zambia, it is said the seeds are obtained in Songwe Region, Mbozi District in particular, hence I call on all people to be alert by examining the seeds before planting," he said.

He also said that their inspection discovered that many seeds have expired, hence they removed them from the shops.

TOSCI inspector from Southern Highlands Zone Mary Kilawe called upon various stakeholders to work together in preventing the distribution of counterfeit seeds, as the task should not be left to TOSCI alone.

He said distribution of counterfeit seeds was ruinous to farmers including losses as they cannot obtain the harvests as intended.

"We endeavor to educate

these people not to break the law, but now if we find a person whom we are certain is educated enough, but sells counterfeit seeds, it means he/she is doing so deliberately, hence we must take legal steps against such person," Kilawe said.

Some seeds dealers in Mbeya City thanked TOSCI for the inspection saying it has acted as reminder on the regulations and procedures governing seeds trade.

Yusta Mraki, a seeds dealer said some unfaithful seeds sellers were the ones staining the business.



We endeavor to educate these people not to break the law, but now if we find a person whom we are certain is educated enough, but sells counterfeit seeds, it means he/she is doing so deliberately, hence we must take legal steps against such person

Be ethical, CJ counsels newly received lawyers

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

CHIEF Justice, Prof Ibrahim Juma has urged lawyers to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the constitution, the laws of the land, and the courts without distorting the decisions made by the courts.

Prof Ibrahim made the remarks in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking at the function to receive 166 new lawyers and explained that there had been many complaints about the performance of lawyers in the country.

"Go and fulfill your duty in accordance with the constitution, the laws of the land, and the courts as there are a few lawyers using inappropriate language, distorting court decisions and they are being sued," he said.

According to him, there are also some lawyers who deliberately delay cases and lead to endless conflicts in the community. That's why it's important for lawyers to adhere to ethics and consider the country's laws and regulations when executing their duties.

Deputy attorney general, Dr Evaristo Longopa, said lawyers

are court officials and that under the law of attorneys they are a big part of making sure the courts reach fair decisions.

He tasked lawyers to be smart in all aspects, stand for truth and refrain from forgeries and all sorts of false tactics for the sake of victory, as the number of moral violators is going up on a daily basis.

Dr Longopa said, the role of advocates is important in the welfare of the country and urged them to stop giving bad language to their fellow lawyers and urge them to do the job honestly and

also to increase their skills as much as possible.

"The best lawyer is the one who adheres to work ethic when executing his/her duties," the deputy AG suggested.

President of the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), Lugemeleza Nshala, urged the lawyers to know that the work is a noble one hence they should live up to its dignity.

He asked new lawyers to ensure that they execute their duties properly and again with great honesty if they are to realise their dreams as well as meeting public expectations.

Rorya in fundraising scheme to upgrade healthcare facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Rorya

IN a move to strengthen increased geographical access to health services, communities in Rorya District in Mara Region have designated a self-fundraising scheme to accelerate rapid construction and upgrading of primary health care facilities to support the improvement of health services in the district's remote villages.

The initiative led by Rorya MP, Jafari Chege (CCM), has already experienced the express start of construction of twelve (12) new primary health facilities based in 12 remote villages in different administrative wards of the district.

The project funded by the citizens' contributions and the office of the MP, will bring remarkable changes in the health sector in the district "including upgrading over 10 existing public primary health care facilities to the level of health centers. He said and explained that "the majority of works will involve major physical renovations and construction of new facilities, notably, dispensaries and health centers."

The recently sworn-in MP narrated that, in efforts to trigger accelerated construction and renovations of the designated initiative its pilot stage, will cost up to about 460m/- expected to from his own pocket, the villagers and other stakeholder contributions as well as the government.

In support of the public fundraiser to facilitate construction of the newly crafted primary health facilities, Chege over the last week delivered over 1000 bags of cement and 10m/- cash to the local government leadership of the designated villages, "as he digs the land setting the foundation, to kick-off the desired construction of 12 facilities which is expected to last for only four months."

In his speech, at the inauguration of the initiative delivered at Shirati Township last week, Chege said the project needed a quick roll to set the important step in the journey towards achieving Universal

Health Coverage (UHC) in the district as part of the nationwide plan of the government.

He further narrated that, quality health service with equitable geographic access and service delivery in the remoter villages are vital to constitute efficient health care to communities at affordable costs.

Chege insisted that the initiative was in line with the public sector's plan to achieve needs-based essential healthcare services, protection of the communities from financial hardship, and coverage for the entire population.

He mentioned the newly designated village dispensaries to include Nyanjage in Kisumwa ward, Randa in Kigunga ward Ngassaro in Mkoma ward, Manila in Nyamtinga ward, Nyabiwe in Kirogoward, Nyahera in Tai ward, Nyihara in Kyang'ombe ward, Omuga in Nyathorogo, Mori in Nyaburongo ward and Nyamasieki in Raranya ward and those will undergo major renovations, physical improvement, and finishing including Kowak, Osiri, Ng'pe, Dett, Busanga, Bitiryo, and Ikoma.

However, Rorya District Executive Director (DED), Charles Chacha commended the efforts made by the MP saying, the initiative was a useful roadmap to realize the public sector's efforts to improve the infrastructure of primary health care facilities in the country.

He explained that "we will achieve the direly needed health services; this initiative has fetched the best direction towards speeded construction, achieving geographic coverage with health services, and improved physical status of each facility.

In their comments, ward councilors, local government leaders, and citizens from the beneficiary wards and villages said: "The public supported initiative will improve the quality of services rendered in public primary health facilities and reduce maternal and child mortality rates and morbidity which are the currently challenging health problems in the district."



Vehicle inspector from traffic Police Constable Eniko Kayombo inspects up country bus before giving a permit to transport passengers at Ubungo Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

388 farmers in Morogoro Region to benefit from organic farming skills

By Getrude Mbago

A TOTAL of 388 smallholder farmers from four districts in Morogoro Region have been empowered with organic farming, marketing, and post-harvest management skills.

The five-day training was organised recently by the Morogoro-based Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) and was part of the implementation of the project dubbed "Skills for Employment Tanzania (SET) which is led by Swisscontact with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The beneficiaries are from twelve villages of Mlimba, Ulanga, Morogoro Rural, and Kilombero districts.

In a statement, Janet Maro, SAT's executive director said that

the intensive training, which involved youth, women, and young mothers focused on basics of business, entrepreneurship, raising of capital for business using the saving and lending model, group formation, dynamics, and leadership as well as producing value-added products.

"The main goal of this session was to make participants understand how to manage a business for attaining sustainable business growth," Maro said.

She named the villages as Vuleni, Kungwe, Ngwasi, Kalengakelu, Msolwa, Kisawasawa, Ichonde, Kanolo, Milola, Igumbilo, Mavimba and Mpanga.

She said the training sharpened the youth, women, and young mothers to have a great ability to employ themselves and help the rest peer group in their premises to utilize what they learned in

the training so that they can both benefit from underlined issues on agribusiness, entrepreneurship, fruit, and milk value addition, home gardening, group formation, leadership conducts on group supervision as well as increasing awareness on organic agriculture.

Maro added that the training farmer aimed at empowering youth, women, and young mothers to identify solutions to their own problems, such as food insecurity, unemployment, poverty, harassment and violence from the surrounding community caused by early pregnancy. "We wanted to expose youth, women, and young mothers into new experiences that will boost their motivation, entrepreneurship skills, best farming practices and widen their knowledge; introducing them to business development skills, planning and raising capital using

own savings," she said.

Citing an example of yoghurt making, Maro said that milk is a lucrative enterprise in both rural and urban areas. Proper value addition increases the quality of milk and reduces losses as a result of milk going bad. Yoghurt making is picking up as a potential enterprise and the profit from it is high. Mwajuma Rashid, one of the participants acknowledged that the training was fruitful as it changed her mindset in the agriculture sector.

Mwajuma said that she is now feeling confident to set a vision for her life as she has a clear plan for her food vending enterprise.

"At the end of the training we all managed to prepare operational business plans and managed to make yoghurt, tomato sauce, jam, batik, sack and mound garden," she added.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority technicians laying and joining water pipes at the Ardhi University's hostel to improve the services at the area yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Sunflower, sesame low harvest reason for edible oil shortage

ACUTE shortage of sunflower and sesame has been cited as among the reasons for skyrocketing price of edible oil in Mbeya city and the country at large.

A survey carried out by this paper in the city discovered the shortage of edible oil in many shops while producers blame the situation on the non-availability of raw materials.

The survey also found out that in every 10 shops selling edible

oil only two stock the commodity from where customers could buy it in three to 10-litre containers.

Elsewhere the commodity was being sold in 10-litre containers that were unaffordable to many of those in the low-income bracket.

Notwithstanding this situation, it was difficult to find shops selling the oil in smaller containers.

Severine Mwakyusa, a resident of Isanga area in Mbeya City said edible oils was in acute shortage, adding that the five-litre container is sold at 24,000/-, while the 10-litre container sells at over 35,000/-.

The Director of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole) Dr Tulole Bucheyeki

said already they have produced better quality seedlings for sunflower, soya and oil palm hence farmers should go to the centre to get them.

He said the seedlings will be distributed to farmers and that if properly planted they would tackle the shortage of edible oil in the country.

Farmers to benefit from crop insurance services

By Henry Mwangonde

FARMERS are set to benefit from a new plan by Equity Bank Tanzania to introduce crop insurance after receiving an approval to introduce bancassurance services in 2021.

As part of an ongoing transformation journey the bank yesterday unveiled a refreshed identity in line with Equity Group Holdings aimed at creating a sustainable growth path and service delivery in today's rapidly changing financial services environment.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Managing Director Equity Tanzania, Robert Kiboti said the plan involves introducing crop insurance via the new services in which the agriculture sector will be the main focus.

"Following an approval to introduce Bancassurance, we expect to launch crop insurance which we think will be a great boost the agriculture sector," he said.

Following the launch, the bank will present itself as a unified brand, with one basket of products and services under one roof.

From an identity perspective, the new logo now features "Equity" without an entity name such as bank to signify a one-stop-shop and a consolidated business model for its inclusive range of financial services.

"Our new look assures the empowerment of individuals expanding their opportunities to create wealth. We will roll out the refreshed look in all our physical outlets and digital banking platforms, social media assets,

websites, mobile applications," he said.

He further committed to offering seamless customer experience as the bank looks to grow its customer base.

"We shall continue to roll-out innovative financial solutions that are geared towards broadening financial access and deepening financial inclusion,"

From a logo and identity perspective, the logo features "Equity" without entity name such as Bank, Insurance, Investment Bank and so on. Going forward, Equity will now present itself to the world as one unified brand, with one basket of products and services under one roof ranging from banking, insurance and investment from a service delivery perspective.

The banks board member Prof Honest Ngowi said the bank will continue investing and working for the great causes in the country such as financial literacy and access, entrepreneurship, agriculture, innovations and environment.

The roll-out of the new identity by Equity Group Holdings started in Kenya. Subsequently, Equity South Sudan, Equity Uganda and Equity Tanzania have rolled out and more subsidiaries are expected to launch soon.

"We shall continue to roll-out innovative financial solutions that are geared towards broadening financial access and deepening financial inclusion"

NGO donates assorted items to Kisarawe District Hospital

By Correspondent Amri Lugungulo, Kisarawe

A non-governmental organisation—Force Rapid Intervention (FORAI) has donated various items worth 500,000/- to patients at Kisarawe District Hospital in Coast Region.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony over the weekend, the organisation's Executive Director, Hussein Baombe said the donated items included laundry soap, biscuits and juice.

He said: "We have presented the items to the hospital management for distribution to admitted patients. This is part of the organisation's activities to celebrate our 12th anniversary."

FORAI was established in 2008 for conducting its activities in Kisarawe District.

Baombe said the organisation also plans to introduce various economic projects to boost its revenues as well as ensure self-financing of its other projects.

"We want to become dependent instead of waiting for funds from donors. The new projects will guarantee the organisation's sustainability," said Baombe.

He said that plans are underway to donate various items to other institutions including primary and secondary schools within the district as well as children living in difficult conditions.

In May this year, the district hospital received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS) to enhance fight against Covid-19.

Speaking at the handing over

ceremony, the enrolled nurse at Kisarawe Chestina Kidenga said that the donation will heighten the fight against Covid-19.

She said solidarity among the stakeholders was highly needed to overcome the disease to reduce other impacts in people's health and development.

"I would like to thank WIPAHS for their support. I call on other good Samaritans to volunteer donating to the facility to improve health service delivery," she said.

For her part, the representative of the Islamic organisation, Amina Mubarak said the donation was the continuation of the support from the organisation to support health facilities in the fight against the Covid-19.

She said the organisation had up to date supported the Temeke, Amana, and Kisarawe hospitals and was looking further to support other health facilities in different places.



We want to become dependent instead of waiting for funds from donors. The new projects will guarantee the organisation's sustainability



Madabadaba villagers at Itete ward in Morogoro Region show demarcation of their border between their village and reserved area erected in 2012 during their meeting held over the weekend. They have urged the government authorities to resolve the boundaries problem. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

5,549 Mbeya students miss Form One placements due to classrooms shortage

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 5,549 students among those who passed their Std VII examinations in Mbeya Region this year have missed placements to start Form I classes due to shortage of classrooms.

George Mbijima, Mbeya's Assistant Administrative Secretary (Education Department) revealed this at the weekend Form I

selection meeting.

Mbijima said 36,584 students were selected to join Form I in 2021, 17,224 boys and 19,360 girls, out of whom 31,035 students (14,825 boys and 16,210 girls) or 84.8 percent were selected to join secondary schools.

He explained that 15 percent of those selected to join Form I including 2,392 boys and 3,157 girls have missed Form I places

due to shortage of classrooms.

Mariam Mtunguja, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary said Std VII results this year in Mbeya Region were not satisfactory due to the region holding number 13 spot nationally, out of 26 mainland regions.

Mariam said in 2019 results, Mbeya Region held number five spot, the situation that calls for

concerted strategies that would involve stakeholders.

Rungwe District Commissioner, Julius Chalya said poor Std VII examination results in Mbeya Region was caused by a go-slow strike by teachers.

Duru Issa, the Mbeya City Mayor said his council expects to complete the construction of 38 classrooms before January 30 next year.



Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo (L) witnesses the Tanzania Cigarette Company Corporate Social Responsibility manager Oscar Lwoga (R) presenting crippling crutches to people with disabilities in Sumbawanga District under TCC's theme: 'We bring the changes'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Animals skimmers at abattoirs must be trained, licensed - govt

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

LIVESTOCK experts managing the country's abattoirs are required to ensure skimmers of animals are those who have been trained for the job and issued with licences in effort to produce high quality hides and skins for both local use and for export.

The Acting Director of Livestock Services in the Livestock and Fisheries ministry Dr Stanford Ndibalema told a meeting here last week comprising regional advisors on livestock on the implementation of the livestock sector's strategies spelled out in the CCM 2020-25 election manifesto.

Dr Ndibalema said skins' quality begins in the farm, hence the first concern was to ensure livestock receive better treatment including fodder, vaccination and dipping against animals' diseases.

He said the government has already enacted a law and regulations thereof that require animals' skimmers to be those licenced to do so after receiving training. "Many abattoirs in the country are owned by local government authorities, hence

I request the local government officials, especially those managing the abattoirs to ensure the skimmers have licences for the job to ensure better quality hides and skins," he said.

Denis Ishengoma, Mara Regional Livestock Officer said in order to ensure better health for the livestock it was important to continue providing education to herders and animals skimmers and the local councils should allocate funds for improvement of the health of livestock.

"Many hides and skins being produced are of poor quality with low market demand hence the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries should ensure it administers well this area in order to have better products to attract both internal and external markets," Ishengoma said.

Gasper Msimbe, a veterinary expert from Morogoro Region said the Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability Act (No 12 of 2010) has directed the areas on the animal to imprint a mark hence the local councils should direct herders not imprint marks at places that can ruin the value of the skin.

By Special Correspondent

EU-Africa partnership for food systems transformation necessary, experts warn

IN the wake of coronavirus pandemic, the need for EU-African collaboration is more important than ever in the drive to strengthen and transform food systems, but care must be taken to make it an equitable partnership, experts have stressed.

Speaking during a recent event on the potential role of a sustainable Europe-Africa research and innovation (R&I) platform in addressing food systems resilience, Lindiwe Sibanda, head of mission of the food, agriculture and natural resources policy analysis network (FANRAN), stressed that Africa and Europe are both "facing unprecedented challenges with COVID-19, which has negatively affected our food systems for which our collaborative role is very much needed".

Overcoming these challenges, as well as those which await the

food sector in the future, cannot be done alone, she stressed, highlighting the need to foster global partnerships to support the transformation of the agricultural sector.

"Together working with Europe, our closest neighbour in research and innovation, we will be able to jointly address all the bottlenecks and issues of food insecurity and improve the nutrition in our continent," said Adipala Ekwamu, executive secretary of the regional universities forum for capacity building in agriculture (RUFORUM), who added a plea for support from the African Union Commission and the European Commission to move on this matter to make it a reality.

These sentiments were shared by Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer, senior policy officer at the Commission's DG Research and Innovation, who highlighted the importance of the EU-AU Research & Innovation (R&I) partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA), the 10-year roadmap and the envisaged platform for long-term collaboration.

This platform is designed to bring stakeholder groups together who will contribute to more resilient food systems through R&I.

The event comes on the back of the advent of the first-ever EU-AU research and innovation ministers' meeting earlier this year, hosted

by EU Innovation Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, and Sarah Agbor, the AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology.

Lutzeyer also underlined that EU funding will focus on further investment through Horizon Europe, for example on plant health, agroecology and malnutrition, emphasising the need to strengthen innovations in African food systems by sharing research in both continents.

"I think we should also use opportunities if we build networks of European universities to link them up," he said, adding that this is expected to be on the agenda for years to come.

However, Philippe

Petithuguenin, research and strategy deputy director of Leap 4 FNSSA, the long-term EU-AU research and innovation partnership, stressed that this partnership goes both ways, highlighting that there is an added value for Europe and Africa to work together on those issues.

"We learn from each other, and each continent learns from the other continent," he said.

Stressing that this is not an aid programme, Petithuguenin highlighted that while challenges and circumstances might be different, the two parties must be aligned in a common goal.

"For this platform to be efficient and a partnership, which is not

an aid program, we have to have an alignment of visions and work together. But key to this is going to be both continents need to be on board and all stakeholders on board," he said.

In particular, voices of small farmers, consumers and civil society organisations (CSO) must be at the table, he emphasised.

His comments come on the back of criticism that CSOs are being shut out of discussions between the EU-AU, who warn that the process must not be just a top-down exercise between political elites.

There's still time to change EU-Africa agenda, say activists.

As policy-makers in Brussels and Addis Ababa plough ahead with plans for what is billed as an ambitious 'strategic partnership' between the EU and Africa, civil society groups complain that they have been repeatedly shut out from having any influence over EU-African relations.

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Resurgence of the country's road accidents: More needs to be done

THE serpent is raising its ugly head again. It should be so if the current spate of carnage on our roads - after a relatively long lull - that claiming life and limb is any indication.

It also shows that the country's efforts to tame the silent killer has come to nought, or to be mild it has not borne the desired fruit.

And efforts have been made, great efforts including, over 25 years ago as it can be recalled, the introduction of the so called speed governors to passenger buses. That effort came out of sheer desperation.

But we may add here that the good intentioned exercise started with a bang but with a wrong foot ended in a whimper. Why only passenger buses while many other kinds of vehicles ply our roads and whose drivers could act incongruously so as to cause accident to other law abiding drivers.

Besides the installed speed governors were of substandard and made the whole exercise pitiful. Sure, the fitted gadgets whose high cost was borne by bus owners had the ability to reduce road speed, but they were not tamperproof.

They were prone to tinkering, resulting in deployment of armies of traffic cops along highways for enforcement, the situation that created another avenue for corruption.

But this road menace is worldwide. Every year the lives of approximately 1.35 million people are cut short as a result of a road traffic crash. Between 20 and 50 million more people suffer non-fatal injuries, with many incurring a disability as a result of their injury.

Road traffic injuries cause considerable economic losses to individuals, their families, and to nations as a whole.

These losses arise from the cost of treatment as well as lost productivity for those killed or disabled by their injuries, and for family members who need to take time off work or school to care for the injured. Road traffic crashes cost most countries 3% of their gross domestic product.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set an ambitious target of halving the global number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2030. That could be a tall order, but it shows how pressing the situation is, in every country.

It's time the government puts to an end this human killing in cold blood by taking action against the culprits. One school of thought has it that the cure lies in heavy sentences. That is fine as far as curative measures are concerned.

But there is also the question of the road infrastructures - are our highways good and wide enough to mitigate even the wrong decisions of the drivers?

School expansion, maintenance should be properly regularised

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa was at midweek reminding regional and district administrative secretaries to make sure that the deadline for classroom construction projects set for February 28 next year is met everywhere. That is the moment of truth as to whether public schools will accommodate Form One pupils who missed allocation in the first selection as the facilities have no yet been expanded for the whole intake. The premier was inspecting a classroom construction project at Buhongwa secondary school for Mwanza city council, directing the responsible officials to fast track completion of classrooms.

Thousands of children in various regions will miss the chance to join Form One next month due to shortage of classrooms, in which case it is part of public responsibility to ensure that these expectations of the young learners and their families, which are hopes dear to the breadth of society, are realized. The premier said that public officials must ensure that they work hard to fulfill their responsibilities, as every Tanzanian child has the right to quality education. This is becoming an emergency at the end of each year.

What is happening is that the number of school children is rising in tandem with the population, but public authorities tend to be lethargic when it comes to space, as traditionally going to secondary school was a matter of luck. Back in 1968 only 13 per cent of those finishing primary school obtained space in public secondary schools, while this year it is up to 91 per cent of those who passed, and that isn't far below 85 per cent or above of the total number of pupils finishing primary school this year. Next year there will be more pupils in

need of space, and with 'business as usual,' classrooms will also be wanting.

The premier pointed out why it is vital that the children be kept in school like environment while waiting for space to be furnished for them to start, and to supervise their progress for them to complete well their studies. When children are removed from a school kind of environment they tend to quickly adapt to surroundings close to them, learning to obtain some little gains in one way or another, and abandon all idea of learning. Age-wise finishing primary school is a tricky phase as a child is blossoming to semi-adulthood and is easy to impress with so many things, having spare energy that can be tapped differently.

Earlier, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo acknowledged that 74,166 pupils who passed their Standard Seven national examinations this year will not be joining secondary education in January, owing to shortage of classrooms. In that case building new facilities ought to have been completed by the end of February as only in nine regions shall all passing pupils join secondary school next month and in 17 other regions thousands will have to wait.

Along with emphasizing that pupils who have been selected to report for classes should do so without restrictions, instructing regional and district administrative secretaries to work with other stakeholders on availing sufficient capacity on time must be programmed. Next year we shouldn't have a new emergency. It can only be avoided if the work is programmed, each region taking stock of the space it must extend.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

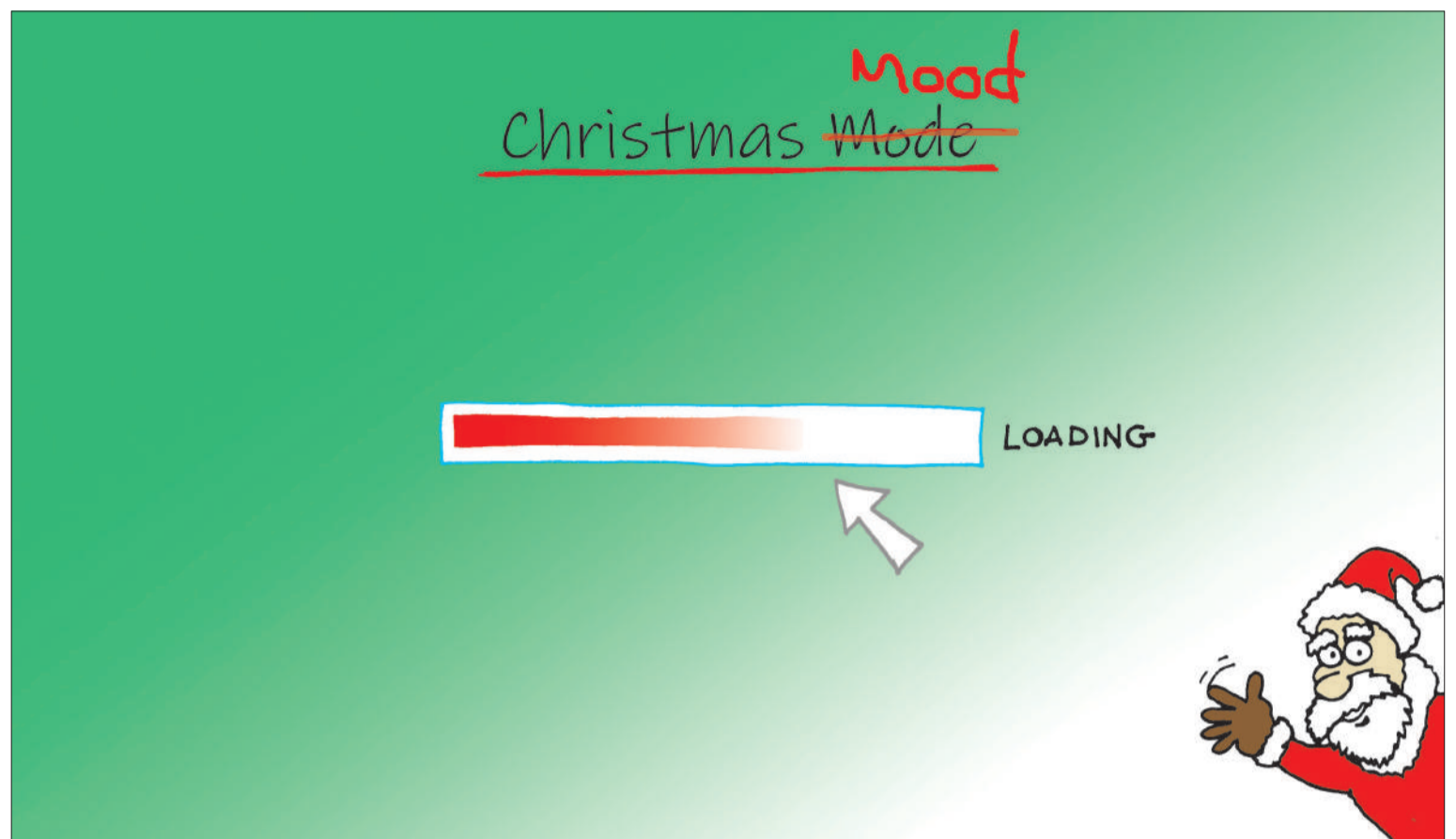
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Witness to industrialisation and job creation

By Issa Aremu

AFRICA Industrialisation (Day AID) 2020 assumes a special importance as it was observed with week-long manifestations, making it truly Africa Industrialisation Week (AIW) not just a Day. In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 20 November "Africa Industrialisation Day" (AID) within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000). Since then, the United Nations system led by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) held events annually raising awareness about the importance of Africa's industrialisation and the challenges faced by the continent.

In the past six years, the affiliate trade unions of IndustriALL Global Union in Nigeria had been active, observing the day through industrial policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders that include organised businesses in Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), organised labour in Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Bank of Industry (BOI) and some industry-promotion states of the Federation. IndustriALL global union organises 50 million manufacturing workers along the global value chains in 140 countries. In Nigeria, affiliate unions of IndustriALL Global Union are drawn from petroleum, gas, chemical, textile and iron and steel sectors. Expected sustainable industrial policy is one critical success goal of our global union.

As the elected Vice President, (IndustriALL Africa), I can confirm that Nigeria's Council is the most consistent in marking AID/AIW in line with the promotion of Sustainable Industrial policy goal of IndustriALL Global Union. Other goals of the global union are; Defence of workers' rights, building union power, engaging global capital and fighting precarious work. 2017 was memorable with a three-day programme; 6th Special Policy Dialogue Session on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (INDUSTRY4.0: Implications for Africa).

The objective was to draw attention and critically examine the opportunities for Africa to diversify its economy, promote mass decent employment with respect to workers' rights within the context of digital/smart manufacturing (Industry 4.0). One positive enduring outcome was the launch of Industrial Revolution



Manifesto which impacted on the Federal government.

In 2018, the leadership of National Union of Textile and Garment workers had a historic audience with President Muhammadu Buhari during which he unveiled the Cotton, Textile and Garment (CTG) policy aimed at reviving the sector. This is one positive outcome of policy advocacy. The year's Industrialisation Day Webinar, featured the participation of Africa Development Bank (AfDB).

As significant as all these activities are, the singular visit to Dangote Petroleum Refinery located in the South-East of the Lekki Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, on Monday November 30th as part of AIW was the game changer in revealing what value addition and investment in Industrialisation promises for Nigeria as much as for Africa.

Trade Unions drawn from energy, petroleum and gas, chemicals and engineering as well as textile had sought a visit to which Aliko Dangote, Founder/President/Chief Executive Dangote Group had graciously accepted through the Group Executive Director, Devakumar V. G. Edwin. Of course, it's an open knowledge that Dangote Group is a leading "Doing Group" in Africa. Dangote has hugely shared in the ownership of Nigerian development challenges in a way many elected and appointed officers and private sector investors have not. He has moved Nigeria from being the world's second largest importers of cement, to self-sufficiency, and then export (all within a decade!), constructing "8-million-ton capacity cement export terminals" to make cement Nigeria's largest industrial export.

However a visit to the on-going largest Single Train Petroleum Refinery in the World -650,000 barrels-per-day (more than enough to meet Nigeria's petrol needs and for export) confirms that Aliko Dangote has long changed the narrative of Nigeria from pessimism to optimism in terms of manufacturing value

added.

Alhaji Aliko is truly a lesson in investment patriotism, despite challenges. We spent over an hour in a bus ride, yet we could only cover five per cent of the site. The land area is approximately 2,635 hectares (six times the size of Victoria Island!). The site also hosts two of the World's Largest Fertilizer Trains - 3 Million Tonnes per Annum (bigger than the 1.4 million tonnes per annum Indorama Fertilizer Limited!). Under construction is the largest Sub-Sea Pipeline Infrastructure in any country in the World - some 1,100 kilometres to handle 3 Billion Standard Cubic Foot of gas per day.

The projected 400 MW Power Plant in the Refinery alone is capable of meeting the total electricity requirement of Ibadan DisCo of 860,316 MWh covering five states including Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Kwara and Ekiti. Dangote Petroleum Refinery can meet 100 per cent of the Nigerian requirement of all refined products (Gasoline, 57 million litres per day; diesel, 27 million litres per day; kerosene, 11 million litres per day and aviation jet, nine million litres per day) and also have surplus of each of these products for export. When operational, this refinery would create market of some \$11 billion per annum of Nigerian crude, which COVID-19 pandemic suffer fall in global demand.

This refinery for once would make Nigeria enhance national benefits from its crude through beneficiation with annual foreign exchange saving from import substitution of USD 7.5 billion. Designed for 100 per cent Nigerian crude with flexibility to process other crudes it is strategically located with marine infrastructure for crude receipts and product trade. As unionists, our interest is decent mass employment.

It's remarkable that Dangote has employed over 10,000 Nigerian personnel on site. Employment by the various contractors and subcontractors at the site is 7,500. The current ratio of Nigerians to Expatriates is 93 per

cent Nigerians to seven per cent expatriates.

A total of 900 Nigerian engineers are to be trained in design, engineering and design of the refinery. The company recently completed the training of 200 artisans selected from the host communities in the areas of masonry, carpentry, AC electricians, plumbing, welders, iron-benders and auto mechanics.

This was achieved in collaboration with the Nigerian Directorate of Employment and Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board. The point cannot be overstated that industry is the key driver of sustainable jobs and development for national economies and the foundation of good living standards.

The benefits of Dangote Refinery include technology transfer, employment, generation of power and annual foreign exchange earnings from exports of some USD 5.5 billion. Dangote Fertilizer Project is the largest granulated urea fertilizer complex coming up in the entire fertilizer industry history in the world, with an investment of USD 2.0 billion capacity of 3 Mil TPA, consisting of ammonia and urea plants.

For decades, Nigeria has been accused of polluting the atmosphere by flaring gas while the country itself has been facing shortage of gas. The EWOGGS pipeline project as part of this singular project would unlock significant gas supply for industry and will considerably reduce flaring.

Power Plants, Fertilizer, Refinery and Petrochemical Projects and others will benefit from this gas supply. No wonder at the end of the visit all felt "prouder" as Nigerians that rather than agonising over "recession" and poverty, it's time for value addition and industrialisation as Dangote Group is doing for a "self-reliant Africa".

However we left Lekki with some critical questions in mind? If Aliko could audaciously drive the building of the 650,000 bpd refinery from ground zero on dredged sea land into near completion, why would NNPC prove incapable in managing four refineries with various sums of monies disbursed for so-called turn around maintenance (TAMS)? Why would NNPC prefer wholesale importation to import substitution with all the attendant pressures on scarce foreign exchange, unemployment and underemployment? If only we could have 10 investment patriots like Aliko, would Africa not have been on the path of the long trumpeted sustainable development?

Keep the purity of Mt. Kilimanjaro

By Correspondent Asukile R. Kajuni

I read with dismay an article in The Guardian Daily Newspaper titled "Government endorses cable car installation on Mt. Kili" by The Guardian Reporter on December 16th 2020 based on Tanzania National Parks' (TANAPA) Assistant Conservation Commissioner, Paul Banga.

Kilimanjaro National Park was established and gazetted in 1973 to protect and conserve the magnificent Mt. Kilimanjaro, which, standing at 5895 meters above sea level, is the highest point in Africa. Mt. Kilimanjaro is a volcanic massif that stands in splendid isolation above the surrounding plains, with its snowy peak looming over the savannah. The mountain has five main vegetation zones from the lowest to the highest point: Lower slopes, montane forest, heath and moorland, alpine desert and summit. Mt. Kilimanjaro is one of the best-known mountains in the world.

Kilimanjaro National Park is one of the most important national parks in Tanzania and in the world. Globally it was inscribed as World Heritage Site in 1987 due to its superlative natural phenomena, exceptional natural beauty as the largest single free-standing mountain mass in the world. In addition, it is seen as one of the isolated mountain blocks of Africa that can be likened to an archipelago of "islands" of montane vegetation separated by a "sea" of lowland forest and savanna. The important distinguishing features are its height, its pristine physical form and its place in the historical exploration and "image" of Africa. The park is connected to Amboseli National Park in Kenya, however corridors to Arusha National Park and Tsavo National park have been encroached, impacting on wildlife migration. The integrity of the National Park includes the whole of the mountain including the tropical forest as well as the montane forest, alpine desert and the summit. Mt. Kilimanjaro together with Serengeti, Lake Manyara and Tarangire national parks generate more than 85 per cent of the total tourist revenues received by TANAPA, so any degradation of the pristine mountain environment by installing cable cars will jeopardize the ability of the park to support other national parks in the country.

TANAPA mandate

The TANAPA National Policy on National Parks of 1994, which I was part and parcel of its development clearly states the mandate of TANAPA as to "Manage, and Regulate the Use of all Areas designated as National Parks by such Means and Measures to preserve the Country's Heritage encompassing Natural and Cultural resources both Tangible and Intangible Resource Values, including the Fauna and Flora, Wildlife Habitat, Natural Processes, Wilderness Quality, and the Scenery therein and to provide for Human Benefit and Enjoyment of the same in Such Manner and by Such Means as Will Leave them Unimpaired for Future Generations." My contribution through this article should remind TANAPA management, senior government officials as well as the authorities with mandate on environmental management in the Vice President's Office through Division of Environment (DoE) and the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to make the right decisions to allow the present generation or its remnants and the posterity



to get the whole story in the right perspective. If we destroy the environment, it is certain that the environment will not spare, hence the dire need to protect our pristine natural environment.

It is not the first time such requests for development have been made to TANAPA and neither will be the last. During the late 1980s and early 1990s TANAPA received requests for construction of a seven-storey building at Horombo Hut in Kilimanjaro National Park as well as an international airport at Nyaruboru Plains inside Serengeti National Park!! The TANAPA National Policy on National Parks was used to address such requests knowing very well that the present generation has no absolute ownership of natural or cultural resources in the country but owe it to the future generations. What the TANAPA Assistant Conservation Commissioner Paul Banga alluded to regarding the installation of Cable Cars in Kilimanjaro National Park is contrary to the TANAPA National Policy on National Parks.

Tourism Policy of Tanzania

Tanzania's "low-volume high-value" approach in matters of tourism development has significant economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas such as the greater Serengeti and Mt. Kilimanjaro ecosystems. In just over a decade, annual tourist numbers have soared from about 500,000 in 2000 to over 1.53 million visitors generating revenues to the tune of \$2.6 billion in 2019. Tanzania's competitive strengths in tourism lie in the abundant and diverse wildlife, the spectacular landscape and scenery, an un-spoilt environment, a friendly people and the existence of other economic sectors that complement the tourism industry including: air and ground travel, accommodation, agriculture and academics.

Increased Visitations and Revenue

According to the Assistant Commissioner Paul Banga, the only way to raise numbers of tourists in the country in order to raise revenue to the projected \$6 billion by 2025 is to install Cable Cars in Kilimanjaro National Park. This is ridiculous and could not be farther from the reality obtaining in the country. Tanzania's tourism industry is largely based on the country's unique natural resources and wildlife, pristine landscape and scenery as well as beach. Pressures on the carrying capacity of key ecosystems such as the Mt. Kilimanjaro and Serengeti ecosystems may soon undermine the quality of the tourism experience in the country. Increasing such pressures by addition of cable cars in Kilimanjaro National Park is tantamount to destroying the "goose that lays the golden eggs".

All tourism stakeholders know very well that the potential for

increasing visitation and revenues in Tanzania from the tourism industry is by opening up the southern and western tourism circuits, through strengthening strategic infrastructure to create an enabling environment to carry out tourism activities efficiently and effectively. For example, southern and western Tanzania have vast and incredible endowment of tourism assets, which include opportunities for wildlife safaris, hiking, cultural tourism, and other activities. Of southern Tanzania's many attractions, Nyerere, Mikumi, Kitulo, Ruaha national parks; the Selous, Kipengere/Mpanga, Lukwika-Lumesule and Liparamba game reserves; as well as the Rondo, Uluguru, Udzungwa, Mkingu, Rungwe Nature Forest Reserves are the most critical. The Southern tourism circuit should link bush to beach (B2B) tourism opportunities and opening up the Kilwa's historical and beach tourism the national parks, the game reserves and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) as well as the Fresh Water tourism activities in Lake Nyasa. Whereas the Southern Tanzanian communities have unique traditions, cultures and sites of historical significance, all of which can contribute to growth of the tourism industry. Southern Tanzania's historical sites include ruins from the time of Portuguese and Arab rule, and sites from the Maji Maji rebellion against German occupation in the early 20th century. In addition, the Makonde, an ethnic group in Southern Tanzania, are one of the country's largest ethnic groups, and are particularly well known for woodcarving. In addition recent government initiatives in allowing local communities' participation in conservation, through ongoing management of natural resources and the protection of wildlife, is critical to the success of conservation endeavors and to the tourism industry.

On the other hand, of western Tanzania's tourism major attractions include: Katavi, Mahale, Gombe, Ugalla and Kigosi national parks, the Kalambo Falls which is second only to Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe apart from Forest Nature Reserves and Miombo woodlands that are very abundant which could anchor wildlife safaris, boat rides in water bodies and cultural/traditional tourism from the multiplicity of ethnic groups in the area. Tanzania's ambitious growth plans focus on better harnessing the value of natural assets to create wealth and jobs.

Tourism pull factors in TanzaniaThe main attractions for tourists in Tanzania are nature based. To promote large-scale growth of tourism will require to transform and diversify tourist products country wide as well as local economies and livelihoods in high tourism potential areas so as to create jobs, and generate important gains economy-wise. As mentioned above the tourism competitive

advantage of the country lies in the expansive network of protected areas in the form of national parks, game reserves, marine parks and nature forest reserves. These areas need to maintain the natural qualities for conservation of biodiversity with minimum manmade structures, except for essential personnel for protection and ensuring health and safety of the visitors. The tourists expect to visit pristine natural areas with minimum manmade intrusions and get value for their money. The headquarters of Serengeti National Park was moved to Fort Ikoma outside the boundaries of the national park in early 1990s in order to maintain the pristine natural beauty of the Serengeti National Park.

Man Made Infrastructure within the Protected Areas

It is the nature of man-made infrastructure to grow and convert more of the pristine and natural areas into human settlements. Such settlements will require more services to support human population in terms of the basic needs for human survival as well as essential services including but not limited to solid and liquid waste disposal systems. As more of these infrastructures continue to expand in any protected areas, they degrade the natural ecosystems, completely ruin visitor experiences and compete with the wildlife for resources. Besides protected areas' main objectives relate to the conservation and protection of representative biodiversity for the country's present and future generations. They are as well as natural resources bank, and we know the values all banked resources keep on increasing, and if we cannot bestow anything to our future generations then leaving the protected areas network intact will definitely serve the purposes.

Based on the aforementioned, the plans to install cable cars in Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park should be shelved and strategic tourism infrastructure investments be undertaken in order to open up the southern and western tourism circuits. The government should attract investments in the southern and western circuits that would easily attract the number of tourists and revenue envisaged by 2025. Recognizing the role that southern and western Tanzania's tourism industry can play in the improvement of economic and social conditions of the country will go a long way to facilitate an effective and better management of the region's biodiversity that would increase the diversity of tourism products, provide employment for locals, and contribute to more sustainable government revenues. While tourism industry faces some natural challenges, it is the man-made challenges that continue to hinder the realization of its full potential. Currently the

southern and western Tanzania, accounts for less than 10% of all tourists/visitors to the country. Accommodation options and activities, are fewer in number, limited in variety and have poor market penetration. Occupancy rates for tourists in many of these facilities and lodges are below 30%.

About the Author:

Asukile R Kajuni has more than forty years of professional field experience in protected area management and planning; policy development and the sustainable management of natural resources. He was the first TANAPA Manager of Planning and established the TANAPA Planning Unit (TPU); introduced a strategic planning process (SPP) in the preparation of general management plans (GMP). The first assignment for GMP preparation was Kilimanjaro National Park GMP which was completed in 1992. While with TANAPA he prepared other four GMPs and developed a Development/Action/Lease Procedures (DALP) adopted by TANAPA as a matter of policy for strictly regulating procedures and environmental compliance requirements for all new and old development projects in all national parks in the country. He moved to international assignments as a Senior Environmental Specialist in the NRM/EG program for about 10 years managing natural resources and tourism development programs with USAID/Tanzania. His personal efforts contributed immensely to his outstanding performance with community based natural resources management (CBNRM) programmes in the Mission - that resulted in the promulgation of WMA Regulations in 2002. He was the lead field person and co-author of a CBNRM Stock taking exercise by USAID in 2002. He pioneered and successfully incorporated integrated water resources management (IWRM) and ecophysiological principles in the NRM portfolio within USAID/Tanzania Mission. He is an expert in community based natural resources management, PA planning specializing in Visitor Use, Visitor Facilities design and planning; interpretive media design and planning; and environmental impact assessment (EIA). He is a registered Environmental Expert (EIA and Audit) under the Environmental Management Act (EMA 2004) through the Tanzania National Environmental Management Council (NEMC).

Some of his other international assignments include an 18 month assignment as Project Manager for the Transboundary Peace Park for Sierra Leone and Liberia where he facilitated and took the lead in the establishment of Gola Forest National Park in Liberia to support the trans-boundary component with the Gola National Park in Sierra Leone; and a 40 months assignment with the Zambia Wildlife Authority as Protected Area Planning Coordinator; where he established and developed a general management planning process adopted from TANAPA for the Zambia Wildlife Estate.

He holds a Diploma in Range Management from Egerton College, Njoro, (Kenya); a BSc and MSc in Range Science from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas (USA).

Asukile R. Kajuni is natural resources management and tourism expert

Impact of Covid-19 on child marriage and other gender-based violence

DHAKA, Bangladesh

I recently visited rural areas of Bangladesh amid the COVID-19 pandemic and returned to Dhaka with a new understanding of the impact that COVID-19 is having on child marriage, a harmful practice that is a global challenge. The fundamental shift that I saw was that child marriage, which has typically been encouraged by struggling parents, is now being encouraged by struggling girls. This worrisome trend underscores a new burden of the pandemic on the poor.

Marriage before the age of 18 is a fundamental violation of human rights. Yet UNICEF reported in April that the number of girls married in childhood stands at 12 million per year worldwide.

According to the United Nations Population Fund's State of the World Population 2020 report, COVID-19 threatens to make even that stunning number worse. The agency estimates that COVID-19 will disrupt efforts to end child marriage, potentially resulting in an additional 13 million child marriages taking place between 2020 and 2030 that could otherwise have been averted.

The challenge is not only the disease but the response to the disease - especially the impact of school closings, which have been in effect nationally since March. The transition from in-school to online learning can easily seem like a mechanical one, but it creates new challenges for remote and poor



communities.

What I witnessed in visiting rural communities was girls totally bored and home-bound by school closings. They typically lack Internet access, television, and smartphones. Analog phones are the only readily available means of communication, and too often the parents are not able to maintain any sort of schooling at home.

The girls are home-bound because, unlike the boys, they are generally forbidden by their parents from leaving the home unnecessarily. School closings thus become confining as well as limiting.

All too often the girls whom I saw had a glazed look in their eyes. They saw no future for themselves. Without school, they were deprived of possibilities. The daily effect was crushing. The only escape was child marriage.

The shift to girls pursuing child

marriage instead of their parents is a devastating one that could drive the numbers even higher. It could limit the prospects and potential of girls worldwide.

School closings also affect boys, but boys have more to do. They are freer, more mobile, outside more. In some areas, that may increase child labor, drug addiction, and gambling, but boys are not confined as girls are.

The situation is also different in urban areas, where there is greater access to the Internet, television, and smartphones. Internet access has its own liabilities, but it is available for educational purposes.

For girls and women, the response to COVID-19 has other implications, too. Lockdowns have left many men out of work and, therefore, at home during the day, often making demands of one kind or another. The burden on women - to

prepare more food, do more cleaning, maintain the home life - only increases. Financial stress creates domestic stress, and the potential for violence grows, especially as husbands demand more money from wives' families - a major cause of domestic violence.

BRAC is working to prevent child marriages and other forms of violence against women and children and to defend victims of such violence. BRAC's Community Empowerment Programme supports Polli Shomaj, the community-based women's groups that are active in 54 out of 64 districts in Bangladesh in combating gender-based violence. BRAC also operates 410 Legal Aid Clinics, whose cases typically involve gender-based violence. But for prevention to be maximized a cultural shift is needed.

Men and women are equal in Bangladesh's Constitution and law, but

not in its culture. And with 3 million cases backlogged in the court system, the law has limited effect.

Bringing about that cultural shift requires economic empowerment alongside social empowerment for girls and women. It requires life skills for negotiation, partnering in decision-making, and goal setting, among other things. It necessitates occupational skills training to enable girls and women to connect with the job market and to earn their own income. It also requires microfinance so that women can get loans, and mentoring so that women can see a future that they can impact.

Fortunately, BRAC has those tools in place. BRAC Microfinance has 7.1 million clients, 87% of whom are women. BRAC's Skills Development Programme has equipped 84,581 people with training and knowledge needed for employment, and 83% of those learners - 50% of whom are women - secured jobs after graduation. Together these tools create a comprehensive package that can enable girls and women to see a vibrant future and escape gender-based violence.

But the scale of the problem is greater still. According to a 2015 survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and the United Nations Population Fund, more than 70 percent of married women or girls in Bangladesh have faced some form of intimate partner abuse; about half of whom say their partners have physically assaulted them. And the problem is global.

COVID-19 has revealed that girls and women need to be able to see a future of opportunity for themselves. In combating COVID-19, the world must awaken to this revelation. COVID-19 should now become the catalyst for the world to make possible a future of opportunity for girls and women - a future without gender-based violence.

AGENCIES

Online violence, fueled by disinformation and political attacks, deeply harms women journalists

WASHINGTON

An alarmingly high number of women journalists are now targets of online attacks associated with orchestrated digital disinformation campaigns. The impacts include self-censorship, retreat from visibility, an increased risk of physical injury, and a serious mental health toll. The main perpetrators? Anonymous trolls and political actors.

These findings are among the first released in a survey conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Center for Journalists (ICJ) on online violence against women journalists.

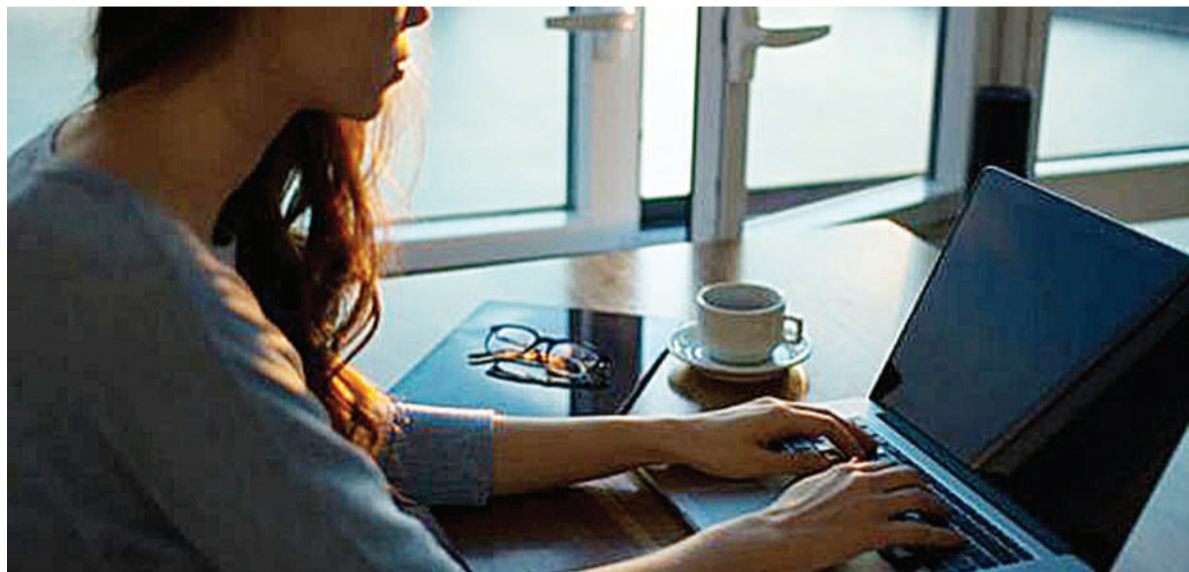
They paint a global picture of the deeply entrenched nature of gendered abuse, harassment and sexualized attacks against women journalists, along with the obstacles to effective solutions.

The survey, which is the most comprehensive and geographically diverse survey ever undertaken on the theme of online violence, was offered in five languages and received responses from 714 women journalists across 113 countries. It is part of a broader UNESCO-commissioned study to examine online violence in 15 countries, with an emphasis on intersectional experiences and the Global South.

The women journalists surveyed said they had been subjected to a wide range of online violence, including threats of sexual assault and physical violence, abusive language, harassing private messages, threats to damage their professional or personal reputations, digital security attacks, misrepresentation via manipulated images and financial threats.

These methods of attack are growing more sophisticated and evolving with technology. They are also increasingly associated with orchestrated attacks fueled by disinformation tactics designed to silence journalists. This points to the need for responses to online violence to grow equally in technological sophistication and collaborative coordination.

Here are the top 12 findings from the report, which was published by UNESCO to mark International



Human Rights Day.

(1) Nearly three in four women respondents (73%) said they had experienced online violence.

Online attacks against women journalists have been a pernicious problem for many years. Now, these appear to be increasing dramatically and uncontrollably around the world, as our respondents illustrated.

(2) Threats of physical (25%) and sexual violence (18%) plagued the women journalists surveyed.

But these threats aren't just directed at the women being targeted - they radiate. Thirteen percent of respondents said they had received threats of violence against those close to them.

(3) One in five women respondents (20%) said they had been attacked or abused offline in incidents seeded online.

This finding is particularly disturbing given the emerging correlation between online attacks and the murder of journalists with impunity. In related findings, 13% said they increased their physical security in response to online violence, and 4% said that they had missed work due to concerns about the attacks jumping offline. This highlights both their sense

of vulnerability and their awareness of the potential offline consequences of digital attacks.

(4) The mental health impacts of online violence were the most frequently identified (26%) consequence. Twelve percent of respondents said they had sought medical or psychological help due to the effects of online violence, and 11% said they had taken days off work as a result.

Online violence against women journalists causes significant psychological harm, especially when it is prolific and sustained. But our survey also demonstrated that media employers need to do much more to support the mental health and well-being of those targeted. Only 11% of our respondents said their employer provided access to a counselling service if they were attacked.

(5) Almost half (48%) of the women reported being harassed with unwanted private messages.

This highlights the fact that much online violence targeting women journalists occurs in the shadows of the internet, away from public view where dealing with the problem can be even more difficult.

(6) The story theme most often identified in association

with increased attacks was gender (47%), followed by politics and elections (44%), and human rights and social policy (31%).

This data underlines the function of misogyny in online violence against women journalists. It also spotlights the role of political attacks on the press, connected to populist politics in particular, exacerbating threats to journalism safety.

(7) Forty-one percent women respondents said they had been the targets of online attacks that appeared to be linked to orchestrated disinformation campaigns.

Women journalists increasingly find themselves in the crosshairs of digital disinformation campaigns which leverage misogyny and other forms of hate speech to chill critical reporting.

(8) Political actors were the second most frequently noted sources (37%) of attacks and abuse after "anonymous or unknown attackers" (57%).

The role of political actors as top sources and primary perpetrators of online violence against women journalists is an alarming trend confirmed by this survey. Meanwhile, the proliferation of anonymous and pseudonymous "troll" accounts complicates the process of both investigating

the perpetrators and efforts to hold them to account. A lack of transparency and limited responsiveness by the platforms, especially those where attacks are prolific, compounds this problem.

(9) Facebook was rated the least safe of the top five platforms or apps used by participants, with nearly double the number of respondents rating Facebook "very unsafe" compared to Twitter. It also attracted disproportionately higher rates of incident reporting among the respondents (39% compared to Twitter's 26%).

Considering the role of Facebook and Twitter as major vectors of online attacks against women journalists, the levels of reporting to the social media companies demonstrated by the survey respondents appear relatively low. This likely reflects both a sense of futility frequently associated with such efforts, as well as a general reluctance among the women surveyed to raise these issues externally. In addition, the finding underscores the urgent need for major internet companies to fulfill their duty of care and more effectively tackle online violence against journalists.

(10) Only 25% of respondents reported incidents of online violence to their employers. The top responses they said they received were: no response (10%) and advice like "grow a thicker skin" or "toughen up" (9%). Two percent said they were asked what they did to provoke the attack.

The respondents demonstrated the existence of a double impediment to effective action to deal with online violence experienced in the course of their employment: low levels of access to systems and support mechanisms for targeted journalists, and low levels of awareness about the existence of measures, policies and guidelines for addressing the problem.

(11) The women journalists surveyed most frequently indicated (30%) that they

respond to the online violence they experience by self-censoring on social media. Twenty percent described how they withdrew from all online interaction, and 18% specifically avoided audience engagement.

Such acts, which could be considered defensive measures employed by women to preserve their safety, demonstrate the effectiveness of online attack tactics: They are designed to chill critical reporting, silence women and muzzle truth-telling.

(12) Online violence significantly impacts the employment and productivity of the women respondents. In particular, 11% reported missing work, 38% retreated from visibility (e.g. by asking to be taken off air and retreating behind pseudonyms online), 4% quit their jobs, and 2% even abandoned journalism altogether.

While some of these numbers might appear small, this is a significant indicator of the perniciousness of the problem. This data also demonstrates the negative implications of online violence for gender diversity in (and through) the news media.

Ultimately, this survey's first results illustrate that online violence against women journalists is a global phenomenon that demands urgent action. For freedom of expression to be sustained, for diversity in journalism to flourish, and for access to information to be equal, women journalists must be seen and heard.

The climate of impunity surrounding online attacks raises questions that demand answers. Impunity emboldens the perpetrators, demoralizes the victim, erodes the foundations of journalism, exacerbates risks to journalism safety and undermines democracy.

Based on these disturbing findings, nine recommendations for action are offered in the full report, targeting governments, the social media platforms and media industry employers.

AGENCIES

Desert locust upsurge continues to threaten food security in Horn of Africa and Yemen

ROME

A new generation of Desert Locust swarms is threatening agricultural and pastoral livelihoods and the food security of millions of people in the Horn of Africa and Yemen despite intense efforts to control the pest throughout 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has said.

With international support and an unprecedented large-scale response campaign coordinated by FAO, more than 1.3 million hectares of locust infestations have been treated in ten countries since January.

Control operations have prevented the loss of an estimated 2.7 million tonnes of cereal, worth nearly \$800 million, in countries already hard hit by acute food insecurity and poverty. That is enough to feed 18 million people a year.

However, favourable weather conditions and widespread seasonal rains have caused extensive breeding in eastern Ethiopia and Somalia. This was worsened by Cyclone Gati which brought flooding to northern Somalia last month allowing locust infestations to increase further in the coming months. New locust swarms are already forming and threatening to re-invade northern Kenya and breeding is also underway on both sides of the Red Sea, posing a new threat to Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Yemen.

"We have achieved much, but the battle against this relentless pest is not yet over," said the Director-General of FAO, QU Dongyu. "We must



not waver. Locusts keep growing day and night and risks are exacerbating food insecurity for vulnerable families across the affected region."

FAO is assisting governments and other partners with surveillance and coordination, technical advice and the procurement of supplies and equipment but operations must be further scaled up to safeguard food production and prevent worsening food insecurity in the affected countries.

Donors and partners have so far provided nearly \$200 million to finance control efforts, allowing FAO and governments to rapidly scale up locust response capacity in a region that has not faced an upsurge of the pest on this scale in generations. Over 1,500 ground survey and control per-

sonnel have been trained and 110 vehicle mounted ground sprayers and 20 aircraft are now in action.

FAO is now seeking a further \$40 million to increase surveillance and control activities in the most affected countries - Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen - in 2021. More than 35 million people are already acutely food insecure in these five countries and FAO estimates this number could increase by another 3.5 million, if nothing is done to control the latest outbreak.

Rural livelihoods must be protected

FAO is not only working with governments and partners on control operations. The Organization is taking action to safeguard and protect rural livelihoods by providing affected growers with farm-

ing packages, veterinary care and feed for vegetation-starved livestock, and cash for families who have lost their crops so that they can cope until their next harvest.

Over 200 000 households have already received livelihood assistance and that number is expected to increase. FAO will assist an additional 98 000 households in early 2021 and is appealing for continuous support, mainly through Humanitarian Response Plans.

Without additional funding, control efforts could slow down or halt from the end of January 2021, potentially allowing the numbers of the crop-devouring pest to surge in some places. Farmers, whose livelihoods have been impacted, require further support and national capacities in monitoring and responding to Desert Locust still need to be strengthened.

Funding has been received from Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Development Bank, the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation, the Mastercard Foundation, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and the World Bank Group.

Desert Locust monitoring, forecasting and control are at the heart of FAO's mandate. Its Desert Locust Information Service has been in operation for nearly 50 years. FAO's well-established field presence, ability to link up authorities from different countries, and expertise in Desert Locust management make it a key player in responding to upsurges like that currently affecting East Africa.

Oman and Zanzibar seal agreement on preserving heritage

MUSCAT

AN agreement between the Sultanate and Zanzibar has been signed for preserving heritage with focus on the Beit Al-Ajaib historical Palace, which will be turned into a museum.

A statement issued online by Oman News Agency (ONA), said: "Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar, received at his office Eng. Ibrahim bin Said al-Kharousi, Heritage Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism."

The meeting laid emphasis on cooperation between the Sultanate and Zanzibar in the field of heritage and ways to preserve it. They also signed the foundation document of museum aspects of Beit Al-Ajaib historical palace.

The meeting comes as part of Eng. al Kharousi's tour of Zanzibar to inspect the Beit al Ajaib maintenance and restoration project, being undertaken by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. Beit al Ajaib is an architectural wonder showcasing various aspects of the shared history of Oman and Zanzibar.

Eng. al Kharousi and his delegation were briefed about the progress of work and met officials tasked with the project. They also visited the Palace Museum, the old fort, the Sultani cemetery, Al Salam Museum, the Natural History Museum, Mtoni Palace ruins and Al Marhubi Palace.

World Bank support for African agriculture

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S agricultural sector will receive help dealing with the effects of climate change, while Mozambique and Madagascar are also receiving support for development programmes.

A World Bank programme will provide USD 60 million to help Africa's agricultural sector cope with climate change. The International Development Association (IDA), part of the World Bank Group, has provided a grant aimed at fulfilling the bank's commitment to CGIAR, a global food security organisation, at a time when the pandemic.

Accordingly, the bank has launched Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa project (AICCRA) a programme which will provide information and technology to Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia.

In a statement, Deborah Wetzel, the bank's director of regional integration for Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Northern Africa, said: "Knowledge generation and technology transfer are deserving of IDA regional support, because the benefits flow across national boundaries and therefore are unlikely to be supported adequately by individual governments acting alone."

MOZAMBIQUE DEVELOPMENT

On 10 December, the bank approved a USD 100 million grant from the IDA to support Mozambique's urban transformation project in Maputo.

The project is developing urban infrastructure, including construction of a first sanitary landfill to replace an existing site, and municipal reform, including planning of an urban district earmarked for future development. The funding will also support measures to offset the economic impact of Covid-19.

Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough, the World Bank's country director for Mozambique, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles, said: "This investment will ultimately contribute to harness the role of Maputo as the country's economic powerhouse by investing in urban infrastructure and services, while supporting critical reforms to ensure that urbanization in Maputo can contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction, and structural transformation."

André Herzog, the senior urban specialist and task team leader explained: "Urbanisation has not benefited everyone equally in Maputo as the city has expanded informally, without effective urban planning and the necessary investments in basic infrastructure and land tenure security."

A Mozambican natural gas project received USD 20 billion in financing.

The country received African Development Bank funding.

MADAGASCAR SUPPORT

The urban development of Antananarivo, Madagascar, will also receive USD 50 million in credit from the IDA. The bank approved the finance to cover a gap in funding created by the need to put resources into fighting Covid-19.

World Bank country manager for Madagascar, Marie-Chantal Uwanyiligira said the loan will ensure continuity in the urban development operation, "an important project for urban development that is more necessary than ever to better protect the population and strengthen their resilience to future shocks".

The IDA is also providing a USD 33 million credit to the Madagascar Integrated Growth Poles and Corridor Sop-2 Project which supports, among other things, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism and agribusiness industries.

"The tourism sector has been hardest hit by the pandemic in Madagascar," said Uwanyiligira.

Earlier this year, the World Bank committed USD 100 million in the country.

My midwifery trip to Africa

By Special Correspondent

ANEQA Hussain has worked hard to get where she is today, at one point going back to college for a year to secure the grades she needed in order to continue her university studies.

She graduates from her three-year long course in midwifery at the University of Bradford this week and has some poignant memories, among them an 'elective placement' in Tanzania, which she undertook as part of her course.

Volunteering overseas, organised in conjunction with Work The World, took place during her second year, in August 2019, and saw her visit the nation's capital Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar during a two-week stay.

While there, she helped deliver six babies and even began to learn Swahili.

She said: "From a young age I knew I wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. When I was growing up, my younger brother needed a kidney transplant; I remember being around a lot of doctors and nurses at that time, so I think that's where it comes from. One of my goals was to travel overseas. When I got the chance to do that, it was a real eye opener for me, especially being able to see the difference in healthcare and realising how privileged we are in this country."

She says those differences were stark, with pregnant women often giving birth without medication.

"I was in awe," said the 23-year-old Bradfordian. "They managed with little analgesics and in some cases none at all. I witnessed nothing but bravery and patience from all those involved. It was a privilege to help bring those little bundles of joy into the world."

But it wasn't all work. While there, she had a chance to explore the local wildlife during a visit to Mikumi National Park. She recalled: "One weekend, I saw everything one could possibly see in the wild, from



University of Bradford midwifery graduates Aneeqa Hussain, who travelled to Tanzania as part of a work placement while studying for her degree.

serene landscapes, to crocodiles, elephants and giraffes. One of the most surreal experiences was watching a family of lions eating a zebra.

She even fed giant tortoises on Changuu Island - also known as Prison Island - and went snorkelling in the Indian Ocean.

Aneeqa has already delivered over 40 babies during her time with the University. In fact, it's one of the benchmarks students have to reach in order to progress. As she prepares to celebrate her graduation this week - a special event is planned for December 16 - she is already looking forward to taking up a full-time position in a local hospital.

Reflecting on her placement, the former Belle Vue Girls' Academy pupil said: "I'm really grateful to have had the opportunity. Not only did I get to exchange knowledge with doctors, midwives and other healthcare workers, I also gained confidence in my own abilities."

"By learning Swahili, I was able to have conversations with patients and local people who were quick to compliment my language skills and encouraged me to learn more. I hope my story inspires other students to go on elective placements abroad, as it can be life-changing. I would love to work abroad when I qualify as a midwife, as experiences like this one are the key to moving forward in this ever-evolving society."

"The most important thing I learnt was to be present and enjoy every second because experiences like this happen once in a lifetime. I savoured every moment."

Aneeqa's account of her experiences, which she wrote upon her return, even won an internal competition, earning her plaudits from her tutors and amazon vouchers.

Work the World specialises in creating overseas midwifery placements in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their destinations provide eye-opening insight into the challenges associated with delivering healthcare in the developing world.

It's possible, women must be bold enough to vie for leadership posts

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Newly elected women councillors, like all new councillors, often need support to ensure their contributions are sustainable. Learning from the experience of others is always helpful, so we have sought the views of women councillors on how to survive and thrive in local government.

"I have been a councillor since 1996 when I was still a young girl. In the first three terms I served as a special seat councillor but in 2010 I contested for a councillor post for Ngerengere Ward in Morogoro District and won it. And later climbed another ladder after being elected by fellow councillors as chairperson of the Morogoro District Council," explained Kibena Kingo.

According to her, she got a landslide win, thanks to support from both men and women in Ngerengere. Since she worked on her promises, in the following election, 2015, her supporters picked a form for her to contest again. She won again.

She revealed this during a four-day training on capacity building and mentorship programme on leadership and gender issues for the newly elected women councillors, picked from nine (9) regions from Tanzania Mainland that was organised by TGNP last week in Dar es Salaam.

Kingo has commended TGNP for the training and capacity building on leadership and gender issues they offered them in 2009 in Morogoro. "In fact, that was like an eye opener and an impetus that drove me to contest for a councillor post for Ngerengere Ward, and won it in 2010."

She further said that TGNP has not only offered her with leadership capacity building, but it has also linked her with other international institutions, through them she was enabled to attend different women international platforms on gender issues and other development issues for women in Sweden and in different African countries.



Former Tanzanian politician and the first female Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Anne Makinda, counsels newly elected councillors on leadership in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Daniel Semberya.

Kingo further noted that it wasn't simple to convince ordinary people and male councillors to elect her.

The secret behind the success was her persistence to prove to her cynics that female politicians can lead people in eradicating poverty and bring development.

She further narrated that when she became chairperson for the Morogoro District Council, she found that the council was collecting around 500 million/- a year. But during her tenure they made some improvements and out-sourced other income sources and managed to collect Tsh.2.6 billion revenues per year.

The revenues collected have enabled the council to construct hostels for various secondary schools such as Ngelele, Mkuyuni, Bwakila Chini and Nelson Mandela.

When she became a chairperson there were only three health centres in Morogoro DCA, but they built five more health centres during her tenure.

At Ngelele health centre, they have made major improvements. Services like surgery, ultra-sound, safe blood transmission are now available at the health centre.

As he motto goes: "Leadership for women is possible, when we wait to be given, we can't get it."

"We (women and girls) throw away these opportunities...like men, we have the ability to vie for any post at ward

and constituency levels.

What we ought to do is to present women emancipation agendas fearlessly when we are running for various political posts," she noted.

However, she said one of the challenge was that still most men do not trust women in leadership posts, pointing out stigma as one of the challenges women leaders face in the council meeting; whereby female leaders are being compared with children!

As rights groups are fighting for 50-50 in all political posts, the politician encouraged fellow women to contest for any political posts in the post 2020 General Election with agenda that focus to alleviate poverty among men and women.

Narrating her experience in the political arena, Kingo says, when she picked a form for the first time, she expected stiff competition from both men and women but it was vice versa.

Prior to high posts she held before dissolution of the council, Kingo worked as a Village Executive Officer and later as ward secretary of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

After gaining practical experience in politics, she encourages her fellow women to focus beyond limited special seats posts.

For her part, former Tanzanian politician and the first female Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Anne Makinda as a guest of honour to the

training counselled the newly elected women councillors that as democratically-elected local representative, they have a unique and privileged positions - and the potential to make a real difference to people's lives.

"However, being a councillor is hard work. Every day you will be expected to balance the needs of your local area, your residents and voters, community groups, local businesses, your political party...and the council."

All will make legitimate demands on your time - on top of your personal commitments to family, friends and workplace.

She further advised: "As a councillor you will have many different roles to balance. As the local elected representative you will engage with residents and groups on a wide range of different issues and take on an important community leadership role, adding:

"At the council you will contribute to the development of policies and strategies, including budget setting, and you may be involved in scrutinising council decisions or taking decisions on planning or licensing applications."

Makinda said "A councillor's primary role is to represent your ward or division and the people who live in it. Councillors provide a bridge between the community and the council. As well as being an advocate for your local residents and signposting them to the right people at the council, you will need to

keep them informed about the issues that affect them."

In order to understand and represent local views and priorities, you need to build strong relationships and encourage local people to make their views known and engage with you and the council. Good communication and engagement is central to being an effective councillor.

She further urged, as a local councillor, your residents will expect you to: Respond to their queries and investigate their concerns (casework), communicate council decisions that affect them. "I am sure if you work hard, your residents will campaign for you."

You have to know your patch and be aware of any problems, know and work with representatives of local organisations, interest groups and businesses represent their views at council meetings lead local campaigns on their behalf.

Community leadership is at the heart of modern local government...

Councils work in partnership with local communities and organisations - including the public, voluntary, community and private sectors - to develop a vision for their local area, working collaboratively to improve services and quality of life for citizens. Councillors have a lead role in this process.

Councils need clear strategies and policies to enable them to achieve their vision for the area, make the best use of resources and deliver services that meet the needs of local communities.

As a local councillor you will contribute to the development of these policies and strategies, bringing the views and priorities of your local area to the debate.

"You need to ensure you are in peace and love with your husband and other family members so as to be successful in your leadership," she urged.

Senior Programme Officer of capacity building and training at TGNP, Jane Tesha said they are empowering the newly elected councillors with leadership skills, gender issues to ensure they work efficiently and successfully for women development in their respective wards and localities.

She said this time their training brought together around 70 women councillors from nine regions in Tanzania Mainland.

Tesha further noted that their five-year programme intends to reach around 450 women councillors from the same regions. He mentioned those regions as: Mara, Kilimanjaro, Rukwa, Coast, Morogoro, Ruvuma, Songwe, Mbeya, and shinyanga.

By Don Pinnock

Sharks are declining worldwide and great whites have all but vanished from cage dives in southwestern Cape waters. A High Level Panel (HLP) appointed by Environment Minister Barbera Creecy to develop a shark management plan says whites left because orcas chased them and not because we target sharks like smoothhound and soupfin, a large part of their diet.

But here's what scientists are asking: if it's just about marauding orcas, why did whites not return to local bays when the predators moved off? Why did orcas not permanently displace sevengill and bronze whaler sharks which they were also seen hunting?

The Save our Sharks coalition and shark scientists insist the panel has missed the point. Smaller sharks, they say, are great whites' primary food for much of their life cycle and we're fishing them out of existence.

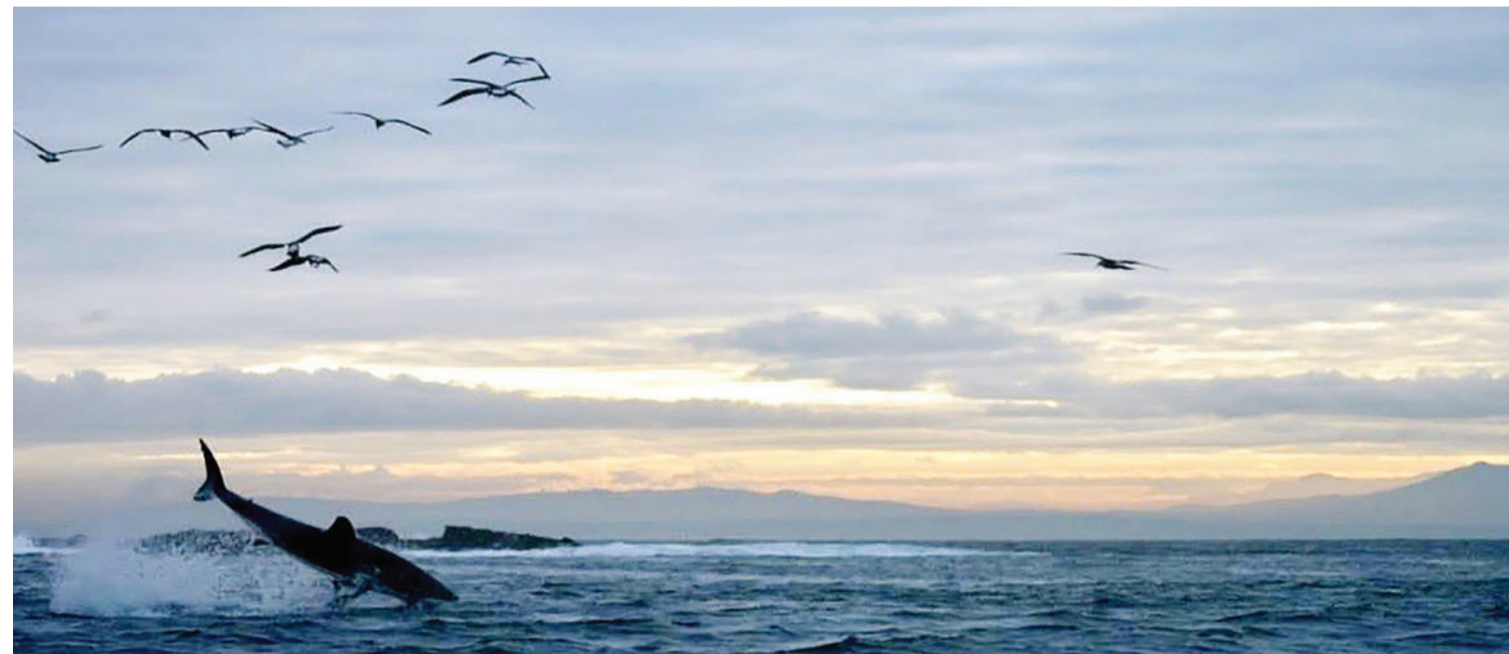
Permitting the killing of endangered soupfins and smoothhounds, says Dr Enrico Gennari of Oceans Research Institute, "is like DEFF [Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries] allowing hunters to go in the Kruger to ... kill 100 black rhinos in a single trip". Smoothhound are listed as endangered and soupfins critically so.

"If the Environment Department was serious about shark conservation," says Save our Sharks, "what's needed is to stop targeted fishing for sharks by the shark longline fishery. A few commercial shark boats are wiping out a billion-rand shark tourism industry and affecting the balance of entire marine ecosystems."

Stellenbosch University marine biologist Dr Sara Andreotti is most concerned by the panel's assumption about why white sharks moved away from False Bay and Gansbaai.

"Great whites' numbers likely plummeted because of diminished food resources, paired with decades

Are we starving great whites to death?



A lucky snapshot of what used to be - flying sharks at Seal island. File photo

of poaching, bycatch and Kwa-Zulu shark board legal shark cull," she says. "Making their feeding grounds once again rich in food resources by reducing our impact on other smaller sharks could be a step in the right direction to give this species a chance of recovery. The HLP based its findings on preliminary, not published nor peer-reviewed research."

There's no doubt smaller sharks are being hammered. Shark scientist Dr Charlene Da Silva of the DEFF showed South Africa's soupfin shark stock had collapsed due to overfishing and was likely to be extinct in South Africa within 20 to 30 years.

Between 1991 and 2016, smoothhounds in SA waters declined by 43%. Over the next three generations the decline was predicted to be 63%. For soupfins the percentages are 51% and 85%. Great whites all but disappeared in False Bay and Gansbaai, former epicentres

of shark cage diving.

"If soupfins are listed as critically endangered globally by the IUCN Red List," says Save our Sharks, "why did this panel not find it alarming that this species remains one of the two main, permitted, target species of shark fisheries in South Africa? When in doubt, use the precautionary principle."

The panel did express concern over soupfin and smoothhounds, noting the size (slot) limits were reduced in March 2020, and "the catch has to be reduced by an order of magnitude across all fleets to achieve a turnaround in the trajectory." However, the limits have yet to be implemented for longlining.

It said sharks above or below the new limits had to be released, on-board observers needed to be taken on trips and sharks must land with heads and fins intact. But it found no evidence that

these smaller sharks were a significant part of the great white diet.

This argument has a backstory. In 2013, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries drew up a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for shark conservation and management. It was a sobering assessment and contained warnings of a looming crisis for a number of shark species. In May 2020, Creecy appointed the High Level Panel to review the action plan. After months of deliberation, its report came out in October with a road map for action.

Save our Sharks specialists say it's full of contradictions, cherry-picked references and biased opinion from government-appointed scientists and managers.

The 2013 NPOA report had focused primarily on smoothhounds, soupfins and great whites. Between 2016 and 2019, about 90,000 smoothhounds were killed in our coastal waters

by longliners, way higher than recommended by DEFF's scientists. Most were fished by two demersal shark longlining (DSL) boats named White Rose and Mary Anne. (White Rose owners will appear in court in February for fishing in a marine protected area.)

The shark decline is not surprising. DSL permit holders operate without catch limits, with no seasonal closure and no buffer zones around marine protected areas. The 2013 NPOA noted that there were no observers on most boats and so no monitoring of catches and no mandatory reporting and observers often don't know one shark from the next.

Landed catches are not weighed, by-catches cannot be quantified. There are huge information gaps about shark lifestyle and history as well as unknown ecosystem effects of removing such predators.

This is what the High Level Panel was tasked to consider, and come up with a plan. It noted stakeholder concerns regarding the disappearance of white sharks from several aggregation sites, declines in abundance of demersals, a perceived lack of habitat protection and spatial management for sharks, conflicts among shark tourism and fishing industries, and concerns related to the shark fisheries. But the panel dialled back, saying the NPOA proposals were too ambitious in extent and timeframes.

It saw its brief as limited to assessing threats to shark populations, ensuring catches were sustainable, evaluating vulnerability of certain species, minimising by-catches and discards and improving data collection.

It noted a decline of white sharks from tourism hotspots, but said this was recent orca predation and dismissed it, without supporting evidence, or other possible causes, including human predation of their food supply by commercial fishing.

It said commercial shark fisheries and shark ecotourism were important but admitted they were largely incompatible - one industry killing sharks while another values them alive. Shark habitats needed to be conserved and human use managed, specifically with regard to smoothhound and soupfins. But, puzzlingly, it refused to recommend closure of these massively overfished stocks.

Save our Sharks said the panel had concerned itself with "fishery resources" and income rather than conservation of sharks or income from shark tourism. This view was consistent with the DEFF's view of wildlife "seen as nothing more than an exploitable commodity for harvesting". With this bias, having orcas being the problem of disappearing great whites and not overfishing supported their thinking.

In False Bay, white shark numbers began to gradually decline and then disappear. It has been two years since these sharks have been observed at Seal Island in False Bay and similarly in Gansbaai.

Save our Sharks has called on the DEFF to reallocate the licences of the six registered DSL fishing boats and integrate them into other less damaging fisheries with no job losses.



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Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria president, Ike Nnamani.

Millions of phone users may be cut off in Nigeria crackdown

LAGOS

Nigeria's telecommunications regulator has ordered mobile phone users to link their devices to their national identity numbers, raising the prospect of millions of lines being blocked.

Subscribers have until 31 December to comply with the requirement, the Nigerian Communications Commission said in a statement on Tuesday on its website. Failure to do so will result in their phone lines being cut off in January, it said.

Nigeria had about 196 million active phone lines as of June 2020, NCC data shows. At the same time, only 41.5 million Nigerians had the required identity numbers, according to information on the website of the National Identity Management Commission, which is in charge of registrations.

MTN Group's local unit is the biggest wireless operator in the West African country. Airtel Africa, which listed in Lagos and London last year, vies with local operator Globacom to be the country's second biggest carrier.

While the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria supports the regulator's plan, the deadline needs to be extended for it to be implemented properly, said Ike Nnamani, the president of the industry lobby group. Nigerian lawmakers passed a resolution on Wednesday advising the NCC to extend the deadline by 10 weeks. "We feel it's the right thing to do, but it has to be done the right way so there is no disruption to the way of life of the citizens," Nnamani said.

The deadline may be extended by as much as six months, which should give the country enough time to implement the plan, said Tajudeen Ibrahim, an analyst at Chapel Hill Denham in Lagos.

In a bid to clampdown on the use of unregistered lines, the NCC in 2015 fined MTN for failing to disconnect undocumented Sim cards as part of a security crackdown. The matter was resolved a year later, when the company paid US\$859-million after extensive negotiations. Telecoms is one of Nigeria's fastest-growing industries. It expanded 17% in the third quarter, according to statistics office data.

Private security firm commended by Police chief for professionalism

By Smart Money Reporter

ONE of the oldest private security companies in the market, SGA Security has been commended for having the most disciplined personnel in the country which is well taken care of by management.

Kinondoni Regional Police Commander, ACP Ramadhan Kingai said in Dar es Salaam last week while gracing the company's end of the year party which also recognised some of the longest serving employees, that staff welfare at SGA motivates its workforce.

ACP Kingai noted that SGA Security, which was recently declared the overall winner of the Most Equipped and Reliable Security Company of the Year 2020 by Consumer Choice Award, also gives its employees necessary equipment while on duty.

"Such investments instil public confidence in the company and its employees. I encouraged other private security companies to emulate the way SGA is operating," he advised while noting that when he visited the company's offices to witness their operations, he was impressed with the level of investment in technology made.

On the welfare of employees, the Kinondoni RPC said it was in line with the government's vision to have investors who prioritize staff interests. ACP Kingai commended



Kinondoni RPC, ACP Ramadhan Kingai (L) handing over an award to one of the longest serving SGA Security employee, Clifton Desouza who has retired after working with the company since 1984. The end of year party which also recognised Club 20 members was held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of SGA.

Club 20 members for their loyalty shown to the company, saying it is quite unusual in the private security industry where the turnover is usually high. He reminded them that the secret to success is commitment, discipline, diligence and integrity

which he encouraged every staff member to inculcate.

The longest serving employee, Clifton Desouza who has served with SGA Security for 42 years was also commended by ACP Kingai who reminded all private security companies to abide by

the law and follow guidelines issued by police.

"HR Managers have a key role to ensure all employee records are complete and well-kept, including the national IDs and verification of guarantors given," he advised while giving an example that

sometimes guards employed present fake certificates and even give fake guarantors, then later commit crimes and disappear.

The SGA Security Managing Director, Eric Sambu said this year, the company was celebrating some of its longest serving employees through an annual event that is held in all of their branches countrywide.

Sambu said they hold parties annually for employees who have served the company for over 20 years who qualify to join a distinguished Club 20 and currently has over 240 members and increasing steadily.

"Most of our employees serve until they get retirement hence the sustained growing list of Club 20 members," he pointed out adding that with a workforce numbering over 6,000 people, SGA remains one of the largest security companies in the market.

The company's Human Resources Manager, Ebenezer Kaale seconded his boss by explaining that the secret behind their success lies in the way they handle employees. "We believe that if we take care of employees better, they will take care of our customers," Kaale said adding that the company also hires carefully by doing due diligence on candidates who are trained regularly thereafter.

Transport minister lauds NIT, pledges continued state investment in sector

By Smart Money Reporter

TRAINING of competent personnel in the transport and logistics industry is necessary to ensure that the country becomes self-sufficient in human capital and the government invests heavily to modernise the sector.

Speaking at 36th graduation ceremony of National Institute of Transport held in Dar es Salaam last weekend, Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Engineer Godfrey Kasekenya said the institute is doing a commendable job.

"The government of President John Pombe Magufuli has invested a lot in improving the transport sector by construction of roads, modern railways, ship construction and purchasing of aircrafts, all of which need competent personnel to manage," Eng Kasekenya said adding that NIT's good performance has meant that dependence on foreign experts is not there.

He pointed out that the ruling CCM's manifesto for 2020/25 clearly stipulates that the government to continue to invest in NIT to enable it provide more experts in the sector which is still facing shortages.

However, the government has also ordered the management of NIT to use internal sources of funds to develop and improve its infrastructures. The Deputy



Cabin crew graduates at National Institute of Transport in Dar es Salaam attend the 36th graduation ceremony held last week in the commercial capital. Photo courtesy of NIT.

Minister also asked the institute to engage with other public and private companies or institutions which can construct students' dormitories.

He said the government recognizes challenges facing NIT which include aged buildings, shortage of lecturers' offices and students' dormitories. "The government will continue to collaborate with the institute to address and solve some of the

challenges", he promised.

On his part, NIT Chairman of Governing Council Professor Blasius Nyichomba said that in implementing their obligations, the institute's management has improved some teaching infrastructure and the learning environment as stated in the National Vision 2025.

Prof Nyichomba said NIT will continue to extend the scope of training according

to market demand with focus on surface, air and marine transportation. He commended the government for endorsing a budget that enables the NIT to improve its teaching infrastructure.

"I also thank the government for our institute a key role to implement a Regional Center of Excellence for Road Safety (RCoERS) Project being financed by African Development Bank (AfDB)," he noted.

In remarks made earlier, NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said in the past seven years, students' enrolment has increased by 258 percent from 3,248 in the 2014/15 to 11,640 in 2020/21 thanks to rising market demand fuelled by state investment in transport infrastructure.

"The aviation sector has been growing at 12 percent per annum which has created room for further expansion each year," he noted while saying that in order to address such growing demand, NIT has since established an aircraft maintenance engineering course from certificate to degree level.

Prof Mganilwa said demand for highly qualified transport experts to serve the country's rising demand is pushing his administration to increase enrolment and also introduce new disciplines as the institute moves towards becoming a university.

"These developments therefore necessitate that the National Institute of Transport train and produce more highly qualified and competent people to cater for all modes of transport including road, railway, maritime, air and pipeline," he asserted.

Robust digital economies key to global competitiveness after Covid-19 pandemic

GENEVA

Countries with strong digital services and the technology to maintain their economy remotely have handled the Covid-19 pandemic better, the World Economic Forum said.

"Those economies that were already well set up to not just put in place safety nets rapidly, but ensure that funding is being distributed, not just to the largest companies, but

actually to small and medium sized companies and directly to households - those countries did well," said Saadia Zahidi, a managing director of the WEF.

Governments that were able to strike a tricky balance between economic and health matters have also fared comparatively well in dealing with the pandemic. "Balancing public health policies with economic and social policies requires adopting

second-best solutions, which are difficult to assess," a WEF report said.

"In general terms, countries that could better plan and co-ordinate health measures with fiscal and social policies have been relatively more successful in mitigating the effects of the crisis." Unsurprisingly, countries that were able to offer its citizens widespread access to healthcare and had experience in tackling previous outbreaks such

as SARS were also better placed to cope. "During this time of profound uncertainty, the health crisis and economic downturn have forced a fundamental rethink of growth and its relationship to outcomes for people and planet. Policymakers have a remarkable opportunity to seize this moment and shape new economic systems that are highly productive while growing shared prosperity and environmental sustainability,"

said Ms Zahidi.

In its Global Competitiveness Report Special Edition 2020: How Countries are Performing on the Road to Recovery, the WEF laid out how countries could recover from the pandemic and use it as an impetus to transform their economies.

"It makes clear the priorities for making economies more productive, sustainable and inclusive as we emerge from the crisis. The stakes

for transforming our economic systems simply could not be higher," said Klaus Schwab, founder of the WEF.

Among its recommendations, the report says the transition of the energy sector towards a greener world should be accelerated - with upgraded infrastructure as well as enhanced information and communications technology (ICT) becoming more widely available.

Ndalichako warns RCs against classroom shortage reports, salutes NMB

By Smart Money Reporter

REGIONAL Commissioners and other government officials at district level have been warned against exaggerating reports of shortage of classrooms ahead of the opening of new term in January 2021 with reports that over 70,000 primary school leavers may miss form one enrolment.

Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako said in Kasulu this week after receiving 400 pieces of iron sheet worth 11.2m/- from NMB bank Plc that RCs must also refrain from cheating about completion of classrooms construction to accommodate form one students.

"Let me warn anyone that gives us wrong information aimed at cheating the government that disciplinary action will be taken against any culprits," Prof Ndalichako warned while paying tribute to NMB's leadership for the timely support.

He directed all education officers in the country to ensure that they supervise construction of new classrooms in their respective areas and make sure that they are ready before the first term of 2021 begins in January.

"We want all form one students to be in class when the new term begins in January," Prof Ndalichako charged saying having any qualified students outside



Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako speaks at a past event.

classroom when the new term begins is unacceptable.

In remarks to welcome the Minister who is also Kasulu legislator, Kasulu District Commissioner, Simon Hanange said 3,500 pupils have passed their primary school leaving certificate examinations this year and that they want all of them to proceed to secondary school as soon as possible.

"So far, 75 classrooms are at different stages of construction with our completion target being early February," Hanange said while joining Prof Ndalichako to congratulate NMB for the timely support as classrooms are in

urgent need.

Speaking at the same ceremony, NMB Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magesse the donation has been made in support of government efforts to improve delivery of education services and ensure that all students who qualify for secondary school enrolment next January do so.

"This donation is part of NMB's corporate social responsibility policy of giving back part of its profits to communities that support our business activities," Magesse said while adding that priority areas which NMB focuses on include health and relief aid when disasters strike.



Minister of state in the president's office (regional administration and local government), Selemani Jafu (R) speaking to National Bank of Commerce's customer service manager for Dodoma Branch, Anne Mwaizaka when he visited the bank's pavilion during an annual general meeting of Tanzania Heads of Secondary Schools held this week. NBC bank was one of the main sponsors. Photo courtesy of NBC.

Rwandan tea outshines Kenyan

MOMBASA

Rwanda's tea continues to fetch premium price at the weekly auction in Mombasa, overshadowing the earnings by Kenyan producers as international buyers focus on quality.

Marketing data from the Mombasa Tea Auction indicates Rwandan tea was sold at Sh272 a kilo in the auction held last week against Kenya's Sh214 for the same quantity. At the tail end was Tanzanian tea which fetched Sh133 per kilo.

Rwanda has been leading when it comes to the best tea, fetching a premium price compared with others because of the unique test that buyers are looking for. "The quality of Rwandan tea has always been high, and this is the sole reason the beverage always attracts a premium price," said a tea broker at the auction.

On average, all the teas at the auction fetched Sh205 per kilo. These teas comprise the ones that are processed by KTDA, multinational firms and other 10 countries that sell their beverage through the Mombasa auction. During the sale, the average price of the commodity dropped when compared with the same period last year when a kilo on average fetched Sh233.

All the regional teas are marketed at the Mombasa auction by the East African Tea Traders Association before they are shipped out of the country. Kenya, which is the leading tea exporter in the world, leads the auction in terms of volumes with more than three quarter of the produce traded at the auction coming from the country.

Prices have remained lower at the auction in recent months compared to last year in what has been attributed to high volumes of the commodity. However, the prices have picked up in the last couple of sales, hitting a five-month high in the latest trading last week.

The Tea Directorate had projected that production will decline towards the end of the year because of the cold season witnessed in June and July and cessation of rain. However, the volumes offered for sale at the auction have been growing.

Meanwhile Twiga Food vendors will be compensated Sh10,000 in cash per month if they are hospitalised for more than two days in a new insurance cover with listed underwriter Britam.

The e-commerce platform has partnered with the insurer to develop the business interruption insurance cover dubbed 'Soko Afya' to protect against income loss. Retailers will pay Sh120 in monthly premiums for the product that will be accessible on Twiga's mobile phone platform.

This will offer reprieve to small retailers and vendors who are vulnerable to shutdowns due to poor health, fire and riots. "This partnership with Twiga Foods will ensure that thousands of retailers can have financial stability in their businesses," Britam Group managing director Benson Wairegi said last week.

Sellers and their families will too receive Sh90,000 if they are hospitalised for more than 30 days. This is besides an annual medical surgery benefit, maternity cover last expense cover.

CURRENT NEWS

MoU signed to boost fruit exports from SA to China

JOHANNESBURG

Fruit exports from South Africa and China are set to get a boost with the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries.

Last year, South Africa exported over 2.8 million tonnes of fresh fruit to overseas markets. However, only a small percentage of these exports went to China. With a population of around 1.38 billion and the demand for fresh fruit expected to continue growing over the next few years, China offers a major opportunity for further market expansion. As a result, the local industry aims to increase its exports to China over the next five years and in this way contribute towards increased jobs in the sector.

The MoU, which was signed between Xiaohu Xu, Vice President of the China

Chamber of Commerce of Import & Export of Foodstuffs & Native Produce (CFNA) and Justin Chadwick, Chairman of the Board of Fruit South Africa (Fruit SA) will contribute towards this objective, as it will serve to promote greater cooperation and statistical information exchange between the countries' fresh fruit industries.

To this end, Fruit SA and CCCFNA will: Support trade visits between South Africa and China for the representatives of each association; Cooperate in the areas of technology exchange; Promote information exchange on matters of relevance such as statistics of fruit exports and imports between the two countries, changes in regulatory legislation, and customs procedures; and Support each other's publicity and promotional activities, where appropriate.



Sharifa Amanzi also known as 'Bibi Tiki' (R) with a visitor at her teak farm in Kilwa District. Photo courtesy of MCDI.

Lindi's 75-year old woman inspires teak growing in region

By Smart Money Reporter

A 75-year-old woman named Sharifa Amanzi alias 'Bibi Tiki' is inspiring people in Lindi Region plant teak trees to conserve the environment but also make money in future when the trees will be sold for timber.

Amanzi who lives at Mchakama village in Kilwa District of Lindi Region said she was motivated to plant teak trees in her farm following success made by Mpingo Conservation and

Development Initiative supported tree planting and harvesting efforts.

While teak trees take approximately 15 to 25 years to mature, Amanzi strongly believes that she will harvest the trees despite her age. The MCDI said in a recent statement that typically, local communities focus on planting four crops in the area: maize, millet, rice, and sesame.

"Sesame is the main cash crop in the area, therefore planting teak will offer a long-term alternative and help to

generate substantial income further down the line," the MCDI statement noted. The MCDI, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Kilwa District Council (KDC) have been working in this area to support communities in tropical forestry ventures since 2004.

Their combined work has raised awareness of tree planting projects in Mchakama village, particularly through the establishment of the village tree nursery in 2015. "This partnership goes

a step further by showing local people how to reduce harvesting pressure on Village Land Forest Reserves through the planting of native forest hardwoods - such as teak - with fruits and other trees of commercial value," the statement added.

This creates additional incentives for rural people to support tree planting efforts by improving local nutrition, access to food, and by providing an additional source of income to supplement local economies.

Amanzi is one of five interested villagers who own demonstration plots planted with teak trees in Mchakama village with each demonstration plot comprising 500 tree seedlings. Her success will hopefully attract more villagers to become involved in projects on teak planting in other Community-Based Forest Management villages. Her farm field was planted with teak trees in January 2020.

"She applied an agroforestry system because that way the benefits from land

use can be maximised. Besides selling the timber produced, Sharifa Amanzi can also sell or use the agricultural products (such as those previously mentioned) but her farm looks healthier and attracts most visitors," the MCDI statement added.

Due to the 75-year-old lady's success story from her demonstration plot, more community members (especially young people) are asking MCDI to support planting teak seedlings on their farms as an alternative

source of income rather than depending on trees grown on village lands.

"Generally, VLFRs provide community-wide benefits as the revenues from timber harvesting are funnelled into democratically chosen community development projects. By intercropping timber species such as teak in their farm fields, community members like Amanzi can generate individual level benefits too, creating long-lasting benefits for her and her family," the statement noted.



A Ntakata village game scouts patrolling the natural forest which earns his community carbon credit cash.

Mpanda villagers get 65m/- from Ntakata mountains carbon offset payment

By David Beroff

At the end of December last year, I boarded the recently inaugurated Air Tanzania flight to Mpanda to conduct one of the scheduled bi-annual finance and grievance meetings with the Ntakata Mountains project steering committee, composed of representatives from each of the eight participating villages. As is customary whenever we visit one of our project areas, I first met with district leaders and officials, and then headed out to Katuma village to meet with the committee.

The steering committee is comprised of the chairperson, who is elected, and the executive officer, who is a government appointee, one from each of the eight project villages. The 16 person body serves as the primary governance body for the project, and is Carbon Tanzania's direct point of contact for all project related issues.

As I arrived, all the leaders were eagerly waiting since this was to be a special meeting. After nearly three years this was to be the first announcement of carbon revenues that were available to be transferred to the villages. As we went through the procedural aspects of the meeting and ensured that there were no community grievances, you could see everyone was anxious to get to the part about revenue!

As I scribbled 65m/- (US\$28,000), the

available revenue, on the chalk board you could see that the committee quickly realized that no matter how they chose to divide it every single village would immediately at least double their normal yearly operational and development budgets. After the leaders did a double take at the number, I explained that apart from the 10 percent that they were meant to send to the district, it was their responsibility communally to divide the revenue as they saw fit and fair.

Only a solution that all parties accepted freely, and by mutual consensus, would be accepted. It was an interesting scene to observe all these people who had long been in positions of leadership but had never been faced with the challenge of distributing resources, as they had never previously had any at their disposable.

It was clearly quite a challenge as each village is a different size and has unique conservation challenges that require funds. Only a solution that all parties accepted freely, and by mutual consensus, would be accepted, and eventually the group independently decided to split half the funds evenly between all villages and half based on the size of each village, a reasonable solution indeed!

All villages have for a long time formulated development plans and identified and budgeted for critical

needs, but have rarely had access to corresponding funds. As such the room lit up when I collected bank information and they realized they truly would be getting revenue from the carbon in their forest.

Each village's leadership also agreed to take on the responsibility of paying the Village Game Scouts, who had previously been directly supported by Carbon Tanzania. Such a commitment is a clear signal of the communities owning the process and delivery of the project itself. Representatives from each of the eight participating villages gather to receive and allocate the funds from the first carbon revenue payment.

This meeting represents a new phase in the project, whereas communities have begun to receive tangible financial benefits from the work they have tirelessly been doing to protect the vital ecosystem services provided by their locally owned forests. The committee claimed that in their minds the carbon project had now officially "begun," and as they were immediately going to start using the funds for community betterment, they would never have an issue explaining "all these carbon things" to their constituents again. Carbon Tanzania and the communities both left the meeting excited about the future of the Ntakata project, both for the landscape and for the people.

Absa's new system: A game changer

JOHANNESBURG

Absa Cashflow Manager - an easy-to-use, free add-on to any Business Evolve account that generates quotes, invoices, payslips and financial statements. If things turn out as expected, this could be the future of business banking.

Absa recently launched its Business Evolve Zero transactional account offering for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) - and it comes with no monthly cost. Absa Cashflow Manager is a free add-on to any Business Evolve account that lets you generate quotes, invoices, financial statements and run your payroll - all from Absa's online banking platform.

New clients can sign up for the Business Evolve Zero account on Absa's online banking platform or by downloading the Absa banking app (from Saturday, December 19) and signing up. The Business Evolve account sign-up process is designed to be intuitive and includes free access to Cashflow Manager. It also comes with free access to Absa online banking, a debit card and a savings account. "Absa Business Evolve Zero is available to sole proprietors with an annual turnover of up to R5 million," says Bongwiwe Gangeni, deputy chief executive of Absa Retail and Business Bank.

"Thanks to the complimentary and cloud-based Cashflow Manager, entrepreneurs can access real-time business analytics, produce online quotes and invoices and access a full payroll feature. Staying on top of their financials is now significantly easier for business owners." Entrepreneurs can generate a value-added tax (Vat) report to assist them in filing returns to the South African Revenue Service (Sars). At the same time, data from the transactional account can be used to generate financial reports that are accessible from any internet-connected device, including a mobile phone. No accounting knowledge is required.

The accounting software is sophisticated enough to generate a quote, issue an invoice, and then convert that to the debtor's book. The same software generates financial statements for banking, tax and other purposes.

Simplicity

"You don't need an accountant to manage this software. What it also does is give us an understanding of the cash flow needs of the client. We want to be in a position to see that if the business is short of cash as pay day approaches, we

could potentially extend an overdraft or make cash available for stock or working capital purposes," says Matthew Hunter, head of General Banking Solutions at Absa.

The Absa Cashflow Manager will provide data on the business transaction history which will then allow the bank to offer services or products. For example, there may be potential surplus cash for investment, he adds. For small businesses, speed to credit is important, and over time Absa will utilise this data to make credit decisions earlier. If the account and business management and accounting system attract no monthly fee, how does the bank make money from this?

"This is an investment for us. We see this as a partnership with start-up and small businesses to assist them in their growth journey. The SME and start-ups of today will become the bank's corporate clients tomorrow." Cashflow Manager is available to new clients that take any business banking account, as well as existing Absa SMEs.

The Business Evolve Zero account is a pay-as-you-transact solution which offers unlimited free Absa-to-Absa debit orders and Absa-to-Absa inter-account transfers. Fees for electronic funds transfers (EFTs), debit card swipes and external debit orders are low.

Bundles

An Evolve bundle 35 pricing package (R235 per month) is also available for those SME clients who prefer the certainty that a pricing bundle can bring. For business bank clients that have a higher turnover and transact more frequently, Absa has launched Business Evolve and offers Evolve 60 (R415pm), Evolve 90 (R590pm) and Evolve Pay-as-you-transact (R85pm).

The sign-up process requires the normal Fica (Financial Intelligence Centre Act) documents, after which the client receives a transactional and savings account, with the option of a debit card and a savings 'pocket' to park surplus cash and earn interest. Youtube demos of some features of the app accounting software are available here and here.

"SMEs find it challenging to survive past the first few years, and we want to ensure that the offering is cost effective, particularly for start-ups with lower-volume, lower-value transactions," says Gangeni. Hunter adds that the SME segment remains a core focus area for Absa, and new features will be added to the offering on a continuous basis.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Bongwiwe Gangeni, deputy chief executive of Absa Retail and Business Bank.

Ugandan dairy industry reels from Kenyan ban

NAIROBI

That Kenya is a lifeline for the dairy industry in Uganda is not in doubt. Therefore, when Kenya slapped the Mbarara based Lato Milk with an import ban early in the year, the effects were devastating for farmers in the neighbouring state.

After several complaints by Kenyan farmers over the influx of Ugandan milk, which had seen a litre touch the historic low of Sh17, the government reacted by confiscating thousands of tonnes of milk from Uganda and consequently stopping imports.

The move did not only cause an uproar in Uganda, but also saw hundreds of workers in Pearl Dairies, the makers of Lato Milk sent on leave with production at the firm cut to bare minimum. Uganda produces 2.6 billion litres of milk per annum. However, domestic demand stands at only 800 million

litres, creating a huge surplus.

It is this surplus that finds its way to the Kenyan market, stepping up competition for local producers. The attractiveness of Ugandan milk is helped by a lower production cost that stands at about Sh17 when compared with Kenya's Sh26 on average per litre.

By the time Kenya banned Lato Milk from the market, it was retailing at about Sh40 for a half litre while the local brands traded at Sh45 on average, leaving processors with unmoving stocks as price sensitive consumers preferred the cheaper imported product.

The bone of contention has been whether Uganda has the capacity to produce all this surplus, with allegations that much of it comes from third party countries as powder milk then reconstituted in the neighbouring country before finding its way to Kenya.

Mr Stanley Ng'ombe, the chairperson of the Kenya Dairy



A Kenyan dairy farmer at work.

Farmers Federation (KDFF), said imported milk has had a negative impact on farmers, driving down the volumes that they can afford to produce because of the low prices.

Mr Ng'ombe, whose organisation counts a membership of 26 dairy cooperatives scattered across the country, claims that most of the milk coming from Uganda is imported

into that country as powder from Europe.

"We know that Uganda has no capacity to produce all this milk and there is a likelihood that most of it come from Europe before finding its way to Kenya," he said. Mr Moses Kiptanui, a large-scale dairy farmer in Cherangani and a three-time 3,000 metres steeplechase world

champion, views imports as the bane of local farmers.

"In most cases you would find that imported milk is Sh10 cheaper when compared with our local commodity. This makes it difficult for it to compete in shops as consumers will tend to go for one with cheaper price," said Mr Kiptanui. Businessmen too prefer stocking the fast-moving Ugandan milk.

Mr Kiptanui, who ironically also owns a chain of supermarkets in Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu counties, observed that as a businessman he makes good money in selling Ugandan milk, but as a farmer he loses out. Kenya Dairy Board said that milk imports from Uganda have been regulated at the moment and that there is no more dumping of the produce in the country.

KDB managing director Margret Kibogy was adamant that they are no longer allowing milk firms from

the region to bring in powder milk, which has been blamed to be the ones flooding the market after being reconstituted. "We have tightened the surveillance and no longer have firms from Uganda dumping milk here as all the commodity coming in is well regulated," said Ms Kibogy.

She said under the EAC Common Market Protocol, products from member states are allowed to move freely from one country to another, highlighting that there is no total ban on milk coming in from Uganda. The measure put in place by the regulator saw the price of milk increase to Sh36 before going up again to Sh40 a litre, but this time on account of low production.

Ugandan processors rely heavily on Kenya as their main market on perception that the consumption of milk there is low. They also bank on Kenya's free market which has less restrictions compared with other neighbouring states.

WORLD

Trump will again ask US high court to upend election results

SAN FRANCISCO

US President Donald Trump's campaign said on Sunday it would again ask the US Supreme Court to overturn results from the Nov 3 election, its latest long-shot effort to subvert the electoral process and sow doubt over the legitimacy of President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

In a statement issued by the campaign, Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani said the campaign had filed a petition asking the high court to reverse three rulings by a Pennsylvania state court interpreting the state's rules for mail-in ballots.

"The Campaign's petition seeks to reverse three decisions which eviscerated the Pennsylvania Legislature's protections against mail ballot fraud," Giuliani said in a statement.

Giuliani said the filing sought all "appropriate remedies," including an order allowing Pennsylvania's Repub-

lican-controlled legislature to award the state's 20 electoral votes to Trump. Biden won the state by more than 80,000 votes.

The petition is "frivolous" and is not going to stop Biden from becoming president on Jan. 20, said Joshua Douglas, an election law professor at the University of Kentucky.

"The Court will shut it down quickly," Douglas said.

The Supreme Court on Dec 11 rejected a lawsuit filed by Texas and backed by Trump seeking to throw out voting results in four states, including Pennsylvania, that went for Biden.

Several senior Republican US senators, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have acknowledged Democrat Biden as the country's president-elect after the Electoral College affirmed his victory, and have rejected the idea of overturning the 2020 presidential election in Congress.



The Supreme Court on Dec 11 rejected a lawsuit filed by Texas and backed by Trump seeking to throw out voting results in four states

A candidate needs 270 Electoral College votes to win the White House. Biden won 306 of those votes to Trump's 232 and defeated the Republican president by more than 7 million ballots in the popular vote.

Congress will count the electoral

votes on Jan. 6 and Biden will take office on Jan 20.

Trump has made unsubstantiated claims of widespread electoral fraud and has tried but failed to overturn Biden's victory, challenging the outcome in court in multiple states, while pressing state officials, lawmakers and governors to throw the results out and simply declare Trump the winner.

Biden chief of staff says hack response will go beyond 'just sanctions'

WASHINGTON

THE incoming White House chief of staff said on Sunday that President-elect Joe Biden's response to the massive hacking campaign uncovered last week would go beyond sanctions.

Ron Klain said Biden was mapping out ways to push back against the suspected Russian hackers who have penetrated half a dozen U.S. government agencies and left thousands of American companies exposed.

"It's not just sanctions. It's steps and things we could do to degrade the capacity of foreign actors to engage in this sort of attack," Klain said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Options being mulled by the Biden administration to punish Moscow over its alleged role include financial penalties and retaliatory hacks on Russian infrastructure, people familiar with the matter have told Reuters.

The Kremlin denies any role in the hacking. Speaking at an event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Russia's SVR foreign intelligence agency, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised its work, saying he was impressed by the "difficult professional operations that have been conducted."

Biden, who becomes president on Jan. 20, would likely have bipartisan support for a muscular reaction to the espionage campaign, lawmakers indicated on Sunday.

Republican Senator Mitt Romney said the data breach was "extraordinarily damaging" on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"This demands a response," he said. "This is something we have to address as soon as possible."

U.S. Senator Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said on ABC that the hack could still be going on and that officials had yet to determine its full scope. But he stopped short of the aggressive language used by Romney, who called the hack "an invasion".

"This is in that gray area between espionage and an attack," Warner said. Still, he backed Romney's call for retaliation, saying Washington needed to make clear to adversaries "that if you take this kind of action we and others will strike back."

Adam Schiff, the Democratic chair of the House Intelligence Committee, also said the United States would "have to deter and respond" - but also invest more in cyber defenses.

He told MSNBC that, in some cases, the digital cleanup of U.S. networks "may mean burning down the whole system in order to make sure when we rebuild it they're not present."

Officials and cybersecurity professionals across the United States are still struggling to get their hands around the scale of the hacking campaign, which used U.S. tech company SolarWinds as a springboard to infect the Texas firm's clients - including the Departments of Treasury, Commerce and Energy.

Up to 18,000 customers were left open to the hackers, but CEO Kevin Mandia - whose company FireEye helped uncover the hacking - told CBS that he estimated "only around 50 organizations or companies, somewhere in that zone," were "genuinely impacted."

Klain told CBS much was still unknown.

"I think there's still a lot of unanswered questions about the purpose, nature, and extent of these specific attacks," he said.

Rockets fired at US embassy land inside Baghdad's Green Zone, damaging compound

BAGHDAD

AT least eight Katyusha rockets landed in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone in an attack targeting the U.S. Embassy, causing some minor damage on the compound on Sunday, the Iraqi military and the embassy said on Sunday.

The Iraqi military said an "outlaw group" fired eight rockets. Most of the missiles hit a residential complex and a security checkpoint inside the zone, damaging buildings and cars and wounding one Iraqi soldier, a military statement said.

Sirens blared from the embassy compound inside the zone, which houses government buildings and foreign missions.

An anti-rocket system diverted one of the rockets, said one security official whose office is inside the Green Zone.

The U.S. Embassy condemned the attack and urged all Iraqi political and governmental leaders to take steps to prevent such attacks and to hold accountable those responsible.

"The U.S. Embassy confirms rockets targeting the International Zone resulted in the engagement of Embassy defensive systems. There was some minor damage on the Embassy compound but no injuries or casualties," it said in a statement.

In a subsequent statement, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said there had been at least one Iraqi civilian casualty and wished those hurt a speedy recovery.

Agencies

Yemeni home returnees from internal displacement fall victim to landmines

HAJJAH

KHAMJ Shouei, a car mechanic, is one of the many victims of landmines in Yemen's northern province of Hajjah.

His tragedy began early this year, when he, his wife, and six children decided to return home after spending five years in a displacement camp on the border with Saudi Arabia. Shouei was planning for a better future, but winds blow counter to what the ships desire. "I wish I hadn't returned home," the 39-year-old told Xinhua, lamenting

his ordeal. "That decision has completely changed the course of my life. After I returned in February, and while I was inspecting the remains of my house and my workshop which were destroyed by the battles, a landmine exploded under my feet. I lost both of my legs," he said.

In the village of Al-Khadhra, Shouei is now confined to a wheelchair and his plans before the landmine explosion had already vanished. The government forces recaptured Al-Khadhra and several other neighboring areas

in Haradh district from the Houthis rebels in June 2019. The Houthis had planted tens of thousands of mines before their withdrawal, according to the UN humanitarian agencies' data.

The government-run Saba news agency reported that the army has cleared more than 32,000 landmines in the districts of Haradh, Hayran, Midi and Abs of Hajjah Province since the beginning of 2019.

"Thousands of landmines had been planted in villages, schools, and farms. Clear-

ing these areas of landmines could take years," Yasser al-Rouhani, head of the landmine clearance division in the government forces, told Xinhua.

The Houthis controlled several northern provinces after pushing southward from their stronghold of Saada Province in late 2014, forcing the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi out of the capital Sanaa and triggering an all-out civil war.

A coalition of forces led by Saudi Arabia intervened in

the Yemeni conflict in 2015 to support the Yemeni government in pushing the Iran-backed Houthis rebels out of the Red Sea coasts. A Saudi project is being carried out in Yemen to help the government clear the country of landmines to allow displaced people to return home.

"The project has cleared 204,507 landmines and unexploded ordnance from across Yemen since mid-2018," Osama Al-Gosaibi, the project director in Yemen, told Xinhua.

Xinhua.

UK could agree on 'mini deals' with EU if trade talks fail

LONDON

UK Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove said that Britain and the European Union could engage in a series of "mini unilateral" deals if no trade agreement is reached by the end of the month.

Gove (pictured) said that Britain and the bloc's 27 member states could form a new "special relationship" after the end of the transition period, close to the UK and US link, which could include agreements he described as "side deals," the Telegraph reported.

Any trade agreement is "realistically unlikely" to be approved until after Christmas, meaning that lawmakers may only vote on a potential deal just hours ahead of the end of the transition period, he said.

Speaking in Parliament last week, Gove said that like any set of neighbors, there will be conversations between the UK and EU member countries "choosing to make unilateral

decisions that will make life easier for one or the other side and it may be that those unilateral decisions are reciprocated," the newspaper reported.

People familiar with both sides of the negotiations told Bloomberg that the trade talks are unlikely to wrap up on Sunday, but should do so before Christmas as disagreements over fishing remain the key obstacle. European countries with large fishing industries are resisting any further concessions proposed by the European Commission. Nevertheless, officials from both sides said the gap can still be bridged.

British health minister Matt Hancock repeated Britain's calls for the European Union to shift its position on Sunday and withdraw its "unreasonable demands" for the two sides to be able to seal a post-Brexit trade deal.

"We want these talks to reach a positive conclusion, of course I want a deal, I think everybody



wants a deal. Unfortunately, the EU have put in some unreasonable demands ... They do not respect the result of the referendum," Hancock told Sky News, repeating that sticking points were on fisheries and the so-called level playing

field on fair competition rules. "I am sure a deal can be done but obviously it needs movement on the EU side."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the face of Britain's 2016 campaign to leave the EU, has long said he cannot accept any

deal that does not respect the country's sovereignty, a goal that was at the heart of his election last year.

But the EU is equally determined to protect its lucrative single market and wants to prevent London securing what it considers to be the best of both worlds - preferential market access with the advantage of setting its rules.

Many businesses fear a failure to agree a deal on goods trade would send shockwaves through financial markets, hurt European economies, snarl borders and disrupt supply chains.

While there has been some progress in the talks, the British side has taken a more pessimistic view, regularly saying that a no deal outcome was the most likely.

EU diplomats have dismissed this as "theatre" or a negotiating tactic, repeating that there is a path to deal, albeit it a narrow one.

Agencies

Overcoming adversity through friendship, hard work

KUALA LUMPUR

FROM a small workshop on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Mohamad Hafiz, Abdul Razak and Noor Adzrene Mohd Noor, came together to set up Kawood, a combination of the Malay word kawan (friend) and wood, with all three having lost their source of income due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Undeterred, they brainstormed some means of making a living, ultimately deciding on putting their enthusiasm for construction into building and selling unique and affordable furniture pieces. "The

newspaper reopened this year, I had an offer but I decided not to continue as a photographer. I have stopped that and I want to try different things," Mohamad said. The trio realized that they could put their other skills to use to generate income, turning their hobby into a business, and developing skills other than what they were formally trained in.

Noor Adzrene herself had run a food business since last year after the newspaper closed but was forced to close due to strict movement control restrictions implemented by the government to stop the spread of the disease earlier

this year. Despite the difficulties he initially encountered, he expressed hope for the future, having found satisfaction in working at his own business, encouraging others to build up their own skills as a means of personal security and growth.

"Even if you are employed, you should have an additional skill. If you are an accountant, maybe you should learn how to make cakes. At least if you lose your job, you can still have an income." "To those who have lost their jobs, don't be so stressed. You will have to find something else to do and to focus on and be disciplined with your new work. You will succeed," he

All three agreed that there is no time to waste after having lost their previous sources of income, taking their difficulties in stride and seeking to make a better life through hard work and determination. Having gone from a dozen orders to producing hundreds of pieces a month, they said any business that would survive COVID-19 would definitely flourish after the pandemic is over. "Losing your job is not the end but it is a new start," they said, expressing hope that with the good sales they had achieved so far, it would be possible to move to a bigger workshop by next year to expand their business. Xinhua

My two friends do have that skill," he said, adding that he instead handled the promotion, delivery of products and the logistics of the business.

Bird-watching tourism leads village in SW China to prosperity

BIRD watching is now a byword of poverty alleviation in Shiti village, Taiping township of Yingjiang county, southwest China's Yunnan province.

By rationally exploiting ecological resources, especially the birds, the annual per capita income of the village has been raised to 10,152 yuan (\$1,552) last year from less than 2,000 in 2014.

"Niaotang," or bird-watching pond, is a bird-watching mode developed by the residents in Shiti village. It has been attracting a large number of visiting bird-watchers to the village. In the pond, several stumps are placed, which are stuffed with mealworms, a perfect feed for birds, and a shack is built around 10 meters away from the pond, where birdwatchers can shoot photos of the birds that are foraging and playing in the pond.

Niaotang serves as a source of considerable income for the villagers, as birdwatchers are not only provided with spots for camera stands, but also meals and accommodation.

Cai Wu is a villager in Shiti. Five years ago, he was still a registered impoverished resident who lived on a lemon grass field less than 1 hectare with his family. Back then, the family of five could only make less than 5,000 yuan each year. In November, 2015, he and his fellow villagers co-built two bird-watching ponds, thanks to which he bid a farewell to poverty the next year.

"Birdwatchers are different from average visitors, as they would always stay for days and even a couple of months to discover their target birds," Cai told the People's Daily. Three years ago, the man started working as a "bird guide" for birdwatchers, taking the latter to and from different bird-watching ponds with a car he bought, which further increased his income.

His ponds and guiding service earned him over 60,000 yuan last year. "It's unbelievable that the ordinary birds could become a source of income for us," he said.

Ban Dingying, head of a bird-watching society in Yingjiang county, introduced that Shiti village, adjacent to a provincial-level nature reserve, boasts complete rainforest ecosystem and rich resources of birds. It is home to over 350 bird species, which account for 24.7 percent of the known species in China, and some of them have only been discovered in Shiti village, Ban said. In 2019, the village was visited by over 20,000 birdwatchers.

Situated near the border between China and Myanmar, Shiti houses 363 residents from 85 households of Jingpo and Lisu ethnic groups. Lumbering and hunting were major ways for the villagers to make a living in the past. However, they not only failed to get the villagers out of poverty, but also undermined local ecology. In 2014, the village was home to 43 registered impoverished households, which led to a poverty incidence of 50.6 percent.

Yingjiang county's idea to develop bird-watching tourism was inspired by Baoshan, a neighboring city of the county which benefited from its bird resources. Yingjiang's cadres believe that their county can do better, as Yingjiang is home to hornbills, a "star" species in the bird-watching community.

Since 2015, Yingjiang started working on bird-watching tourism to help its poverty alleviation. Under the guidance of local government, bird protection has become a consensus for local community, and hornbills, which once disappeared in Shiti village, have come back due to the improved environment.

Shiti village is now a stable breeding place for great hornbills, wreathed hornbills and lesser pied hornbills, said Ban, adding that the village is a place with the highest possibility to discover wild hornbills in China. It is nicknamed "Chinese hornbill valley," he told the People's Daily.

Given the booming bird-watching tourism, the local government encouraged residents to quit lemon grass planting and develop green economy. Shiti village has grown 187 hectares of nuts, litchi and coffee beans, generating revenue of over 300,000 yuan each year.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the bird-watching tourism this year, but the nuts business was thriving," Yang Hongfei, deputy Party head of Taiping township, adding that Cai had gained over 10,000 yuan from nut planting.

Ban told the People's Daily that the first half of a year is usually a high season for bird watching. "The business was gloomy due to the epidemic earlier, but things are looking up now, he said, adding that Shiti village is well-prepared for the recovery of the bird-watching tourism.

People's Daily

Issue of air service between Russia and UK under control

MOSCOW

THE issues of air service with the United Kingdom, where a new coronavirus mutation has been detected, is under control, a spokesman for the anti-coronavirus crisis center told TASS on Sunday.

"The situation is under control of the anti-coronavirus crisis center. All decisions on that matter will be announced when taken," the spokesman said.

Air service between Russia and the United Kingdom was resumed from August 1. Regular flights between Moscow and London are performed by Russia's Aeroflot and British Airways.

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said on December 14 that a new variant of the coronavirus had been identified by British researchers and that this newly-identified variant "may be associated" with the faster spread in the south-east of England. Prime Minister Boris Johnson told a news conference on Saturday that, according to preliminary data, the new strain could be by 70% more transmissible, adding however that no evidence to its bigger lethality were available.

On Saturday, the United Kingdom's death toll from the coronavirus infection exceeded 67,000, Europe's second highest mortality after Italy, and the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeded two million.

Saudi Arabia suspends international flights over mutant virus

SINGAPORE

SAUDI Arabia halted international flights and closed its borders for one week over fears about the fast-spreading new strain of the coronavirus identified in Britain.

The kingdom may extend the suspension for another week depending on the nature of the virus spread, according to state-run Saudi Press Agency.

The Saudi decision comes after the UK warned that a new strain of the coronavirus is "out of control" and could be up to 70 percent more infectious.

That forced France, Germany and others to suspend travel from Britain, while United Arab Emirates-based Air Arabia PJSC said Monday it will halt flights from Morocco to the UK until further notice.

Battling their own surges in coronavirus cases, other Asian nations including Japan and South Korea said they were closely monitoring a new super virulent strain of the virus, but none immediately cancelled UK flights.

Saudi Arabia, which has reported about 361,000 cases and 6,122 deaths, began lifting coronavirus lockdowns from May. Officials had not imposed any new restrictions since then, and the country has so far avoided another wave of infections.

Much is unknown about the strain, but experts said current vaccines should still be effective against it. No Asian country has reported the new strain.

South Korea, which imposes a 14 day quarantine for everyone entering the country, said on Monday it was reviewing new measures for flights from the UK, and would test twice those coming in from Britain before they were released from quarantine.

New cases climbed to over 1,000 a day in South Korea several times last week. It reported on Sunday an outbreak in a Seoul prison where 188 inmates and staff were infected.

The country, which has said it is running short of hospital beds, said on Monday Seoul will ban gatherings of more than four people later this week and double hospital beds for critical COVID-19 cases by



Saudi passengers observe a safe distance as they wait their flights at terminal 5 of the King Fahad International Airport in the capital Riyadh. (File photo)

year end.

An Indian government committee tasked with monitoring the pandemic, will meet on Monday to discuss the new strain, local media reported, but there was no clarity on whether flights to the UK would be halted. The UK is one of 23 countries that India shares an "air bubble" with.

India, which has the second-highest number of cases after the United States, does not currently mandate institutional quarantine for international travelers if they have a negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours before entering India.

Japan, where entry from Britain is already banned in principle, said it would keep in close touch with other countries as well as the World Health Organization to see how the new type of virus was spreading.

Australia, Thailand Battle Outbreaks

The new strain in Britain comes as cases

have surged recently in several Asian countries that successfully contained the pandemic earlier this year. The spikes in cases have prompted localized lockdowns in some countries and more aggressive testing.

Thailand said on Sunday it was testing tens of thousands of people, and extended curbs on movement, following the country's worst outbreak yet that began at a shrimp market in a province that is a centre of the seafood industry and home to thousands of migrant workers.

Thailand has so far reported just 60 deaths from the virus among its 70 million population.

On Monday, the country confirmed 382 new coronavirus infections, mostly migrant workers.

Thousands of workers in South East Asian countries such as Singapore and Malaysia have been infected in dormitories and factories, revealing often unsanitary living and working conditions even as overall numbers in these places have largely been contained.

Australia, where cases in Sydney have flared in recent days, on Monday canceled dozens of domestic flights.

New South Wales, which reported 86 new local cases since Thursday, ordered more than a 250,000 people in Sydney's northern beaches area into a lockdown, and urged people who had visited venues where confirmed cases were found to get tested and self-isolate.

Australian health authorities said a virus strain in northeastern Sydney matched a traveller from the United States, but how it got from the airport to the community was puzzling.

Agencies

Several countries halt UK flights over fears of new virus strain

LONDON

BRITAIN'S European neighbours began closing their doors to travelers from the United Kingdom on Sunday amid alarm about a rapidly spreading strain of coronavirus that has caused cases to soar there.

France said it would bar all people coming from the United Kingdom for 48 hours from Sunday night, including freight carriers, whether by road, air, sea or rail.

Germany, Italy and the Netherlands ordered a suspension of flights from Britain, while Ireland said it would impose restrictions on flights and ferries from its neighbour.

The WHO said it was in close contact with British officials over the new virus variant, advising people to be on guard against spreading the virus.

Belgium said it would close its borders to flights and trains - including the popular Eurostar service - coming from the United Kingdom.

Austria is also planning to ban flights from Britain, the APA news agency said, citing the health ministry. Sweden said it was preparing a decision to ban entry from the United Kingdom.

Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic also announced plans to bar flights from the United Kingdom.

Scotland, a region in the United Kingdom, has imposed a ban on travel to the rest of the UK.

Besides European countries, Chile, Argentina, El Salvador, Canada and others also said they would suspend flights from the UK.



Travelers wait for trains on the concourse at King's Cross station in central London, Britain, on Sunday. (AP)

Meanwhile, Britain's biggest port stopped all traffic heading to Europe and food supplies into the nation face major disruption after the discovery of the new variant of the virus. The crisis prompted Prime Minister Boris Johnson to convene a meeting of the government's emergency committee on Monday in a bid to keep goods flowing. Further meetings were happening Sunday evening and Monday morning "to ensure robust plans are in place," the prime minister's office said in a statement.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is in close contact with British officials over the new virus variant, it said on Sunday, advising people to be on guard against spreading the virus.

The number of coronavirus cases in Britain surged by 35,928 on Sunday, the

highest daily rise since the start of the pandemic, and it recorded 326 deaths, taking the official toll to more than 67,000.

London and southeast England may stay under tighter curbs for some time until vaccinations become more widely available, British Health Secretary Matt Hancock suggested on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Hancock criticized people who fled London before the new Tier Four lockdown came into force in the day as "totally irresponsible", the London-based Evening Standard newspaper reported. Hancock made the remarks after millions of people in London and the southeast were forced to tear up their Christmas plans due to the new tighter coronavirus restrictions.

Agencies

Computing industry drives Hunan's high-quality development

COMPUTING industry, establishing sound industrial ecology, has become a new engine driving the high-quality economic development of central China's Hunan province.

The province's electronic information industry achieved revenue of over 182.25 billion yuan (\$27.89 billion) in the first 8 months of this year, up 12.7 percent year on year. The investment growth of the province's computers, communications and other electronic equipment manufacturing sectors stood at over 82 percent in the same period, the highest among all major industries of the province.

The 2020 World Computer Congress was recently held in Changsha, capital of Hunan province. Li Xiao, marketing manager of Hunan Greatwall Technology Information Co., Ltd., introduced a domestically-made computer at an exhibition area of the event. "The computer

is made in Zhuzhou, Hunan province. Its CPU is from Chinese chip maker Phytium, and the graphics processing unit offered by Hunan-based firm Jingjia Micro. Its solid-state memory device is developed by Hunan Goke Microelectronics Co., Ltd. Its operation system is China's Kylin," he said.

"After 10 years of development, the computers independently developed by China have transformed from 'out-of-service' to 'basically functional,' and they are getting 'handy' nowadays," Li told the People's Daily.

Behind the progress were constant breakthroughs in key technologies.

Hunan Goke Microelectronics Co., Ltd., started in 2008, is a company that is shifting its focus on the main control chips of solid-state disks (SSD), an area that no Chinese firm had ever stepped in.

"Our teams have written over a million lines of code and developed three genera-

tions of main control chips," said Liu Jing, branding director of the company. Besides, the company has also developed positioning chips based on China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, smart monitoring chips and HD decoding chips, and more and more products of it are entering people's daily life and production.

In Xiangjiang New Area of Hunan, unmanned taxis are now a must-do item on tourists' checklist.

"We started trial operation for selected customers since January this year, and kicked off test runs in Meixihu district for all Changsha citizens three months later. The taxis have also become available in Yangshu district since August," said Jin Zhen, marketing manager of Hunan Apollo Intelligent Transportation, an autopilot taxi service provider. Changsha is home to one of the largest and most complete test areas for smart driving in China. It is in a leading position

in the smart driving industry that might embrace a trillion-yuan market, he added.

The National Intelligent Connected Vehicle (Changsha) Testing Zone in Hunan province is home to over 300 major enterprises in the industry, and the test field is expected to turn into a real industry cluster.

At the 2020 World Computer Congress, a sign language interpreter attracted crowds of people. As a guide spoke, corresponding sign language was presented on a screen. The seemingly simple presentation was supported by state-of-the-art computing animation and big data.

"We are a cooperation partner of Changsha's news channel. Sign language is shown on screens simultaneously as the anchors report the news," said Yan Xiangling, head of the special education department of Changsha Keenbow Information Technology, the developer of the sign language interpreting system.

People's daily





Haruna Niyonzima. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga extend contract with Niyonzima

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA have extended their contract with the side's midfielder Haruna Niyonzima for one year due to the outfit's head coach, Cedric Kaze, acknowledging the midfielder's potential.

The Rwandan star has been a major figure in the squad despite missing out on a place in the first team due to family problems.

The midfielder, who crossed over to Yanga's rivals, Simba SC, in the 2018/19 season, lifted the Vodacom Premier League's top honour twice with the club and he had also won the domestic top flight's silverware with the former three times.

The 30-year-old has now emerged as one of great players in the Vodacom Premier League for the past 10 years.

According to GSM Company's Investment Director, Hersi Said, whose firm is Yanga's main sponsor, Kaze had issued a report that will be used for signing new players.

Said noted the report details players who will be released on loan and those Kaze wants to be added to his squad.

Said stated: "We are well prepared for the mini transfer window, in which is there is also the head coach's recommendation, the report is ready and we will use it in improving the squad to make it better."

"There are players who will extend their contracts with the team, others will be sent to other sides on loan and there are also those who will be added to the team."

"We have already completed the transfer of attacker, Said Ntibanzokiza, who has completed signing his papers. The rest is up to the head coach to decide to use him as he sees his fitness".

Said made his first competitive appearance for Yanga against Dodoma Jiji FC in a Vodacom Premier League's tie, which took place in Arusha on Saturday, and ended with Yanga winning 3-1.

Yanga's other player, who has already competed his loan move, is Juma Mahadhi, who has joined Mbeya's Ihefu FC for the remainder of the season, while midfielder Abdulaziz Makame is soon to make a loan move elsewhere.

A sporting journey like no other

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

TANZANIA recently marked its 59th independence anniversary and, during the last 59 years, the country has undergone vast changes.

Indeed, since obtaining independence from our erstwhile British colonial masters, Tanzania has changed dramatically in an economic, political, cultural and sporting sense.

For the strict purposes of this commentary, though, we shall only concern ourselves with the monumental changes domestic sports has gone through during the last 59 years of nation-building in all respects.

The Low Points

In 1980, our country experienced indescribable pride and elation after the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, broke new ground by qualifying for the 1980 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Nigeria.

Little did we know at the time that it would take us ages before we would be able to successfully qualify for another installment of the AFCON finals in 2019!

Indeed, despite trying our damndest, we failed continuously over and over again in countless exertions to qualify for continental football's premier showpiece



Tanzania's U-20 women football side's player (R) negotiates her way past Eswatini women U-20 team's player when the teams locked horns in the previous season's Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) U-20 Women Championship, which took place in South Africa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COSAFA

event in the wake of our tremendous achievement in 1980.

That is until 2019 but it is an incontrovertible fact that during that grim intervening period, all of our mounted campaigns to qualify for the AFCON Finals proved to be frustratingly fruitless.

Another setback in our epic sporting odyssey during the last 59 years must doubtlessly be the lack of support afforded to women's football in the early days of the women's game.

Indeed, it remains a fact of scandalous proportions that for donkey years, the senior national soccer team, Twiga Stars, simply could not find a sponsor.

To make matters worse, grand promises were often made about setting up a national women's football league but for many, many years, all these promises turned out to be one false dawn after another.

Thankfully, a Mainland Tanzania Women Premier League was indeed established a few years ago, which was unquestionably a giant leap forward for domestic women's football.

Nonetheless, that still does not change the saddening fact that for several years, women's football players were infuriatingly taken for a ride by the powers that be at the helm of local football.

Yet another nadir of our eventful 59-years sporting journey must be the seemingly ceaseless times we absolutely botched things up at the

Olympic Games.

Indeed, it is disturbing to note that our athletes would routinely return home from various Olympic Games empty-handed and with heads distinctly bowed in shame.

The Triumphs

Any write-up on the positives of our nation's sporting history would be remiss without the inclusion of the magical heroics of Filbert Bayi at the 1973 Commonwealth Games where he deservedly picked up a gold medal in the 1,500 meters.

Similarly, Suleiman Nyambui's silver medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics will remain a timeless feat that will forever be enshrined in our country's collective memory.

Moreover, Simba's gobsmacking defeat of mighty Zamalek in the latter's bastion of might, Cairo, in 2003 was a truly unforgettable triumph that made our chests puff out with enormous pride.

In addition, the praiseworthy and laudable labours of a golden generation of lady golfers like Angel Eaton, Madina Iddi and Hawa Wanyeché from 2009 to date also merits a mention.

Indeed, from 2009 to date, the aforementioned lady golfers have blazed a trail of dominance across East African and continental golf.

Furthermore, Mbwana Samatta proudly claiming the CAF gong for the Best home-based Player in Africa was also a memorable and exceptional milestone in our nation's sporting history.

To sum up, the admirable efforts of the Taifa Stars in advancing to the 2019 AFCON finals and of the national U-17 women's team in impeccably and stunningly lifting the U-17 COSAFA Championship last year will also be indelibly etched in our collective memory.

Here's hoping then that the ensuing 59 years bring us more sporting triumphs and decidedly less setbacks.

Dalali now eyes Simba SC Chairman's post

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Simba Sports Club's Chairman, Hassan Dalali, and the club's former treasurer, Ayoub Semvua, are among four members vying for the outfit's vacant Chairman's post, which is to be filled at a by-election to be held on February 7 next year.

Others who took the form to vie for the post and succeed Swedi Nkwabi, who resigned from the post in September this year, are Victor Anthony and Mohammed Soloka.

Dalali had led Simba for three years and enabled the team to win the 2009/10 Mainland Premier League's title without losing a single game before leaving the post for Ismail Aden Rage.

Mwina Kaduguda is currently holding the position in an acting capacity after he had been approved by the outfit's General Assembly, which took place in December last year.

Simba's Election Committee Chairman, Boniface Lihamwike, said tomorrow is the last day for the team's members, who are seeking to contest for the post, to pick up and return the forms before the implementation of other procedures.

"Only four members have taken the forms so far, but there is still time, we believe others will show up before we close the exercise on Monday evening," Lihamwike said.

According to the rules of the election, candidates are required to have education qualifications, starting with a diploma.

Dalali was initially disqualified for lack of academic qualifications before going for further studies and is now said to have a diploma.

Simba SC announced a by-election to fill the post after Nkwabi's resignation.

Lihamwike told reporters in Dar es Salaam that the election was scheduled for February 7, 2021.

Nkwabi resigned last year on the

grounds that he was being harassed by some of Simba's faithfuls because of his personal activities and he was replaced by the side's long time member, Kaduguda, who is holding the post in an acting capacity.

Lihamwike said: "The election will be limited to fill the vacancy, so, it is necessary for us to fill his position in accordance with the rules and regulations to ensure we get a leader elected by the members."

"The election will be held on February 7, 2021, I promise Simba's fans that the exercise will be free and fair, we will uphold all the rules in accordance with the club's constitution and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s statutes."

Simba's Election Committee's Vice-Chairman, Steven Ali, said the process started for members who need to compete for the position, noting the forms are set to be issued until December 23.

"The forms will, from December 14 to December 23, be issued and returned to the committee," he disclosed.

He also said that the committee will, from December 29 to December 30, make public the names approved to vie for the Chairman's post.

He stated that on January 2, the committee is set to receive and review objections against candidates that have met the criterias.

"January 3, 2021 is a decision-making day and the committee will, in the following day, announce the names of the candidates who will be approved by the committee while February 5 to February 6, 2021 will be the campaign period and the following day will have the election take place," he said.

Ali said the forms cost 30,000/- each and the criteria for a candidate as stipulated by article 27 of Simba SC's constitution is that a contestant must be a living member with a diploma education recognized by the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU).



The SGA Security Company's Managing Director, Eric Sambu (2nd L), pictured with youngsters forming Magnet Youth Sports Academy during the end of the year's youth sports bonanza, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. The company, which hosted the bonanza, sponsors the soccer center. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar music manager wins post in Sony Music Africa firm

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SONY Music Entertainment Africa has appointed Tanzanian, Christine Mosha, alias 'Seven', to lead the firm's Marketing and Artistic Development unit in the East Africa region.

According to the company, Christine (pictured) will first be tasked with building a list of local talent search companies and promote Tanzania's artistes.

She will report directly to Sean Watson, Sony Music Africa's Chief Executive Officer.

"Christine has spent most of her life contributing to the African entertainment industry, she is a passionate advocate for everything East Africa can give the world," Watson said.

He disclosed: "For several years she has already been an important partner for us, giving us a unique insight into the right ways to work in East Africa, which is a powerful and vibrant hub for music on the continent, so we are thrilled to have her helping to expand our list of East African artistes and showcase our collection of international works on a new audience."

She disclosed: "Sony Music has a long history in the music industry in the world, so being a part of this company at this time of my career seems to be a good fit where I will bring my business experience and expertise to the entire company."

"I am very excited about joining Sony Music Africa, I look forward to



continuing to bring positive results in the entertainment industry, not only in East Africa but also across the continent."

Christine brings 15 years of experience in the African music industry in Sony Music Africa and she has been working closely with the firm for many years.

In 2017 she launched her own music label with a talent management company,

Rockstar Africa, promoting commercial success for many East African artistes, including Judith Wambura 'Lady Jaydee', Rehema Chalamila 'Ray C', Khalid Mohamed 'TID', Rose Muhando, Ali Kiba and Omary Faraji Nyembo 'Ommy Dimpoz', since 2010.

She has also led Rockstar 4000 Music Entertainment, Africa's first independent music company with a network of content, digital and event productions.

There, she oversaw music publishing, music contracts and content licenses with Sony Music Africa, including working on campaigns for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which took place in South Africa.

She started her career in 2006 as a morning radio presenter, promoter and marketing expert at Clouds Media Group before moving to MTV in 2005, where she led the artistes and business unit in Africa.

She launched MTV Base Tanzania, working on projects including the Staying Alive Campaign with US artiste, Kelly Rowland, in Tanzania as well as a Water for Life tour involving the United Nations, Clouds Media and US artiste, Jay Z.

Christine had, in the following five years, expanded her work to include artistes such as Ali Kiba (Best African Act at the MTV Europe Music Awards in 2016) and 'Ommy Dimpoz' (Best Male East Africa award winner at the 2019 AFRIMA Awards), as well as producers of musicians, athletes and actors.

Fastest goal in Serie A history as Milan beats Sassuolo

MILAN

RAFAEL Leao scored the fastest goal in Serie A history on Sunday, netting after just six seconds to set league leader AC Milan on the way to a 2-1 win at Sassuolo.

Alexis Saelemaekers scored Milan's other goal as the Rossoneri remained a point clear of second-place Inter Milan, which beat promoted Spezia 2-1. "Yes, it's not like we're brushing our dolls," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli, when asked if Milan had prepared the goal in training.

"We prepare ourselves, we study our opponents and we try things to put them in difficulty. Today it went well."

Roma lost 4-1 at Atalanta and missed the chance to move level on points with third-place Juventus. Roma remained fourth, a point above Napoli after Gennaro Gattuso's side lost 2-0 at Lazio.

Milan was missing several top players, with a number of others joining star forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the treatment room.

The average age of its starting lineup was again under 23 but it got off to the perfect start when Hakan Calhanoglu surged forward from kickoff and threaded the ball through to Leao, who fired it into the back of the net.

Statistics supplier Opta said the Portuguese youngster's goal beat the previous record of eight seconds set by Piacenza's Paolo Poggi against Fiorentina in 2001.

Milan later tweeted that the 21-year-old Leao's goal was scored after precisely 6.2 seconds.

Leao thought he had turned provider in the ninth minute when he pulled back for Calhanoglu to turn in but it was ruled out because Saelemaekers was offside in the buildup.

Saelemaekers made up for that in the 26th as he tapped in after being set up by Theo Hernandez following a rapid counterattack.

Milan seemed to be heading for a comfortable win before Domenico Berardi's free kick was deflected in, a minute from time, to set up a nervy finale.

IN-FORM INTER

Achraf Hakimi and Romelu Lukaku helped Inter to a sixth successive league win.

Inter was the in-form team in the league, while Spezia hadn't won for more than a month.

However, it took Inter until seven minutes into the second half to break the deadlock with Hakimi firing in a smart pass from Lautaro Martinez.

Lukaku doubled Inter's lead from the penalty spot after a handball from Sassuolo forward M'Bala Nzola.

Substitute Roberto Piccoli netted a consolation for Spezia in stoppage time with his first Serie A goal.

SUPER ILICIC

Substitute Josip Ilicic provided two assists and scored a brilliant solo goal as Atalanta bounced back from Edin Dzeko's early opener for Roma.

Real Madrid back huge football reform

MADRID

REAL Madrid president Florentino Perez has backed major reform of the European football calendar, with "new formulas" needed to make football "more competitive and exciting."

The apparent reference to a European Super League -- which has been touted as a replacement for the Champions League -- is the latest sign that La Liga's biggest clubs are in favour of such a project.

In October, outgoing Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu revealed that the club had provisionally agreed to take part.

"The pandemic has changed everything. It has made us all more vulnerable, and the world of football too," Perez said, speaking at Real Madrid's annual assembly of club members.

"Football needs new formulas to make it stronger, more competitive and exciting. As always, Real Madrid have to remain at the forefront of this sport. Our club has participated in every necessary innovation over the years.

"The model needs a boost. Football must face these new times.

"Everyone supports the reform of the current competitive panorama. Football fans themselves are finding a saturation of the calendar. The reform of football cannot wait and we have to face it as soon as possible."

The assembly -- which was held remotely for the first time -- saw Real Madrid's socios [members] approve the club's accounts for the 2019-20 season, with a €106 million (13%) reduction in income due to the impact of the coronavirus, largely caused by the closure of the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

The club expects its income in 2020-21 to be €300m down on what it would have been had pre-pandemic growth been maintained.

The Super League project, although many key details remain vague, would be expected to see clubs such as Real Madrid significantly boost their revenues in TV rights deals and other associated income.

(Agencies)

Festive fixtures will reveal whether Man U are for real

MANCHESTER, England

SIR Alex Ferguson used to say the key to the title race was to stay in touch with the leaders until Christmas and then win it in the second half of the season. For the first time since Ferguson retired in 2013, Manchester United have done the first bit. A frantic 6-2 win over Leeds United at Old Trafford on Sunday means that on Christmas Day this year, United will be third in the table, five points behind leaders Liverpool with a game in hand.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is not the type to get carried away, but for the first time in a long time, United have at least made sure they are part of the conversation. What comes next is the hard part, and the trip to Leicester City on Boxing Day and Wolverhampton Wanderers' visit three days later will reveal whether they are the real deal.

"We're one third into the season -- we're not even at the halfway point," said Solskjaer, who celebrated two years in charge on Saturday. "The league position isn't even something we're looking at. Our fans needed that one; they should have been here. Our players



Are Manchester United legit title challengers? This year's festive fixtures will go some way to answering that. Clive Brunskill/Getty (Agencies)

will go home tonight and sleep well. I think they have worked hard enough and deserve maybe a lie-in.

"That was fantastic from the first minute. We had a plan to get after them. We found a way of getting them going. Just imagine if that had 75,000 people here, that would have gone down as one of the best Manchester City, titles are not won or lost in the first half of the season, and United have given themselves a chance.

After the matches against Leicester and Wolves in between Christmas and new year, Solskjaer's team travel to

Anfield to face Liverpool on Jan. 17, which could, by then, be arguably United's biggest league game since Ferguson departed more than seven years ago.

There are significant challenges to overcome before then, but there is plenty for Solskjaer to be thankful for this holiday season. United top the form chart having taken 19 points from the past 21 available. Against Leeds, they addressed two significant issues of failing to start games quickly and a worrying run of home results by scoring twice inside the opening

three minutes and scoring six in a league game for the first time since the 8-2 win over Arsenal in 2011.

Solskjaer admitted in the build-up to the first league meeting with Leeds since 2004 that Marcelo Bielsa's cavalier style might suit his team's strengths, and after the way United raced into a 4-0 lead 10 minutes before half-time, it was hard to argue. It was a day when almost everything went right.

Scott McTominay, picked in midfield ahead of Paul Pogba and Donny van de Beek, became the first player to score a Premier League brace inside the opening three minutes. Bruno Fernandes and Victor Lindelof made it 4-0 after 37 minutes before Liam Cooper got one back for the visitors. Daniel James, a surprise choice to make his first start since October, got his first league goal since August 2019 shortly after half-time and Fernandes got his second from the penalty spot after Anthony Martial was brought down. Stuart Dallas got Leeds' second on 73 minutes and they would have had more but for a string of fine saves from David De Gea.

That the game ended with eight goals, 43 shots and 24 corners was a fair summary of a cha-

otic 90 minutes. Maybe Solskjaer had shown his players Louis van Gaal's comment that "all they did was defend with 10 men" in the Manchester derby. After scoring six against Leeds for only the second time in their history, United have got 28 league goals this season -- bettered only by Liverpool and nine more than at the same stage last season.

Aside from some questionable defending, Solskjaer's only concern at full-time was injuries that forced off McTominay and Luke Shaw.

"You have to earn the right to win it, and it should have, could have, been 12-4," Solskjaer said. "You know it's going to be frantic, hectic against them, because no matter what the result is they have a certain style. We showed we are getting a fitter or stronger team. I'm seeing more and more of a Manchester United team I like. I've really enjoyed the two years and really enjoyed today. We want a fit team to go to the end and they've proven that lately. There are details to work on and we'll keep improving."

Prove it against Leicester, and even Solskjaer will find it hard to play down United's title chances.

(Agencies)

Mourinho's Spurs starting to show some cracks

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

AS Leicester City's celebrations subsided following their second goal in this 2-0 win over Tottenham, one voice could be heard ringing out around Spurs' cavernous arena.

"Hey, come on!" Jose Mourinho screamed at his players, many of them with their heads down, trudging back towards the centre circle to restart a game they never looked like they would win. Spurs have now suffered back-to-back defeats for the first time this season, and the danger for Mourinho is that a squad whose mentality he has so regularly questioned now slips back into old habits. The damage done by Roberto Firmino's stoppage-time winner for Liverpool against Tottenham on Wednesday night could be greater than first feared.

Leicester are a super counter-attacking team in their own right -- they went into second place at full-time after registering their ninth Premier League win of the season -- and these successive results in isolation can in part be explained by the quality of the opposition. But coming together in the same week as they have, it raises the time-honoured question as to whether Spurs can show the best of themselves when the biggest prizes are in sight.

They kicked off at Crystal Palace last Sunday at the top of the table. A week later, they are suddenly in fifth place, six points adrift of the leaders. Things can change quickly at this time of year given the manic schedule, but Spurs quickly need to re-



Leicester's Jamie Vardy, right, reacts and celebrates after Tottenham's Toby Alderweireld, left, scored an own goal for Leicester's second goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City at the White Hart Lane stadium in London Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020. (AP Photo)

discover the mixture of poise and purpose that propelled them into the early running.

This was also another reminder of the fine margins built into Mourinho's conservative style. The 57-year-old is moulding Spurs in his own image, but the long-standing club motto "To Dare is To Do" is compromised on days like this. To defend isn't always to do.

It is imperative his strikers must be clinical when chances come their way. Steven Bergwijn was profligate at Anfield and Harry Kane wasted Tottenham's best first-half chance here, heading over Son Heung-min's 41st-minute corner. It was the closest Spurs' deadly partnership came to extending their record of combining for 12 league goals so far this season, a sign of how Leicester were much more efficient on the counter-attack, even if they required a penalty and an own goal to translate that superiority to the scoreline.

"The fact that we didn't start well, is not because I didn't tell the

players not to start well, don't get me wrong," Mourinho said. "I didn't tell any player 'don't be proactive' or 'be reactive' but I admit: we did start bad."

"I'm frustrated when I lose but it is not like there is a target that cannot be achieved. Our target is to win the next match and the previous matches, they don't interfere in our target for the next match. The next match we want to win, like we wanted to win today.

"We want to win matches and what hap-

pened in the match before shouldn't have an impact on the next one, which is what I think is going to happen. You have to try always to win the next match."

The documentary 'All or Nothing: Tottenham Hotspur' offered so much insight into Mourinho's interactions with his players that there is usually a quote applicable to almost every subsequent situation, and so it proves for Serge Aurier. Mourinho was once shown on camera telling Aurier before a Champions League

game against Olympiacos: "I am afraid of you as a marker, because you are capable of doing a s--- penalty, with VAR. So I am telling you already that I am afraid of you."

He was right to be afraid. Aurier has been much improved this season but he retains the unfortunate ability to make headshaking mistakes, barging James Justin in the box with a needless challenge which referee Craig Pawson somehow required VAR to clarify was a foul. Jamie Vardy smashed home the subsequent penalty with the last kick of the first half, Leicester's first shot on target.

"Is it a problem? Let's focus on today. Today he made a mistake," Mourinho said afterward. "But before his mistake on minute 45 or 46, we had other players making mistakes in other areas of the pitch. I can't blame a player for a mistake."

Up until that point, the game really could have benefitted from a third team out there that actually wanted the ball. The first goal was pivotal in a contest between two counter-attacking teams because it allowed the

scorers to play how they preferred. Spurs had to open up, a task made more difficult by losing Giovani Lo Celso to a muscular injury just a few minutes after half-time. Gareth Bale came on for Tanguy Ndombele at half-time, but he and Lucas Moura, who replaced Lo Celso, created precious little.

James Maddison was denied a brilliant goal by a decision at the more ludicrous end of the VAR spectrum, an offside determined by the position of his armpit as he bent his run superbly, but Leicester didn't have to wait too long to double their lead as Vardy's header back across goal hit Toby Alderweireld's knee and wrong-footed Hugo Lloris.

Bale's presence barely registered as Spurs mustered just two shots on target in the second half, although one of those forced an excellent save from Kasper Schmeichel as Son went close late on. In previous matches, similarly low numbers have been by Mourinho's design. Here they were evidence Tottenham need more to stay in the hunt for the title.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Serengeti Boys face tough CECAFA U-17 Championship final against Uganda

SPORT

Festive fixtures will reveal whether Man U are for real

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Serengeti Boys forward, Omar Sultan (L), jubilates with teammates, Chande Omari (C) and Mbarak Mohamed, after the former scored the squad's opener in this season's Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-17 Championship's semi-final against Ethiopia, which took place in Rwanda last weekend. Serengeti Boys emerged victorious in penalty shootout to sail through to the final. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's national U-17 men's football team, Serengeti Boys, will today clash with Uganda in the final of the 2020 Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-17 Championship, with both teams having already secured a place at the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-17 Championship, which will be hosted by Morocco.

The CECAFA U-17 Championship, which is taking place in Rwanda, is also used as qualifiers for the next year's

continental showpiece.

By reaching today's final, Tanzania and Uganda have earned their place at the AFCON U-17 Championship that is scheduled to be played in the North African nation next year.

Serengeti Boys qualified for the final after defeating Ethiopia in the penalty shootout of the second semi-final match played on Sunday.

The tournament is hosted by Rwanda who failed to make it past the group stage.

The 10-man Tanzanian side showed calmness to edge out Ethiopia 4-3 in penalty shootout to seal a second consecutive visit in the final.

During the penalty shootout Tanzania's goalkeeper Abdallah Hassan saved two kicks, while

Ethiopia's Tesfamaryam Omer saved Tanzania's one penalty kick.

This will be the second time for Serengeti Boys and Uganda to lock horns in the showpiece's final.

Uganda won the 2018 CECAFA U-17 competition by beating hosts, Serengeti Boys, 3-1 in the final played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania have appeared in all of the CECAFA Men's U-17 Championships played and were winners in 2017 as they lifted the trophy in Burundi.

At the continental level, Serengeti Boys will participate for the third time in a row.

In 2017, they made their debut in Gabon where they were pitted against eventual champions, Mali, Angola and Guinea.

Serengeti Boys failed to make it past the group stage after coming third behind Mali and Guinea.

In 2019, Serengeti Boys qualified as hosts in a tournament hosted in Dar es Salaam.

Once against they failed to go past the group stage having finished bottom in a group comprising Nigeria and Angola. They lost all three of their games.

Previously, Tanzania were disqualified from appearing at the 2005 AFCON U-17 Championship after being found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in the qualifiers.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
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12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Alain Thierry Akono

Azam FC sells forward Akono to Malaysian outfit

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC has sold the club's Cameroonian forward Alain Thierry Akono to Malaysian club, Negeri Sembilan.

Akono had joined the Vodacom Premier League club earlier this season from Cameroon's AS Fortuna on a two-year deal.

Azam FC's decision to sell the 24-year old professional has been reached given the striker missed out on a chance to make his way into the starting squad.

Akono had as well netted a goal in the domestic top flight beyond scoring once in one of the team's friendly matches.

"We have actually sold Akono who is now going to serve Negeri Sembilan after the two sides reached an agreement," Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zakaria, disclosed.

According to Azam FC, the side has sold the player after half a season with him.

This will give the squad a chance to rope in another player in this December mini transfer window in order to strengthen the outfit.

Akono becomes the third player to be sold by Azam FC this season after midfielder Novatus Dismas joined Maccabi Tel-Aviv of Israel and striker Shaaban Idd Chilunda joined Moghreb Athletic Tetuan of Morocco.

However, Zakaria said the club would register new players before the mini transfer window is closed.

After all, Akono's departure gives Azam FC head coach George Lwandamina a chance to find a replacement while he waits for the return of the team's leading striker, Prince Dube.

Dube is currently nursing an injury he got in Azam FC's recent Vodacom Premier League clash against Yanga.

He had headed to South Africa for surgery.

Bayi laments misuse of land meant for sports venues

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) Secretary General Filbert Bayi has said that individuals' tendency to grab land, which had served as sports grounds, is hindering many youths in Karatu District in Arusha from participating in sporting activities.

Bayi issued the comments at the closing of the 19th edition of Karatu Sports Festival which was held in the district on Sunday.

Arusha Regional Commissioner Idd Kimanta was the guest of honour at the closing ceremony.

Bayi, who is one of the country's athletics legends, said Karatu used to be the breeding ground of sports talents but now things have changed as the district's youths have no place they can use for practicing.

He said he has been trying his best to revive sports in the district but to no avail as there is no place for training.



A section of athletes battle it out in the 21km race of the 2020 Karatu Sports Festival, which took place in Arusha recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

He disclosed: "Karatu is a place where many sports talents come from, I'm hailing from this district, I have been organizing Karatu Sports Festival for 19 years in a row, the aim of the festival is to revive sports, give our children the

opportunity to showcase their talents, but I have noted that many young people are not taking part in sports as there is no place to train as all the land which used to be playing ground has been grabbed by people."

"This is affecting the development of sports in Karatu District and other places," he said.

Kimanta said misuse of land which was used as playing grounds is unhealthy to the development of sports and he called on perpetrators of the vice to stop forthwith.

He said the playing areas, which have now been taken by people, were the platform for such athletics legends like Bayi, Gidamis Shahanga, John Stephen, Suleiman Nyambui and others.

He insisted: "This practice of grabbing land which used to be playing grounds should come to an end."

"Karatu and many other districts in the country have talented young players but they lack places to either train or expose their talents as people have taken the land which was meant for that purpose," he said.

Tanzania to host Africa Kabaddi Championship next year

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will next year host the Africa Kabaddi Championship which will be held in Dar es Salaam in March.

Abdallah Nyoni, Tanzania Kabaddi Association's Chairman, said the championship will be held from March 9-14 at a venue to be announced later.

Nyoni said it is historical for the country to host Kabaddi Championship and it will involve Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Uganda and hosts Tanzania.

The official said they accepted a request from Africa Kabaddi Confederation and World Kabaddi Association

to host the championship as it will promote the sport in the country.

He said the national Kabaddi team comprising 34 players are in camp preparing for the championship.

He stated that early camping will help the players prepare well for the event.

Nyoni, who is also first Vice President of Kabaddi Africa Association and founder of Buffalo Kabaddi Sports Club, thanked Tanzania Kabaddi Association's patron, Demeter Insurance Company's Chief Executive Officer Adarsh Sharma, for bankrolling the camp.

He said Dar es Salaam is organizing the championship and he asked the

region's residents and fellows from other parts of the country to prepare to welcome more than 350 visitors who will come for the championship.

He added: "Hosting Africa Kabaddi Championship is historical for the country and we feel honoured to be given this opportunity, we also thank Adarsh Sharma, who is our patron, for his generosity to sponsor the team."

"We also appreciate the support we are getting from Dar es Salaam Regional Office and other stakeholders, we are asking the corporate world to sponsor us so that we can successfully host the tournament," he said.

Nyoni said for local players to be in shape for the championship, Kabaddi

coaches from India are expected in Dar es Salaam early February next year to train the players.

The World Kabaddi Association, Nyoni stated, will send the coaches.

Wikipedia describes Kabaddi as popular sport in India and other surrounding Asian countries.

It is a contact team sport played between two teams of seven players, the objective of the game is for a single player on offence, referred to as a 'raider', to run into the opposing team's half of a court, tag out as many of their defenders as possible, and return to their own half of the court, all without being tackled by the defenders, and in a single breath.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

