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TANZANIA

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Lissu to have 14 cabinet ministers

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA presidential candidate Tundu Lissu yesterday said that if he wins next month's election, he will form a lean cabinet of 14 ministers. Speaking at a meeting with journalists at his residence in Dar es Salaam, Lissu said a small cabinet is the easiest way to directing more funds into development project by reducing the wage bill.

"I'll do as recommended by the Warioba (Constitutional Review) Commission. I'll appoint 14 ministers only so that the government does not remain a burden as it is now," he said.

And once in office, Lissu said he will resume the constitutional review process to enable Tanzanians get a new progressive mother law and get rid of what he termed as colonial government structures.

"Tanzania suffers because of a construction that makes the president the alfa and omega. My government will put in place a system that makes the president accountable to the people," he said.

The Chadema candidate went ahead to claim that the main opposition party is stronger than it was in 2015, and thus it stands a better chance of defeating the ruling party.

Lissu said his experience in 10 days of campaign



All previous elections have been tough for opposition parties and this one will be even tougher

in 10 zones has shown that the country is ripe for change, going by the number of people who attended the rallies.

"We did not have access to mainstream media to advertise our rallies. We only used phone calls and WhatsApp messages but people turned in large numbers," he said.

After concluding the first round of campaign in 10 zones, Lissu said the party will now embark on the second leg by reaching every region and every constituency.

As opposed to a party he did not name that uses popular artists to pull the crowds, Lissu claimed that his rallies are attended by genuine audiences eager to listen to his message.

Lissu - who has been an environmental activist and a parliamentarian since the late 2010 general election - said he understands the going will be tough given the nature of the current constitution and the structure of the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

"All previous elections have been tough for opposition parties and this one will be even

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Wildebeests die by the thousand in Mara River



CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli addresses Geita residents during his campaign rally at Kalangalala ground yesterday. Photo: State House

JPM: Small scale mining the priority for next term

By Henry Mwangonde, Geita

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli yesterday promised that if re-elected he will provide licenses and special mining zones to artisanal miners so that they are not disturbed as it is the case now.

Speaking during a campaign rally at Kalangalala grounds in Geita, he said he will work on improving the lives of small scale miners by providing them with loans, technology and training.

The ruling party flag bearer took time to explain how reforms carried out by his government helped the country reap big from the mining sector.



The ruling party flag bearer took time to explain how reforms carried out by his govt helped the country reap big from the mining sector

He said artisanal miners sold 337,482 kilogrammes of gold worth 22.5bn/- with the government receiving 1.2bn/- in royalty in the year 2016 alone.

"When we took office late 2015 artisanal miners were being harassed. We decided to come up with reforms to enhance dignity for small scale miners," he told the rally.

After the reforms carried out mid last year, artisanal miners sold 4,656.29 kilogrammes of gold worth 375.5bn/- with the government receiving 22.5bn/- in royalty.

In the same note, large-scale miners sold 17,587 kilogrammes of gold in 2016 worth 1.4trn/- in which the government received

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- Walled tourist camp blocks migration path
- Kenya tourism minister demands camp demolition

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Serengeti

WATER pressure caused by massed animals and a stampede has killed nearly three thousand wildebeests in Mara River after failing to scale the river due to a walled camp on the other side of the river.

Authorities in Tanzania and Kenya expressed shock at reports of a walled camp having been erected on the wildebeest migration path, obstructing the entry of the animals into the neighbouring country.

This follows a video clip which went viral on social media yesterday, showing thousands of wildebeests from the Serengeti struggling on the Kenyan side after crossing Mara River into the Maasai Mara national park. The clip shows some unidentified men chasing the animals from their natural path with sticks.

Speaking to The Guardian on the matter yesterday, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla expressed shock after learning about the incident, promising to take steps to salvage the situation. "The annual wildebeest migration is a popular global phenomenon that cannot be interfered with," he said.

Kenya's Tourism Cabinet Secretary Najib



The annual wildebeest migration is a popular global phenomenon that cannot be interfered with

Balala demanded the removal of the tourist camp built next to the Mara River.

"I have discussed with Narok Governor Samuel Tunai about the camp built beside the Mara River, blocking the wildebeest crossing. It's very disturbing and we expect the governor to take action and have the camp removed," Balala said in a statement.

Kenyan media reported that the blockage caused a stampede and a certain number of animals were said to have died as a result.

The usual path, through which the ungulates pass during the annual Serengeti-Mara migration, was walled on the Kenyan side where some developers had erected a camp site preventing the wildebeests from the passage.

Already a large section of the 1.5 million wildebeests and nearly 300,000 zebras as well as 200,000 gazelles have crossed back to Tanzania and for the last two weeks the wildebeests have been crossing the great River Mara in Serengeti in the journey south of the park ready for next February 2021 calving season at Ndutu area.

Balala has meanwhile ordered the removal of the tourist camp which is erected next to the Mara River, blocking the famous wildebeest crossing and where some men, possibly the hotel staff, were seen chasing away the animals forcing them to take a different path.

People believed to be camp staff were seen in a video forcing a herd of the wildebeests to change their route after crossing the river.

The video elicited reactions online compelling the cabinet secretary to issue a statement.

NMB MasterCard to seek 3m local clients

By Guardian Reporter

A record three million Tanzanian clients in the domestic market will utilise MasterCard branded debit and credit cards for the next five years, thanks to an agreement reached with NMB Bank Plc.

The partnership aims to further build the domestic payments ecosystem and empower local consumers with safe and secure electronic payments, on the basis of remarks by the NMB chief executive officer, Ruth Zaipuna.

She said at the signing ceremony on Tuesday that with the NMB prepaid card, customers will

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Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor, Dr. Bernard Kibesse congratulates NMB Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna after unveiling NMB credit and prepaid cards in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. NMB plans to distribute over three million cards in the space of five years. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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Assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) East Coast Diocese Dean Chediel Lwiza (R) together with Maendeleo Bank board chairman Amulike Ngeliama (L) and the bank managing director Ibrahim Mwangaalaba cutting a cake to celebrate the bank's 7th anniversary at the Luther House headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NMB MasterCard to seek 3m local clients

FROM PAGE 1

have an opportunity to access over 15 currencies across the world, and have six currencies active at the same time, loaded into one prepaid card.

"We are pleased to work with MasterCard to launch three million prepaid and credit cards in Tanzania. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to deepen the local cash lite economy, and underpins our goal of reaching over 600,000 customers before the end of this year to drive financial inclusion and create a cashless society," she said.

The deal will not only provide consumers with a secure means of making transactions, but also support the business community, whose purchases demand use of foreign currencies.

"This move is a significant milestone in Tanzania, and we are confident that it will provide all types of customers with enormous value, from the mass segment to private banking customers," she affirmed.

Through the partnership, NMB will issue secure prepaid and credit cards with contactless technology, underpinned by MasterCard's payments technology. The initiative is among the first and largest rollout of contactless payment cards in the local market, officials said.

This mastercard design involving EMV chip technology spreads the latest global standard for card payments to the country, as EMV is an acronym for Europay Mastercard and Visa, who developed this technology. "EMV cards are chip-based payment cards with enhanced safety features that are designed to prevent fraudulent practices such as card skimming and cloning," an online write up explains.

The partnership between NMB and MasterCard comes at a time when Tanzania's financial sector is migrating from magnetic strip cards towards the more secure EMV Chip and PIN cards. EMV technology has been touted as the

safest way to conduct cashless payment transactions, and has been adopted widely by major markets globally, resulting in reduced card fraud and more efficient payment systems.

In remarks after the deal, Mastercard director for country business development in East Africa, Frank Molla said the global payments solutions company has been spearheading the transition to contactless for over 15 years, "championing tap-and-go as the most simple, safe and a fast way to pay."

"Innovation is central to achieving our vision of a cashless society in Tanzania, and we remain committed to developing market-relevant payment solutions that offer true value to consumers," he declared.

"This partnership with NMB supports our goal to bring one billion people globally into the digital economy by 2025, and we are pleased to work together in Tanzania towards the growth of a cash lite economy," he elaborated.

With 226 physical branches, over 7,000 agents and more than 800 ATMs, NMB is the largest bank in the market by network, net assets value and profits. The city based lender has over three million customers and employs over 3,000 staff. It is listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange and its largest shareholders are strategic partners Rabobank of Netherlands with a 34.9 percent stake, and Treasury with a 31.8 percent while minorities control nearly 30 percent of the shares.



We are pleased to work with MasterCard to launch three million prepaid and credit cards in Tanzania

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tougher. I say so because the electoral management system works in favour of the ruling party," he asserted.

He went on to say that it is not easy for opposition candidates to win in an environment whereby NEC executives are appointed by the president as well as district executive directors who are

Lissu to have 14 cabinet ministers

returning officers at the constituency level.

The candidate continued to complain about the disqualification of Chadema aspirants in various constituencies, faulting NEC for barring them from being on the ballot paper,

As of Tuesday, he said, a total of 55 Chadema parliamentary aspirants as well as 1025 who sought civic posts were barred by NEC.

Lissu called on NEC to ensure that election results at every polling station are given to agents of all political

parties present as required by the law.

He went ahead to defend the party funds drives at campaign rallies, saying he is running the campaign on a shoestring budget because he has been denied his resources, including his parliamentary pension.

I'll deliver justice for all, says Seif

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate for Zanzibar Seif Sharif Hamad yesterday said that if elected in next month's polls, his government will deliver justice for all.

Addressing a congress of the party's youth wing here, Hamad said his administration will ensure that all Zanzibaris feel safe and respected.

Hamad said his government will put in place mechanism that offers equal job opportunities and other advancement avenues to all Zanzibaris regardless of race, religion and political ideology.

The candidate said his government will do more to enhance human rights by ensuring that the Islanders enjoy their constitutional freedoms and civil liberties.

"I'll put in a place a new system of governance to ensure that all Zanzibaris enjoy their rights and liberties," he said.

Hamad presented himself as a unity candidate, promising to bring together all Zanzibaris as united people upon whom powers of governance rest.

The ACT-Wazalendo national chairman promised that under his leadership, Zanzibar will be cited as an example of good governance in Africa.

To achieve this best practice status, Hamad said he will practice popular sovereignty form of democracy whereby all political power rest with the people. This is the sixth time Hamad is seeking to be president of

Zanzibar. He has been doing so since the first multiparty elections of 1995.

However, his previous attempts had been on another party, the Civic United Front (CUF) which he also led as secretary general before getting into a leadership dispute with national chairman Prof Haruna Lipumba. The matter went to court.

Hamad joined Zitto Kabwe-led ACT-Wazalendo in March this year and was appointed Chief Advisor before being elected national chairman.

His decision came hours after the High Court in Dar es Salaam ruled that the Registrar of Political Parties Judge Francis Mutungi was right to recognise Prof Lipumba as the legitimate chairman of the party.

Hamad said in his press conference in Dar es Salaam that he had no intention to continue squabbling over the court's decision.

It's against that background, Hamad said, that he and his colleagues had decided to find another platform where they can wage the struggles for democracy and the rule of law.

Key CUF leaders and members in Zanzibar where the party had huge following were reported to have followed Hamad in his new political outfit namely ACT-Wazalendo.

Tanzanians go to the polls on October 28 where the union president, president of Zanzibar, members of parliament, members of Zanzibar's House of Representatives and councillors will be elected.



Kinondoni District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo (L) takes part to dig a trench to lay a pipe as part of the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority strategy to improve water services at Makongo suburb. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

53.18bn/-.

Dr Magufuli said after those reforms, large scale miners sold 21,652.77 kilogrammes of gold worth 2.2trn/-.

And the government received 130bn/- in royalties.

President Magufuli who is seeking re-election said the figures were a testimony that the country lost trillions of shillings in past years.

"My government has constructed

JPM: Small scale mining the priority for next term

a huge gold market in Geita region so that small scale miners can sell their gold here and we have seen the results," he said.

After his nomination on July 21, 2015, as presidential candidate in the 2015 elections, one of his priorities during the campaign was the minerals sector. He promised to take action to

further promote the mining industry and increase its contribution to the Gross Domestic Products (GDP), he recalled.

Five years later, the sector has seen several reforms which have brought positive impacts not only to the sector, but also for the protection of the country's natural resources in

general.

One such milestone was the decision to enact the Mining (Local Content) Regulations of 2018, which were included in the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act No. 7 of 2017, following amendments to the Mining Act of 2010.

On fisheries and agriculture, the

president said his government has removed nuisance taxes and already the construction of a modern abattoir is underway in Geita.

Dr Magufuli declared that his government has used 37trn/- in financing various development projects in the last five years.

Among the key projects is the Julius

Nyerere hydropower project, the Standard Gauge Railway from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro and up to Mwanza and neighbouring countries. Others include the construction of health centres, bridges and renovation of schools all over the country.

In 2016, dividends from institutions that the government has shares stood at 100bn/- but had climbed to 567bn/- in 2020, he added.

JICA alumni members to visit leather factory in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Alumni Association of Tanzania (JATA) are set to conduct an inspection visit at a leather factory run by their colleagues in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

A statement released yesterday by JICA said the event to take place at Bunju B in the city will be graced by another JATA alumnus Commissioner General, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Dr Edwin Mhede.

The factory christened Fay Fashion Tanzania is a leather product company which was established and is being operated by Gregory Mlay and Faith Mlay, who both were selected and

participated in JICA's long-term training programme in Japan called African Business Education Initiative (ABE Initiative).

"They are among active young private entrepreneurs, whose company produces leather products utilizing the IT and business skills they acquired in Japan, reads the statement.

This event will be an opportunity for participants to know how the entrepreneurs run their own business successfully by utilizing what they learnt in Japan together with challenges they are facing and how they are dealing with such challenges. The participants will also have a chance to see the actual

operations of the company.

The statement said tomorrow's event is one of the activities which are organized by JATA and is open to all members of the association, adding that JATA is planning to hold other activities this year as well, including a visit to a JICA project in Zanzibar.

The advisory said that the event is open to JATA members as well as all Tanzanians who had an opportunity of training with JICA.

JATA is an association which brings together all ex-participants who had opportunity to study in Japan or in other countries under the sponsorship of JICA, which is the implementing agency of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).



Agriculture ministry permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya rides on one of three motorbikes moments before he presented them to extension officers in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region yesterday for use to promote cashew nut and sisal farming. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ex Premier Pinda urges Babati residents to re-elect Magufuli

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has appealed to Babati residents to re-elect John Magufuli as President to continue bringing socio-economic development to them.

He issued the appeal mid this week when speaking at a campaign rally seeking votes for the ruling party's candidates for the presidency, parliament and local councils.

He said they should vote for Magufuli because he has accomplished a lot in the last five years.

He said when Magufuli came to power in 2015 tax collection was 800bn/- per month but now the figure stands at 1.3tr/-.

He mentioned other reasons for re-electing Magufuli as having taken the country to the middle income level, purchase of 11 planes that have seen the increase of the number of tourists visiting the country.

Other reason was the increase of the number of factories from 52,000 in 2015 to 62,000 now as well as his excellent management of the mining sector.

He said Magufuli need to be re-elected in order to assist the youth in employment opportunities.

Another former Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye said during the election campaign period there were many words being spoken with even marriages of some people breaking up, hence he appealed to Babati residents

not to listen to matters in the social media.

"I went to the opposition in order to pull a truck that had got stuck but I discovered it cannot move because of many punctures," he said.

Parliamentary candidate for Babati constituency Pauline Gekul apologised for the period she was in the opposition, saying if they elect the opposition candidates they will peddle back five years.

"If anybody speaks badly of Magufuli, then that person is not a Tanzanian, so just remember me in your kingdom, I may make errors if I speak much," she said.

Gekul asked to be re-elected because she would not to parliament to sleep but to represent them well.

Amb Iddi lauds investor for textile factory revival

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi has praised Basra Textile Mills, an investment company for reviving the Cotex textile factory at Chumbuni, the move that is in response to the government goal to develop the country's industrial sector.

During his brief tour to inspect the ongoing refurbishment at the factory which is expected to start operations in October this year, Amb. Iddi said the factory's revival would not only benefit the investor, but also the nation and the youth who will be employed therein.

He said for many years the factory was almost in ruins with many residents

complaining to the government over staying idle despite handing to an investor who failed to develop it for 25 years ago.

He advised the Basra Textile Mills officials to endeavor to produce goods of quality goods to satisfy the demand for both local and foreign markets.

He assured them that the Zanzibar government was ready to assist in seeing the aims of the factory's revival are met.

Basra Textile Mills managing director Ahmed Osman said the work going on now was the installation of equipment to signal the completion of the first phase.

He said first trial runs of production will begin in October this year for the

manufacturing of printed wax 'vitenge', bed sheets and suiting material for making school uniforms.

Basra Textile Mills director general said Hassan said the first phase upon completion will cost USD 21.3 million and will provide jobs for 454 youth, while the second phase will employ 1,200 people in various categories.

He said the third phase, that will provide jobs to 1,600 people will go in tandem with purchase of cotton from Tanzania Mainland.

Zanzibar's Minister for Finance and Planning Amb Mohamed Ramia assured Basra Textile Mills officials that the government will act on various challenges that emerged when reviving the factory.

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Dar residents support NEMC solutions to noise pollution

By Guardian Reporter

A CROSS-SECTION of Dar es Salaam residents have expressed their satisfaction on the move taken by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to take to court people guilty of noise pollution.

In a random interview yesterday they suggested that all violators of the law must be taken to court irrespective of their positions in society.

Alex Mushi, a Sinza resident said: "Noise pollution is prohibited by law irrespective of the source. All culprits must be taken to court," he argued, adding that a lot of noise was coming from different sources. "Let NEMC truly take to court violators of the law irrespective of their positions in society."

He said people want to rest after hard work during the day. However, they were deprived of the rest because of noise from varied sources. In Sinza, he said, noise originated from different sources, especially from entertainment points and bars.

Muhsin Lingai, a Vingunguti resident, said NEMC's position needs support from all Tanzanians. "Noise denies people the rest they merit."

Daud Machuma, a Mikocheni resident, said taking to court violators of the law would bring peace to residential areas, especially at night in Mikocheni area.

"Mikocheni is basically an industrial area. We like factories because they employ our youths. However, the law must be respected. Noise can be contained by employing right technology," he argued.

NEMC warned a few days back that people violating the Environmental Management Act, 2004 and its Regulations were risking court action.

On August 17, this year NEMC penalised ten owners of bar and entertainment houses in Dar es Salaam for violating noise management regulation approved by city fathers.

Gwamaka said that the council was also finalising procedures to drag to court some of the suspects, ordering owners of social halls, bars and religious institutions that are located in residential areas to control noise pollution or else they will have to face stern legal measures.

"We have been receiving several complaints from the public concerning noise pollution and we have been acting without delay, NEMC want people to live in their areas peaceful without unnecessary disturbances, so bars and other owners of social halls, religious institutions should control sounds and ensure that there is no noise pollution in their surrounding areas," he said.



We have been receiving several complaints from the public concerning noise pollution and we have been acting without delay, NEMC want people to live in their areas peaceful without unnecessary disturbances, so bars and other owners of social halls, religious institutions should control sounds and ensure that there is no noise pollution in their surrounding areas



Sculptor Miraji Said works on a wood carving at a Maasai market in Arusha Region yesterday. He said most of his customers are foreign tourists. The carvings are sold between 7,000/- and 1,000,000/- depending on the size and the level of 'sophistication'. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpeza

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Finance and Planning has refuted reports circulating in the social media saying it was in collaboration with BACC, a private institution in the provision of interest free commercial and agricultural loans without any hurdles.

Speaking here mid this week, the Ministry's head of government communications, Benny Mwaipaja said the reports should be ignored as the ministry has special procedures to convey its message to the public.

"The ministry uses official

Ministry refutes reports over provision of interest free loans

channels through the media including registered and government recognised social media to issue statements, hence it is sufficing to understand that it is not part of the reports aimed at misleading the public," said Mwaipaja.

He appealed to members of the community to be alert with a gang

of conmen using the social media to defraud them of their money.

He said the ministry does not recognise the institution or even having any kind of connection with it in providing interest free commercial and agricultural loans.

He cautioned those involved in such criminal acts to stop forthwith

as they were being sought by government organs and if caught stern legal action will be taken against them.

Mwaipaja appealed to all those needing further clarification on the matter to communicate with the ministry's government communications unit via Mob No.075481562.



A new digital cash reward App dubbed Samapay on display. Marketing manager Emmanuel Kirenzi (R) shows on how a customer will collect points through purchasing items from registered Samapay merchants during the launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is flanked by the firm's spokesperson Grace Kambaulaya. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Reporter

NEC endorses 13 more parliamentary candidates

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) yesterday endorsed 13 parliamentary candidates from opposition parties after successful appeals.

NEC elections director, Dr Wilson Charles said in statement that the aspirants include those who were barred from running for parliamentary seats in Singida West, Madaba, Ilemela, Namtumbo, Bagamoyo, Liwale, Tunduma, Bukene and Kigamboni constituencies.

The electoral body has so far

reinstated 28 parliamentary candidates since it started announcing the outcome of the petitions on Tuesday this week.

"We have gone through 34 petitions, we were satisfied that 13 candidates qualified to contest for the parliamentary seats", said the election director.

Dr Charles said that NEC has dropped seven appeals whose parliamentary aspirants were not nominated. They are from Singida

West, Bahi, Handeni-Rural, Madaba, Singida Mashariki, Ileje, Meatu and Bukene constituencies.

He said the electoral body has also rejected other 14 petitions filed against endorsed contestants in Mwangi, Mafinga, Ilala, Manonga, Igunga and Kisesa constituencies.

Dr Charles said the appeals were filed in accordance with Section 40(6) of the National Elections Act, Chapter 343, which allows parliamentary seat contestants to

appeal against decisions made by election supervisors.

NEC will continue to release more results of the filed appeals by disqualified candidates and objections raised after nominations and endorsement by NEC.

On September 8, 2020 NEC endorsed 15 out of 100 barred parliamentary candidates.

After the announcement of list of candidates endorsed by NEC last month with one hundred candidates

Hunt water infrastructure saboteurs, says Tabora RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Uyui

TABORA Regional Commissioner, Dr Philemon Sengati has announced a crackdown against people sabotaging water infrastructure in the region, insisting to take stern measures against the culprits.

He made the statement during a tour to inspect water projects which included the construction of deep water wells at Loya town in Uyui District.

At Loya town, the RC was informed on the theft of water infrastructure at Loya Bondeni secondary school, where he ordered security organs to make sure the culprits are arrested and arraigned in accordance with the laws.

Dr Sengati was concerned that destruction of water infrastructure hinders the government efforts towards ensuring availability of clean and safe water to all the residents.

"The government spends a lot of money in implementing water projects, sabotaging the infrastructures not only causes losses to the government, but hinders our efforts in improving water service delivery in the region", said the Regional Commissioner.

The RC directed the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Uyui District to educate the villagers as well as leaders on how to supervise the projects. He said that it was the responsibility of water users'

communities to make sure the projects are maintained and sustainable so that they last longer.

Dr Sengati explained that the government has handed over the project to the local leaders, and that it is their responsibility to properly manage them.

Secretary of the water user community in Loya town, Joseph Nduba said they had already reported to the police the theft of water infrastructure at Loya Bondeni secondary school. He said the incident led into increased water leakages.

"We reported the matter to the police, the officers are still hunting for the culprits", said Nduba adding the village leadership has put in place by-laws to protect the projects.

The government has in the 2020/202021 financial year increased water budget by over 99bn/- aiming to achieve 85 per cent supply of the precious liquid in both rural and urban areas during.

During the year, plans are also to implement the strategic National Water Grid system that will ensure availability of clean and safe places with reported limited freshwater sources.

The 2017 National Environmental Status Report indicates that by 2016 only 6 between 10 people (59.7 per cent) had access to clean and safe water in rural areas while 9 out of 10 people access clean and safe water in urban areas.

of its candidates.

The party's presidential candidate, advocate Tundu Lissu said the international community should press the government and even individuals who took part in the disqualification of its aspirants.

Lissu said the party lined up some 3,754 contesters in the 3,955 wards up for grabs all over the country, leaving 201 wards, but out of the number, a total of 1,020 aspirants who sought to be elected as councilors have been disqualified. There were no valid reason for this measure, the candidate intoned.

Act now to protect children from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic

By Guardian reporter

As with all global crises, children remain innocent in the midst of this pandemic. Whilst children have so far been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 pandemic, the scourge is having a profound effect on their lives in other ways.

This is a universal crisis but the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. The poorest and most vulnerable children will be hit the worst and for some children, the impact will be lifelong.

In response, the United Nations are calling for critical implementation of the UN Secretary General's 'Call to Action on a Ceasefire on Violence in the Home' and enable a fully integrated COVID-19 response that caters to the protection needs of children.

Save the Children echoes this sentiment. They aim to raise awareness among the public, the government and other decision makers around the devastating impacts on children that the fall out of COVID-19 brings. In particular, the rising child abuse.

At this pinnacle moment in history, we have the chance to not only defeat this pandemic, but to also transform the way we nurture and invest in the young generations. But we have to act now.

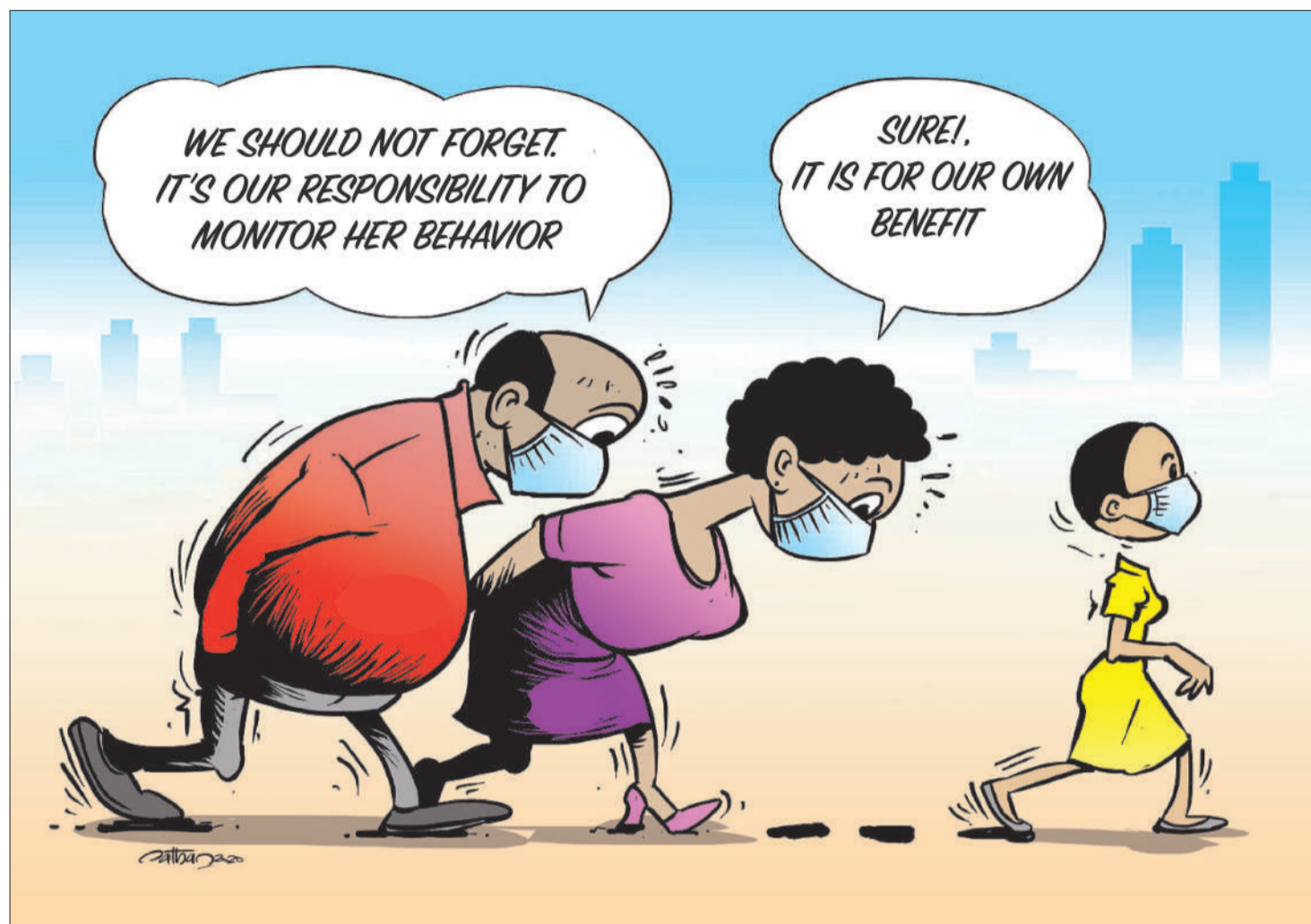
A Social Worker, Hariri Katani, from Dar es Salaam City said there has been a rather lethargic approach to child abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Katani spoke of a series of covert sexual abuse incidents against children after the closure of schools began on 17th March this year. Extreme incidences of violence against women and children can happen in a matter of seconds, Ms Katani explains when recounting the horrific story of a primary schoolgirl who was abducted from her home by a stranger and raped.

"The child was at home alone during the schools' closure. She was lured out of the home and taken by someone to an unknown place where she was raped and abandoned," a tearful Ms Katani said.

Whilst the government continues their efforts to overcome the many forms of child abuse across the country, Ms Katani thinks that a mindset change is necessary to help deter perpetrators from abusing children. Otherwise, "transgenerational trauma will stay with children if serious punitive and deterrent measures are not taken as soon as possible." The government must strive to continue improving their fight against child abuse wherever possible.

A member of the Committee of the National Plan of Action against Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), Judith Kimaro, says a number of physical violence and other forms of abuse



against children including SGBV continue to rise.

It is very difficult to establish statistical data on the incidents of violence against children. Martha Kusaga, the Primary School Health Service Coordinator of the Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam said. This is because most incidents happen behind closed doors and reporting of violence is low.

Despite absence of data Ms Kusaga believes that during the closure of schools throughout the pandemic, many children across Tanzania were most likely suffered from some form of violence.

Current situation in Tanzania

Despite existing legal and policy frameworks, children in Tanzania continue to experience high rates of sexual violence in their homes, schools and communities – and children continue to feel that not enough is being done to ensure they are safe from abuse.

Numbers are likely to be higher than those reported due to barriers in reporting that are embedded in discriminatory gender norms within the community. It is estimated that less than half of children who experience violence during childhood reported about it.

Unwanted sexual contact, including sexual activity and rape of children are the most common forms of childhood sexual violence reported in Tanzania. These experiences most commonly occur in the home, at school or while going to and from school.

Usually children experience sexual violence from their peers, neighbors, extended family members or schoolteachers. The majority of perpetrators are male with older males typically in the case of girl victims, whereas perpetrators tend to be closer to the age of boy victims.

The drivers of sexual violence against children are multifaceted and complex. They include household poverty, stress, limited



Leaving children alone at home is the greatest risk that we shouldn't take at this time of the Covid-19 scourge.

supervision of children, lack of school/ madrass regulation, access to pornography, difficulties accessing sexual and reproductive health services and information, discriminatory gender norms and power dynamics, normalized violence, weak law enforcement and lack of child empowerment to speak out/report perpetrators.

In the context of the pandemic these factors are compounded by the restriction of children's movement, closure of schools/homeschooling, economic struggles and other stresses of lockdown.

Poor response systems are another barrier to protecting children from abuse. Many authorities lack adequate training in sexual violence with corruption and a preference for informal mechanisms prevailing. Children are scared to report incidences for fear of damaging familial relationships.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Ms Kimaro says, a 30-member NPA-VAWC Municipal Committee were trained on how to provide psychosocial support to the community in general, and children in particular. In addition,

the NPA-VAWC Committee have started hosting regular meetings to discuss the best ways for interventions to minimize incidents violence (including gender-based) against children.

"We allocated two caretakers, a social worker and a parachute worker to each administrative ward".

"This way, it was easier for us to closely follow-up on any issues of violence and address challenges in our specific areas of coverage," she added.

"Five committees were formed and tasked with the immediate response to and pursuit of illegal violence." The aim is to catch out unscrupulous parents and caretakers who try to negotiate with the perpetrators to avoid the legal repercussions and punishment. This usually happens in cases where the persecutor is a member of their family.

"These cases involving family members are reported by Ward Social Workers who take it to the Ward Caretaker and the Municipal Committee, finally reaching the Special Committee who will take legal action where necessary," she

explained.

Ending child abuse

To end child abuse a child-centered, integrated multidisciplinary and timely approach is needed across all levels of society. Governments can look to the support of NGOs like Save the Children for guidance and support.

In Tanzania Save the Children has supported the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar to provide services for SGBV survivors in One-Stop Centers across the islands. This support includes capacity building on how to communicate with children and provide basic counselling, as well as the importance of consent and confidentiality. Save the Children has built 3 One-Stop Centers in Shinyanga region and continue to support one One Stop Center in Dar es Salaam.

Save the Children Tanzania also cooperates with Police Gender and Children Desks in Mbozi responding to SGBV survivors; reporting SGBV concerns (including logistical support), as well as providing referrals and basic psychological support training.

All Save the Children's programs strive to be gender-transformative meaning they aim to address the harmful societal and structural norms that devalue women and girls, increasing the risk of sexual violence. For example, an approach that meaningfully engages men and boys and addresses the intergenerational cycle of violence. This is essential if we want to make meaningful change.

Save the Children has a bespoke package of global solutions called 'Parenting Without Violence'. Using these tried and tested approaches Save the Children works with parents, caregivers, children and communities to transform power dynamics, gender norms and practices that lead to violence in the home. Save the Children also works with governments to strengthen systems and mechanisms that protect children.

In many countries around the world, parents have reported that since participating in programmes based on the 'Parenting without Violence' approach they have seen a reduction in intimate partner violence in the home.

Call to action

Any local or national interventions designed to protect communities from the worst impacts of Covid-19 must focus on the protection of children – particularly girls – from any form of abuse combined with mental health and psychosocial support.

This is critical if we are to actualize the UN Secretary General's 'Call to Action on a Ceasefire on Violence in the Homes,' and provide children with what they deserve. A safer world with integrated, effective prevention and response to their protection needs and concerns.



Request for Applications

Faith & Community Initiative: Education About Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence Against Children for Community and Faith Leaders

RFA No.: P3756/2020/003

Date of issuance: September 10th, 2020

Due date for questions: September 21st, 2020

Release date for response to all questions: September 24th, 2020

Closing date: September 30th, 2020

Application (including technical proposal and budget) are due by 17:00 EAT via email to kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org Emailed submissions must contain the subject "Faith & Community Initiative: Education about Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence Against Children for Community and Faith Leaders." Estimated award date: October 19th, 2020

1. Background on Pact

Pact is a leader in building the capacity of non-government organizations, networks and intermediary organizations. Pact's mission is to help build strong communities globally that provide people with an opportunity to earn a dignified living, raise healthy families and participate in democratic life. Pact achieves this by strengthening the organizational and technical capacity of grassroots organizations, coalitions and networks, and by forging linkages between government, business and citizens in order to achieve social, economic, and environmental justices.

2. Purpose Statement

Pursuant to the authority granted under USAID award AID-621-A-16-00001, Pact is pleased to announce the release of a request for applications (RFA) for funding provided to support Pact's implementation of the Education About Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence Against Children for Community and Faith Leaders Activity under the Faith & Community Initiative. This activity will educate faith and other community leaders about sexual violence against children in order that they can support prevention and response efforts in their organizations. This RFA is issued as a public notice to ensure that all interested, qualified, and eligible organizations have a fair opportunity to submit applications for funding. For the purposes of this RFA, "organizations" are defined as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), or faith-based organizations (FBOs). FBOs are strongly encouraged to apply.

3. Program Description

3.1. Program background

The USAID-funded Kizazi Kipya project aims to enable Tanzanian OVC and young people affected by HIV and their caregivers to use age-appropriate HIV-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, livelihoods, and psycho-social wellbeing. To achieve its goals, Pact collaborates with CSOs, the Government of Tanzania (GoT) at national, regional and district levels, communities, and other stakeholders to generate demand for HIV services, reduce barriers to access and uptake of HIV services. Kizazi Kipya maximizes opportunities to generate demand for HIV services, reduce barriers to access and uptake of HIV services, ensure tracking to reduce loss to follow-up, and facilitate effective bi-directional HIV and OVC referrals to ensure completion.

On November 28, 2018, the United States of America Vice President, Michael Pence, announced that the United States government, through PEPFAR, will invest \$100 million to address key gaps toward achieving Epidemic Control and ensuring children justice through FBOs and Communities. Tanzania is one of the 10 selected countries to receive the FCI funding and will roll it out in 9 regions. USAID requested that Pact integrate FCI into its existing Kizazi Kipya programming given its scope and reach. Pact will use FCI funding to engage faith and community leaders in 13 councils in the implementation of primary prevention of sexual violence activities. Under FCI Activity #1, Pact convened stakeholders, including members of faith, traditional and government bodies, to review the existing SVAC 101 materials (provided by USAID) and adapt the materials to suit Tanzanian context. Pact will identify appropriate sub-partner (s) to roll out this education to the faith and community leaders in 13 USAID FCI councils. These leaders will be able to recognize and refer cases of violence against children and will have clear procedures for reporting using the existing response structures (VAWC-CCs, Police/Gender Desks, and SWOs).

3.2. Geographic area

Pact's programming for FCI includes 3 regions (Dodoma, Morogoro, and Ruvuma) covering 13 councils, of which 9 currently have Kizazi Kipya programming. The 13 councils include Dodoma MC, Kondoa DC, Chemba DC, Kongwa DC, Kilosa DC, Morogoro MC, Kilombero DC, Songea MC, Songea DC, Mbinga TC, Mbinga DC, and Tunduru DC.

3.3. Intended impact

Through this program, the objective is for faith and community leaders to achieve the following:

- 1) Learn the facts about sexual violence against children
- 2) Learn about evidence-based programs to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children
- 3) Minimize opportunities for abusers/perpetrators to abuse or exploit children (i.e., child safeguarding)
- 4) React responsibly to sexual violence against children
- 5) Use their leadership and position to change the conversation about sexual violence against children in the community
- 6) Use their leadership and position to change the course of sexual violence against children in your community

The hope is that through this initiative, community and faith leaders will be able to recognize and refer cases of violence against children and will have clear procedures for reporting using the existing response structures (VAWC-CCs, Police/Gender Desks, and SWOs).

3.4. Intended target audience

The specific target audience will be determined through planning meetings with stakeholders in each council. The stakeholders will define who is a community leader and who is a faith leader in their specific geographic context. This is not restricted to any one faith and is open to multiple denominations

3.5. Expected role of sub-awardee in the program

The following table outlines the thematic areas and illustrative activities to be considered in applications. Applicants must be willing and capable to contribute to activities described below.

Activities	Deliverables	Outcomes
Conduct SVAC101 TOT training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 SVAC 101 TOTs identified i.e. 2 from each of FCI council. • SVAC TOTs training conducted. 	26 SVAC TOTs trained i.e. 2 from each FCI District.
Through a consultative process with stakeholders, identify key leaders in councils to target with activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented meetings; list of leaders 	Leaders identified
Conduct project introduction meetings to government, faith, community, traditional and civic leaders at national, regional and district levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, regional, and district level introduction meetings done. 	Government, faith, community, traditional and civic leaders at national, regional and district levels aware of, and provide full support of FCI implementation in Dodoma, Morogoro and Ruvuma regions.
Roll out the SVAC 101 training to faith, community, traditional, civic etc. leaders in 404 wards of 13 FCI councils in Dodoma, Morogoro and Ruvuma regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of SVAC 101 trainings conducted to faith, community, traditional and civic leaders in Dodoma, Morogoro and Ruvuma regions. • Identified Faith, community, traditional, civic leaders to be trained in SVAC 101. • Names of leaders trained, SVAC training register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,100 Faith, Community, Traditional, Civic Leaders trained and knowledgeable in SVAC 101, and better able to recognize and refer cases of violence against children. • Trained Faith, Community, Traditional, Civic Leaders have clear procedures for reporting using the existing response structures
Facilitate and support bi-directional referral and linkages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children experiencing sexual violence in the 13 FCI councils facilitated and supported to receive appropriate services. 	600 referrals issued and completed.
Collect and report data to Pact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance sheets & pre/post-tests; action plans when needed 	Data collected and available for analysis

3.6. Program indicators and data reporting for partners

Kizazi Kipya has identified program monitoring indicators to inform achievement of the FCI program results. Applicants should propose how they will operationalize the program's activities described above.

There are two program indicators to which sub-awardees under this RFA will contribute. A proposed project must address both: the number of faith & community leaders trained in SVAC 101, and pre-post test results from trainings. The full M&E plan will be discussed with sub-partner upon award.

4. Application Submission

4.1. Grantee eligibility

This competition is open to any non-governmental organization that is either a non-profit, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity that is not established in the United States. To be minimally eligible for funding, applicants must provide full, accurate, and complete information and comply with the following conditions. Organizations must:

- Be legally registered or otherwise authorized to conduct business in their country or countries of operation
- Have a DUNS number (a nine-digit identification number required for all procurement-related activities). A DUNS number is not required for application, but will be required for receipt of award
- Be able to complete implementation within the stated timeframe of November, 2020 through March 31st, 2021, with a final report due by April 30st, 2021
- Have previous experience working with faith and community leaders on behavior change in issues of health, child protection, and social change
- Have current geographic coverage where program activities will take place or prior experience in that area with the ability to quickly start up implementation

4.2. Funding

Pact anticipates these awards will be cost-reimbursable, fixed amount award, or in-kind grants. Grant type will be based on the program description and the results of the partner's pre-award risk assessment, which Pact will conduct prior to issuance of the award. Pact anticipates awarding one grant awards to successful applicants. Funding levels will be negotiated with the successful applicant based on how it operationalizes the programming and the value for money. Pact reserves the right to award any or none of the applications submitted.

4.3. Application submission deadline

Applications must be submitted by September 30th, 2020 at 17:00 EAT.

4.4. Late submissions, modifications, and withdrawals of application

At Pact's discretion, any application received after the exact date and time specified for receipt may be considered ineligible for consideration. Applications may be withdrawn by written notice via email or in person by an organization or the authorized representative.

4.5. Conflict of interest clause

Applicants must provide disclosure of any past, present, or future relationships with any parties associated with the issuance, review or management of this solicitation and anticipated award. Failure to provide full and open disclosure may result in Pact having to re-evaluate selection of a potential applicant.

4.6. Submission method for questions

Submit questions electronically to kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org. The deadline for questions is September 17th, 2020 at 17:00 EAT. The email subject line should read "Questions – Faith & Community Initiative – name of organization submitting application." All questions and answers will be shared with all interested applicants.

4.7. Submission method for final application

Submit applications electronically through email kizazikipyarfa@pactworld.org. Pact is not receiving paper applications for this RFA. The email subject line should read "Faith & Community Initiative – name of organization submitting application." Technical applications and attachments must be submitted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Budgets must be submitted in Microsoft Excel.

5. Application Format

5.1. Overall requirements

Applicants will develop their applications based on their understanding of needs, their prior institutional experience, and their determination of the approaches that would be feasible and successful. In all cases, applicants shall clearly explain the rationale for the proposed approaches chosen. To facilitate the competitive review of the applications, Pact only will consider applications conforming to the following:

- The application narrative should be clear, concise, and properly organized.
- The document should be in 12-point Times New Roman font, single spaced, with 1 inch/2.5 cm margins.
- Full applications should not exceed six (6) pages; page maximums for specific parts are provided in sections 5.2 and 5.3.
- Applications should be written in English.
- Paper copies of the applications will not be accepted.
- Please note that technical and cost applications should be separate files.

All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed for responsiveness to the specifications outlined in these guidelines and the application format. Applications should take into account the evaluation criteria.

5.2. Technical application

Limit of six (6) pages, including:

Sub-Awardee Risk and Responsibility Assessment Cover Page (one page)

I. Technical Approach and Feasibility of Program Design (two pages)

- The applicant's technical approach should include:
 - A description of the applicant's prior work as it pertains to the project objective
 - A description of the activities to be undertaken, organized by thematic area
 - Anticipated results
- The application should discuss the applicant's approach for engaging with local actors, building partnerships with key stakeholders, and creating linkages with other relevant development activities/programs.
- The application must clearly explain how it will reach faith leaders from multiple denominations
- The applicant must clearly explain how it will identify community and traditional leaders (i.e., non-faith leaders) in each council
- The applicant should clearly demonstrate the capability to operationalize this work in all 3 regions, and rollout multiple times

II. Human resource and level of effort plan (one page)

- The management and staffing plan should show the roles and responsibilities of all staff who will participate in the program.
- The management and staffing plan must show that the applicant has appropriate trainers available, i.e., people with previous knowledge and expertise in the subject matter of SVAC.

III. Past Performance (one page)

- Describe the organization's previous experience working with faith and community leaders on behavior change in issues of health, child protection, and social change
- Demonstrate experience in building the capacity of local organizations, local government institutions, research, networks, and initiatives.

IV. Work Plan (one page)

- Provide a detailed Year 1 work plan for activities clearly identified in the program description and the applicable time frames.
- Provide a summary of proposed activities for subsequent years, as applicable.

5.3. Cost application

Limit of two (2) pages.

Please use the templates in attachment 2 and 3 for a detailed and summary budget. The summary budget should include all costs anticipated within the following line items:

- **Salaries/fringe benefits:** all costs associated with employees working under the proposed project, including the level of effort expected from each salaried employee and the costs of fringe benefits
- **Travel and per diem:** travel, lodging, and per diem for staff need to implement the project
- **Equipment rental:** equipment that must be rented (i.e., vehicles) to enable program implementation
- **Workshops/training/events:** workshops, development of information materials, studies, information dissemination, etc.; other direct costs associated with implementing activities under the project
- **Operating/administrative costs:** rent, communications, electricity, telephone, audit, and office supplies; Kizazi Kipya will not fund office start-up costs or proposal development costs.

5.4. Relevant documents

Applicants are required to provide registration or other relevant documents, such as letters of support and recognition from local governments/authorities. These documents do not count toward the technical and cost application page limits.

6. Evaluation of Applications

6.1. Review process

Kizazi Kipya will establish a technical review committee that includes representatives from various company departments and external staff. All technical reviewers will be subjected to a screening process to eliminate any conflict of interest. Evaluation will be based on the criteria set forth in sections 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4. The process will be completed within approximately 3 business days. The review panel, using the criteria detailed below, will rate applications, and make funding recommendations to the program's grants management unit.

Pact reserves the right to make any number of awards or none at all. Pact is not responsible for any costs associated with the development of applications.

To facilitate the review of applications, applicants must organize the narrative sections of their applications with the same headings and in the same order as the selection criteria.

6.2. Evaluation criteria for the application

In evaluating the applications, Pact will examine overall merit and feasibility, as well as the specific criteria relevant to each component, as elaborated in the table below. Applicants should note that these criteria both serve as the standard against which all applicants will be evaluated and serve to identify the significant matters that applicants should address in their applications. Pact will instruct the technical review committee to evaluate all applications according to the criteria as established and weighted in the following table.

Evaluation Criteria	Points
I. Technical Approach and Feasibility of Program Design The review team considers a strong technical design to be one that is informed by local circumstances and needs. It should demonstrate coordination with other efforts or ongoing processes, including the efforts of other peace actors and/or programs. Proposals must be in line with the technical areas outlined in section 3.	40
II. Management and Staffing Plan The review team will evaluate the extent to which the management and staffing plans demonstrate the applicant's ability to effectively implement proposed activities responsive to this RFA. Reviewers will assess whether the organization has proposed sufficient level of effort to achieve stated results.	10
III. Past Performance Reviewers will evaluate whether the organization has managed successful projects of similar size and scope in the geographic areas specified.	30
IV. Work Plan Reviewers will assess the proposed timeline for implementing proposed activities for feasibility.	10
V. Cost Evaluation== The cost application will be evaluated for reasonableness, allocability, allowability, cost effectiveness, realism, and financial feasibility.	10
Pact reserves the right to determine the resulting level of funding for the grants being selected for this RFA, regardless of what the applicant specifies in the cost application.	
Total	100

6.3. Supporting documentation for Pre-Award Assessment/site visits

After the application evaluation process, any selected firm will be required to complete a Financial Pre-Award Assessment in order for Pact to determine if the organization has the capacity to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed grant. As part of the Pre-Award Assessment process, Applicants may be asked to submit additional documentation to illustrate that the organization has the capability to implement the grant. Site visits may be conducted by Pact staff to evaluate the organization in these areas.

7. Terms and Conditions

7.1. Standard provisions

The Standard Provisions for Non-US. Non-Governmental Organizations as applicable will apply to these grants. Applicants can find the provisions at <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mab.pdf>. Printed versions of these provisions are available upon request.

7.2. Permission for use and disclosure

By submitting an application under this RFA, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that all reviewers are bound by non-disclosure agreements.

7.3. Disclaimers

- Pact may cancel the solicitation and not award any funds.
- Pact may reject any or all applications received.
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute award commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any application based on applicant's failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- Pact will not compensate applicants for their response to the solicitation.
- Pact reserves the right to issue an award based on initial evaluation of applications without further discussion.
- Pact may choose to award only part of the activities in the solicitation or to issue multiple awards based on the solicitation activities.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor application deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact may contact applicants to confirm contact person, address, and that the application was submitted for this solicitation.
- Pact may contact listed past performance references without notice to the applicant. Pact also reserves the right to contact other past performance information sources that the applicant did not list in the application.
- By submitting an application, the applicants confirm they understand the terms and conditions.

8. Attachments

The following documents are considered part of this RFA:

- A. Grant application form
- B. Budget template

You can access these documents here :

<https://www.pactworld.org/procurement/faith-community-initiative-education-about-prevention-and-response-sexual-violence>

World Vision offers over 6,000 treated mosquito nets in Itilima District

By Guardian Correspondent, Itilima

WORLD Vision Tanzania has provided a total of 6,160 treated mosquito nets for children living in dangerous environment in a move to ensure the eradication of Malaria in Itilima District, Simiyu Region.

The mosquito nets valued at 38.6m/- were provided to 3,431 sponsored children and 2,729 to those unsponsored.

This was revealed yesterday by the World Vision Coordinator for Kanadi, Nyamoko George when handing out the nets in Itilima.

George said they understand Malaria is among leading fatal diseases for children under five years of age as well the drop of children attendance at schools when they become ill.

He said the organisation was working together with the government in the war to eradicate Malaria believing that treated mosquito nets would assist in that war by totally eliminating the disease by 2030.

Giving report on malaria situation in Itilima District, Doctor in charge of Itilima district Hospital Arnold Mussiba said Malaria was still prevalent.

He said statistics for 2017 and 2018 2019 show that the disease was still a challenge hence genuine efforts are needed to eradicate it.

Earlier, receiving the mosquito nets, the official guest at the event, Itilima District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Philbert Kanyilizu appealed to various stakeholders to work together with the government to eradicate the disease.

Clerics warned against engaging in politics ahead of October 28th General Election

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

HEAD of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Dr Fredrick Shoo has warned his fellow religious leaders against engaging in politics and avoid being biased ahead of the October 28th general election.

Dr Shoo appealed to the clerics to promote peace throughout the election period and abide by their ethics to ensure free and fair elections.

The cleric who is also the Bishop of ELCT in the Northern Diocese urged that unity, peace and love are essential for the country's tranquility.

He was speaking on Tuesday at the opening of the Kilimanjaro Regional Interfaith symposium organised by the ELCT-ND with support from the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA-Tanzania).

The conference was themed: 'Different Religions for Justice, Peace and Love'. It brought together clerics from various religious denominations across the region.

"The National Electoral Commission (NEC) has set October 28th 2020 as the date for the country's general election. Let us abide with our ethics and avoid engaging in politics. Our role should be to support and uphold the democratic principles," he said.

Commenting on the role by the religious leaders during the Covid-19 outbreak, Dr Shoo advised Tanzanians to continue with their daily activities as well as praying for the nation that it saved from the pandemics.

He however noted that it was important for citizens to continue adhering to the protocols of hygiene to prevent themselves from contracting the disease.

Bishop Dr Glorious Shoo from the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) said that apart from maintaining peace and harmony, the symposium aimed to promote religious institutions participation in socio-economic activities in the country.

"The interfaith meeting is crucial since it brings us together as brothers for sustainable peace, love and socio economic development," said the Bishop.

Chief Sheikh from the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) in Kilimanjaro Region Sheikh Shabani Mlewa noted that apart from promoting peace amongst Tanzanians; clerics should also encourage people to work hard for the country's development.

Legal Officer from the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Advocate Glory Mafole who doubles the organisation's governance, Advocacy and Policy Analyst underscored the need for socio-economic development insisting happiness goes together with improved welfare.

The symposium was also attended by clerics from the Catholic's Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), Executive Secretary of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) Reverend Canon Moses Matonya, officials from the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA), and the Council of Pentecost Churches of Tanzania (CPCT).



The interfaith meeting is crucial since it brings us together as brothers for sustainable peace, love and socio economic development

TFRA cautions dealers to sell fertiliser at indicative prices

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has cautioned fertiliser dealers in the country to ensure they sell all categories of fertiliser at government indicative prices.

The caution by a TFRA inspector Christian Mhando early this week when he was inspecting fertiliser warehouses and fertiliser shops in Ruvuma Region.

"Dealers must ensure they issue receipts from electronic machines on every sale, and that the fertiliser they sell must be registered with TFRA, and whoever will violate these conditions stern measures will be taken against them," Mhando said.

Mhando also warned dealers not to sell the fertiliser from bags that have already been opened, adding that violators will be dealt with including closure of their shops, revocation of trading licenses and court action.

He said there are seven companies that purchase the fertiliser and more than 120 agents thereof, and added that some dealers, especially small dealers have been selling the fertiliser at higher prices than the indicative prices.

He however praised fertiliser companies for abiding by the indicative prices, saying some of them have even

been selling the fertiliser at lower prices than those indicated.

"In Ruvuma Region this season the price of fertiliser for planting will not be above 50,000/- per bag while that for growing will be between 46,000/- and 47,000/-," Mhando added.

He said Tanzania's fertiliser is so cheap that entice its being smuggled to neighbouring countries.

Ruvuma Regional Agricultural Officer Onesmo Ngao called on farmers to ensure they purchase quality fertiliser especially at this time the government has set indicative prices thereon.

He said fertiliser need for Ruvuma Region for the coming season is estimated to be 50,000 tonnes and that the government continues to mobilise fertiliser companies to import the input.

He added that so far 3,500 tonnes has been brought into the region and efforts to distribute it to villages were continuing.

"Dealers must ensure they issue receipts from electronic machines on every sale, and that the fertiliser they sell must be registered with TFRA, and whoever will violate these conditions stern measures will be taken against them"



Godwin Makomba, the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) parliamentary candidate for Shinyanga Urban constituency addresses a campaign rally on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry for Works, Transport and Communications has handed Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) equipment for its workshops in 14 regions and one major workshop all costing 430m/- aimed at improving repair work for vehicles.

The equipment will be distributed in TEMESA workshops in Dar es Salaam (Vingunguti), Mtwara, Mara, Salmiya, Kagera, Tabora, Iringa, Rukwa, Manyara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Songwe and Same.

It is reported that this is a

Ministry provides TEMESA with 430 million/- equipment for 14 vehicle repair workshops

continuation of the first phase of the working tools distributed in 12 regions and two major workshops in the Fiscal year 2019/20 that resulted in better service to customers and increase income.

Speaking at the event to unveil the equipment at the Dar es Salaam MT Depot, the Ministry's Permanent

Secretary (Works Sector) Elius Mwakalinga praised the Agency for opening a new page in all regions in the country in order to do away with inconveniences and complaints against it. "Receiving the equipment is one thing, but using and taking care of them was another, hence use the equipment for greater achievement," he said.

He said the Ministry will continue to enable TEMESA perform its basic duties with greater results to reduce complaints from customers on vehicles' repairs.

Earlier, presenting his report TEMESA Chief Executive Officer Japhet Masele, said the agency continues with making repairs to workshops in Dar

es Salaam (Vingunguti), MT Depot, Dodoma, Singida, Mwanza and Mbeya regions during FY 2010/20 and in FY 2020/21 it has put in place work plan for repairing it workshops in Mara, Tabora, Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Kigoma, Arusha and Coast regions.

In order to bring TEMESA services close to customers, he said TEMESA

plans to establish repair workshops in districts that are more than 120 kms from its regional workshops.

"The agency has already established workshops in Kilombero and Kahama districts that continue to provide vehicle repair services and we are in a move to establish a workshop at same in Kilimanjaro Region, said Eng Masele.

Chadema all set to launch election campaigns in Simanjiro on Sep 13

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

CHAMA cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region expects to launch its election campaign on September 13 this year at the small Mirerani town.

The party's Simanjiro Parliamentary candidate Emmanuel Landey said he expects on the launch day to have CHADEMA's Chairman for the Northern Zone, Godbless Lema as the chief guest.

Landey said after launching he will visit various wards in Simanjiro District to publicise the party's policies,

where he will explain to the people how Chadema had mobilized to serve the people if it is elected to lead the country.

He mentioned some of the issues he will tell the people that would be implemented by the Chadema Government include the ease in accessing to social services such as health, education, water, roads and resolving the district's land conflicts.

He said the party was waiting for appeals of party aspirants for three councillorships of Mirerani, Langai and Ruvu wards following their disqualification by the NEC supervisors. "We expect the national electoral

Commission (NEC) to act justly as their disqualification had no legal basis at all," Landey said.

He however said Simanjiro residents are faced with various challenges that need attention hence if elected, he will work together with them to find solutions for them.

"After we launch our election campaign we shall allocate another area for introducing our candidates for wards' councillorship, parliament and president posts," he said.

In the district's 18 wards, 10 CCM aspirants passed unopposed while three Chadema aspirants were disqualified.



Handeni District Administrative Secretary in Tanga region Mashaka Mgeta (L) exchanges greetings with an official from Room to Read project, Fadhilli Abdallah during the Elders Education week held at Kwedizinga ward Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR FIELD OFFICE, KASULU

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

TANKS/VN/2020/009

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Field Office, Kasulu invites qualified internal/external candidates to apply for the following position:

<p>Vacancy Notice No : TANKS/VN/2020/009</p> <p>Position Title : Assistant Community-Based Protection Officer</p> <p>Position No : 10009431</p> <p>Category : Fixed-Term Appointment (FTA)</p> <p>Grade : N04</p> <p>Duty Station : Kasulu, Tanzania</p> <p>Duration : 1 Year</p> <p>Start Date : 01 November 2020</p> <p>Issue Date : 10 September 2020</p> <p>Closing Date : 30 September 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform other related duties as required. <p>Education and Professional Work Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-year relevant experience with Undergraduate degree; or no experience with Graduate degree; or no experience with Doctorate degree - Educational background in International Development, Cultural Studies, Human Rights, International Social Work, Social Science, Political Science, Anthropology, International Law or other relevant field. <p>Relevant Job Experience</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Some professional working experience in the areas of community services, social work (e.g., gender, SGBV programs, women's empowerment and protection, work with refugees) or/and human rights or related tasks in government, NGO or international organization.</p> <p>Desirable</p> <p>Proven communication skills, both oral and written. Demonstrated knowledge of community communication and engagement approaches. Understanding of and demonstrated competencies in forced displacement and protection, particularly SGBV prevention and response, child protection, education, gender equality, and the application of the Age, Gender and Diversity Policy.</p> <p>Functional Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PR-Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) - PR-Community Services-Communication/Development/Organization - PR-Community Services-Social Work/Counseling - PR-Community-based Protection - IT-Computer Literacy - DM-Database Management - PR-Gender Equality - PR-Refugee Protection Principles and Framework - PR-Refugee Women issues - PR-Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention and Response - PR-Experience in Forced Displacement situations - EX-Experience with Inter/Non-Governmental Organization (INGO/NGO) - EX-Field experience - PR-Child Protection Prevention and Response <p>Language Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of English and UN working language of the duty station if not English and local language <p>Core Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accountability - Communication - Organizational Awareness - Teamwork & Collaboration - Commitment to Continuous Learning - Client & Result Orientation <p>Managerial Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judgement and Decision Making - Managing Resources <p>Cross-Functional Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder Management - Planning and Organizing - Political Awareness
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Interested candidates should express their interest by completing the Personal History Form and the Supplementary Form if needed in full which can be found on the link below. (UNHCR_Personal_History_Form) (UNHCR_Supplementary_Form)

Please bear in mind that submission of the Personal History Form which is not signed may render that applicant ineligible for consideration. Please quote the Vacancy Notice Number and Position title.

Due to the volume of applications only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Shortlisted candidates will be required to sit for a **written test** followed by **oral interview**.

Qualified female candidates and candidates with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

The Expression of Interest for the position should sent by email to:
The Head of Field Office
UNHCR Field Office, Kasulu
Email: tanksva@unhcr.org

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Law on boards of trustees difficult to supervise but vital

THE government has issued a notice to more than 100 organisations of various types of public service vocations, including religious institutions and political parties, to bring to the relevant authorities their boards of trustees and annual returns for the current year. When an organization that is required by law to show its actual trustees and accounts for a specific period and fails to do so, the clear implication is that it is not being run as a trustee agency, but privately. There is a danger many are in similar situations.

Such an operating environment is automatically in breach of its conditions of registration and merits a review, either to bring it into line with those conditions or if that fails, to strike it out altogether. As those organizations often have a track record of public activities and enjoy uncontested confidence of a section of the population, taking extreme measures isn't in the first order of priorities when such issues arise. That is why elaborate procedures are followed, including notification, a grace period and reporting frame.

One significant shortcoming in overseeing precepts of the law in relation to such organizations is their charismatic character, that they were formed in the aftermath of generating a significant following of a political or religious kind for the founder. In that case those associated with the leader follow him so long as the preliminary characteristics of the mission so initiated remain in place, that he or she is capable of providing the sort of leadership that the followers yearn for. In that case they stick with him in what he does and if there are any demands they are delivered personally or directly, not procedurally, legally.

In other words there isn't a defined a defined moment of rendering accountability for the leader for income generated in conducting that work or executing the specific vocation. Only the formal or outward trappings of credible organization will be observed, like proper upkeep of the premises in which the service is rendered, as well as paying salaries to service providers so that there are no complaints that may even tarnish that organisation's image. When all that is fulfilled, the leader rests assured all will be well.

But before the law all that is just a preliminary issue as the law covers the terms and conditions for which an organization is started, what sort of contract was entered between the leader and signatories who form the board of trustees, what resources are mobilized and how is income utilized. Large organizations of a political or religious sort usually have direct accountability as they have credible periods of service, moments of election and handing over power or authority in an organization, unlike the charismatic sort and indeed most small organizations, habitually. The 100 or so organizations cited are mostly of this kind.

That's where the law comes up, if people are being shortchanged by shouldering an organization to grow and then it operates like the property of a single individual. As in wider leadership issues, the personal character or attitude of the leader matters a lot in how an organization grows, in which case even law enforcers need to take that into account. Often the following is aware of the megalomaniac tendencies of its leader but outside this attribute, he or she won't be able to deliver, so such leaders tend to be tolerated.

Creating jobs via agriculture requires broad-based changes

WITH foreign investors looking outside their countries for more profitable investment opportunities, it is time that Africa started responding as growing segment of the world market, the continent whose potential is virtually untapped, despite some growth poles here and there. One such country is Brazil, despite the fact that it has a large hinterland with a breadth of resources, and agri-business is being pushed by leaps and bounds. Yet there are reasons they seek investment in Africa, like many others.

Reports from Maputo, where a Brazilian delegation was visiting just as it did in Tanzania a few days earlier, said that the delegation was optimistic about Brazil helping Mozambique use agriculture to help boost job creation. There are considerable similarities in what the delegation saw in Mozambique and what we have here, thus a fact check can help bring up areas of relevance in what they discussed, as regards what we are trying to do as well. One feature is interest of foreign investors in what is known as agro-ecological potential, as it provides considerable investment opportunities, broadly.

A key stakeholder in the visit of the Brazilian delegation in Mozambique was Standard Bank Mozambique (SBM), a UK-based bank which has intimate links with Tanzania's largest investment banks, namely Standard Chartered Bank (T) and Stanbic Bank. The delegation was by contrast mainly the guests of business associations, which implies a difference of focus in the two visitations. When top banks are involved the focus is intense investment that often revolves around ability to purchase existing concerns or buy large share segments, but when it is

business groups, it is market openings. Remarks that the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects in the Rovuma basin will ultimately place Mozambique on the list of the five largest producers and suppliers of this energy resource in the world, and that it holds the potential to boost various other sectors in the country, particularly in agribusiness, ought to be of considerable interest to us as well. We also have extensive gas resources either onshore or just offshore, a pipeline that supplies gas to Dar es Salaam and a stalled liquefaction project. One presidential contender has raised the matter in a speech but clearly it is a bit complicated.

Standard Chartered Bank (T) is the only large commercial bank to have loaned upwards of one trillion shillings to the government for the construction of the standard gauge railway. Stanbic Bank on the other hand, as far back as 2006, led a bank consortium to put up 350bn/- for lending to the state power supply corporation, TANESCO. There is no doubt that these banks sit on large amounts of resources which if there is a commercial opening they would be unleashed on the economy to create many jobs.

One feature about the gas economy in the southern regions is that the residents there enjoy virtually free power supply and a host of other amenities, like free schooling and medication. Were it that a credible land ownership cadre is taken up, like surveying all lands and either the banks or the government pay existing residents at rates comparable to what the government did in Dodoma region to ease expansion of the capital city, an investment zone could be created. When the gas industry acts as host to energy needs and the banks consolidate land trusteeship, plenty can be done as for industry.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

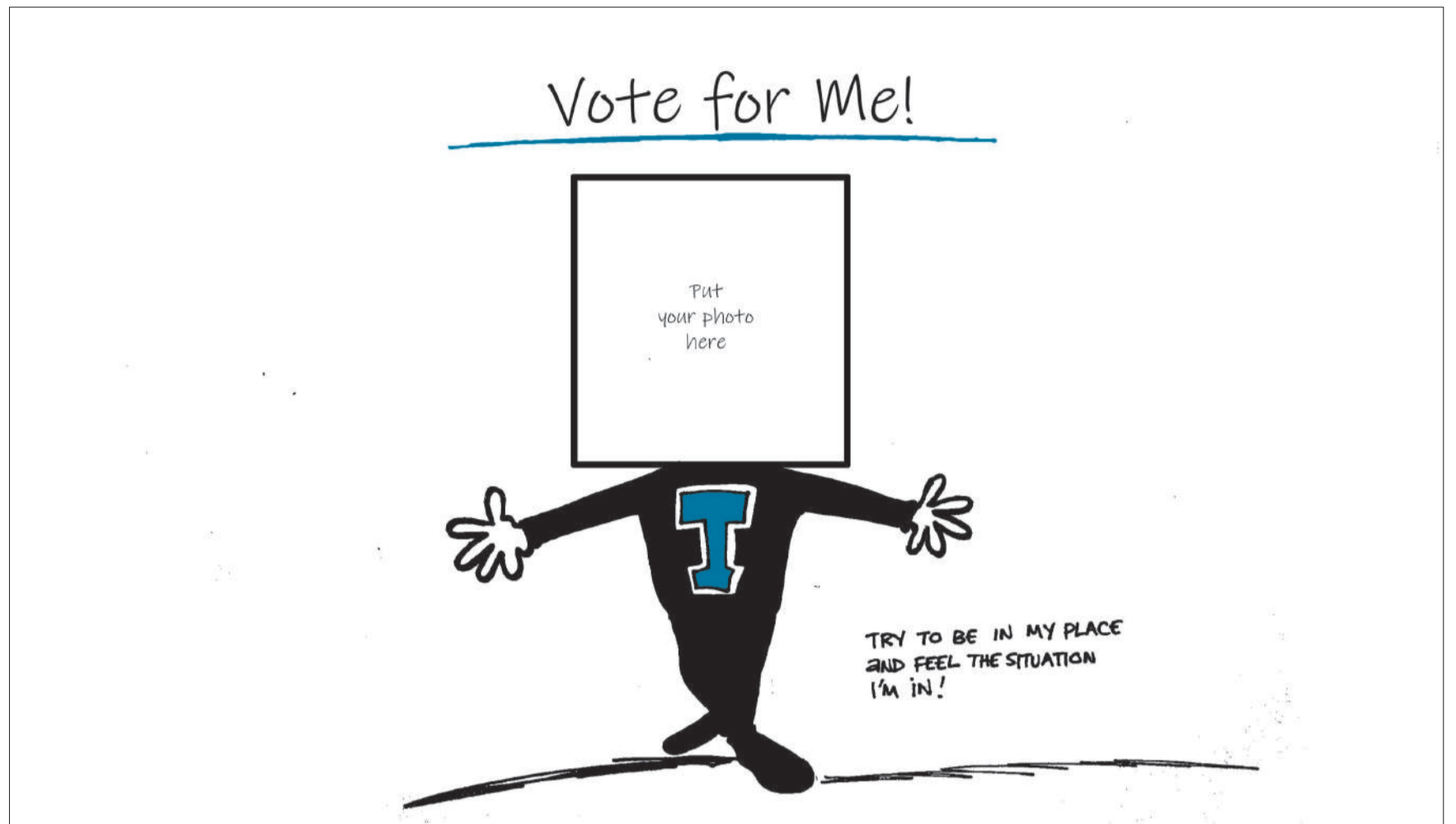
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SA's hopes rest heavily on Commission putting spoke in the wheel of corruption

By Omphemetse Sibanda

AS a democracy, we should always remember that corruption is synonymous with bad governance. Without genuine interest and confidence at the highest political levels, the Zondo Commission may turn out not to be worth the money spent on it.

Have you ever wondered if the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, also known as the Zondo Commission of Inquiry, or Zondo Commission, will strike a decisive blow in the fight against corruption? Will it bring real and lasting change?

Here's another question you might be asking yourself. Will the ANC-led government have the political will and moral decency to implement the commission's recommendations?

In order to answer the above questions, it is worth conducting a brief, comparative exercise with Australia's 1987 Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct - colloquially known as the Fitzgerald Commission because it was chaired by Tony Fitzgerald QC.

In an essay titled: "Enduring change: Detoxifying Queensland's political system" by Paul D Williams, published in Griffith Review, Williams reflects on the success of the far-reaching 402-page report of the Fitzgerald Commission. Speaking about the effectiveness of the commission, Williams said:

"Some disappear with nary a trace, while others go on to effect real and lasting change. Why some inquiries succeed and others fail largely depends on the political context and public mood at an inquiry's calling, the breadth of that inquiry's terms of reference, the comprehensiveness of its recommendations, and the political will of governments to act on those recommendations."

According to Williams, the Fitzgerald Report has "brought lasting, monumental change to Queensland public life". Williams continues to state that "[n]ot only did a ramshackle 32-year-old government collapse, but so too did those elements of a political culture that cultivated systemic corruption".

What was apparently key to Fitzgerald's report is the comprehensiveness of the inquiry and



the evidence it revealed. As previously opined, the Fitzgerald Commission's outcomes also saw some high-profile individuals prosecuted and convicted. The important feature of the Fitzgerald Commission was the many recommendations it made, and the fact that the commission's report acted as an agent of anti-corruption change.

Back to the question whether the commission can bring about real and lasting change: I am sceptical, given the nature of evidence and manner of giving testimony at the Zondo Commission by some witnesses. Unlike the Fitzgerald Commission, the Zondo Commission frequently hits the wall when it comes to obtaining evidence and reliable testimony from witnesses.

A recent article in Daily Maverick points out, for example, the testimony of Vuyo Ndzekzu as "among the most bizarre delivered at the commission". To quote this article verbatim, "a lot of people commented that the witness' contradictions, confusion and straightforward bullshitting warranted him being sent straight to jail - and therein lies a big hint about the history of Vuyo Siphon Aaron Ndzekzu".

Vuyo Siphon Ndzekzu's Zondo testimony is among the most bizarre delivered at the commission. Ndzekzu, a former director at JM

Aviation and current director at Swissport South Africa, could not even remember when he got married.

But why are we alarmed by the behaviour of those who give testimony? Since its first sitting, the Zondo Commission has experienced challenges, including attempts to thwart any efforts of discovery; witness depositions laden with political ambiguities aimed at suppressing the legitimacy of the inquiry; and evasive and hostile witnesses who are prepared to "dribble" with non-answers like: "I don't know... I can't answer that... I've never heard of that before... I can't remember... I'm not sure about the dates... I would not have known about it... this is the first time I've seen this report", and so on, ad nauseam.

Among the more bizarre, waffling testimonies that come to mind is that of Nontsasa Memela, the former head of the procurement department at South African Airways Technical. In my view, Memela treated the commission with contempt, providing replies that were generally seen as evasive and condescending. To rub salt into the commission's wound, she was rewarded with applause and a standing ovation from her legal representative, advocate Lindelwa Mbanjwa.

"Your performance today was superb," Mbanjwa reportedly said to

Memela in Xhosa.

If you consider the contemptuous manner in which high-profile witnesses and politicians behave at the commission, and the readiness of others to defy instructions to appear before it, one cannot help but conclude that the notion of the commission bringing lasting change is shaky at best.

"It seems that far from being a balm to soothe our tortured and abused collective soul as a nation, the Zondo Commission is fast turning into an opportunity for some of our so-called leaders to role model the very real personal benefits of patronage, spurring on a frenzied feeding at the taxpayer-funded trough for the next generation," observed one media report on the hackneyed testimony of former water affairs minister Nomvula Mokonyane.

I confess that I have previously been defensive and optimistic about the work of the Zondo Commission - and I still remain optimistic. Optimism should not, however, camouflage the delusions that exist in the country.

My preliminary prediction is that the outcome of the Zondo Commission will redefine and change the South African justice system in terms of the unimaginable. One hopes that this will not include selective amnesia and political arrogance as new defences for corruption and criminal charges arise.

As a democracy, we should always remember that corruption is synonymous with bad governance. Without genuine interest and confidence at the highest political levels, the Zondo Commission may turn out not to be worth the money spent on it.

Perhaps its saving grace will be that Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Mnyamezeli Zondo will not be deterred - will not want to be known as someone who either ignored the evidence or was unable to nail the corrupt.

Of course, we have been let down by commissions in the past. Most prominent among them, the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Fraud, Corruption, Impropropriety or Irregularity in the Strategic Defence Procurement Packages, led by Judge Willie Seriti.

In 2019, the Seriti Commission was found to have failed the country by ignoring evidence of corruption. We can only hope the Zondo Commission is made of sterner stuff.

Is an undergrad enough?



Your degree doesn't matter. At least not as much as you think it does. Can you practically show it? What can you bring on the table with a degree or masters certification? Mr Ellison an HR Professional and veteran of the HR tech industry, degreed crystallized something I had always felt but wasn't able to put words to - he insists that a degree simply doesn't matter.

In as much as it's true your degree is an important record of your training on the fundamentals and learning how to think critically. It is important to step into lifelong learning as well because learning is a perpetual action not a means to an end. It simply doesn't matter as much as what you have learned since you graduated is tucked away in a drawer 50 KM away. You have to keep tabs and embark on a learning journey blend into new trends of the worlds' work place and the future of work .

What if your professional qualifications today might be replaced by a robot in the near future? Will your skills still be relevant!?

Your BA isn't as valuable as your recent learning in determining readiness or qualifications for a job. Never the less, Your MBA doesn't make you a better manager than someone who has helped grow a business and stays current with reading on entrepreneurship and leadership.

Simply, your degree doesn't matter as much as you are a lifelong learner, a student of life.

This HR personnel summed it up well at a recent career boot camp, "increasingly I hear this mantra: skills not degrees. It's not skills at the exclusion of degrees. It is just expanding our perspective to go beyond degrees." Degreed is "jail breaking the degree." Degreed is offering a way to demonstrate the learning that does matter but not the practical work that is needed to be executed and imple-

ment what has been studied.

Having started her career in human resources and having built and scaled global customer success teams at several fast-growing companies, he has had the opportunity to interview thousands of people. One of his favorite questions as he says has always been, "Why did you go to college, what did you study and how did that lead to where you are today?" A three part interview question? The questions might catch one offguard but they are questions that really do matter for the work place today.

This has nothing to do with the school, the level of degree or even the subject an individual has passed through or is currently pursuing.

Personally, It did matter to me a while ago until the professional world taught me a lesson on skills and not papers. It had never mattered to me that much in the past just like today.

Ellison talks about how he finds it interesting to look into the insights of an individual and how has leveraged that foundation to learn and grow through their careers not even with his company but those the individuals will work for in the future as well.

"Oh... I have a degree in Public Relations and because I didn't know what I wanted to do and I have always been interested in running my own business. But after graduating, I ..." or "I have a degree in Procurement because I love store management but after graduating I found that I hate being stuck in Invoices all day so I ..." such replies and analysis are just but a tip of the ice berg and Mr. Ellison explained it so candidly how such sincere discussions reveal true potentials of prospective employees as unique individuals who desire to make ends meet and live their dreams.

Pretty much, the honesty in many of the answers can lead to an interesting discussion. The way candidates connect higher education to their

career and lifelong learning is a great indication of what they are bringing to the table. It is an interesting insight into the Why of their career. It is almost rare anymore to find someone who went to college and received a degree in the same area as their current profession. Those that do business related studies you ought to celebrate! There is hope literally!

Even if your degree is perfectly aligned with the job you want, the hiring team wants to know what you have been doing since then and what you are willing to share and bring along for the benefit of their company.

The problem is several recruiters are still measuring skill acquisition with how attractive your GPA looks - - - by your college degree because that's the standard they have had to measure learning.

Well, I am aware that he is not the only HR professional or hiring manager that knows the degree isn't an effective measure of skills and capabilities.

I doubt any effective hiring manager is making offers on a degree alone. But that is all most of us have known. Or it was anyways.

Imagine if you could demonstrate everything you learned since you graduated. . All of the relevant articles, papers, and books you have read that equip you to succeed in your job. Imagine a record of the conferences, webinars, and workshops you have attended that have helped you prepare for the job you want. If you could represent that to your organization, or future employers, wouldn't that be more valuable than saying you have an accounting degree from 5 years ago? Wouldn't you want that HR manager to understand what you have learned since then ? That's meaningful and something that I wish human resource managers would want to hear from us more when carrying through the interview process.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (Re-advertised)

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is in the process of revamping its operations and has introduced new equipment to its fleet as part of implementation of its five years Corporate Strategic Plan (2017 - 2021). In line with this expansion, the Company is also making some reforms in Motor Transport Management unit to accommodate the business needs. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following positions (Previous applicants need not to re-apply): -

1. MOTOR TRANSPORT OFFICER (1 POST)

1.1 Location - Dar es Salaam

1.2 Entry Qualifications

The following are the qualifications for aspired candidates: -

- Must have Bachelor Degree/Advanced Diploma in Transport and Logistics Management or equivalent qualifications.
- Must have valid Driving Licence.
- Must have relevant working experience of at least three (3) years in the field.

1.3 Duties and Responsibilities

1.3.1 Transport Service

- To be responsible for planning and budgeting of motor vehicle fleet utilization and replacement.
- Preparation of flight crew transportation roster.
- Determine transport requirements from other Directorates or Units and schedule transport services to meet them.
- Monitor the fleet management system and recommend proper action.

1.3.2 Compliance

- Ensure motor vehicle insurance covers are up to date.
- Ensure other motor vehicle statutory dues are paid on time to avoid legal repercussions.
- Ensure Vehicle Log Books are properly recorded by every Driver and reported issues are addressed on time.
- Keep Drivers Licenses records and ensuring that they are always valid.

1.3.3 Vehicle Maintenance and Services

- Oversee regular inspection of motor vehicle and maintenance.
- Ensure motor vehicles' schedule of maintenance are properly complied.
- Ensure records of all transactions with regard to ATCL motor vehicle are submitted to the ATCL Registry for filing.
- Report to Supervisor all motor vehicle accidents whenever they occur and liaise with Traffic Officer and Insurance for compensation.
- Ensure cost efficient operation of the fleet.

1.3.4 Supervising Drivers

- Ensure that Drivers conduct in a way as provided in the ATCL HR Policy and guidelines of the ATCL Fleet Management Policy.
- Review Fleet Management System reports to ascertain Drivers behaviour while at work and initiating action.
- Conducting regular Drivers' meetings and address issues to the Supervisor for further action.
- Follow up and provide guidance to the Drivers while at work.
- Ensure Drivers entitlements which are linked to the operations are prepared on time and submitted to the relevant authority for processing.

1.3.5 Fuel Management

- Preparation of fuel consumption report and initiating payment to the fuel supplier.
- Review of fuel consumption reports and provide recommendations.
- Supervise drivers on better practices of minimizing fuel consumption.

2. DRIVER GRADE II (5 POSTS)

2.1 Location - Dar es Salaam (1 Post), Arusha (1 Post), Mwanza (1 Post) & Zanzibar (2 Posts)

(Applicants must clearly indicate preferred location in their application letters)

2.2 Entry Qualifications

The following are the qualifications for aspired candidates: -

- Must have Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) with Class E or C1 driving licence.
- Must have attended an Advanced Driving Certificate Grade Two or Certificate of Competency (PSV) or equivalent, from VETA/National Institute of Transport or any other recognized institution.
- Must have a working experience of at least two (2) years.
- Possession of Trade Test or a Basic Mechanics Certificate will be an added advantage.

2.3 Duties and Responsibilities

- To drive staff to approved destinations in accordance with traffic regulations.
- To drive vehicles due for routine maintenance / repair to the appointed service agents.
- To undertake minor mechanical repairs.
- To maintain log books and records all movements as instructed.
- To make pre-inspection to the assigned vehicles prior travelling and report mechanical damages / defects.
- To verify safety and cleanliness of vehicles at all times.
- To verify that valid documents and permits are acquired prior commencement of any journey.
- Perform any other duty as may be assigned by the supervisor.

3. REMUNERATION

Five (5) years contract and attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Scales and Incentive Scheme.

4. MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the applications attached with the following:

- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including Secondary School), other relevant certificates and licenses. (Tanzanian applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities. i.e. Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) or National Examination Council (NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs,
- Names and addresses of at least two reachable referees,
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone numbers.

Note: - Misrepresentation of facts and qualifications during application shall warrant legal consequences.
- Applicants who have already applied the previous Vacancy Announcement are advised not to re-apply.

- Internship training and apprenticeship will not be considered as relevant working experience.

- For DRIVER GRADE II post, the applicants must indicate one preferred LOCATION in the application letter.

5. CLOSING DATES

Application letters should reach the undersigned within 7 working days from the first date of this announcement: -

MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,
P.O. BOX 543,
DAR ES SALAAM
ISSUED ON 09.09.2020

Mihima village: How NGOs, Forest Division, district authorities changed forest conservation capacity

By Beatrice Philemon

AFTER travelling almost two hours, I finally reached the Mihima village located 100 kilometres from Lindi rural district centre, where I met with villagers sitting under a mango tree, on wooden chairs and plastic-made chairs with a smile on their faces. They explained how Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) has brought in positive results to more than two thousand residents.

Mihima village in Namupa ward, was listed among the best village in Lindi district in applying participatory forest management at the Mihima forest reserve, benefitting from a sustainable harvesting plan.

The villagers say participatory forest management has helped them to conserve the forest reserve, combat illegal harvesting, create employment for youths and implement different community development projects with the earnings.

Mihima village chairperson Maimuna Swalehe said she was happy to be part of the team in conserving the forest reserve. "Right now no illegal harvesting of timber or agricultural activities continue in our village land forest reserve," she said.

Through sustainable Village Land Forest Reserve (VRFR) conservation activities and participatory forest management the village earns revenue to implement development projects and equip forest management activities.

In 2018, the village was able to harvest 500 cubic metres of timber and sold it for 91.4m/-, and last year they harvested 500 cubic metres of timber, fetching 110m/-. This year the village has so far earned 70m/- and built two



Lindi District Commissioner, Shaib Ndemanga (in spectacles) presenting a copy of the Government Gazette with Notice No. 487 published in June 2020 to Mihima village chairperson, Maimuna Swalehe (R) at a ceremony held at the Mihima village recently.

classrooms and eight pit latrines at the Mihima Primary School. They also have a modern village office, a bridge, rehabilitated a 14km access road to the village and add savings for forest management.

"As villagers we are very glad for what we have achieved through participatory forest management. Our village forest has been gazetted by the government, paving the way for a sustainable harvesting plan by villagers.

She says the villagers recently received Government Notice No.487 published in June,

an important step towards making these villagers own the forest reserve and control tree harvesting.

This is a result of collective efforts made by villagers, the Lindi district council and environmental NGOs like the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) as well as the Forest and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

The villagers talked of inviting

other villagers in the region and elsewhere to make a learning visit to see how the village has managed to adopt proper forest management and sustainable harvesting of forest products.

For his part, a 40-year-old accountant of the Mihima Village Natural Resources Committee, Malunda Liloko says the forest reserve has 3125 hectares of land, with conservation efforts starting in 2002 while controlling harvesting activities came up in 2018.

Villagers were put to capacity building by the district council as well as TFCG, MJUMITA and

MCDI, equipping the local VNRC members on by-laws for sustainable harvesting of trees.

The benefits are numerous, like conserving the forest from extinction, improving governance, enhancing social accountability between village institutions and community members, and raising awareness of the importance of good forest management and governance.

Villagers expect to continue to improve the road infrastructure to ease transport, helping villagers transport their produce to markets, strengthen other commercial services and connecting villagers with pipe, clean water.

Lack of safe drinking water is a major challenge facing the village especially during the dry season, the resource committee member stated.

The villagers depend on Mihima River for domestic water needs and farming activities but using the water during the dry season is unsafe.

Before forest management changes took shape, Mihima forest reserve was on the verge of destruction as illegal harvesting was high, causing deforestation and depleting the reserve by 90percent.

But things have started changing. "Right now no one in our village or outside the village is allowed to enter in the forest without approval from the village government, so the forests is fully covered now," he says.

The village has formulated by-laws prohibiting anyone from cutting trees for timber, firewood

and other agriculture activities in the forest reserve without permission, or face heavy fines.

Committee members are now carrying out patrols in the forest reserve to keep out encroachers who invade the forest reserve for all sorts of exploitation.

A persisting problem is inability to measure timber products harvested from the forest reserve in terms of volume like cubic meters.

"VNRC members we are not competent in this area. We need support from different stakeholders who can train us on those areas so that we operate more effectively," he says.

For his part, forest official Seleboni Mushi praised Mihima residents for participating in forest conservation, enabling them to implement different projects.

The ministry is devoted to ensuring that forest conservation is conducted appropriately by monitoring and evaluation, to oversee supervision and proper management.

The ministry provides guidelines on how villagers are to conserve their forest reserve including fees that will be charged, he said.

Furthermore he told village natural resources committee members and the village government that harvesting activities should be carried out by involving local communities.

To address the lack of training on forest conservation and good governance, accessing training on various issues relating to forest conservation is being handled. The District Executive Director (DED) is arranging for a team of experts specialized in environmental issues to train villagers on how to control illegal harvesting of forests.

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

Reducing postharvest loss, waste among smallholder rice farmers

IN 2017 Christopher Chahe of Idodi village of Iringa District in Iringa region lost four sacks of rice, about half of his harvest year. A good part of the loss was occasioned by a leaking roof in a room where he had stored the crop after harvesting resulting in most of the rice rotting. But mice also accounted for the loss. Poor storage has been a major problem to rice farmers that has made them suffer heavy losses and dashed their hopes of reducing poverty and attaining food sufficiency.

"We also lost a good part of the crop due to waiting for good prices in the market but in due course poor storage damaged the crop and reduced its quality. Eventually we ended up selling a small amount of rice at a very low price," says Chahe.

However three years down the road things have changed. Rice farmers in Idodi village, all of whom are members of the village's irrigation scheme, now store their crop in one warehouse which is secure and safe thanks to the RICE project that is funded by the European Union and implemented by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Tanzania (FAO Tz) in partnership with the Rural and Urban Development Initiative (RUDI) and smallholder rice farmers.

The Project for improving competitiveness and increasing postharvest management capacity of smallholder farmers in the rice value chain (RICE) is implemented in 12 schemes of smallholder farmers in Iringa District. It aims to reduce poverty among farmers by building their capacity to withstand competition in production and marketing.

In Iringa District and indeed in many parts of Tanzania, rice is grown largely by smallholder farmers who face a number of challenges in the various stages of production.

One of them is postharvest losses arising from bad harvesting and storage methods as well as poor infrastructure. Poor storage and transportation of the crop also account for substantial losses.

A briefing paper by FAO estimated that about 40 percent of the rice crop is lost in the postharvest period. It is also evident that farmers lack collective power for accessing markets and bargaining for good prices for their produce as a result of which they have remained poor over the years despite their hard work.



Using machines like combine harvesters reduces crop loss and waste (File photo)

The RICE Project thus focuses on building the capacity of the smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in the rice value chain in order to enable them to identify and address these challenges by using inclusive approaches that bring together all the partners including government and private sector. The ultimate aim is to reduce rural poverty by improving competitiveness among smallholder rice farmers in Iringa District.

It also seeks to increase competitiveness in the rice value chain and improve the capacity to reduce postharvest losses among the farmers by strengthening the managerial capacities of smallholder farmers' cooperative associations and strengthening innovative, sustainable and inclusive market systems. Postharvest losses will also be reduced by provision and rehabilitation of facilities and co-ordination of activities along the rice value chain.

"Now we keep our harvest in the warehouse where it is safe and we can thus afford to wait for prices to get better instead of selling in a hurry at a low price for fear of incurring losses through damage

and waste. We are also in a better position to bargain directly with buyers as we have got rid of middlemen" says Chahe.

The project goals also rhyme with FAO Tz's 2017-2020 Country Programming Framework, the priority areas of which include increasing agricultural production and productivity for food and nutrition security as well as improving market access for increased incomes.

The significant improvement in rice production and productivity has been attained through a number of things. One of them has been public education and awareness among farmers to enable to understand not only the importance of using better farming methods at every stage of growing rice but also the improved economy that would see them reduce poverty at individual and family level.

Traditional farming methods also led to poor land use that became unproductive in the long run. Farmers also used plenty of low quality seeds that produced a small amount of crop while poor storage facilities exposed the crop to rain, mice and insects. It was imperative to take action that would

make rice farming more productive and address poverty at individual and family level.

Things began to change for the better in 2018 after farmers had been provided, loans, education on new farming technologies and better storage of the harvest. These provided incentives for women and the youth to turn to rice farming as their major activity. "Now farmers don't have to run around looking for buyers and neither have buyers to move from one individual farmer to another in order to get the amount of rice they need and negotiate for prices; they simply go the warehouse where they will get the amount of rice they want at a price agreed upon by farmers," explains the village executive officer.

"We have about 3,000 rice farmers here. Almost all of them have abandoned traditional farming methods and adopted new ways from preparation of farms, planting, weeding, harvesting and storing the crop. No wonder a farmer can now harvest an average of between 16 and 20 bags of rice from one hectare, up from only six bags three years ago," explains Felix Tulianje, the Village Executive Officer.

The village is now finalizing plans to install a rice milling machine in order to add value to the rice crop and thus get better prices in the market. By installing and subsequently using the machine farmers in Idodi village will have a competitive edge over other rice producers in the district in negotiating better prices due to value addition. This is besides the advantage of their ability to negotiate prices with one voice and thus avoiding vulnerability to tricks employed by buyers to individual producers.

As the project draws the curtain in December this year, individual farmers and cooperatives have recorded significant success in raising incomes and alleviating poverty. "In total, there are at least 10,000 beneficiaries including smallholder women, men and youth from 11 groups. There are

processors and other actors in rice value chain," explains Annaviola Walter who works with RUDI as business advisor to the RICE project.

"About 2,896 farmers, 41percent of whom are women, have successfully managed to apply proper postharvest management methods while 46 women and 9 youth groups have identified and implemented various income generating activities along the rice value," she adds. Such activities include provision of harvesting and transporting crops from farms to storage facilities.

A total of 11 schemes out of 12 have improved their record keeping and accounts in rice production process while 1794 farmers from different villages and organizations have been trained on proper postharvest, storage and marketing methods for rice.

"And in order to guarantee safety and security of crops stored in warehouses, the project has trained 13 Warehouse Managers on proper warehouse management methods and linked buyers from Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Iringa and Mbeya regions with farmer organizations in order to increase competitiveness in the rice trade. Reducing postharvest losses and waste goes beyond proper storage," says Ms. Walter.

With increased awareness of the need to raise productivity and reduce losses and waste, farmers in Idodi now bring their crops for storage in the warehouse where they pay only 1,000/- for every bag of rice for as long as it remains in the warehouse. "The warehouse accommodates only about 3,000 bags of rice and it is already full, with the harvest season not over. We expect to get ten tons this season, which means we will have to store the crop in warehouses that belong to other villages," Ibrahim Kisegendo, the warehouse manager.

Some individuals produce as many as 48 bags of rice from one hectare and this has not gone down well with their neighbours. "This has brought contempt and soured up relations; those who produce a lot are suspected of using witchcraft although it is well known that they following instructions given by agriculture experts,"

says the warehouse manager.

Nevertheless, the project has faced challenges at its implementation. Some farmers are still stuck to traditional farming methods despite the low yields they are experiencing. Others were reluctant to store their harvest in the village warehouses because they were worried about the safety of their crop. "The warehouses were used to keep old machinery and impounded livestock that ventured into farms. In some villages they were used as lockups for suspected criminals before they were taken to police stations. But now that awareness is high and rice production has increased there isn't enough space in the warehouses to accommodate all the rice crop," says the Business Advisor.

The project has introduced new agriculture machinery to smallholder farmers and many of them have adopted it. These machines help to reduce waste and crop losses during planting, weeding, harvesting and transportation to warehouses. The demand for these machines has risen drastically in the period of project implementation but supply is so low. "This is one problem we have to deal with in remaining period of the project. We have to establish a reliable supply chain that will meet the farmer's demands," says Ms. Walter.

According to Ms. Walter another major challenge facing farmers now is lack of market for their crop. "This year has been particularly good for rice farmers in the country with the result that the market is flooded with goods. At present many buyers have gone to Shinyanga Region where farmers have had a bumper crop and very few are coming to this part of the country. The prices are still very low and it might take quite some time to pick up," she explains.

Yet the future is bright for smallholder farmers in Iringa District. Those who have taken part in implementing the RICE project have reaped benefits that were beyond their reach. Village and scheme leaders know how to look for markets and negotiate good prices for agriculture inputs and their crops, and they know how to reduce waste and avoid postharvest losses of their crop. "In the course of implementing this project individuals have raised their incomes by 70 percent on average. Others have raised their incomes by more than 100 percent so none of them would want to slide back to previous poverty levels," says Ms. Walter.

Bolt launches an all-new affordable, everyday ride-type in Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE leading ride-hailing platform in Europe and Africa—Bolt has launched an affordable ride option dubbed 'Bolt Lite' in Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma targeting passengers seeking low budget travel.

Bolt Lite category aims to make ride more affordable to customers, which in turn translates to increased trips, notable substantial earnings for drivers.

Commenting on the roll-out of the new ride option, Bolt Country Manager in Tanzania, Remy Eseka said that Bolt's mission is to make urban transportation more convenient and affordable for people, while increasing ride requests for drivers, translating to increased daily earnings.

"Our drivers are at the core of our operations, and we truly believe that happy drivers mean a better quality service for clients. This explains why we've been doing extensive reviews to ensure that we continue to provide the best earnings for our driver-partners and remain the most preferred

platform by customers," said Mr. Eseka.

He said Bolt Lite is optional for Bolt drivers and allows drivers to take full control of their earnings whilst offering financial relief for customers from the effects of a prolonged COVID-19 crisis.

"It provides customers with an opportunity to pay less for their trips and still get convenient transportation. The Lite category will feature 1,500cc engines cars and below.

"The category also allows drivers with higher engine capacities to switch between the Lite category and the other regular categories on the Bolt platform," he said.

He added that, it is crucial drivers continue to make a sustainable living while also providing excellent service to make sure riders have access to reliable and safe transport.

He said Bolt has more than 30 million users in over 35 countries across Europe and Africa. Its services range from ride-hailing to micromobility with e-scooters and electric bikes to food and package delivery.



Dar 356 youth benefit from mobile skills training school

BY CORRESPONDENT JAMES KANDOYA

ABOUT 356 youth in Dar es Salaam have benefitted from mobile skills training school, thanks to Daughter of Mary Immaculate (DMI) for conducting the programme.

Speaking at the ceremony to hand over certificates to 45 youths at Kwembe Parish in Mbezi over the weekend, the DMI Provincial for East Province Sr Arocki Mary said that programme started in 2016.

She said the programme was conducted by DMI and collaborators aimed at giving skills to underprivileged children in different parts of the Dar es Salaam city.

"Our target is to ensure that all underprivileged children undergo short training to give them skills and therefore can employ themselves," she said.

She said since established, the programme had trained 57 youths at Manzese parish, 58 youths at Mbezi parish in, Makabe 42 youths, Kimara St Mary parish Kimara 53, St Therese parish at Mbezi Mazulu 50 youths, St Salome parish 55 and St. Joseph Allamano parish 41 youths.

She however called all those who completed their courses to utilize the skills acquired to self-employ to get income for their own and families.

Ana Mgimba, the community health officer the programme was very meaningful to the youths especially the underprivileged to acquire training and skills.

He said those graduates can seek jobs or think of using the knowledge to work as entrepreneurs in different parts of the country.

"The idea of the programme resonates with the vision of the government to open more new employment opportunities to the youths loitering on streets," he said.

For his part, Kwembe Parish Priest Seby Kachappily urged all those who completed the course to work hard to support their families.

He said the programme will bring a big change to the graduates reminding them to work for their own and other people's development.

Conte Lameck, one of the students benefited from the training said the knowledge will enable him to look for the jobs in related fields.

Lameck said since he graduated in 2015, he was loitering in streets without a job and even skills adding that the DMI had enabled him now to get skills.

Spring of Hope is giving the best quality training for the children through four vocational skill training for 78 children every year.

Though the children struggled in the beginning yet with a lot of enthusiasm, positive attitude and dynamic approach selected the course of their own interest to learn and obtain new skills in order to become experts in the relevant skill.

DMI also conducts rehabilitation program strategies by identifying and rescuing the girls who are victims of trafficking, screening the neediest through the drop-in center, providing counseling services, medical support, intensive vocational skill training, life skills training, family reunification, prevention programs, lobby and advocacy.

According to the annual report 2017, DMI was able to reach out to 240 trafficked victims and reunified them with their families.

Prof Shemdoe: Govt ready to solve exporters' snags

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

PERMANENT Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prof Riziki Shemdoe has said that the government is determined to solve all the problems facing exporters.

Prof Shemdoe made the pledge yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the meeting that involved different stakeholders from the private sector and exporters.

The meeting provides a platform for participants to extensively discuss challenges facing the industry and recommended measures to address those challenges to expand the external market.

"I promise you that I will forward to relevant authorities the recommendations you have made and the challenges you are facing. I assure you the challenges will be solved," he pledged.

The permanent secretary asked exporters to hold similar meetings at least four times a year for smooth growth of the industry.

Acting managing director of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Zachy Mbenna, told the meeting that TPSF was satisfied with the co-operation it was receiving from the government.

He said Tanzania needed many more exporters because the national

economy had many opportunities many exporters would take advantage of.

"I ask many more Tanzanians to venture into export businesses because there are many opportunities in this sector," he appealed.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), Geoffrey Kirenga, called on the government to change policies and laws that were

an impediment to export businesses.

"The government has done great things. But there is a pressing need to have policies and laws to be amended so that the export sector can grow and flourish," he argued.

The meeting was organised by TPSF and facilitated by TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) spearheading public/private dialogues.



Ministry of Industry and Trade Permanent Secretary, Prof Riziki Shemdoe (2nd R) speaks at the private sector and exporters stakeholders' meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) acting executive director, Zachy Mbenna (R), Polytra Africa manager Naffiz Rattansi, (L) and Tanzania Exporters Association (TANEXA) executive chairman Peter Lanya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

EAC holds virtual regional electronic cargo and the driver tracking system

By Guardian Reporter

THE East Africa Community secretariat and its partner states is set to hold a virtual event to officially mark the roll out of Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDTS) from Malaba/Malaba the border between Uganda and Kenya and Mirama Hills / Kagitumba, the border between Uganda and Rwanda.

The tracking system provides a surveillance system to monitor long

distance trucker's crew and enable contact tracing. It allows Partner States to electronically share truck drivers' COVID-19 test results; therefore, minimizing the need for multiple COVID-19 tests in a single trip.

Speaking ahead of the virtual launch, the EAC deputy secretary general in charge of Productive and Social Sector, Christophe Bazivamo said RECDTS is expected to support health related

protocols and facilitate safe trade in the region.

"The reliance on manual certificates and delayed test results at the borders has been the main reasons for long delays at border points."

The tracking system is expected to be used in all partner states and will eventually be extended to EAC neighbouring countries, particularly Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) added Bazivamo

He disclosed that the European Ambassador to Kenya H.E Simon Mordue is expected to be the guest speaker during the launch of the tracking system.

A real time live demonstration of driver registration and verification of EAC digital certificate at the borders will be transmitted live from the Malaba/Malaba and Mirama Hills / Kagitumba borders.

On 25th March, 2020 the

EAC ministers responsible for Health, Trade and EAC Affairs held a joint ministerial meeting on COVID -19 responses by video conference which provided policy guidance for the region on the pandemic and resolved to facilitate the free movement of goods and services in the region. By this decision, the ministers allowed the movement of trucks and vessels across the region. The EAC secretariat was directed to develop an

electronic surveillance system to facilitate implementation of the decision.

The EAC Secretariat with the assistance of Trademark East Africa (TMEA) has finalised the development of the EAC Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDTS) as mandated by the Joint ministerial meeting of ministers responsible for Health, Trade and EAC Affairs in their video conference in March 2020.

When philanthropists fill in funding gaps at news organisations... Part I

BY TIM SCHWAB

IN August last year, NPR profiled a Harvard-led experiment to help low-income families find housing in wealthier neighbourhoods, giving their children access to better schools and an opportunity to “break the cycle of poverty”.

Now, NPR (National Public Radio, in full) is an American privately and publicly funded non-profit media organisation based in Washington, DC.

According to researchers cited in the article, these children could see \$183,000 greater earnings over their lifetimes - a striking forecast for a housing programme still in its experimental stage.

If you squint as you read the story, you'll notice that every quoted expert is connected to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which helps fund the project.

And if you're really paying attention, you'll also see the editor's note at the end of the story, which reveals that NPR itself receives funding from Gates.

NPR's funding from Gates “was not a factor in why or how we did the story”, reporter Pam Fessler says, adding that her reporting went beyond the voices quoted in her article.

The story, nevertheless, is one of hundreds NPR has reported about the Gates Foundation or the work it funds, including myriad favourable pieces written from the perspective of Gates or its grantees.

And that speaks to a larger trend - and ethical issue - with billionaire philanthropists' bankrolling the news. The Broad Foundation, whose philanthropic agenda includes promoting charter schools, at one point funded part of the LA Times' reporting on education.

Charles Koch has made charitable donations to journalistic institutions such as the Poynter Institute, as well as to news organisations such as the Daily Caller News Foundation, that support his conservative politics.

And the Rockefeller Foundation funds Vox's Future Perfect, a reporting project that examines the world “through the lens of effective altruism” - often looking at philanthropy.

As philanthropists increasingly fill in the funding gaps at news organisations - a role that is almost certain to expand in the media downturn following the coronavirus pandemic - an underexamined worry is how this will affect the ways newsrooms report on their benefactors.

Nowhere does this concern loom larger than with the Gates Foundation, a leading donor to newsrooms and a frequent subject of favourable news coverage.

I recently examined nearly twenty thousand charitable grants the Gates Foundation had made through the end of June and found more than US\$250 million going towards journalism.

Recipients included news operations like the BBC, NBC, Al Jazeera, ProPublica, National Journal, The Guardian, Univision, Medium, the Financial Times, The Atlantic, the Texas Tribune, Gannett, Washington Monthly, Le Monde, and the Centre for Investigative Reporting.

There were also charitable organisations affiliated with news outlets, like BBC Media Action and the New York Times' Neediest Cases Fund; media companies such as Participant, whose documentary *Waiting for “Superman”* supports Gates's agenda on charter schools.

Also on the list were journalistic organisations such as the Pulitzer Centre on Crisis Reporting, the National Press Foundation, and the International Centre for Journalists, as well as a variety of other groups creating news content or working on journalism - such as the Leo Burnett Company, an advertising agency that Gates commissioned to create a “news site” to promote the success of aid groups.

In some cases, recipients say they distributed part of the funding as subgrants to other journalistic organisations - which makes it difficult to see the full picture of Gates's funding into the fourth estate.

The foundation even helped fund a 2016 report from the American Press Institute that was used to develop guidelines on how newsrooms can maintain editorial independence from philanthropic funders.

A top-level finding: “There is little evidence that funders insist on or have any editorial review.” Notably, the study's underlying survey data showed

that nearly a third of funders reported having seen at least some content they funded before publication.

‘When money is offered, we listen’

Gates's generosity appears to have helped foster an increasingly friendly media environment for the world's most visible charity. Twenty years ago, journalists scrutinised Bill Gates's initial foray into philanthropy as a vehicle to enrich his software company or a PR exercise to salvage his battered reputation following Microsoft's bruising antitrust battle with the US Department of Justice.

Today, the foundation is most often the subject of soft profiles and glowing editorials describing its good works.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, news outlets have widely looked to Bill Gates as a public health expert on covid - even though Gates has no medical training and is not a public official. PolitiFact and USA Today (run by the Poynter Institute and Gannett, respectively - both of which have received funds from the Gates Foundation) have even used their fact-checking platforms to defend Gates from “false conspiracy theories” and “misinformation”, like the idea that the foundation has financial investments in companies developing covid vaccines and

therapies.

In fact, the foundation's website and most recent tax forms clearly show investments in such companies, including Gilead and CureVac.

The Gates Foundation can point to important charitable accomplishments over the past two decades - like helping drive down polio and putting new funds into fighting malaria - but even these efforts have drawn expert detractors who say that Gates may actually be introducing harm, or distracting us from more important, lifesaving public health projects.

From virtually any of Gates's good deeds, reporters can also find problems with the foundation's outside power; if they choose to look. But readers don't hear these critical voices in the news as often or as loudly as Bill and Melinda's.

News about Gates these days is often filtered through the perspectives of the many academics, nonprofits and think tanks that Gates funds. Sometimes it is delivered to readers by newsrooms with financial ties to the foundation.

The Gates Foundation declined multiple interview requests for this story and would not provide its own accounting of how much money it has put towards journalism.

In response to questions sent via email, a spokesperson for the foundation said that a “guiding principle” of its jour-

nalism funding is “ensuring creative and editorial independence”.

The spokesperson also noted that, because of financial pressures in journalism, many of the issues the foundation works on “do not get the in-depth, consistent media coverage they once did... “When well-respected media outlets have an opportunity to produce coverage of under-researched and under-reported issues, they have the power to educate the public and encourage the adoption and implementation of evidence-based policies in both the public and private sectors.”

As CJR was finalising its fact check of this article, the Gates Foundation offered a more pointed response: “Recipients of foundation journalism grants have been and continue to be some of the most respected journalism outlets in the world... The line of questioning for this story implies that these organisations have compromised their integrity and independence by reporting on global health, development, and education with foundation funding. We strongly dispute this notion.”

The foundation's response also volunteered other ties it has to the news media, including “participating in dozens of conferences, such as the Perugia Journalism Festival, the Global Editors Network, or the World Conference of Science

Journalism”, as well as “helping build capacity through the likes of the Innovation in Development Reporting Fund”.

The full scope of Gates's giving to the news media remains unknown because the foundation only publicly discloses money awarded through charitable grants, not through contracts.

In response to questions, Gates only disclosed one contract - Vox's - but did describe how some of this contract money is spent: producing sponsored content, and occasionally funding “non-media nonprofit entities to support efforts such as journalist trainings, media convenings, and attendance at events”.

In the same way that the news media has given Gates an outside voice in the pandemic, the foundation has long used its charitable giving to shape the public discourse on everything from global health to education to agriculture.

Over the years, reporters have investigated the apparent blind spots in how the news media covers the Gates Foundation, though such reflective reporting has waned in recent years.

Experts, scholars and red flags

In 2015, Vox ran an article examining the widespread uncritical journalistic coverage surrounding the foundation - coverage that comes even as many experts and scholars raise red flags.

Vox didn't cite Gates's charitable giving to newsrooms as a contributing factor nor did it address Bill Gates's month-long stint as guest editor for *The Verge*, a Vox subsidiary, earlier that year.

Still, the news outlet did raise critical questions about journalists' tendency to cover the Gates Foundation as a dispassionate charity instead of a structure of power.

Five years earlier, in 2010, CJR published a two-part series that examined, in part, the millions of dollars going towards PBS NewsHour, which it found to reliably avoid critical reporting on Gates.

In 2011, the Seattle Times detailed concerns over the ways in which Gates Foundation funding might hamper independent reporting:

“To garner attention for the issues it cares about, the foundation has invested millions in training programs for journalists. It funds research on the most effective ways to

craft media messages. Gates-backed think tanks turn out media fact sheets and newspaper opinion pieces. Magazines and scientific journals get Gates money to publish research and articles. Experts coached in Gates-funded programs write columns that appear in media outlets from *The New York Times* to *The Huffington Post*, while digital portals blur the line between journalism and spin.”

Two years after the story appeared, the Seattle Times accepted substantial funding from the Gates Foundation for an education reporting project.

These stories offered compelling evidence of Gates's editorial influence, but they didn't attempt to investigate the full scope of the foundation's financial reach into the fourth estate. (For perspective, US\$250 million is the same amount that Jeff Bezos paid for the Washington Post.)

When Gates gives money to newsrooms, it restricts how the money is used - often for topics, like global health and education, on which the foundation works - which can help elevate its agenda in the news media.

For example, in 2015 Gates gave US\$383,000 to the Poynter Institute, a widely cited authority on journalism ethics (and an occasional partner of CJR's), earmarking the funds “to improve the accuracy in worldwide media of claims related to global health and development”.

Poynter senior vice president Kelly McBride said Gates's money was passed on to media fact-checking sites, including Africa Check, and noted that she is “absolutely confident” that no bias or blind spots emerged from the work, though she acknowledged that she has not reviewed it herself.

I found sixteen examples of Africa Check examining media claims related to Gates. This body of work overwhelmingly seems to support or defend Bill and Melinda Gates and their foundation, which has spent billions of dollars on development efforts in Africa.

The only example I found of Africa Check even remotely challenging its patron was when a foundation employee tweeted an incorrect statistic - that a child dies of malaria every 60 seconds, instead of every 108.

Africa Check says it went on to receive an additional US\$1.5 million from Gates in 2017 and 2019.

“Our funders or supporters have no influence over the claims we fact-check...and the conclusions we reach in our reports,” said Noko Makgato, executive director of Africa Check, in a statement to CJR - adding: “With all fact-checks involving our funders, we include a disclosure note to inform the reader.”

Earlier this year, McBride added NPR public editor to her list of duties, as part of a contract between NPR and Poynter. Since 2000, the Gates Foundation has given NPR US\$175 million through ten charitable grants - all of them earmarked for coverage of global health and education, specific issues on which Gates works.

NPR covers the Gates Foundation extensively. By the end of 2019, a spokesperson said, NPR had mentioned the foundation more than 560 times in its reporting, including 95 times on *Goats and Soda*, the outlet's “global health and development blog”, which Gates helps fund.

“Funding from corporate sponsors and philanthropic donors is separate from the editorial decision-making process in NPR's newsroom,” the spokesperson noted.

NPR does occasionally hold a critical lens to the Gates Foundation. Last September, it covered a decision by the foundation to give a humanitarian award to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, despite Modi's dismal record on human rights and freedom of expression. That story was widely covered by news outlets - a rare bad news cycle for Gates.

On the same day, the foundation appeared in another NPR headline: “Gates Foundation Says World Not on Track to Meet Goal of Ending Poverty by 2030”. That story cites only two sources: the Gates Foundation and a representative of the Centre for Global Development - a Gates-funded NGO.

The lack of independent perspectives is hard to miss. Bill Gates is the second-richest man in the world and might reasonably be viewed as a totem of economic inequality, but NPR has transformed him into a moral authority on poverty.

To be Continued





Thursday 10 September 2020

Nsekela makes inroads in accessing global financing for local infrastructure projects

By The Banker Reporter

As he seeks to position CRDB Bank Plc as a reliable source of infrastructure financing by the state, Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela has secured an important lifeline with a \$10bn/- loan guarantee scheme from GuarantCo.

GuarantCo which is part of Private Infrastructure Development Group and funded by governments of United Kingdom, Switzerland, Australia and Sweden, mobilises private sector local currency investment for infrastructure projects and supports development of financial markets in lower income countries across Africa and Asia.

Commenting on the latest feat, Nsekela said the five years' loan portfolio guarantee, will allow CRDB Bank to more readily increase financing of infrastructure that will pave the way for the growth of other key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and energy.

"Our partnership with GuarantCo demonstrates long-standing commitment to supporting economic



CRDB's managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela (4th R) and board chairman, Ally Laay (3rd L) while in Seoul, South Korea earlier this year where the bank secured a Green Climate Fund backing to finance renewable energy projects.

growth in the country. This guarantee will enhance CRDB Bank's capability to invest in strategic projects and initiatives that benefit the country and all Tanzanians," he said.

Nsekela further noted that the lender's focus is to create an enabling environment for investment by pursuing mutual partnerships to mobilize the

finances required for growth hence the partnership with GuarantCo will also support the government's initiatives in financing large infrastructure projects through extension of affordable capital and operational loans to contractors.

"Apart from increasing the availability of finance to businesses, pro-

jects financed under GuarantCo agreement will be in the local currency, which avoids the risk of foreign exchange loss for foreign arranged financing," the CRDB chief added.

GuarantCo's CEO, Lasitha Perera was equally delighted by the strategic partnership forged with CRDB which will explore further innovative trans-

action structures to finance infrastructure projects in Tanzania in the longer term.

"This guarantee by GuarantCo reflects our ongoing commitment to enabling local financial institutions to deliver more essential infrastructure to improve the lives of people living in Tanzania" Perera said.

Since taking over at the helm of the Tier 1 capital bank in 2018, Nsekela has sought to play a key role in accelerating economic growth in the country by supporting the country's agenda of building a semi-industrialized economy by 2025.

Last year, the bank launched bridge financing products to support contractors, sub-contractors, and service companies involved in major projects across the country. Likewise, CRDB has been involved in major projects including Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Nyerere Hydro-electric Power Project and Terminal III at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA).



Bitcoin remains the most dominant cryptocurrency on the globe.

How bitcoin met the real world in Africa

LAGOS

Four months ago, Abolaji Odujoko made a fundamental change to his business selling mobile phones in a bustling street market in Lagos: He started paying his suppliers in bitcoin. Odujoko sources handsets and accessories from China and the United Arab Emirates. His Chinese suppliers asked to be paid in the cryptocurrency, he said, for speed and convenience.

The shift has boosted his profits, as he no longer has to buy dollars using the Nigerian naira or shell out fees to money-transfer firms. It is also one example of how, in Africa, bitcoin - the original and biggest cryptocurrency - is finding the practical use that it has largely failed to elsewhere.

"Bitcoin helped to protect my business against the currency devaluation, and enabled me to grow at the same time," Odujoko told Reuters from his two-by-eight metre shop. "You don't have to pay charges, you don't have to buy dollars," the 30-year-old said, raising his voice above the sound of loud haggling and the honking horns of scooters.

Odujoko is one of many people at the heart of a quiet bitcoin boom in Africa, driven by payments from small businesses as well as remittances sent home from migrant workers, according to data shared exclusively with Reuters and interviews with around 20 bitcoin users and five cryptocurrency exchanges.

Monthly cryptocurrency transfers to and from Africa of under \$10 000 - typically made by individuals and small businesses - jumped more than 55% in a year to reach \$316 million in June, the data from US blockchain research firm Chainalysis shows.

The number of monthly transfers also rose by almost half, surpassing 600 700, according to Chainalysis, which says the research is the most comprehensive effort yet to map out global crypto use. Much of the activity took place in Nigeria, the continent's biggest economy, along with South Africa and Kenya. This represents a reversal for bitcoin which, despite its birth as a payments tool over a decade ago, has mainly been used for speculation by financial traders rather than for commerce.

Why a boom in Africa? Young, tech-savvy populations that have adapted quickly to bitcoin; weaker local currencies that make it harder to get dollars, the de facto currency of global trade; and complex bureaucracy that complicates money transfers.

The bitcoin users interviewed by Reuters, based in five countries from Nigeria to Botswana, said the cryptocurrency was helping people make their businesses nimbler and more profitable, and helping those working in places like Europe and North America hang on to more of the earnings they send home.

Yet risks abound.

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are unregulated in many countries and their legal status is unclear, meaning there is no safety net and little recourse if you lose funds. For many, converting local currencies to and from bitcoin relies on informal brokers. Prices are volatile, and buying and selling is a complex process that demands technical knowledge. In 2018, the Nigerian central bank warned cryptocurrencies were not legal tender, and investors were unprotected.

Ugandan farmers meet local companies initiatives

KAMPALA

Four Ugandan companies have received funding and support from UNCDF and the Swedish government to scale up their solution model for the smallholder agriculture in Uganda.

The solution will focus on the vulnerable communities and farmers' welfare and productivity in their work field in the North and West Nile regions of Uganda and Kiryandongo for the initial phase.

The companies receiving are Hamwe East Africa, Nilecom, Cabral Tech Limited, and Quest Digital Finance Limited. Their solutions will implement home-made digital technologies in rural communities.

Chris Lukolyo of the UNCDF Uganda Digital Lead said, "By supporting Ugandan entrepreneurs to build solutions that address particular needs of vulnerable populations, we foster the growth of the digital ecosystem, improve life in these communities and enable excluded groups to become more active participants in the economy."

"We are witnessing first-hand the role that digital solutions can play in ensuring continuity in sectors like agriculture where disruption of services directly impacts food security and human survival," Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Hon Vincent Sempijija said.

UNCDF makes inclusive innovation part of their digital strategy 'Leaving No One Behind in the Digital Era' to achieve and sustain an inclusive digital economy in the developing countries. For Uganda, it grants at least one million people to reap the advantages of technology solutions in all sectors.

For the Minister of ICT and National Guidance Hon Judith Nabakooba, the innovation will tremendously ease the farmers working condition, considering the digital-based era the world is heading.

"The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance welcome these innovations because driving the use of technology to increase productivity in agriculture is one of the objectives of the digital transformation agenda of the National Development Plan III."



Joakim Reiter, Chief External and Corporate Affairs Officer for Vodafone Group.

Vodafone commits US\$28m to expand m-mama programme

LONDON

Vodafone Foundation is committing US\$28-million to expand its m-mama 'ambulance taxi' programme beyond Tanzania for the first time to Lesotho and other sub-Saharan African countries.

According to a media release the programme will initially expand to Lesotho, with a co-investment of US\$4.5-million by the Foundation and the Government of Lesotho to introduce m-mama across the country through the Ministry of Health.

The company claims Lesotho has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, and the programme could potentially save 200 lives over the next four years alone.

Joakim Reiter, Chief External and Corporate Affairs Officer for Vodafone Group and a Vodafone Foundation Trustee said: "Vodafone

Foundation shares the commitment of the Government of Lesotho to reduce maternal mortality and contribute to the UN's health goal. Our long-term investment of US\$28-million to expand m-mama within sub-Saharan Africa will save the lives of thousands of women through an emergency service that governments can afford to sustain."

Lesotho's Minister of Health Motlatsi Maselepo said: "The Government of Lesotho is proud to partner with Vodafone Foundation on this ground-breaking project to save the lives of thousands of women and children from maternal deaths in Lesotho. This is a reflection of the Government of Lesotho's commitment to improving not only the quality of life of the women and children, but that of preserving this nation for years to come."

Tanzania

M-mama emergency services started in 2015 in Tanzania with the support of the government and other partners. It provides a toll free number and 24/7 call centre to connect women who experience complications in pregnancy, labour, or with a new-born, to either an ambulance or to a fleet of 'ambulance taxis'.

Vodafone explains that local taxi drivers are trained to handle the transportation of obstetric emergencies, and given the equipment they need to get patients safely to hospital. A woman in distress telephones a free 24/7 call centre and either an ambulance or the nearest ambulance taxi is dispatched. The ambulance taxi driver is identified through the m-mama mobile app then paid electronically using M-Pesa once safely at the hospital, at no cost to the women being trans-

ported.

The situation in Lesotho According to its statement, Vodafone suggests that the maternal mortality rate in Lesotho is six times higher than the UN's 2030 target, with 487 deaths per 100,000 live births, meaning around 272 women die every year in pregnancy or childbirth.

"Vodafone Foundation will establish three call centres to cover the entire country 24 hours a day and will provide technical expertise to get the system up and running. The Lesotho government is committing health staff and an increasing percentage of the transport costs to ensure that the programme is entirely sustained, within existing health budgets, over the next four years when it could provide lifesaving care to around 8,500 women," the statement reads.

Global Finance decorates StanChart Tanzania with local, regional awards

By The Banker Reporter

IN recognition of Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania's heavy investment in innovative technologies, Global Finance has named it as winner of several local and regional awards including Best Consumer Digital Bank Award 2020 for Tanzania.

The London based institution said in that, in addition to winning the award in Tanzania, the UK based global lender also won the Best Consumer Digital Bank Award in Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia.

From a regional perspective, StanChart Bank emerged as a winner for the categories of Best Integrated Consumer Bank Site, Best Online Product Offerings, Best Information Security and Fraud Management and Most Innovative Digital Bank.

"This year, a global pandemic accelerated the transition to digital banking, but forward-thinking banks were already on that road," said Publisher and Editorial Director of Global Finance, Joseph Giarraputo. Giarraputo added, "The Digital Bank Awards hone in on the institutions that are leading the shift toward a new world of banking."

He said winning banks were select-



Ajmair Riaz, Country Head of Retail Banking for Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania.

ed based on the following criteria: strength of strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality. Category winners, such as Best Mobile Banking App were selected based on the relative strength and success

of those web products and services.

Commenting on the award, Head of Retail Banking for Standard Chartered Bank in Tanzania, Ajmair Riaz said that the bank is delighted to have won the award for the third time in a row highlighting that the recognition goes a long way to cement the uniqueness of the lender's digital capabilities.

"We are delighted and honoured to have

won the Best Consumer Digital Bank Award in Tanzania for the third time in a row. This goes a long way to cement the uniqueness of our digital capabilities in the retail banking space," Riaz said.

He added that last year in February the bank launched the country's first Full Digital Bank on Mobile which has seen its clients' base grow by over 380 percent as at the end of August this year signifying that banking services have been extended to more Tanzanians in line with the government's focus on financial deepening.

"Our full digital bank on mobile, accounts are opened end to end without requiring clients to come to the bank at any point in time, including for verification purposes," he added while stressing that Tanzanians have embraced the digital bank due to rapid growth witnessed.

The digital bank offers more than 70 banking services and is aimed at giving clients exceptional convenience, affordability, security and a lifestyle. "This level of exponential growth is also aligned to our commitment to further deepen financial services access in Tanzania," the bank's Head of Retail Banking noted.

This is the 21st year Global Finance has named the World's Best Digital Banks in various categories and involved banks from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and Western Europe.

Two sectors may be SA's economic revivers

JOHANNESBURG

Mining and agriculture were among the stand-out performers during what is set to be known as the 'pandemic quarter.' Statistics SA predicts that the second quarter of this year will become known as the 'pandemic quarter.' Gross domestic product (GDP) fell by just over 16% between the first and second quarters.

However, according to PwC chief economist Lulu Krugel, mining and agriculture did surprisingly well. These two sectors may well form the base from which the South African economy can rebound - if managed correctly.

Speaking at this year's virtual South African Institute of Tax Professionals (Sait) Tax Indaba, Krugel noted that both industries appeared to be less harmed by the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions than the rest of the economy.

"It would be interesting to see the response in terms of policy. I am keeping a keen eye on these industries to see if we will be making the right policy decisions." An increase in maize exports, as well as rising international demand for citrus fruits and pecan nuts, helped the agricultural industry expand by 15.1% during the second quarter.

"Locally, the baking craze that gripped the country during the lockdown increased the demand for home cooking products," Statistics SA said. According to Invest SA the mining sector contributes around 7% to South Africa's GDP and accounts for 25% of the country's total export earnings. (Fact sheet 2020, Invest SA, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition).

SA gets back to business

Krugel said other industries are also bouncing back fairly quickly since the economy has been allowed to open up more. One is the retail sector where trade volumes have picked up, but not yet the value of the transactions.

She said before Covid-19 hit the country South Africans only did around 5% of their retail shopping online. "That has now drastically changed. There are companies who have seen an increase of anything from 200% to 400% in online sales."

Although there will be a return to in-store shopping, she does not expect online sales to drop back to pre-Covid levels. According to Stats SA, expenditure on communication, housing and education was up in the second quarter. "Cut off from family and friends - and having to suddenly work and study from home - many consumers increased their spending on communication services, most notably on data."

There has also been downward pressure on data costs following investigations by the competition authorities. Krugel said the transport and finance and insurance sectors can bounce back "very quickly", especially finance and insurance because it has been managed well and comes from a strong base. Francois Herbst, MD of business advisory and consulting firm House of Growth, said it is true that e-commerce picked up "dramatically" during the last few months.

Bureaucracy remains a threat

However, he added that government bureaucracy in terms of the banking sector and financial technology applications remains an issue for small and medium-sized companies.

Herbst said the three-month payment holiday offered by most commercial banks will be coming to an end, as will the Unemployment Insurance Fund's temporary relief scheme for employers and employees. Efforts to increase tax rates to make up for the expected multi-billion-rand shortfall would not be a wise decision. Krugel said SA's tax-to-GDP ratio is already higher than the global norm.

The increase in government spending since 2009 was partly to stimulate economic growth following the 2008 financial meltdown, but never had the desired outcome of economic growth. Sars Commissioner Edward Kieswetter said tax collections were 20% down in August this year compared to the same time last year.

Airtel Money subscribers to share 3.6bn/- 'dividend'

By The Banker Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of Airtel Money platform who include individuals will share 3.6bn/- in profits which the telecommunications company made between October last year and March this year.

Airtel Tanzania Plc's Airtel Money Director, Isaack Nchunda said in Dar es Salaam this week that the profit comes from interest charged on the mobile money services for six months period. Nchunda said all Airtel Money customers and agents who have been using the platform between October 2019 and March 2020 qualify to receive payment.

"So far, since 2015 to date Airtel has already disbursed 24bn/- to customers and agents countrywide," Nchunda noted adding that customers are free to use their dividend to buy airtime, pay utility bills or simply cash out for personal use.

Seconding Nchunda's observation, Airtel Tanzania's Communications Director, Beatrice Singano said every subscriber of the telco including Airtel Money agents are entitled to receive a portion of the profits accrued from interest earned.

"Airtel Money subscribers will also receive their interest direct in their accounts as usual, and with that note, I call on them to continue offering the best services to our customers countrywide in the coming quarter so that they may continue enjoying their quarterly earnings," Singano said.

She said Airtel Money is committed to offering the most affordable mobile money services through payment solution to businesses and individuals. "Looking into our Airtel Money expansion strategy, we have invested in Airtel Money Branches and we have over 1,700 of them countrywide which makes it possible for customers to enjoy seamless services at any location," she added.

It only through Airtel Money platform



Airtel Money Director Isaack Nchunda speaks in Dar es Salaam this week when announcing payment of 3.6bn/- 'dividend' to subscribers of the platform. Right is the telco's public relations manager, Jackson Mmbando. Photo courtesy of Airtel Money.

that customers can send and receive money for free through their mobile phones and other electronic gadgets by downloading Airtel application through Play Store or App

Store. In addition, the platform is also integrated with more than 400 business and over 30 banks which gives subscribers convenience

payment through their phones at the comfort of their vicinity with no need to keep moving from place to place to make different payments.

KQ nears nationalisation as talks on shares enter homestretch

NAIROBI

Kenya Airways is moving closer to nationalisation as the carrier together with the National Treasury are conducting valuation of the individual and small shareholders to ascertain their value. The airline opened talks with the minority shareholders as they seek to get them out of the shareholding ahead of the nationalisation of the carrier.

The shareholders who are in talks with the KQ include KLM and banks, who are discussing buyout plan of their stakes as the nationalisation process takes shape following the passage of the Bill that legally underpins the proposal.

The airline's board chair Michael Joseph said the talks on reverting of shares to government has already started and discussions have been ongoing with all the involved parties. "We are having discussion with minority shareholders that include banks to determine how to take them out of current shareholding," he said.

Mr Joseph, who spoke during the company's investors briefing, said they are also in talks with individual shareholders and they are at the moment in the process of valuing the shares, pointing out that they will be bought out once the valuation has been completed. "Share prices are not true reflection of the

value. We are at the moment doing the valuation and they (shareholders) will receive value for their shares," he said.

He said the relevant Bill is currently at the committee stage in parliament and after it has been passed it will be taken to the President for endorsement, establishing an aviation holding company that will bring together all the aviation agencies at the airport. Air-France KLM, which had the option of selling its stake to the government and staying on as a technical partner for the airline, has opted to exit.

Kenya has reached an agreement with Air-France KLM on the offer price, which will be a premi-

um on the carrier's prevailing trading price at the Nairobi bourse. The same KLM offer price will be used to acquire the minority shareholders, who hold about 2.8 percent of the shares currently valued at Sh397 million. The state said in June that they had come up with a formula that will be used in buying out the minority shareholders.

The government at the moment has a 50 percent stake on the national carrier, with 38 percent belonging to the banks after they converted their loans into shares, seven percent owned by the Dutch based airline KLM with the remaining shares owned by individual shareholders.

NEWSINDEPTH



An increase in maize exports and rising international demand for citrus fruits and pecan nuts helped the agricultural sector expand by more than 15% in Q2.

Corporate recovery plans: Debt versus equity financing dilemma

By Tumaini Isaya

THE world has this year faced several challenges, the landmark challenge being the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). It is several months since World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 outbreak as a global pandemic. This pandemic has affected our social-economic aspects of life as well as humanity.

Tanzania is no exception, and we continue to see resumption of social, political and other events which had been placed on hold due to the pandemic. A number of corporations in Tanzania have started to deliberate on the possible recovery plans to address the setbacks which emanated from the pandemic.

Recovery plans for most corporates

Isaya Tumaini

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have exhibited the practical aspects of the pecking order theory (which was suggested by Donaldson in 1961 and amplified by Myers and Majluf in the year 1984). According to the theory, there is a hierarchy in the financing decisions whereby, managers start with utilization of the internally generated funds before extending to debt and eq-

uity sources of finance. I will focus on the debt or equity financing decision and related considerations.

The choice between equity and debt financing is not a walk in the park due to the rewards and drawbacks which come with both options. Many corporations have exploited the internally generated funds (retained earnings,

cost cutting initiatives, restructuring etc.) options during the pandemic and are now embarking on a stabilized phase or demanding external sources of financing to speed up recovery plans.

Debt financing is the process of funding the business by using debt instruments such as working capital loans, long term loans, convertible loans etc. The main advantage which comes with debt financing is the fact that, the company maintains the ownership structure and there is no effect on how the key strategic decisions are made except in circumstances where loans are attached with stringent covenants. Also, debt financing has an advantage that the interest accruing on the principal is tax deductible hence implicitly reducing the overall cost of borrowing attributable to the company.

Equity financing on the other hand is the process of raising funds by granting ownership rights to third parties or existing shareholders through public equity issuing process, crowdfunding, angel investors etc. The main advantage of equity financing is that there are no mandatory contractually timed repayments. Equity shareholders have a share of the distributable profits, but these are not mandatory since the respective decisions are made based on the performance of the company. In most cases there are no distributions (in form of dividend) from loss making companies.

The current pronouncements from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to lower statutory minimum reserve from 7 to 6 percent, and discount rates from 7 to 5 percent aimed at providing commercial banks with additional borrow-

ing capacity from the central bank at lower rates. These measures are subsequently expected to lower lending rates in Tanzania if related conditions that support low interest rates are maintained. This will consequently provide breathing space for companies which do not want to dilute and/or change their ownership structure.

Companies are more likely to focus on long term loans to avoid credit trap since most of them would already have some loans with looming maturities in their books. The debt versus equity financing decision is not a one size fits all scenario. The financing decision must be keenly analysed on case by case basis. Timely and effective involvement of the relevant experts is vital to ensure a company lands on an effective and prospectively more sustainable means of financing its business.

Africa Pays More Senegal yields higher than peers

■ Senegal ■ Greece ■ Serbia ■ Armenia



Source: Bloomberg

Borrowing costs make Africa's stars victims of the neighborhood

DAKAR

Macky Sall had a bone to pick with creditors. Sitting before the head of the International Monetary Fund, investors and diplomats during a conference on African debt in December, the Senegalese president complained that Western prejudice keeps borrowing costs unfairly high on his continent.

"This negative-risk perception is not in tune with the reality of our continent," Sall told the gathering that included the IMF's Kristalina Georgieva. "People think that this is a problematic continent and demand a rate of return that is unparalleled elsewhere in the world."

Sall, 58, was lashing out from inside a high-ceilinged, post-modern conference center that overlooks a satellite city being built on the outskirts of Dakar. The new city, which will house ministries, universities, residential buildings and a sprawling industrial park, together with the six-lane toll highway connecting it to a gleaming new airport were all financed with debt.

Like other African governments, the former French colony has rushed to sell sovereign bonds to fuel an era of unprecedented growth that helped lift millions out of poverty over the past decade. Eurobonds have displaced multilateral lenders like the IMF as Africa's main source of financing, going from one nation offering \$200 million in 2006 to about two dozen selling \$117 billion of such paper.

Africa premium

Foreign investors, hungry for returns in a world awash in cheap money, have snapped up African debt. But that hasn't lowered African nations' borrowing costs, which for 10 years are between 5% and 10% – well above other emerging markets.

To some, the "Africa premium" stems from racial prejudice and lazy analysis that taints all

countries on the continent with the same brush – one of political instability, corruption and financial mismanagement.

"Some investors really think that Africa is the jungle and there is a lot of chaos; that is the underlying perspective with which they establish their own required return," said Misheck Mutize, who leads an African Union project to help governments improve their credit ratings.

Consider Senegal, for example. It is one of continent's most stable democracies, praised by the IMF for its economic management and poised to become a major oil exporter after discovering crude and natural gas off its shores. Yet it pays over five times more on its 10-year notes than Greece, the epicenter of Europe's debt crisis in 2008, which has a lower credit rating. With average annual growth of over 6% for the past five years, Senegal also pays nearly three percentage points more than similarly-rated Serbia, whose economy expanded at half the pace over the period.

Then there is Ghana, whose borrowings are more expensive than those of Belarus, rocked by protests against its autocratic leader since August. The Eastern European nation, which issued notes in June, pays one percentage point less than similarly-rated Ghana, a stable democracy that until recently was one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Black lives matter

The premium demanded by investors is increasingly driving the region's better-managed countries, like Senegal and the Ivory Coast to cry foul. It's a sentiment that's getting more traction amid the Black Lives Matter protests after the killing in the US of George Floyd, a black man, by a Minneapolis police officer.

"Black Lives Matter raises a broader question about the history of systemic racism and maltreatment of people of color

in the world," said Howard Stein, a professor at the University of Michigan. "Has this spilled over into the perception of Africa in these markets? It's a possibility."

He and Michael Olabisi, a Michigan State University professor, found that sovereigns in Sub-Saharan Africa paid a premium of 2.9 percentage points over the rest of the world, or an extra \$2.2 billion between 2006 and 2014. Recent data shows the penalty could be vastly larger, said Olabisi, who's updating the 2015 study.

Higher rates mean that many African countries are spending more to service their external debt than on health-care. Angola spends seven times more, for Cameroon its six times and for Ghana nearly four times, according to the Jubilee Debt Campaign, a London group that advocates relief for poor countries.

Governance question

Several elements keep African borrowing costs high. Inexperience in debt markets has hurt the reputation of some sovereigns, AU's Mutize said. In August 2016, the Republic of Congo missed a bond payment due to an administrative error, only to pay the coupon a month later in what is arguably one of the briefest defaults in history. In some cases, the high rates are a credible reflection of risk. Zambia, which called on its creditors to reschedule payments, pays a yield of nearly 40% on a 10-year note due in 2022 – the most on the continent.

Inconsistent data on finances and reserves in many of these countries makes analysis difficult, said Jan Friederich, head of Middle East and Africa sovereign ratings with Fitch Ratings. Low tax collection and high reliance on raw materials also makes the region vulnerable, but weak governance hurts ratings the most, he said. "Governance, politics and to some extent corruption certainly figure quite high in the list of concerns of investors considering African Eu-

robonds," he said.

Lumped together

Although not unique to Africa, political meddling in economic management has also led to unnecessary borrowing, undermining confidence in the continent's capacity to manage its finances, said Kingsley Moghalu, the Nigerian central bank deputy governor between 2009 and 2014.

"Excessive borrowing is driven by political dynamics with politicians looking for the quickest way to spend before their term ends," said Moghalu, who now runs an investment advisory firm in Washington. Such financial mismanagement has unfortunately hurt other countries on the continent that run their economies responsibly, said Vera Songwe, the head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

"There is still a sense among some investors that an earthquake in Mozambique washes away Senegal," she said.

Illiquid market

The African bond market is dominated by a small group of investors, which raises the premium because there isn't a liquid secondary market, Songwe said. To bolster competition and lower rates, she proposed a fund backed by central banks from the Group of 20 leading economies to help governments sell higher-rated bonds.

But some efforts to help African economies may be doing more harm than good. A G20 initiative during the coronavirus outbreak to delay debt service payments from poor countries until next year have kept African yields high, said Kevin Daly, investment director at Aberdeen Standard Investments.

"The initiative was a factor in solidifying this perception that Africa is a riskier borrower compared to its peers elsewhere," said Daly, who manages two dedicated Frontier bond funds and is involved in talks with African officials about the suspension initiative.

COVID-19 drives African states into cashless societies

NAIROBI

According to a recent GSMA report, during 2019, mobile money services reached a milestone, surpassing one billion accounts globally.

It says Sub-Saharan Africa is the enduring epicentre of mobile money, adding over 50 million registered accounts in 2019. Cash may have traditionally been king, but COVID-19 has contributed to a faster pace of digital payment adoption.

James Bayhack, Sub-Saharan Africa director at CM.com, points out it is estimated that Africa's population will have exceeded the two billion mark within the next three decades, while population curves across the rest of the globe are expected to either flatten or begin to decline over the same period.

"This growth rate, coupled with the fact that virtually all unbanked adults live in developing economies, contributes to the perfect melting pot for a mobile money market on our continent," says Bayhack.

Dominant players

He explains that M-Pesa, which was the first mobile money payment service in Africa, was recently acquired by South Africa's Vodacom and its Kenyan subsidiary, Safaricom. But beyond M-Pesa – which has 26 million registered users in Kenya, of which approximately 73% are active – there are several other service providers that have been highly successful in this category in Africa, Bayhack says.

These include MTN Mobile Money, with 41 million registered customers (approximately 38% of which are active) across 15 countries; Orange Money, with 16 million registered customers across 14 countries; and Tigo Money, with eight million registered customers across five African countries, he notes. "There is little doubt that mobile money just makes sense – especially in Africa."

"This was proven in Kenya during the COVID-19 pandemic when mobile money usage soared, thanks mostly to the Kenyan government who waived sending charges of up to 1 000 shillings (about \$9.3) in a bid to encourage cashless payments and curb the spread of the disease.

"As no one knows what the future holds, it is comforting to recognise that mobile money services can only improve lives in the most vulnerable homes, while giving users more control over their finances."

He says that mobile money solutions enable users to cut out traditional financial institutions by conducting financial transactions on mobile devices without the need for a bank account. "In this way, mobile money is vastly different to mobile banking. In addition, Africa is the second largest mobile phone market globally, with a current estimated mobile phone penetration rate of over 75% in Sub-Saharan Africa alone.

"With this in mind, it is no surprise that fintech solutions have transformed everyday life and disrupted traditional banking systems across Africa. As a result, the region has seen a 39% annual increase in mo-

bile money deployments over the past decade, with both transaction volume and value seeing double-digit growth."

Shaking the money tree

For Arthur Goldstuck, MD of World Wide Worx, mobile money has been a boon to people who have difficulty accessing financial services of every kind, and has flourished in countries where it has filled a gap.

"M-Pesa was launched in Kenya at a time of massive displacement due to election violence in 2009. There was a desperate need for people to get money to each other, and M-Pesa met this need perfectly. This proved the catalyst for its take-off. In Zimbabwe, it has been near impossible to get access to cash in recent times, with most ATMs empty. EcoCash came into this void like manna from heaven."

He points out that M-Pesa, Airtel Money, MTN Mobile Money and EcoCash are all major players, but it is very much a case of the right product for the right region. "MTN dominates markets like Ghana and Nigeria, M-Pesa dominates East Africa, and EcoCash is the big player in Zimbabwe." However, he says this has not enabled any of them to succeed in South Africa.

Goldstuck observes that SA has a well-developed banking and financial services infrastructure, and a mature money transfer system via major retailers. "That means the need for mobile money did not exist in the first place. For it to take off in South Africa, it has to be both more convenient and more cost-effective than other means, as well as being seamless to use.

"At present, it only offers convenience. Cost and lack of seamlessness are barriers that it has not been able to overcome in this country. At the very beginning of mobile money services in this country, we laid out a set of success factors for such services in South Africa, based on research across Africa. In every single engagement with mobile operators on these factors during the past decade or so, we were informed that they had the answers. They didn't."

Banking on mobile

According to Derrick Chikanga, IT services analyst at Africa Analysis, the mobile money platform has proved to be a success across most African countries due to the large prevalence of the unbanked population.

"While 75-80% of the adult population in SA have bank accounts, most people across the rest of the African continent do not have any bank accounts and this has created an opportunity for the development of the mobile money market in the region."

He points out that although some of the major players in the mobile money market include MTN, Vodacom and Safaricom, other players such as Airtel and Globacom are also expected to increase their efforts in offering mobile money services to the African market. "In markets where mobile money is already enjoying significant success, chances are high that this trend is going to continue in the foreseeable future," Chikanga says.

WORLD

'Biden leads Trump by 12 points nationally among likely voters'

NEW YORK

DEMOCRAT Joe Biden leads President Donald Trump by 12 percentage points nationally among likely U.S. voters, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll that also showed the number of persuadable voters had shrunk compared with four years ago.

The Sept. 3-8 poll, released yesterday, found 52% of likely voters planned to support Biden, while 40% would back Trump. Three percent said they would vote for another candidate, and just 5% said they remained undecided with less than two months to go until the Nov. 3 presidential election.

The survey showed the number of voters who had not yet backed a major-party candidate to be less than half of what it was in 2016, and that Biden currently had the advantage in

securing the national popular vote.

Even if the remaining undecided voters threw their support behind Trump, the poll showed, he would still lose the popular vote to Biden.

Trump can still win re-election, however, without winning the national popular vote. U.S. presidential elections are not decided by the national vote but rather who wins the Electoral College, a contest based on a tally of wins from state-by-state contests.

Four years ago, Democrat Hillary Clinton got almost 3 million more votes than Trump, only to see her Republican rival narrowly win the Electoral College and the presidency.

This was the first time the Reuters/Ipsos poll measured support for the 2020 candidates among likely voters.

When measured by registered voters who include those less likely to vote, Biden leads Trump by 8 per-



Joe Biden

centage points, versus his 7-point lead in a similar poll last week.

PANDEMIC, TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

The poll showed likely voters being primarily motivated by the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 186,000 Americans and put millions out of work, and restoring trust in government.

When asked what was driving their pick for president, 28% said it was the candidate's perceived ability to handle the coronavirus, and 23% said it was the ability to restore trust in government. An additional 19% said it was the candidate's ability to boost the economy, and 14% said they were looking for a candidate who is "tough on crime."

Fifty-one percent of likely voters said Biden would be better at handling the U.S. coronavirus response, while

38% said Trump would be better.

But Trump has the edge when it comes to their perception of who would be "tough on crime and civil unrest," with 45% choosing Trump, while 40% said Biden would be better.

On the economy, neither candidate has the upper hand among likely voters: 45% of likely voters said they thought Biden would be better for the national economy and expanding the workforce, while 45% said they thought Trump would be best.

Biden, who has led Trump for much of the year in most national opinion polls, has benefited from a recent migration toward the Democrats among some of the most reliable voters in the United States: college-educated whites.

While non-college whites still largely support Trump over Biden, the president has not consolidated the dominant level of support he enjoyed with that group four years ago when he was running against Clinton.

So far, opinion polls by other media outlets show Biden with a small edge over Trump in a handful of competitive states, including Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Florida. That advantage also appears to have narrowed in some cases over the past few weeks.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online, in English, throughout the United States. It gathered responses from 823 likely voters, including 390 who identified as Democrats and 351 who identified as Republicans. The poll has a credibility interval, a measure of precision, of about 4 percentage points. **Agencies**

Scotland and Wales say British gov't bill threatens UK unity

LONDON



SCOTLAND and Wales said the British government's internal market bill, which a minister admitted breaks international law over Brexit, will undermine the United Kingdom by stealing powers from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The bill, a blueprint for life outside the European Union, will be published yesterday. A government minister has acknowledged it would break international law in a "limited way", and it jeopardises trade talks with the EU.

Under the United Kingdom's delicate constitutional balance, semi-autonomous parliaments and governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland known as the devolved administrations have powers over areas like education, health, policing and justice.

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP), described the UK government's new bill as "a full frontal assault on devolution" that would steal powers from Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

She suggested the bill would strengthen the case for Scottish independence.

"More and more this is not about independence v the status quo of devolution. It's about independence as the only way to protect the Scottish Parliament from being undermined and its powers eroded," she said.

Sturgeon (pictured) described Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government in London as "the most reckless (and to make it worse, incompetently so) and unprincipled in my lifetime".

Reaction to the bill was equally negative in Cardiff, where it was described as a threat to the ties binding the four parts of the United Kingdom together.

"Let me be clear - the UK government plans to sacrifice the future of the union by stealing powers from devolved administrations," said Jeremy Miles, Wales' counsel general and minister for European transition.

"This bill is an attack on democracy and an affront to the people of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, who have voted in favour of devolution on numerous occasions."

Agencies**Putin and Saudi king discuss production of Russian COVID-19 vaccine**

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud have discussed the prospects for the joint production of a Russian coronavirus vaccine, the Kremlin press service reported on Monday following a telephone conversation between the two leaders.

"Special attention was paid to the prospects for the joint production of a vaccine to prevent the disease developed in Russia," the press service said.

The Russian president and the Saudi king also discussed joint efforts aimed at dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic for the global economy and finance.

The issue at hand is, in particular, Putin's initiative to create "green corridors" for mutual supplies of medicines, foodstuffs, equipment and technologies put forward at an emergency G20 summit held via videoconference in March.

On August 11, Russia became the first country to register a coronavirus vaccine, which was named Sputnik V. The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology underwent clinical trials in June and July.

It is based on a platform that was used to create some other vaccines. According to the Russian Health Ministry, the experience of using such preparations shows that they are capable of providing long-term immunity, up to two years.

Head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund Kirill Dmitriev earlier said that Russia had received requests for 1 billion doses of the vaccine from 20 countries. **Agencies**



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) and Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. File photo

Nobel laureate Alexievich denounces Belarus 'terror' as another activist is detained

NOBEL prize-winning author Svetlana Alexievich accused the Belarus authorities of terrorising their own people on Wednesday as another opposition politician was detained by masked men in plain clothes.

Maxim Znak (pictured) was the latest figure to be seized in a systematic campaign by the government of President Alexander Lukashenko to round up the leaders of a month-long mass protest movement.

"What is happening is terror against the people," said Alexievich, who summoned supporters to her home after being harassed by repeated phone calls from unknown numbers and constant ringing by strangers at her door.

"We have to unite and not give up our intentions. There is a danger we will lose the country," she said.

Znak was detained two days

after another opposition leader, Maria Kolesnikova, was snatched in the street by masked men. Both are prominent leaders of protests demanding the resignation of Lukashenko following an Aug. 9 presidential election that the opposition says was rigged. Lukashenko denies vote-rigging.

Znak was the last member of the opposition's Coordination Council still active inside Belarus apart from Alexievich, who has served as a figurehead for the movement.

All the rest have fled, been forced abroad or been detained in a crackdown by Lukashenko's security forces as he seeks to maintain his 26-year grip on power in the former Soviet republic.

"First, the country was kidnapped from us, (now) the best of us are being kidnapped. But instead of those torn from our ranks, hundreds of others will come," Alexievich,



winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize for Literature, said in a separate statement.

"We were not preparing a coup. We wanted to prevent a split in our country. We wanted a dialogue to begin in society. Lukashenko says he will not speak to the street, but the street is hundreds of thousands of people who go out every Sunday and every day. This is not the street. This is the people."

'STRONG LEADER'

Lukashenko was quoted by the official news agency Belta as saying Belarus, Russia and Ukraine were "Slav states that need a strong leader with defined powers". He has rejected dialogue with the opposition, which he says is bent on wrecking the country.

The 66-year-old leader retains the backing of Russian President Vladimir Putin, an important ally, but faces the likelihood of European Union sanctions against Belarusian officials involved in the election and its violent aftermath.

For Russia, Belarus is strategically important as a buffer state against NATO and a transit country for its exports of oil and gas. Russian news agency RIA said Lukashenko would visit Moscow for talks on Monday.

The detention of Znak on Wednesday was part of a criminal

case against the opposition's Coordination Council "for inciting actions aimed at harming the national security of the Republic of Belarus", his lawyer Dmitry Laevsky said.

Fellow opposition leader Kolesnikova was seized in similar circumstances on Monday. On Tuesday she thwarted an attempt to deport her by tearing up her passport to avoid being forced to cross the border into Ukraine, two of her allies said.

"It's clear Lukashenko is afraid of negotiations and is trying in this way to paralyse the work of the Coordination Council and intimidate its members. But there is no alternative to negotiations, and Lukashenko will have to accept this," said Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who ran against Lukashenko in the August election and fled soon afterwards to Lithuania. **Agencies**

Roadside bomb attack misses Afghan VP, but kills 10

KABUL

A ROADSIDE bomb in Kabul targeted Afghanistan's First Vice-President Amrullah Saleh yesterday morning, but he escaped unharmed, his spokesman said. The attack killed at least 10 people and wounded 15 others, an Interior Ministry spokesman confirmed.

The Taliban denied involvement in the attack, which comes just ahead of long-awaited peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Qatar's capital of Doha.

"At least 10 passersby were killed and 15 people including security guards of vice-president

wounded. The number of casualties may change as an investigation is underway into the incident," Tariq Arian, spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said in a statement.

He said the blast was caused by a bomb planted on the side of the crowded road.

The blast occurred at 7:35 am local time in Sabiq Square of Taimani locality, Police District 4 of the city, sending a column of thick smoke into the sky and triggering panic, a witness told Xinhua earlier in the day.

"Today, once again the enemy of Afghanistan tried to harm Saleh (pictured), but they failed in their



evil aim, and Saleh escaped the attack unharmed," Razwan Murad, a spokesman for Saleh's office, wrote on Facebook.

He told Reuters the bomb targeted Saleh's convoy and some of

his bodyguards were injured.

Saleh appeared in a video on his social media accounts soon after, saying he had sustained a minor burn on his face and an injury to his hand in the attack.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a tweet that Taliban fighters were not involved in the blast.

The former intelligence chief and the senior of President Ashraf Ghani's two vice-presidents, has survived several assassination attempts, including one on his office last year that killed 20 people.

"Such attacks won't weaken our resolve for a lasting and dignified peace in Afghanistan," Javid Fais-

al, spokesman for the National Security Council, said in a tweet.

International powers including the European Union (EU) and Pakistan also condemned the attack.

"This is an attack on the Republic, & desperate act by spoilers of peace efforts, who must be collectively confronted," the EU Delegation in Afghanistan said in a statement on Twitter.

Officials and diplomats have warned that rising violence is sapping trust needed for the success of talks aimed at ending an insurgency that began when the Taliban were ousted from power in Kabul by US-backed forces in late 2001. **Agencies**

China-EU cooperation on geographical indication leads to brighter future of bilateral trade

A HUNDRED geographical indications (GIs) from 27 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities are currently protected in the European Union (EU), and a huge batch of quality agri-food products are expected to hit the dinner tables of European consumers, such as white tea from Anji, navel oranges from southern Jiangxi, black vinegar from Shanxi, bean paste from Pixian and raisins from Turpan.

At the same, 100 European GIs are also protected in China, including Bavarian beer, feta cheese, Parma ham and Vinho Verde wine. These European GIs will see increased competitiveness in the Chinese market, presenting genuine products from Europe to Chinese consumers.

GI is an important intellectual property that protects the characteristics, reputation and other features of products

that have a specific geographical origin. Stemming from traditions, cultures and origins, GI is to some extent a guarantee for products' characteristics and quality.

The China-EU negotiation on GI agreement started in 2011 and concluded 8 years later. So far, the two sides have completed all approvals in accordance with their respective laws and regulations. Another 175 GI names from both sides will be protected under the scope of the agreement four years after its entry into force.

"It's an important opportunity for China to enhance the internationalization and brand influence of its agricultural products," said Fu Tianlong, chairman of board of Chunlun Tea Group in southeast China's Fujian province. According to him, the jasmine tea produced in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian, has a high repu-

tation in the European market, and has been exported to France, the UK and Germany.

"The recognition of European consumers for Chinese GIs such as the Fuzhou jasmine tea is an 'entrance ticket' for Chinese agricultural products," Fu told People's Daily, adding that Chinese tea products will earn more trust and better build their brands in Europe. "It also reinforced our confidence and resolution to explore foreign markets for Chinese farm products," he said.

Bénédict Chaland, who's in charge of international business of French cheese enterprise Gaborit told People's Daily that the export of European agricultural products would embrace an important opportunity that benefits both businesses and consumers. Comté cheese and Roquefort cheese from France have

made it into the list of the first 100 GIs protected in China, and more products will be considered for protection.

"As China continues optimizing its business environment and opening its market, we are placing more importance on the Chinese market," said Chaland, adding that his company will be present at the third China International Import Expo.

China and Europe have witnessed constant expansion of agriculture and trade of farm products in recent years. China is the second largest destination of farm produce export, as well as a major source of farm produce import for the EU. Statistics indicate that the EU exported agricultural products worth 15.3 billion euros (\$18.25 billion) to China in 2019, an increase of 37.9 percent from a year earlier.

GI is a golden "signboard" for agricultural products. China, boasting a vast territory, rich resources and diverse culture, enjoys abundant GI products, and the value of relevant industries has exceeded a trillion yuan (\$146 billion). GI is one of the most effective ways for many regions to develop featured economy and achieve targeted poverty alleviation.

As of the end of June, China had approved 2,385 GI products and 5,682 GI trademarks had been registered. The number of GIs is on a steady increase, and relevant market entities are also emerging.

The steady growth of GIs demonstrated the increasing importance paid by the Chinese government on the protection of intellectual property right (IPR), said Chairman of Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Bernard Dewit.

He believes the China-EU negotiation on GI agreement will definitely drive the progress of China's IPR protection, consolidate the legal framework for China-Europe trade, enhance the confidence of foreign investors in China and attract more foreign investment.

Ye Bin, chief of the Department of EU Legal Studies under the Institute of European Studies (IES) at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), noted that the agreement explains China's attitude to promote the building of an open world economy. By carrying out more cooperation with each other in economy and trade and launching better IPR protection, China and the EU will further facilitate their trade and release a positive signal for global multilateral cooperation.

People's Daily



Barry (right), a college student at Central China Normal University from Gambia, checks a female student's body temperature on August 28, serving as an anti-epidemic volunteer.

Foreign students in Wuhan cherish dawned fall semester, confident in campus anti-epidemic measures

MOST students in China's kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and universities will embrace their fall semester as usual on September 1, marking China's success in containing COVID-19 and providing students with safe campuses.

Foreign students in Wuhan, Hubei Province reached by the Global Times expressed confidence in their schools' anti-epidemic efforts, as well as excitement to study together with their classmates. After more than half a year staying in dorms and taking online courses for the whole spring semester to prevent the spread of COVID-19, they can finally enjoy the direct experience of the classroom.

Some said the epidemic made them value face-to-face discussions with professors and classmates, and vowed to study harder in the new term.

Primary and secondary schools, kindergartens, colleges and universities across China have basically opened from August 15 to October 10, according to Ministry of Education. All the 31 provinces and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps have made clear the arrangement for the beginning of the fall semester.

"I can't wait to embrace my classmates and teachers as I have never seen them face-to-face for around seven months because of the epidemic. The regular opening of fall semester in Wuhan, such a brave and heroic city sacrificing a lot for fighting against the virus, makes me excited," said Barry, a 27-year-old Gambian man pursuing his bachelor's degree in mathematics at Central China Normal University (CCNU) in Wuhan, told the Global Times on Saturday.

Barry spent the most severe months of the epidemic on campus. He expressed his gratitude in being able to study safely, contrasted with the high risks of infection from US campuses reopening.

Safe campus

Massive students' flowing back to schools throughout China requires higher and stricter anti-epidemic measurements to ensure the safety in campuses. Foreign students said they are not worried about the risk of a new outbreak as they believe the Chinese government has fully evaluated the epidemic and is capable of providing a safe campus.

Many colleges and universities require continuing to strengthen semi-closed campus management. Teachers and students are not allowed to leave the campus unless necessary and off-campus personnel are not allowed to enter the campus without an appointment. College canteens will generally encourage students to have meals avoiding peak hours, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

A negative nucleic acid test and temperature check are required for students

returning to schools. Students have to apply for special permission to go outside the campus. Disinfection and ventilation are required thoroughly in public areas every day, Chen Nan, a teacher at CCNU, told the Global Times. There are 500 to 600 foreign students in the university and more than 200 foreign students are living on campus during the epidemic.

Barry said his confidence comes from experiencing how responsible his school and teachers were in taking care of people during his time serving as an anti-epidemic volunteer. Barry checked body temperatures three times a day for more than 140 foreign students in his dorm building, distributing food and masks provided by school authorities as students were quarantined in their dorms.

Barry said his family was initially worried for his safety under the influence of some biased Western reports, and imagined Wuhan's air was "full of the virus." Barry introduced the real situation and explained to his family that Chinese teachers taught them comprehensive epidemic prevention methods, provided anti-epidemic materials and contacted them every day to check their physical and mental health.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 around the world, Barry's family said they feel lucky that he is in China.

Foreign students who had to stay at their dormitories amid the outbreak were also required to strictly follow the rules, some students told the Global Times on Friday.

Nina, who has spent three years living in Wuhan, said she was actually traveling outside the city when the coronavirus outbreak began, which forced her to stay in Shanghai for a couple of months. By following the updates through group chats, she said Wuhan University, where she studies, accommodated the students with food and supplies.

"I think what was scariest at that time was just the fear of the unknown," the student from Botswana told the Global Times. But when looking back, she said it was definitely better to stay, as things are under control in Wuhan and the city is able to reopen unlike other places across the world. "It was really not as bad as I had thought it would have been in my head," Nina said, noting that residents were very optimistic, with a sense of pride and accomplishment in overcoming such a scary and catastrophic moment.

Faced some criticism from Western politicians and media that blamed Wuhan for spreading the virus across the world, some even stigmatized the issue by calling it "Wuhan virus." Nina noted it could have started anywhere, as a disease is not caused by a certain group of people from a certain race or certain country.

Global Times

East Africa launches system to issue COVID-19 digital certificates to boost trade

NAIROBI

THE East African Community (EAC) launched a system to issue COVID-19 digital certificates to truck drivers in order to boost regional trade, an official said on Tuesday.

Christophe Bazivamo, deputy secretary-general of EAC told a virtual meeting that the EAC Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDTS) will allow partner states to electronically share truck drivers' COVID-19 test results, therefore, minimizing need for multiple

COVID-19 tests in a single trip.

"The reliance on manual certificates and delayed test results at the borders has been reported as one of the main reasons for costly long delays at border points. The jointly recognized EAC COVID-19 digital certificates are expected to boost regional trade," Bazivamo said.

The trading bloc developed the app in accordance with the mandate given by the first joint ministerial meeting of EAC ministers responsible for Health and EAC Affairs.

Bazivamo said that the app provides a surveillance system to monitor long-

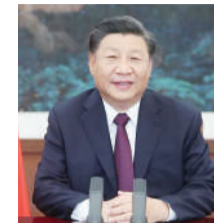
distance truckers' crew health and also enables contact tracing.

"It is expected that RECDTS will contribute to protecting lives, support health-related protocols and facilitate safe trade. RECDTS will be in use in all partner states and will eventually be extended to EAC neighbouring countries," he said.

According to the economic bloc, so far 40,000 truck drivers have been registered into the system which began the pilot phase in July.

Xinhua

Xi speech boosts confidence in recovery



A call by President Xi Jinping for joint efforts to boost the global economic recovery could inject momentum into post-pandemic efforts, analysts said of the speech.

"Today, with COVID-19 yet to be brought under full control at the global level, all countries face the formidable task to defeat the virus, stabilize the economy, and protect livelihoods," Xi said, while addressing the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services, or CIFTIS, via video on Friday.

"It is against such a backdrop that China decided to hold this important international trade event despite many difficulties in preparation. It shows China's willingness to join hands with all of you in this trying time and work together to enable global trade in services to thrive and the world economy to recover at an early date," he said.

Dennis Munene, executive director of the China-Africa Center at the Africa Policy Institute, said the speech is a call for unity and cooperation at a time when the global community is combating the COVID-19 pandemic that has destabilized its economy and affected the livelihoods of all its citizenry.

He said that there are two points that stood out in Xi's speech, which will act as an antidote that the world needs to spur its economy back to the recovery path. "First, the world needs to embrace multilateralism and shun policies of protectionism and unilateralism."

"Second, the global community needs to embrace innovation through factors such as the digital economy that will serve as a platform and a bridge for people from across the world to fully showcase the new progress and breakthroughs in the services trade and share in the new technologies and benefits of human progress," he said.

Greater synergy

Further, Xi urged countries to forge greater synergy in growing their trade in services, seeking new ways and more areas of cooperation.

Africa needs to fully activate and utilize its African Continental Free Trade Area agreement to promote growth, and to foster diverse partnerships to support regionalism and multilateralism, leading to "a shared progress and mutual cooperation for all civilizations", he said.

Hisham AbuBakr Metwally, a researcher at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry, said that in light of the pandemic, trade in services had slowed down significantly, which had greatly affected the generation of new jobs.

"China's hosting of the CIFTIS is a major boost in the direction of increasing trade in services and strengthening communication between countries," he said.

He was also impressed by Xi's speech which stressed joint efforts to ensure a global recovery.

"Efforts must be combined that depend on the policy of pluralism, openness, and distance from unilateral and protectionist policies to meet the great challenges the world faces now," he said.

Nasser Bouchiba, the president of the Africa-China Cooperation Association for Development in Morocco, said that the opening-up of trade in services had become increasingly important.

Agencies

Breaking Brexit treaty? Britain unveils details for post-EU life

LONDON

BRITAIN unveils legislation yesterday for life outside the EU, having thrown its trade talks with the bloc into jeopardy by announcing in advance that the new plans would break international law and "clarify" a deal it signed in January.

The announcement of the plans, which the government said would break international law "in a very specific and limited way", has contributed to concerns Britain could be cast out of the European Union's single market with no agreement on trade.

The pound has slid 2.5 percent this week against the dollar, having posted its biggest daily fall on Tuesday since a coronavirus-related selloff in March.

Britain quit the EU in January but has remained part of the single market under a status quo agreement which expires in December. It has been negotiating a trade deal that would then take effect, but says it is willing to walk away if it cannot agree favourable terms.

The British government minister responsible for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis, told parliament on Tuesday that Wednesday's new bill would break international law, but was needed to clarify the Brexit agreement in the event the sides fail to reach a trade deal.

Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister Leo Varadkar called it a "kamikaze" threat that had backfired.

Britain's top civil service lawyer resigned abruptly on Tuesday over what newspapers described as concern about government plans that would break the law.

The trade negotiations have all but stalled over disagreements over fisheries and state aid. The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier is due in London on Wednesday to meet his British counterpart David Frost with both parties warning they have until October to agree a deal.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson talks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, London, Sept 2, 2020. (PHOTO / AP)

The EU has warned Britain that if it reneges on the divorce treaty there would be no trade agreement.

"We need to make sure that our British partners respect their commitments," French junior trade minister Franck Riester said on Wednesday.

EU diplomats are uncertain whether Britain's Internal Market Bill is part of a negotiating strategy, following comments by Prime Minister Boris Johnson this week that both sides should move on if no deal could be struck.

End to unelected EU powers

The new bill will ensure that "no longer will unelected EU bodies be spending our money on our behalf," said Michael Gove, the minister handling Brexit divorce issues for Britain.

"These new spending powers will mean that these decisions will now be made in the UK, focus on UK priorities and be accountable to the UK parliament and people of the UK."

On Northern Ireland, Lewis said the provisions would ensure businesses based there would have "unfettered

Agencies

Russian electoral system geared up for single voting day – watchdog

MOSCOW

CHAIRWOMAN of the Russian Central Election Commission (CEC) Ella Pamfilova during the Commission's meeting yesterday reported that the electoral system of the Russian Federation is completely ready for the single voting day on September 13.

"I can now report with confidence, on behalf of my colleagues, on behalf of the CEC, on the complete readiness of Russia's electoral system for the single voting day on September 13 and on the preceding days of September 11 and 12," she said.

On July 24, the CEC approved the



procedure for the single voting day, establishing September 13 as the prima-

ry voting day, and September 11 and 12 as early voting days. Elections of various levels will take place at 83 Russian entities, with over 78,000 mandates involved.

For instance, four entities (Tatarstan, the Kursk, Penza and Yaroslavl regions) will hold additional vote on State Duma (parliament's lower house) seats, 11 regions will vote on local legislators, and 18 regions will vote on new governors.

Heads of the Nenets Autonomous Region and the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area will be elected by the deputies of local legislative assemblies.

Agencies

China strengthens COVID-19 testing capacity nationwide ahead of flu season

CHINA'S virus prevention authority published a plan to further strengthen the country's capacity for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing by specifically deploying facilities in local regions, which experts said will fully prepare the country for any potential recurrence of the COVID-19 ahead of an upcoming flu season.

Every 1 million residents should have one hospital or medical institute that can carry out tests. Besides hospitals and other medical institutes, a total of 100 public test labs will be deployed across the country to add to the testing capacity, and each will be able to test 10,000 samples a day, according to the new plan by the State Council's joint prevention and control mechanism, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Monday.

The country will be managed in eight regions, and each will have testing capacity of 500,000 to 700,000 a day, so that in five to seven days, all people in a region could be tested, read the plan.

Staff training will be completed before October. A comprehensive, accurate and timely information management system for testing will also be established, according to the plan.

The plan was released ahead of the upcoming autumn and winter seasons as virus prevention work has been normalized, Wang Peiyu, deputy head of Peking University's School of Public Health, told the Global Times on Monday.

"During the flu season, many people might have symptoms similar to those of COVID-19, so all local regions should have the



A child is taking the COVID-19 nucleic acid testing in North China's Hebei Province, Xingtai City. File photo

ability to distinguish between COVID-19 and flu."

breaks caused by imported cases. These may be different than those detected in China in

terms of gene sequences, so it will be harder to test for them, Yang Zhanqiu, a professor at

the pathogen biology department of Wuhan University, told the Global Times on Monday.

By the end of September, each region should have designated comprehensive hospitals and hospitals for infectious diseases, and all levels of disease control and prevention institutions should have the capacity to collect and test nucleic acid samples. Each county should have at least one hospital with this capacity as well, the plan said.

By the end of 2020, all secondary comprehensive hospitals should have this capacity and cities should complete the construction of testing bases and public test labs.

A fast reaction mechanism should be built to respond to regional clustered outbreaks, allowing tests on a certain group

of people to be completed in a short time.

Wang said that for big cities such as Beijing, these needs could be met as there are many qualified hospitals and specialized institutes.

For smaller cities and counties, there will be at least one hospital that could ensure the tests are done, and the number of such hospitals and medical personnel who conduct the tests will be decided by the local population.

Mobile labs could support the work if needed, Wang added.

Wang and Yang said that with such measures and previous experience, China would be completely able to tackle potential outbreaks.

Global Times



Mbeya's Ihefu FC players pictured prior to playing one of their games in the 2019/20

Newly promoted outfits get off to good start in VPL

BY ISMAIL TANO, TUDARCO

THE first round of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League, which took place from September 6-7, witnessed a section of clubs showcasing their qualities.

The domestic top flight defending champions Simba SC, KMC FC, Namungo FC, Biashara United, JKT Tanzania and Azam FC grabbed their first three points, while Yanga were held to 1-1 draw by Tanzania Prisons in Dar es Salaam, Mtibwa Sugar recorded 0-0 draw with visiting Ruvo Shooting in Morogoro.

Apart from the qualities and weaknesses shown by some teams, there was promising start showcased by newly promoted sides during the first round of the Vodacom Premier League.

Gwambina FC of Mwanza, Dodoma Jiji FC and Ihefu FC of Mbeya are the promoted teams that played their first games in the opening round.

Misungwi-based Gwambina FC played against Biashara United at the latter's venue, Karume Stadium, in Mara on September 6.

The match ended with Biashara United winning 1-0 via a goal netted by forward Kelvin Friday.

Despite the loss Gwambina FC showed some potential and individual talents that prove the squad will be a tougher opponent to other clubs in the coming matches.

Lack of experience looks to have proved costly for Gwambina FC but the outfit dis-

played a good game.

Dodoma Jiji FC hosted Mwadui FC of Shinyanga at the former's backyard, Jamhuri Stadium, with the hosts eventually posting 1-0 win over the visitors.

Striker Khamis Mcha netted the all important goal for Dodoma Jiji FC in the tie, helping them register their first three points in the Premier League.

With several experienced players in their squad, including Mcha and midfielder, Cleophas Mkandala, Dodoma Jiji FC did not look like the domestic top flight debutants, given they put spirited performance and enjoyed support from fans who flocked the venue.

Mbarali District-based Ihefu FC took on Simba SC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

Simba SC took the lead on the 11th minute via a John Bocco strike before Ihefu FC forward Omari Mponda had equalised for the outfit on the 15th minute.

The day however belonged to the visitors, as midfielder Muzamiru Yassin netted the second for the side on the 43rd minute, helping Simba win 2-1.

Much as they conceded defeat, Ihefu FC put scintillating performance and attacked fervently in either half.

The hosts' skipper, Joseph Kinyozi, and newly recruited fullback, Jordan John, put the visitors under pressure from time to time.

It is therefore quite encouraging having newly promoted outfits bringing new challenge to the league's regulars.

Bollywood actor's death grips India with frenzied TV coverage

MUMBAI

THE demise of a young movie star has transfixed India like no other news in a year of bad headlines.

The abrupt death of Sushant Singh Rajput has spurred a debate about the stigma of mental health, the rarefied insider world of Bollywood, and, more recently, condemnation of the media for the non-stop coverage of the duelling accusations between Rajput's family and his girlfriend.

Mumbai police initially reported Rajput's death as accidental and local media called it a suicide. But the federal police agency is now investigating if there was any foul play and is questioning Rajput's girlfriend, Rhea Chakraborty, and others.

On Tuesday, Chakraborty was arrested by India's narcotics department, which is investigating a drugs case linked to the probe of Rajput's death. She denies any wrongdoing and her lawyer, Satish Maneshinde, called the arrest "a travesty of justice".

Along the way, the story has become a media obsession in India, fed by a wave of TV coverage still swelling almost three months after Rajput, 34, was found dead in his Mumbai apartment.

In recent weeks, India's TV channels have given more airtime to the Rajput case than India's surging COVID-19 caseload, a plane crash and top political stories, according to

the Broadcast Audience Research Council.

India's boisterous TV networks, which include more than 350 news channels in English and several local languages, have flashed photos of Rajput's body, analysed his medical prescriptions, even used voodoo dolls and graphics of a skull to hype allegations that "black magic" was performed on the actor.

The federal police, the High Court in Mumbai, and the government watchdog Press Council of India have all criticised coverage of the investigation.

"I spent 21 years in television and I've never seen a race to the bottom this bad," said Nidhi Razdan, who recently left Indian news network NDTV to teach journalism.

"It is a media trial. What else is it?" she said. "I haven't seen this kind of viciousness in coverage before."

'SICKENING'

Before his June 14 death, Rajput, most famous for portraying India's cricket captain in a biopic, and his girlfriend were more likely to be depicted as a down-to-earth - if Bollywood-beautiful - couple, cuddling tousled-haired at home or sitting playfully in jeans on a rundown park bench.

Chakraborty, 28, was regularly hounded by reporters when she appeared in public, with news commentators opining on her innocence or guilt.

Talking points of 2020/21 VPL opening weekend

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

TANZANIA'S 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League season kicked off this past weekend and there were some major talking points and observations as 16 clubs took to the field.

The Guardian assesses six observations from the opening round.

1. The ugly wins also count

It is too early to say who will win the league after just one round of games, but Simba coach, Sven Vandebroek, has been the first to admit all that matters is victory at this stage.

"I told my players before the game we have to, but how we will win. I don't care, all I wanted was a win, we had to win," Vandebroek said after his side's hard fought 2-1 victory over promoted Ihefu FC in Mbeya on Sunday.

With CAF Champions League also on the agenda, Vandebroek does not want to drop any points at this early stage, and will surely be smiling seeing his rivals drop two points in the same day.

2. New team, same problem

Yanga failed to start the 2020/21 season in exactly the fashion they would have wished with a 1-1 frustrating home draw against Prison in Dar es Salaam.

Of the three teams expected to challenge for the title, Yanga are the only ones that failed to get maximum points.

Yanga need to strive to turn draws into wins to challenge for the title.

They registered draw in 14 outings last season, their worst record in 12 seasons.



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC's players jubilate after one of the outfit's players had scored against Mbeya City FC in a Vodacom Premier League clash which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Interestingly, half of the 14 draws last season came against opponents that they will face in the opening seven matches this season.

The league title has eluded them for three seasons. If that is to change this season they need to collect points against such struggling opposition as Prisons, especially when playing at home.

3. Michael Sarpong looks headed for a big season for Yanga

Michael Sarpong enjoyed a good day out on his competitive debut for Yanga.

The Ghanaian striker followed up his goal against Burundi's Aigle Noir in a recent international friendly clash, played in the 'Wananchi Day' in Dar es Salaam, with a goal against Prisons.

Two goals in two games. For any striker, this is a promising

return but not definite proof.

Should he continue this kind of form, Yanga might have finally found a worthy replacement for Burundian Amissi Tambwe and Congolese Heritier Makambo.

4. KMC FC handsome win

The Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC were the biggest winners on the opening round as they thrashed Mbeya City FC 4-0 in Dar es Salaam, with the likes of new signings Israel Patrick Mwenda, Paul Peter and Andrew Vincent impressing.

Mwenda, in particular, was outstanding as he recorded two assists, the first for Emmanuel Mvuyekure, who scored the opener, and the second for Hassan Kabunda that drilled in the second goal.

5. Amri Said is already fighting for his Mbeya City FC job

After surviving by the skin of their teeth last season via the relegation and promotion playoffs under head coach Amri Said, the councillors will not want to be drawn into another season of struggle.

However, a 4-0 defeat to KMC FC will not be a vote of confidence for coach Said as his team was completely outclassed, outfought and nowhere near a side looking to correct last season's mistake.

It is only the first game of the season, but there is no man fighting harder to keep his job than the former Simba defender whose outfit's next game is against a bruised Yanga side looking for their first league victory.

6. Officials making headlines again

We have been subjected to incorrect decisions season after season.

The same happened in the opening round despite claims there will be major improvement.

During the Ihefu FC vs Simba game where two legitimate goals were disallowed.

Calls are growing louder and louder to the league officials - they need to do whatever it takes to improve the standard of refereeing.

After all, it is goals that should make the headlines, not the match officials.

Meddie Kagere was well course to become the first Simba player to score in Tanzania Premier League opening fixture game in three consecutive seasons only for this beautiful diving header to be cruelly ruled offside.

Excitement fills VPL opening round

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI AND SETH DENIS, TUDARCO

THE 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League's first round matches took place from September 6-7, with 18 clubs locking horns at various stadiums across Tanzania in search of the top flight trophy.

Six games took place in the opening day, whilst three matches were played the following day.

The first league match pitted Namungo FC against Coastal Union at the former's venue, Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

With both teams playing with high concentration, a 63rd minute goal netted by the hosts' Burundian striker Blaise Bigirimana that also turned out to be the first goal of the Premier League, eventually stood till the last minute of the game.

Namungo FC, popularly known as 'Southern Killers', picked up their first three points of the campaign against Coastal Union, aka 'Wagosi wa Kaya', from Tanga.

Another exciting encounter had Biashara United entertaining league debutants, Gwambina FC from Mwanza, at the Karume Stadium in Mara.

The home side eventually won 1-0 via the 88th minute goal scored by second half substitute Kelvin Friday.

Dodoma Jiji FC, also the domestic top flight's newly promoted club, edged Mwadui FC 1-0 through the 68th minute goal netted by experienced striker Khamis Mcha.

Mcha finished off a well worked move by team mates and saw Dodoma Jiji FC snatch three points.



Mtibwa Sugar's striker, Haruna Chanongo (R), negotiates his way past Kagera Sugar defender, Erick Kyaruzi, when the clubs met in a friendly clash in Morogoro recently to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

The hosts had Dodoma

soccer followers enjoying a Premier League match played by the region's representatives for the first time after many years.

The top flight's defending champions, Simba SC, started their title defense campaign away to promoted Ihefu FC at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

The league's all-time top scorer, John Bocco, netted the opening goal for Simba, the outfit's fans celebrations were shortlived, given Ihefu FC equalized a few minutes later via a goal by forward, Omar Mponda.

Simba later on went 2-1 up on the 42nd minute via midfielder Muzamiru Yassin's glancing header.

Yassin made the most of a fine chip-in pass by fellow midfielder, Clatous Chama, the previous sea-

son's best player.

Simba held on for the rest of the tie and came out with the hard fought victory. Honours were shared at the CCM Gairo Stadium in Morogoro, where hosts, Mtibwa Sugar, were entertaining Ruvo Shooting. The clash ended in a 0-0 draw.

This season's much hyped outfit, Yanga, kicked off their campaign with a clash with Tanzania Prisons at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The visitors opened the scoring through forward, Lambert Sabiyanka, on the seventh minute of the game before Ghanaian striker, Michael Sarpong, equalizer for the hosts on the 19th minute.

Prisons were dealt a blow on the 82nd minute as experienced defender, Nurdin Chona, was given

marching orders after he had been shown a second yellow card.

The visitors, therefore, had to sit back in an attempt to keep the hosts' forwards in check.

The 10-man Prisons eventually held Yanga to 1-1 draw.

Three matches, played on Monday, completed the first round. Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC had an impressive start to their campaign, thumping Mbeya City FC 4-0 at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Burundian midfielder Emmanuel Mvuyekure netted the opener for KMC FC on the 22nd minute, forward Hassan Kabunda banged in the second goal for the hosts on the 39th minute, leaving them boasting of a 2-0 first half lead.

The second half had

KMC FC netting two more goals via midfielder Abdul Hillary on 56th minute and striker Paul Peter on the 74th minute.

Kagera Sugar endured a disappointing start to their campaign, given they conceded 1-0 loss to JKT Tanzania at the former's venue, Kaitaba Stadium, in Bukoba.

A superb strike by JKT Tanzania forward, Adam Adam, had the army side boasting of an impressive start.

The first round's last match saw Azam FC host Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Azam FC recorded 1-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania, thanks to a superb goal netted by striker Obrey Chirwa, who connected in a cross by fellow forward, Prince Dube, from the left wing.

Mourinho slowed slide, will he turn Spurs around?

LONDON

EARLY on in the new "All or Nothing: Tottenham Hotspur" docuseries on Amazon Prime, which followed Spurs through what turned out to be a hugely disappointing 2019-20 season, there's a moment when Jose Mourinho half-listens to the TV on his office wall.

He has been appointed as the new Spurs manager after Mauricio Pochettino's stunning Nov. 19 sacking. The Portuguese, one of the most successful coaches in the game's history but also five years removed from his last piece of major silverware, arranges his things in his new desk as the pundits drone on about the team's outlook following the disastrous start to the season.

Finally, one of them says something that makes Mourinho look up.

"Mourinho is past it."

Mourinho unlooses a choice two-word epithet. Something to do with lovmaking. He walks over to the TV and turns it off.

He doesn't get enough credit for his performance last year, for winning over the skeptics like the ones who've appeared in this space. When Mourinho took over, Spurs had won three, tied five and lost four Premier League matches under Pochettino. After 12 rounds, they sat in 14th place, just six points above the relegation zone and already an enormous 11 points out of the four coveted Champions League berths at the top of the table. Under Pochettino, Spurs had collected a paltry 1.16 points per game. Mourinho would earn 1.65 points per game as the team rose to a much-more-respectable sixth place, going 13-6-7 and losing just one of their last 10.

Here's another stat for you: In Spurs' glorious 2018-19 season, the one with the first-ever run to the Champions League final that tarnished its reputation, it lost 13 league matches. In 2019-20, it lost 11. The delta between those campaigns, of course, was the 11 draws last season versus only two the year prior.

While Spurs made that miraculous push to the Champions League final, the Premier League campaign was already going off the

rails. They won just three of their last 12 games, losing an insufferable seven. All the while, they upset Manchester City with a topsy-turvy, VAR-assisted 4-4 aggregate victory in the quarterfinal. Then they stunned Ajax with a three-goal comeback in the semifinal second leg that wasn't completed until Lucas Moura's 96th-minute goal. They were outplayed by Liverpool in the Champions League final, which Spurs lost 2-0.

In a way, getting to that final was counterproductive. There was a lot of prestige and money in it. It elevated Pochettino into the managerial elite. Spurs, along the way, arrived as a major European club. The players' reputation grew. But it also raised expectations of a team that had run into trouble. It perhaps allowed for complacency to creep into a side that had been together for a long time and was probably at the end of its cycle anyway.

Tottenham's slide didn't begin last season. The club peaked in 2016-17, when it earned 86 points and placed second. The following years, it slipped to 77, 71 and 59 points, respectively. The Champions League success papered over cracks that had been deep and gaping for a long time, obscuring a team that never addressed its inconsistency and couldn't arrest its slow spiral.

This is the trouble with optics. They deceive.

The 2019-20 campaign merely continued the trend that had begun in the stretch run of the prior season, or that had arguably started two seasons prior. It was just that Pochettino was held accountable for it this time around, without the Champions League to deflect attention from league form.

Spurs suffer from long-term problems, not recent ones. And so it's hard to predict where it stands ahead of the 2020-21 season. Mourinho remains in charge. Lately, he has tended to flame out at clubs fairly quickly – his spells with his last two employers, Chelsea and Manchester United, lasted just two and a half years apiece. It's hard to say for how long the squad will follow him. Teams seem to fall out of love with his intensity quicker than they used to.

'We shouldn't be playing' - Southgate questions pre-season start to Nations League

LONDON

ENGLAND manager Gareth Southgate said Nations League matches should not have gone ahead during pre-season for most major European leagues after his side laboured to a 0-0 draw away to Denmark on Tuesday.

Southgate's squad was hit by a raft of injuries and off-field problems after Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood were sent home on Monday after breaching coronavirus protocols following Saturday's 1-0 victory in Iceland.

The pair reportedly invited girls back to the team hotel in Reykjavik in what Southgate described as "unacceptable" and "puzzling" behaviour, which would have resulted in being dismissed from the squad even if infection from coronavirus had not been a risk.

Without Foden and Greenwood to choose from, Southgate's options were limited as he experimented with a 3-4-3 formation that struggled to get the best out of the front three of Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Jadon Sancho.

However, it was a lack of match fitness with the Premier League not starting until this weekend that he pointed to as the reason for such a sharp contrast between England's performances over the past week and their free-scoring form in qualifying for Euro 2020 prior to the coronavirus shutdown.

"The physical conditioning of the players was a huge factor," said Southgate. "We shouldn't have been playing. It doesn't work for the clubs and it doesn't work for international football."

"I'm really pleased with what

the players who are here have given. We take four points, everybody would like six, but it is in our hands now for the games at Wembley."

Denmark were comfortably beaten 2-0 by Belgium in their Nations League opener at the weekend, but it was the hosts who came closest to opening the scoring before half-time.

A neat turn from Christian Eriksen put Kasper Dohlgab in on goal, but the Nice striker's shot was well-saved by Jordan Pickford at the near post.

England improved markedly after the break once Mason Mount was introduced to rebalance the midfield, but clear chances were still few and far between as Kane headed over Kieran Trippier's cross before Kasper Schmeichel turned behind Sterling's low shot.

The best opportunities to break the deadlock for both sides came in the final 10 minutes as firstly Eriksen blazed over from Yussuf Poulsson's cushioned header.

At the other end, his former Tottenham teammate Kane thought he had notched the winner deep in stoppage time as he rounded Schmeichel and fired goalwards only for Mathias Jorgensen to make a brilliant goal-line clearance.

Belgium's 5-1 win over Iceland in Brussels moves them to the top of League A Group 2 ahead of their trip to England next month.

And Southgate added that Foden and Greenwood would need to earn back his trust before he could consider them available for selection with the national team.

Ronaldo at the double, France see off Croatia in World Cup final repeat

PARIS

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored a stunning brace to take him to 101 international goals for Portugal in a 2-0 victory over 10-man Sweden in the Nations League on Tuesday, while France won a repeat of the 2018 World Cup final 4-2 over Croatia.

Ronaldo broke the 100-goal mark on the stroke of half-time, the 35-year-old Juventus attacker curling in a free-kick from 25 yards over the wall and into the far left corner beyond Sweden's stranded goalkeeper Robin Olsen for a memorable milestone in his trophy-laden career.

The bonus second goal, and his 101st, came in the 72nd minute, the former Manchester United and Real Madrid forward cutting back inside the Swedish defence and producing a deft finish into the far corner from 20 yards.

"They are two important goals because it means I managed to reach this mark I'd been seeking," Ronaldo told Portuguese public television RTP.

"I'm very happy, first because the team won and of course to score the 100th and then the 101st, two great goals."

While acknowledging health came first, he lamented the Covid-19 enforced empty stadium in Solna.

"It's sad playing without fans, it's like going to the circus with no clowns or into a garden with no flowers," Ronaldo said.

"Speaking for myself, when I play away matches I like being whistled, it gives me motivation."

After making his first senior international appearance as an 18-year-old in 2003, Ronaldo notched up his first goal for Portugal in a 2-1 defeat by eventual winners Greece at Euro 2004.

Ronaldo, capped 165 times by Portugal, is second only to Iran's Ali



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Sweden during the game against Portugal during their UEFA Nations League Group stage soccer match at Friends Arena in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday Sept. 8, 2020. (AP)

Daei, on 109, in the list of top men's international goal scorers.

"The record, it's step by step," Ronaldo said. "It's not an obsession because I think records come naturally."

Incredibly for Ronaldo, just 17 of his 100 goals have come in friendly matches, and his nine hat-tricks all came in FIFA or UEFA tournaments or qualifying games.

At the Stade de France north of Paris, Eduardo Camavinga became France's youngest international in 96 years as les Bleus won a repeat of the 2018 World Cup final over Croatia.

Midfielder Camavinga, aged 17 years and nine months, replaced Ngolo Kante in the second half and is only surpassed by Julien Verbrugghe, aged

16 years and 10 months in 1906, and Maurice Gastiger, at 17 years and 4 months in 1914.

Deschamps made seven changes from Saturday's win over Sweden in Solna with Wissam Ben Yedder and Anthony Martial leading the attack after Kylian Mbappe contracted Covid-19.

Antoine Griezmann, Dayot Upamecano, Olivier Giroud as well as an own goal from the visitors' goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic secured a repeat result from Russia two years ago after Dejan Lovren had opened the scoring for Croatia, Wolfsburg's Josip Brekalo adding their second in the 55th minute.

The result sees Didier Deschamps' World Cup winners second on goal difference in Group A behind

Portugal.

- Belgians thrash Iceland -

FIFA's number one ranked side Belgium, led superbly by Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne, handed Iceland a 5-1 drubbing to follow up on their 2-0 win over Denmark. The Islanders actually opened the scoring through an 11th-minute deflected shot from Holmberg Fridjonsson.

But a reshuffled Red Devils outfit hit back almost immediately through Axel Witsel in the 13th minute, before a Michy Batshuayi double (17, 70) coupled with goals from Dries Mertens (50) and new cap Jeremy Doku (80) combined to put the game out of sight.

Belgium's win moves them to the top of League

A Group 2 ahead of their trip next month to England, who were lucky to escape with a 0-0 draw away to Denmark in Copenhagen on Tuesday.

Gareth Southgate's preparation for the game was thrown into turmoil when Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood were sent home after breaching coronavirus protocols following Saturday's 1-0 victory in Iceland.

Southgate can use that distraction and a lack of match fitness ahead of the start to the Premier League season on Saturday as excuses for the Three Lions' lack of sharpness going forward, in sharp contrast to their free-scoring form in qualifying for Euro 2020 prior to the coronavirus shutdown.

Leeds' Kalvin Phillips and Wolves captain Connor Coady were handed their international debuts, but clear chances were few and far between.

The best opportunities to break the deadlock for both sides came in the final 10 minutes as firstly Christian Eriksen blazed over from Yussuf Poulsson's cushioned header.

At the other end, his former Tottenham teammate Harry Kane thought he had notched the winner deep in stoppage time as he rounded Kaspar Schmeichel and fired goalwards only for Mathias Jorgensen to make a brilliant goal-line clearance.

AFP

Liverpool, Man City face tough battle from Premier League challengers

LONDON

LIVERPOOL and Manchester City remain the teams to beat after three seasons of total dominance but a rejuvenated Manchester United and free-spending Chelsea could force themselves into a four-way race for the title.

AFP Sport looks at how last season's top four are shaping up ahead of the new season.

LIVERPOOL

After a first league title in 30 years, Liverpool's challenge will change radically. The club have freed themselves from the burden of history but must ensure the 2020/21 season does not become a huge anticlimax.

A lack of fresh blood for the second consecutive season is a risk for Jurgen Klopp's men, who have amassed 196 points over the past two seasons.

Left-back Kostas Tsimikas is the only addition so far, as back up to Andy Robertson.

The financial fallout from the coronavirus pandemic meant the arrival of Timo Werner never transpired as the German instead headed for Chelsea, again leaving Liverpool with little as back-up for the front three of Roberto Firmino, Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane.

However, ahead of a season that will offer precious little time for respite, Klopp has at least had longer to prepare his squad, with his three major title rivals involved in European action in August.

MANCHESTER CITY

City will not have Lionel Messi to take the title fight to Liverpool after the Argentine opted to remain in Barcelona, but it is at the other end of the pitch that Pep Guardiola's men needed to improve anyway to bounce back from a disappointing campaign.

Despite scoring 17 more goals than Liverpool, the dethroned champions finished 18 points behind in second last season.



Pep Guardiola

Jurgen Klopp

One addition to the defence has already been made, with the £40 million (\$52 million) signing of Nathan Ake from Bournemouth to provide cover at centre-back and left-back.

A marquee central defender is expected to arrive at the Etihad before the window closes in October, with Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly top of their wishlist.

Spanish international Ferran Torres had been added to a stellar cast of attacking talent to replace Leroy Sane, while David Silva's departure opens the door for 20-year-old

Phil Foden to build on his impressive performances in the final stretch of last season.

City could be distracted by their desire to finally claim the Champions League in what could be Guardiola's final season in charge.

The Catalan is entering the final year of his contract and has been heavily criticised for failing to get City beyond the quarter-finals of Europe's top club competition over the past four years.

MANCHESTER UNITED

United shot up to third

in the second half of last season on the back of a 14-game unbeaten run in the Premier League after the January signing of Bruno Fernandes.

A flourishing young front three of Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial and Mason Greenwood and more midfield depth with the signing of Donny van de Beek offers United some hope that they will not be left in the shade of their two biggest rivals, Liverpool and City, for much longer.

However, the manner in which Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men ended the season in mid-August, physically exhausted after a Europa League semi-final defeat to Sevilla, raises questions over whether they can maintain a title challenge in a crammed calendar over the next nine months.

An ambitious attempt to land Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund has stalled, leaving Solskjaer short on options beyond his preferred front three,

while there is also a lack of cover in defence.

CHELSEA

By far the biggest spenders of the transfer window across Europe, the Blues have splashed out nearly £200 million on Werner, Kai Havertz, Hakim Ziyech and Ben Chilwell and bolstered a leaky defence with the signing of former PSG and Brazil captain Thiago Silva on a free transfer.

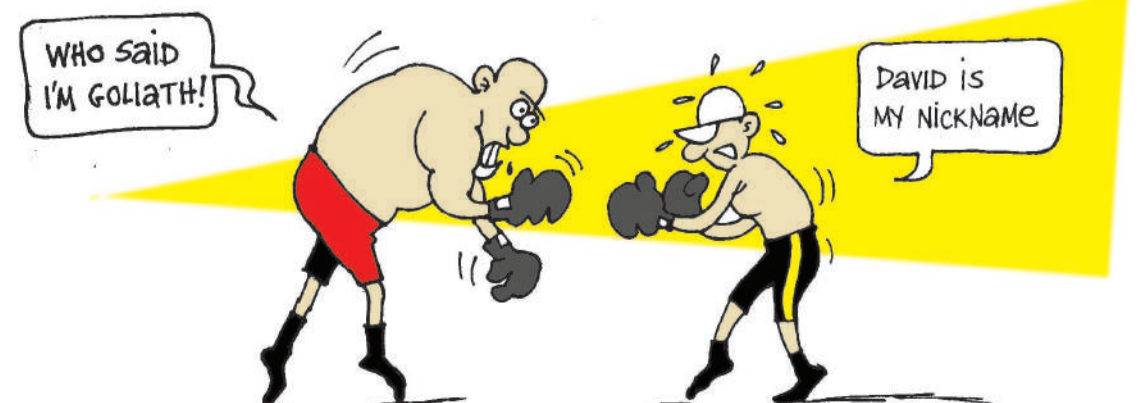
More could still be to come with Rennes' Edouard Mendy reportedly top of Chelsea's list in their hunt for a new goalkeeper.

Frank Lampard achieved his main goal during his first season in charge by securing a place in the Champions League despite a transfer ban and the loss of Eden Hazard to Real Madrid.

But expectations on the former England international will be far higher this season as owner Roman Abramovich will demand to see a return on his investment.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Ihefu FC plots Ruvu Shooting downfall in VPL

SPORT

Ronaldo at the double, France see off Croatia in World Cup final repeat

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Abasi Kibaani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

"SalamaNa" is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



The late Yassin Abdallah.

Boxing stakeholders mourn Yassin Abdallah

By Ismail Tano, TUDARCO

BOXING fans in Tanzania were on Monday dealt a blow, given Tanzania Professional Boxing Organization (TPBO) president, Yassin Abdallah Mwaipaya, passed away in Dar es Salaam.

The boxing fans were in deep pain as they mourned the passing of the respected boxing official, who was as well the country's representative for the World Boxing Federation (WBF).

Abdallah, nicknamed 'Ustadh', passed away due to heart disease that he had battled for the past few years. He was buried on Tuesday at his home at Buza, Temeke District in Dar es Salaam.

He will be remembered for his time and contribution to promotion of boxing in Tanzania.

He was a committed boxing official, given he made sure the sport is recognized as a professional game in the country.

He moreover saw to it domestic boxers were well paid by promoters and wield respect.

He further had a vision of his own for the game, he always wanted to see boxers fight overseas as well as improve the well being of boxers within the country by establishing boxing centers and holding training courses.

Officials of other sports associations in the country joined boxing fans in mourning Abdallah.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), through president Wallace Karia, sent their condolence to Abdallah's family and all members of the boxing fraternity.

Abdallah was born on July 24, 1957 in Iringa and passed away on September 7 at the age of 63 years.

He became the TPBO president on 2011 and had been serving up to his death. He is survived by a wife and five children.

He served as match maker in two events, the one which took place at Dar Live Hall in Dar es Salaam on August 9, 2013, and the August 30, 2013 event, which took place at Diamond Jubilee Hall in the city.

He was a promoter of 32 events, he served as judge in 18 fights, he was also a referee in 21 fights, he was further an inspector in 17 events.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League new comers, Mbeya's Ihefu FC, are looking forward to a win when they host Ruvu Shooting at Sokoine Stadium on Sunday.

Maka Mwalwisi, Ihefu FC head coach, said they are preparing well for their Sunday encounter against Ruvu Shooting, as the aim is to register a first win in the Premier League.

He said on paper his side are minnows but they have drawn inspiration from their last Premier League game against defending champions, Simba SC, in which his outfit played well despite losing 2-1.

"We are looking forward to our next game in the



Ihefu FC players, defenders Emmanuel Kichiba (R) and Michael Masinda (L), and midfielder William Mgaya (2nd R) block Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama, in Vodacom Premier League match, which took place in Mbeya last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

Premier League, our aim is to register a win which will boost the morale, it will not be easy but we are preparing well for them," he noted.

"I'm happy with the performance of my charges in our game against the favourites, we will use that performance as our motivation," he said.

After the Ruvu Shooting game, Ihefu FC will host Mtibwa Sugar at the same venue and Mwalwisi said the focus is on the Sunday game.

"The focus is on the Sunday

encounter against Ruvu, After that then we will shift to Mtibwa Sugar, but we are ready for all Premier League matches," he said.

The game between Ihefu FC and Ruvu Shooting promises to be more entertaining considering that the visitors, who are coached by Boniface Mkwasa, did not start the league on a good note as they settled for 0-0 draw with Mtibwa Sugar.

After the Mtibwa Sugar tie, Mkwasa was reported to have said he is not disappointed by the re-

sults.

He stated it was just the first game and his charges will bounce back.

He said he expects the hosts to come with the intention of humiliating his side but they will be well prepared.

"We did not have good results against Mtibwa Sugar, but that did not disappoint me, we will prepare well for our next game and hopefully good results will come," he disclosed.

In other Premier League games, to be played on Friday,

Azam FC will host wounded Coastal Union, Gwambina FC will face Kagera Sugar.

On Saturday, JKT Tanzania will host Dodoma Jiji FC at Jamhuri Stadium, KMC FC will lock horns with Prisons in Dar es Salaam, Mtibwa will play host to Simba SC in Morogoro.

On Sunday, Yanga will play Mbeya City FC in Dar es Salaam, Biashara United will welcome Mwadui FC in Mara and in Monday's only match, Namungo FC will take on Polisi Tanzania in Lindi.

OBFT impressed by performance in 2020 Open Club Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) has been impressed with the level of competition at the ongoing Open Club Championships in Babati District, Manyara.

Lukelo Wililo, OBFT secretary general, yesterday said the championships, which is taking place at River Nile Hotel in the region, has attracted six regions and 11 clubs and is expected to end on Saturday.

He said in the two days, boxers have shown high level of competition, discipline and dedication.

The situation, he disclosed, is giving him hope that many Tanzanians are passionate about boxing.

Wililo mentioned regions which are competing at the championships as Arusha, Coast Region, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kagera and hosts Manyara while clubs are Tanzanite Manyara, Kagera and Arusha teams, Tarangire Manyara, National Service Headquarters (MMJKT), JKT Mgulani, JKT Mbweni, JKT Ruvu, Ngome JWTZ, and Band Coy JWTZ.

He also thanked Manyara

Regional Commissioner, Joseph Mkirikiti, Regional Administrative Officer (RAS), Missaile Mussa, and Babati District Commissioner, Lazaro Twange, and other top officials for gracing the opening of the championships.

"The Open Boxing Club Championships have started well, we really thank all regions and clubs, which have fielded boxers," he disclosed.

"The competition is going on very well and I'm sure that at the end of the championships we will select a good team which will represent the country at many events," he said.

He said on Tuesday in Welterweight category, Kassim Mbutwike from Ngome JWTZ won 3-2 against Adam Hassan from Tanzanite Manyara, Mohammed Juma from MMJKT had a walk over after his opponent staged a no show.

In Light Fly, Abdallah Mohammed from MMJKT had a walk over as his opponent, Aziz Chala, from JKT Mgulani failed to show up, Jonas John from Tanzanite registered victory over Hamad Rashid from JKT.



Boxers slug it out in a recent Boxing Club Championship which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJAB MHAMILA

In the Flyweight category Steven Anastazi beat JKT boxer Innocent Bwana by points.

The OBFT official said in Bantamweight category Hamed Furaisha from Tanzanite had a walk over while Ezra Paul from Ngome beat Hussein

Juma from JKT Mgulani by points, Boniface Mligwa from MMJKT also beat Elisha Simon from Arusha by points, Emmanuel Marwa beat Juma Fundi from Arusha by Technical Knockout (TKO).

The OBFT will use the Open Club Championships

to select boxers who will represent the country at next year's local and international events.

Some of next year events are the Tokyo Olympics, World Boxing Championships to be played in Belgrade, Serbia in March, and Boxing Championships

which will take place in France in May.

The Open Club Championships in Manyara is held concurrently with the Level 1 and 2 referees and judges' courses.

In previous interview Wililo said the courses aim at promoting the sport in the country.

He said once completed Level 1 referees and judges can ably handle district and regional bouts while those of Level 2 will be responsible for regional, zonal and national championships.

Wililo said boxing is thriving in the country and therefore, it is necessary for OBFT to equip judges and referees with skills and knowledge to handle bouts professionally.

"Boxing is growing in the country and there is a need to have qualified referees and judges who can handle the fights professionally," he noted.

"We have referees and judges who are doing a commendable job, but there is need to give them additional skills and knowledge, as you know that the sport has tremendously advanced," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF BISOZ WAS A CURRENCY...



1+1 MADE SIMPLE

... HOW MANY DOLLARS (US) WILL MAKE ONE BIZO?