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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) has a word with Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) director general Dr Sidi Ould Tah in Dodoma city yesterday after participating in the signing of an agreement involving the construction of Wete-Chake Chake in Zanzibar. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Breakthrough in malaria vaccine: WHO delighted

By Guardian Reporter

THE world's first malaria vaccine has been approved for general use in children in sub-Saharan Africa, along with other regions with moderate to high rates of the disease.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization (WHO), said in a statement yesterday that the vaccine approval was a historic moment. "The long-awaited malaria vaccine for children is a breakthrough for science, child health and malaria control," he declared.

Malaria, caused by a parasite spread by the bites of infected mosquitoes, is responsible for more than 400,000 deaths a year, most of them in young children in sub-Saharan Africa. It is chiefly tackled by people using insecticide-treated bed nets and drug treatments to reduce spread.

The vaccine, called RTS, S or Mosquirix, consists of part of a protein from the parasite bound to part of a second protein, from the hepatitis B virus, which helps

immune cells recognise the substance. Given as four doses from five months of age, it has been in development for nearly 40 years, to finally put under control the legacy of uncontrollable malaria spread by mosquitoes.

Trials have shown that using the vaccine leads to a 30 per cent fall in cases of severe or deadly malaria even in areas where bed nets are widely used, the WHO said yesterday. This effectiveness is lower than vaccines against other diseases - for instance, the effectiveness of some Covid-19 vaccines against severe disease range from 60 to 90 per cent.

Because of this, the WHO recommended RTS,S should be further investigated in large-scale pilot studies in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi before widespread use.

The latest trials also found that families who had their children vaccinated continued to use bed nets, and additionally the vaccine is cost-effective.

Nanthalile Mugala at PATH, a global

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EU inks 6.7bn/- more for refugees support

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union has released an additional €2.5m (6.78bn/-) in humanitarian aid to support vulnerable refugees living in Tanzania.

This brings EU's contribution to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Tanzania this year to €3.5m (9.49bn/-).

A joint statement released yesterday by the EU and WFP said additional assistance was part of a larger EU support of €12m (32.53bn/-) for a regional humanitarian response, providing critical food and protection assistance to refugees in the Great Lakes region that includes Tanzania,



We aim to support the government and UN agencies in finding durable solutions for asylum seekers and refugees...

Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

The EU's humanitarian aid funding is made available to WFP so as to provide food and nutritional assistance to refugees in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps in western Tanzania, the statement noted.

"The WFP and other UN agencies continue to work with the governments of Tanzania and Burundi to facilitate the voluntary returns of refugees to their homes. At the same time, WFP and other agencies continue to use EU funding to provide essential services to those remaining in the refugee camps. WFP is reaching nearly 235,000 refugees in the three camps in Kigoma region," it further noted.

Ambassador Manfredo Fanti, head of the resident EU delegation, said that the EU is a leading supporter of refugees in Tanzania. "We aim to support the government and UN agencies in finding durable solutions for

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Tanzanian author obtains Nobel Prize in Literature

By Guardian Reporter

A distinguished author and academic born in Zanzibar, Abdulrazak Gurnah (pictured), has won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, the award-giving body announced yesterday.

The prestigious prize is decided annually by the Swedish Academy, which cited Gurnah's "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism."

Born in Zanzibar in 1948, Gurnah arrived in England as a refugee in the late 1960s, studying there and rising to become professor of English and Postcolonial Literature at the University of Kent, Canterbury, until his recent retirement.

He has published 10 novels as well as a number of short stories, with Nobel committee



chairman Anders Olsson saying that works by new Nobel laureate in his novels, from his debut Memory of Departure about a failed uprising, to his most recent, the magnificent Afterlives, "recoil from stereotypical

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NMB offers agro-sector firms value chain lending

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc yesterday announced that its customers in value chains of agriculture, livestock and fisheries will receive affordable loans starting mid-this month.

The loans will be disbursed at under 10 per cent rate per annum, with targeted beneficiaries being farmers, suppliers of farm inputs, service providers, entrepreneurs, small and medium processors engaging in agriculture, livestock

and fishing sector products, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Over 100bn/- is being set aside for affordable loans to customers in the agro-sector value chain, with this initiative taken in order to widen the scope of bank stakeholders, it said, noting that the loans will go a long way to increase productivity at all levels of the value chain.

A customer will obtain relief on the cost of loans and thus be in a position to earn a profit, which acts as a booster to food, industrial raw materials production, as part of the country's industrial development agenda, it affirmed.

NMB Bank expects that farmers, livestock keepers, fishermen, crop processors and other entrepreneurs in agrispaces shall make use of the unique opportunity to access low-cost loans to enhance their activities.

The bank will observe these conditions

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NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the bank's newly reduced interest rates on agriculture, fisheries and livestock development loans, for whose facilitation the bank has set aside 100bn/- . She is flanked by NMB chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi (R) and head of agribusiness department Isaac Masusu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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Breakthrough in malaria vaccine: WHO delighted

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non-profit organisation helping to combat malaria said that approving the vaccine for general

use increases equity in access to malaria prevention, helping to reach children that may not be benefiting from other interventions like bed nets.

EU inks 6.7bn/- more for refugees support

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asylum seekers and refugees, while recognising the urgent food security needs, exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis."

The WFP country director and representative, Sarah Gordon-Gibson expressed WFP appreciation for the European Union for generous contribution to support the food and nutrition needs of refugees. "Shortage of funds has led to a reduction in rations provided to refugees since last year. This contribution along with support from other donors will allow WFP to stretch available resources for refugees and reduce the negative impact of ration reductions on

refugees' food and nutrition security," she stated.

The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the socio-economic challenges faced by refugees in the Great Lakes region, she asserted, emphasising that humanitarian action alone cannot solve the underlying and often structural causes of humanitarian crises in the region.

"The EU is therefore applying and promoting a humanitarian-development approach, where international humanitarian and development partners work together to strengthen the coherence between humanitarian and development aid and stabilisation actors," she added



Sarah Gordon-Gibson (L), the World Food Programme's Tanzania Country director and representative, with the EU's Head of Delegation to Tanzania, Ambassador Manfredo Fanti, at an event the European Union offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday.



Information and Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji pictured on Wednesday addressing a meeting on land-related and other disputes at Bereko village in Kondoa constituency, where she is the legislator. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

Rwandan soldiers freeing sex-slaves greeted as heroes

CABO DELGADO

ROTTING fruit lies beneath mighty mango trees in northern Mozambique - an area empty of the people who would usually pick them.

Over the last four years, many villages and towns in Cabo Delgado have been abandoned - but in the last month

Islamist militants have been pushed back by a 1,000-strong contingent of Rwandan troops.

Buildings lie in ruins, roofs caved in, evidence of shelling or blasts still visible. Walls falling apart and weeds growing right inside what were once human dwellings.

I was among a group of journalists seeing, for the first time, the destruction left behind by some of the least known Islamist militants in the world. Locals referred to them by the Arabic name for youth - al-Shabab.

But they have no connection to the better known group of the same name based in Somalia. They are said to be affiliated to the Islamic State. "It is more of ideological affiliation," Rwanda's military spokesman Colonel Ronald Rwivanga told us.

The Rwandan forces took us on a tour of the province, following the routes taken over the last few weeks.

One group moved from Palma in the north, the scene of a hotel attack in which dozens were killed in March - some of the victims were later found beheaded with hands tied to their backs. The attack forced French energy giant Total to shut down its natural gas plant there.

A second group advanced from the southwest of the province with both Rwandan divisions moving towards the port city of Mocimboa da Praia, which they took on 8 August as Mozambican maritime forces cut off sea access.

They encountered ambushes and skirmishes along the way as the militants fled south towards the forests of Quirimbas National Park with their captives and casualties, Col Rwivanga said.

About 100 insurgents were killed, and Rwanda lost four men in the offensive, he said.

At the Islamists' military and spiritual headquarters of Mbau, many houses appeared to have been abandoned for much longer, going by their state of disrepair.

Soldiers said they found bunkers there. Only on one stop, Quitunda, did we find the lively sounds of children playing football and a man in his 80s, who sat on a log, watching the game.

"We don't know what the rebels want," he told me. "They've destroyed our mosques, they've attacked churches."

He moved here when he heard that the militants had left.

He'd like to go back to his home in the port city of Mocimboa da Praia - but it's in ruins. Not a single building I saw there had been spared the effects of years of fighting.

At the town's airstrip, Rwandan soldiers showed us the weapons they had recovered from militants.

Mostly AK-47s, some of them had been painted with names, presumably, of the fighters who once owned them.

There were also rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft weapons.

NMB offers agro-sector firms value chain lending

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in its lending procedures, where the highest amount of loan of one billion shillings, where the borrower can be an individual, cooperative society, company or any institution that will

meet the conditions for lending.

NMB Bank was urging intended stakeholders in this initiative to visit its over 225 branches countrywide and access loans at affordable interest rates, the statement added.

Tanzanian author obtains Nobel Prize in Literature

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descriptions and open our gaze to a culturally diversified East Africa unfamiliar to many in other parts of the world."

No black African writer has won the prize since Wole Soyinka in 1986. Gurnah is the first East African writer to win the prize, as South Africa and Zimbabwe have three Nobel winners between them, while Kenyan literary maestro Ngugi wa Thiong'o has never won the prize.

Reacting to the news, the author told the UK media how grateful he was to the academy. "It's just great - it's just a big prize, and such a huge list of wonderful writers - I am still taking it in. "It was such a complete surprise that I really had to wait until I heard it announced before I could believe it."

Gurnah's fourth novel, Paradise, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1994. Olsson said that it "has obvious reference to Joseph Conrad in its portrayal of the innocent young hero Yusuf's journey to the heart of darkness", but is also a coming of age tale, and a sad love story.

As a writer, Gurnah "has consistently and with great compassion penetrated the effects of colonialism in East Africa, and its effects on the lives of uprooted and migrating individuals," the Nobel Prize lead panelist declared before journalists in Stockholm. Gurnah was in the kitchen when he was informed of his win, said Olsson, and the committee had "a long and very positive" conversation with him.

Gurnah's most recent novel Afterlives tells of Ilyas, who was stolen from his parents by German colonial troops as a boy and returns to his village after years fighting in a war against his own people. It was described in the Guardian as "a compelling novel, one that gathers close all those who were meant to be forgotten, and refuses their erasure".

"In Gurnah's literary universe, everything is shifting - memories, names, identities. This is probably because his project cannot reach completion in any definitive sense," said Olsson. "An unending exploration driven by intellectual

passion is present in all his books, and equally prominent now, in Afterlives, as when he began writing as a 21-year-old refugee."

Worth 10 million Swedish krona (2.6bn/-), the Nobel Prize for literature goes to the writer deemed to be, in the words of Alfred Nobel's "the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction". Winners have ranged from Bob Dylan, cited for "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition", to Kazuo Ishiguro "who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world". According to Ellen Mattson, who sits on the Swedish Academy and the Nobel committee: "Literary merit. That's the only thing that counts."

The Nobel winner is chosen by the 18 members of the Swedish Academy - an august and mysterious organisation that has made efforts to become more transparent after it was hit by a sexual abuse and financial misconduct scandal in 2017.

Last year's prize went to the American poet Louise Glück - an uncontroversial choice after the uproar provoked by the Austrian writer Peter Handke's win in 2019. Handke had denied the Srebrenica genocide and attended the funeral of war criminal Slobodan Milošević.

The Nobel prize for literature has been awarded 118 times. Just 16 of the awards have gone to women, seven of those in the 21st century. In 2019, the Swedish academy promised the award would become less "male-oriented" and "Eurocentric", but proceeded to give its next two prizes to two Europeans, Handke and Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk.



It was such a complete surprise that I really had to wait until I heard it announced before I could believe it

Customer Service Week



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Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (2nd-L) has a quick word with Tanzania Railways Corporation director general Masanja Kadogosa (L) at the Dar es Salaam Port on Wednesday shortly after receiving 44 wagons worth 6bn/-. Second right is TRC board chairman Prof John Kondoro. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Patients die on way to hospital due to lack of health centre in ward

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SEVEN people, residents of Ulenje Ward in Mbeya District have died at different times as they were being transported to Mbeya hospitals in a personal vehicle belonging to the ward's councillor, Boniface Njombe following the absence of a health centre in the ward.

This was disclosed here by the councillor on Wednesday this week during the visit by Mwanaidi Ally Khamis, Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children at Ilambo Secondary School in the ward.

Njombe said residents of the ward are normally forced to travel for treatment to Mbeya city more than 60 kms away and in case a patient is seriously ill, it is sometimes difficult to save his/her life.

He said Ulenje ward has dispensaries in three villages, but in the event a patient needs further treatment, he is forced to be transported to Mbeya.

Njombe said the problem becomes more serious during the night and rainy seasons due to poor road conditions therefore enhancing the pains of the patient. "I personally witnessed, about seven

of my people dying in my personal vehicle as I was taking them to various hospitals in Mbeya, it usually pains me especially if a patient is a pregnant women, especially when you hear her screaming of pains due to poor road condition," he said.

He added: "We believe if we had a health centre in our ward, we could reduce the problem of people dying in that manner. I and my residents have embarked on efforts to construct a health centre and we ask the government to support us."

He said so far ward residents have made 80,000 bricks for the project and that already they have a six-acre plot for the purpose.

Some women in the ward also appealed to the government to assist them to improve the road to reduce the pain as they are being transported.

For her part, Health deputy minister said she will talk to officials at various levels in Mbeya Region to make sure they support Ulenje Ward residents towards the construction of the health centre.

She also praised the ward residents for the decision to build a health centre claiming that they are an example to be emulated by people of other areas.

BMF launches project to address shortage of health experts in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) through its USAID-'Afyā Endelevu' activity has launched an extension of its interventions by hiring and deploying skilled health care workers in Zanzibar to strengthen the capacity of health care workers as well as improving emergency response services.

The five-year USAID activity was launched on Wednesday by Nasser Ahmed Mazrui, Minister for Health, Social Welfare, Elders, Gender and Children who echoed for the islanders to voluntarily go for COVID-19 vaccination.

"Health workers should be in the forefront in the vaccination crusade but unfortunately most of the doctors and nurses have not taken the jab," Mazrui asserted, imploring all health workers to take the vaccines.

He warned that although the vaccination remains optional, 'it is a compulsory option'. He likened COVID-19 vaccination to marriage, "We are all told marriage is optional but opt not to marry and see what will happen to you."

Mazrui said the country needs at least 60 per cent of its population vaccinated to convince investors and tourists that Zanzibar is a safe place to invest and visit.

"If we really want investors and tourists for job creation, let's vaccinate or else investors and tourists will be scared to visit," he argued.

Hardly 35,000 Zanzibaris equivalent to 3.5 per cent of its adult population of about 1,000,000 people have so far taken the jab, he said.

The minister thanked the 687m/- project funders and implementers—the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and BMF for the support, which he said has come



Nasser Ahmed Mazrui, Zanzibar's Health, Social Welfare, Elders, Gender and Children minister, speaks at yesterday's launch of a USAID-supported programme meant to ease shortage of healthcare workers in the isles. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

at an opportune time.

Under the support, 100 health workers have been hired on a nine-month contract to intensify the fight against the deadly coronavirus. The new recruits will be deployed in the entry points, especially airports and seaports.

"But, we firmly believe that the new employees will as well help in addressing other health related challenges, which haunt the country," minister Mazrui said, admitting that the country still faces acute shortage of between 1,500 and 2,000 health workers.

The minister asked project partners—USAID and BMF to work closely with the government in addressing a myriad of challenges in the health sector. He cited retention of health workforce as a serious problem in the country.

"We look forward for sustained close relationship in supervision of employees in the health sector; employment is one thing

and productive and efficient performance is quite another," said the minister.

BMF Chief Executive Officer Dr Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro said the newly recruited 100 employees have received training and deployed to 33 health facilities and entry points to boost health service delivery, identification and referrals for COVID-19 patients as well as campaigning for COVID vaccination.

She said the project, which started in February 2020, has hired 1,063 health workers in various categories in 103 district and town councils' 499 health centres in 16 regions of Tanzania mainland.

Increased voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS, adherence to the use of antiretroviral drugs and strengthened maternal and child health care are among the inspiring outcomes of the project, Dr Senkoro said, hinting that the government offered permanent jobs to 40 out

of the 1,063 health workers in the project.

She as well asked the Zanzibar government to incorporate the 100 new health workers into the government employment to sustain the services even after the expiry of the project.

USAID Health Office Director, Ananth Thambinayagam said the Zanzibar's ministry of health and USAID are embarking on a

new partnership to allocate, build capacity of the health workforce and create awareness to respond to the country's priority public health needs.

"A robust and adequately equipped health workforce is essential for continued advancement and sustained provision of quality health care and emergency responses like COVID-19," she said, adding: "USAID supports investments in the health

workforce because strong and capable human resources for health save lives, especially now with COVID-19 pandemic."

Permanent Secretary in the Health Ministry (Zanzibar) Dr Fatma Mrisho reminded the new workers to work hard and diligently to bring changes, "We want outcome, and there should be a visible difference between your presence and absence."

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has expressed his dissatisfaction with the performance of Regional Administration and Local Government authorities including town and municipal councils.

The president made the remarks when he met with local government officials from Zanzibar's all regions including regional and district commissioners from both Unguja and Pemba at Zanzibar State House.

He said the aim of the meeting is to make sure positive changes are made to strengthen and appropriately serve the people.

He explained the need for every local council to make sure

Mwinyi displeased with local govt authorities' work record

it implements its responsibilities including financial management of government revenue and called on regional and district commissioners to oversee that.

He said the responsibilities of the local councils include the management of cleanliness in all urban areas, considering the fact that Zanzibar have a well-known tourist sites.

President Mwinyi said local council revenues must be used for the country's development and its people.

He said another responsibility of all local councils is to allocate small

traders in authorized allocated areas, and not anywhere.

He added that in his intention to assist and support small traders he has provided 70bn/- provided by the IMF for them under the administration of the local councils.

He also said that regional and district authorities have the responsibility to supervise defence and security in their areas to control crime in the society.

He also stressed on the need for the "Shehias" in both Unguja and Pemba to implement their duties diligently in order to appropriately serve the people in their areas.

PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS/SERVICES

Medical Teams International is Non-Government Organization (NGO) which was founded in 1979, providing life-saving medical care for people in crisis, such as survivors of natural disasters and refugees.

Medical Teams International, Kasulu Tanzania is inviting interested suppliers to express their interest to supply MTI with Motor vehicles per description below. All interested parties are invited to participate.

Procuring Entity:	Medical Teams International
Tender Name	Invitation to Tender for procurement of Motor Vehicles
Reference Number	CATEGORY A: SUPPLY OF GOODS
10000468	Supply of New Ambulance with the following specification: - 4X4 wheel drive, 3 front Seat, RHD, Full fitted patient bed, Attendant Seat, Color white, 5 speed, off-road, 4200 diesel engines, Manual transmission, plus all other necessary accessories
10000469	Supply of New Minibus 26-40 seating capacity, RHD, one door, white color
Source of Fund	Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration & MTI Funds
Eligible Firms	National (Registered in Tanzania)
Method of Procurement	National Competitive Bidding
Mode Application	Via Email; procurementtz@medicalteams.org (Please send an introduction email for document inquiry)
Deadline	20 th October 2021 16:00 pm

"Daring to love like Jesus, we boldly break barriers to health and restore wholeness in a hurting world"

TCRA issues 119 licences to postal services providers

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has issued 119 licences to postal services providers in the country and praised them for providing services by adhering to licence conditions.

This has been revealed on Wednesday this week by TCRA Director General, Dr Jabir Bakari when conveying TCRA greetings at the official launching of a Postal Online Shop here.

Dr Jabir said TCRA is ready at all times to work together with stakeholders in postal service to make sure postal services are modernized to satisfy the needs for the growth of Information and Technology (ICT).

He stressed that the use of ICT in particular is an opportunity for business growth.

"It is our responsibility as postal services stakeholders to make sure we work together in developing important issues, and we have proposed to have time to liaise with our customers in the postal services through the half-day symposium," he said.

Dr Jabir explained the licensed postal services providers have been serving in the country, within east Africa, globally and in urban centres in making sure the people receive postal services including courier services.

At the event, the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) launched the Postal Week and Postal Online Shop that enables a person to order and export goods within and outside the country under a special procedure set by TPC.

Elaborating on the service, TPC Acting Post Master General, Macrice Mbodo said a service user of the online shop will now find it easier to get goods he requires, he will select goods of his preference online and TPC will deliver the goods anywhere he might be in the world.

He said the online shop employs more than 20 languages including Kiswahili.

For his part, the official guest at the event, Deputy Minister for Information and Information Technology, Eng Kundo Andrew Mathew said the coming of the online shop will also assist farmers, entrepreneurs and traders in conducting business in a more modern way.

So far the Postal Online Shop has registered more than 300 business people and the registration continues.

All these are coming in preparations for the commemoration of the World Postal Day tomorrow October 9, and Tanzania, as a member of the International Postal Union (IPU) joins with other members to mark the occasion.



Energy minister January Makamba (C, in specs) has a word with Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) workers in Kasulu, Kigoma Region, earlier this week chiefly in connection with problems with availability of power the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

Govt embarks on COVID-19 vaccination sensitisation strategy meant to reach 60pc of Tanzanian population

THE government has embarked on a plan to prepare a Covid-19 vaccination sensitisation strategy to be used in informing the public to get vaccinated in a move to achieve a goal of reaching out to 60-percent of Tanzanians.

To begin with, the ministry of Health is meeting various stakeholders namely journalists and religious leaders who will be part of the plan.

Speaking at a meeting with religious leaders from various

denominations, the assistant director for public education in the ministry of Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ammaberg Kasangala said the ministry decided to make the initiative inclusive this time.

"We have been engaging various groups which work directly with the general public in which we want

create guidelines which will help them take the vaccine message to the public easily," she said.

She said the first vaccination drive was slow because most of the important groups were not involved in the campaign process adding that this time the government has engaged most of them.

For his part, Othman Zuberi who is the secretary for youth at

the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) said the guidelines will go a long way in allaying myths that have been aligned to the vaccines.

He said if there are more people who will be giving out information of the benefits of the vaccines, more people will be aware hence get vaccinated.

This comes as Tanzania is set to

receive the second consignment of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccines today which will make the number of jobs donated by China to 1.065 million doses.

The scheduled arrival of the two-shot jabs follows the first batch which arrived in the country on Monday, a new vaccination experience after the first rollout drive where over 1m single-shot Janssen doses were

administered from a United States donation late July.

Early this week, a total of 681,736 people had received the vaccine, equivalent to 65 percent of all doses distributed so far. Participatory sensitisation has increased the number of people taking the vaccine by ten times, she further noted.

The government target is to protect 60 percent of the population against the spread of the disease, with the new two-dose vaccine being one of the most widely used COVID-19 shots in China.



USAID Tanzania Mission director Veeraya (Kate) Somvongsiri (R) presents a joint ownership certificate to the representative of a couple at a ceremony held yesterday at Nyabula in Luhota ward, Iringa District. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

LONDON

Moderna plans African mRNA COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing as pressure grows

in a statement on Thursday.

MODERNA plans to invest about \$500 million to build a factory in Africa to make up to 500 million doses of mRNA vaccines each year, including its COVID-19 shot, as pressure grows on the pharmaceutical industry to manufacture drugs on the continent.

Moderna's proposed site will also include bottling and packaging capabilities. The company said it would begin the process of deciding the country and location soon.

"We expect to manufacture our COVID-19 vaccine as well as additional products within our mRNA vaccine portfolio at this facility," CEO Stéphane Bancel said

The move comes as a debate rages between drugmakers and governments about waiving intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines to help end the pandemic and give more developing countries access to shots after rich nations bought up most of this year's supply.

The United States said it would support it, but the idea has faced opposition from pharmaceutical firms, which argue they need to oversee any technology transfer due to the complexity of the

manufacturing process.

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech struck a deal in July for South Africa's Biovac to help make around 100 million doses a year of their COVID-19 vaccine for Africa.

But Moderna is the first company to plan its own factory on the continent. It has supplied more than 500 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine so far.

The company wants to "extend Moderna's societal impact through the investment in a state-of-the-art mRNA manufacturing facility," Bancel said.

The World Health Organisation has been trying to persuade Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech to join forces with its plan for an African tech transfer hub.

A senior WHO official told Reuters last month there hadn't been much progress in talks with Moderna.

On Wednesday, Sweden and Denmark paused the use of Moderna's vaccine for younger age groups after reports of possible rare cardiovascular side effects and citing data from an unpublished Nordic study. The shares closed down 9% in New York on Wednesday.

Five Czech firms set to invest in Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FIVE giant companies from Czech Republic are in the country to look for different opportunities they can invest in including the establishment of aircraft assembling plant.

This was revealed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Director General of Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), Dr Maduhu Kazi when speaking to reporters after the discussions with the Czech prospective investors at TIC offices in Dar es Salaam.

The delegation was accompanied by Tanzanian Ambassador in Germany Dr Abdallah Posi and Czech Republic Foreign Affairs Minister Miloslav Stasek.

Dr Kazi said the business and investors delegation hold fruitful discussions with TIC about different opportunities available in the country and they showed their interest on prevailing investment climate in the country.

He said they were very happy on peace and political stability of the country, economic development and the easy of doing business in Tanzania compared to other countries.

"After the initial talks with them they were very happy and they promised to invest in cotton, clothes industries and value addition in cash crops and there would be a tour by our to rank leaders to go there to see how best we can do to collaborate with those companies," said Dr Kazi.

He said they also promised to invest in aviation industry by establishing aircraft assembling plant not only for Tanzania but also for global market.

Dr Kazi said the delegation also disclosed their interest to invest in agriculture products and cooking oil industries.

"For sure the conversations went well and we believe that they are

going to invest in our country, when they asked us on procedures for them to be registered as investors, we told them and they were satisfied to see how easy it is," said Dr Kazi.

For his side, the Czech Minister for Foreign Affairs said his delegation was satisfied with the talks held with TIC because they know of the potential market in Tanzania.

"We are happy to be informed of the easy of doing business in Tanzania, available opportunities and the size of the market so we will discuss and decide which sector to invest in including aircraft assembling, technology, value addition in cash crops and we ask the government to prepare industrial parks so that it can be easy for all this to be done," he said.

Dr Posi said investment opportunities among Tanzania and Czech Republic are increasing so it is high time for Tanzanian business community to look for joint ventures and take advantage to absorb their experience in technology and market share," said Dr Posi.

Dr Posi said there is one Czech aircraft company interested to invest in aircraft assembling plant in Tanzania adding that if that will be possible it will uplift the image of Tanzania globally.



For sure the conversations went well and we believe that they are going to invest in our country, when they asked us on procedures for them to be registered as investors

Mbarali urges govt to fast-track process for Town Council status

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

CHAIRMEN of various hamlets in Rujewa Town in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have appealed to the government to finalise the process for making the town a full-fledged Council to support itself in various activities and speed up people's development.

The appeal was made here yesterday by the vice chairman of Rujewa town, Elly Kilemile claiming for a long time they have been asking the government to make Mbarali a full-fledged Town Council to enable it collect its own revenue and bring social services closer to the people.

He added that district officials should provide a statement on the reason behind the dilly-dallying.

"We are reminding the executive

director that he should now pay back all our money that we were being deducted for the last six years, at 20,000/- each to make sure we get a full-fledged town council for the entire Ubaruku area as we wait for the government's directives," said Kilemile.

He added that at the meeting they expect that every delegate should be paid back his money because when they sat and agreed to reduce their emoluments, council officials did not fully explain that the issue of a full-fledged council was not feasible, now they wanted their money back.

Rujewa Ward Councillor, who is the guardian of the council, Jeremiah Makao said the issue has been officially referred to CCM national vice chairman for solution

and insisted on the hamlet's chairmen to continue demanding for the full-fledged council to speed up development.

Acting Mbarali District Commissioner, Oliver Sule, who is the District Administrative Secretary said the finalisation of the issue needs to be done in accordance with the laws, hence all procedures have to be followed, and called on the chairmen of the hamlets to be patient, as even CCM has entered the fray.

For his part, Mbarali District Executive Director, Lihuwi Nkonyani said the process to elevate the Rujewa Council to full-fledged council status continues, and added that it had stopped after the government suspended all urban planning activities.



Tigo acting managing director Innocent Rwetabura speaks (foreground) responds to customers' queries at the firm's customer service centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday in commemoration of Customer Service Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt speaks on steps to ensure entire country has postcode address service

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has outlined steps it will take to make sure the entire country is served by the postcode service, saying so far a total of 21 local councils have the postcode address service while efforts to supply the service to the whole country continue.

This was revealed here yesterday by the Information and Communications and Information Technology ministry deputy permanent secretary, Dr Jim Yonaz, when opening a workshop for postal service providers organised by Tanzania Communication Regulatory authority (TCRA).

Dr Yonaz said the aim of the government is to ensure every house, street, road is identified by the postcode address.

"The government through heavy investment has embarked so much in making sure there are friendly infrastructures to make possible the

creation of the postcode address system," he said.

He said the Tanzania postcode system will be completed and provide not only postal services and delivery of packages in residential, commercial and other areas, but also provide other social services including reporting on fire disasters and other emergency services.

Tanzania postcode services was established in 2012, and it entails a number selected for each ward in the country that has five digits with the aim of making sure every letter or package sent to Tanzania should reflect that number for ease of delivery.

For his part, TCRA director general, Dr Jabiri Bakari told the symposium participants that TCRA is well set to make sure Tanzania Postal services becomes competitive for better performance in service delivery.

He said that TCRA has already

provided 119 licences to courier services firms in the country, East Africa and globally.

He said among these is Air Tanzania Company (ATCL), and added that TCRA believes competition in the postal sector will improve services.

TCRA's Head of Postal Services Division Haruni Lemanya emphasised the need for postal services providers, especially courier services providers to make sure they employ modern practices that are professional at all times.

Lemanya also called on postal services providers to make sure they insure customers' goods against loss by each side involved in the business transactions.

TCRA director on sectoral issues Dr Emmanuel Manasseh said improved postal services were important for the country's development, especially in regard to commercial transactions that spurn economic growth.

By Special Correspondent, Cape Town

Indigenous people at centre of protection of ecosystems

INDIGENOUS peoples are increasingly being acknowledged for their protection and management of land, water bodies and wildlife. As their culture and livelihood are intimately linked to the natural environment they often become the first and fiercest protectors of these spaces.

The United Nations Development Programme, through its Equator Initiative and the biannual Equator Prize, is shining a light on the success of rural and indigenous communities in managing to create sustainable livelihoods while respecting and honouring the environment in which they live.

The prize highlights "outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity".

Tropical Forest and Rural Development in Cameroon's Dja Biosphere Reserve is one such space.

The reserve is a World Heritage site in the south of Cameroon, covering an area of 800,000 hectares. It includes 37 villages with approximately 40,000 people, according to 1999 figures.

According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "the biosphere reserve hosts a rich diversity of fauna including 109 mammal, 360 bird and 61 fish species. It is also home to the world's most important colony of grey-necked rockfowls. Other mammals in the reserve include the chimpanzee, giant pangolin, elephant, mantled guereza, leopard

and the critically endangered western lowland gorilla".

Tropical Forest and Rural Development is a community-based enterprise that works in and around the Dja Biosphere Reserve by promoting cocoa-based agroforestry value chains and the collection of moabi - a local tree valued for timber and its oil, wild mango and other fruits while protecting the forest ecosystem. Moabi is also valued for traditional medicine and is 'highly threatened' due to logging, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Agroforestry has become more widespread as an agriculture system that incorporates trees, palms and shrubs as well as annual vegetable crops and livestock.

THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT



RECRUITMENT OF RECTOR

The Institute of Finance Management (IFM) was established in 1972 by the Act of Parliament No. 3, and stands as among the oldest higher learning financial institution in Tanzania. The Institute is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and consultancy. The Governing Council now seeks to recruit a visionary Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, called the Rector. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Governing Council of the Institute and to provide vision, direction and leadership to the organization. He/she will work harmoniously with other members of the Institute's management to ensure that Institute acquires and maintains a positive and solid image as a successful training institution of higher learning by formulating and implementing the right strategies and ensure efficient and effective use of resources.

Responsibilities and Duties

The Rector will be in charge of implementation and realization of the vision and mission of the Institute so as to achieve its strategic goals. He/she will be the overall manager of day to day activities and have the power to make final decisions at management level. Additionally, the successful candidate will:

- As the Chief Executive Officer spearhead and ensure continuous development and review of the vision, mission, objectives and policies of the Institute and recommend the same to the Governing to achieve its objectives
- Coordinate and Monitor performance in order to make timely changes to the strategies
- Be the principal academic and administrative officer and Secretary to the Governing Council;
- Work harmoniously with the Governing Council by ensuring effective communication.
- Establish and maintain a sound financial system for effective and efficient use of resources
- Build and sustain an organization culture that is friendly to students and other stakeholders as well as employees of the institute
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations of the country and Governing Council's directives.
- Mobilize and procure internal and external resources necessary for the implementation of the Institute programmes;
- Advise the Governing Council on the appointments of the Directors and other Senior Staff;
- Responsible for appointment of Heads of Academic Departments and Coordinators;
- Directs and supervises senior management and academic staff of the Institute;
- Responsible to the Governing Council for the general conduct and discipline of students;
- Be the spokesperson of the Institute on all matters affecting the welfare of the Institute;
- Promotes good relations with the Government and other stakeholders.

Qualifications

Holder of a PhD in Finance, Accounting, Management, Business Administration or any other relevant field and should be at least an Associate Professor. He /she must have at least 10 years experience in a senior managerial position, and must have high integrity and strong public relations skills, ability to engage with various stakeholders, and to build, work and lead teams.

Tenure of Office

Rector shall hold office for a term of five years and may be re-appointed for another term of five years.

Salary and Other Remunerations

This position carries a salary of as per Institute's Schemes of Service plus other remunerations such as transport, free housing, utilities among others.

Mode of Application

Individuals who meet the above requirements may apply to the address below not later than 1st November, 2021. Applications must be accompanied with relevant authentic copies of certificates, testimonials and curriculum Vitae.

**Chairperson of the Governing Council
The Institute of Finance Management
5 Shaaban Robert Street
P.O. BOX 3918
11101 DAR ES SALAAM**

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Those who will not be contacted by 15th November, 2021 should consider themselves unsuccessful.

UN reiterates commitment to supporting govt on UNDAPII

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE United Nations (UN) remains committed to working with the government in implementing activities in the work plan for the final year of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II), ahead of a new framework to be launched next year.

UNDAP II is a joint document outlining cooperation between the UN and the government of Tanzania.

UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, Zlasac Milisic made the remarks here yesterday during a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) review meeting between government and UN for the UNDAPII.

JSC is the highest decision-making authority on UNDAPII and UN Delivering as One (DaO) reform in Tanzania. UN resident coordinator and permanent secretary in the ministry of Finance and Planning are the co-chairs.

It provides policy guidance on matters pertaining to the UNDAPII's alignment with national development priorities, recommends measures for effective delivery and decides on the allocation of resources under the One UN Fund.

Milisic said the meeting aimed to review the progress, best practices and challenges experienced in the latest year of UNDAPII implementation (2020/21) and to endorse the work plans for the final year of the UNDAPII which is set to conclude next year.

The UN representative added that the successful review of UNDAPII drawing lessons from its implementation, will lead to the generation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) to succeed the UNDAPII from July 2022 to June 2027.

He explained that UNSDCFs are a new generation of cooperation framework, which promotes the role of the various organs of the UN working as ONE coordinated entity at the country level, in a broader collective effort to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The new cooperation framework marks a different way of doing business for UN systems in-country with the aim of enhancing collaboration for implementing development activities and also bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

"As we proceed with this process, we are committed to continue working with the government to implement the activities that are in

the work plan for the final year of implementation of the UNDAPII" he said.

Milisic added that these will build on the cumulative results that we have been working towards since UNDAPII was launched in 2016.

He acknowledged the contribution of the thematic result groups in implementing and monitoring the UNDAPII work plan for 2020/21, whose implementation report was to be presented and discussed in meeting.

"We are thankful to have had good government participation in the various consultations we have done throughout this entire process, which we believe has been transparent and inclusive having received inputs, not only from the government and the UN, but, from a wide range of development stakeholders," he added.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Finance and Planning, Emmanuel Tutuba who is also the co-chair of the meeting, said the government acknowledges the importance of building the strong partnership between the government and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

This he said is drawing from successful implementation of (UNDAPII) from June 2016 to date as a key part of in-country UN reform, national development strategies and visions for both the mainland and Zanzibar.

Tutuba added that UNDAPII implementation is in four thematic areas of health nation, resilience, inclusive growth and democratic governance, human rights and gender. He said, "I would like to thank United Nations country's team for your support, without which some of our poverty reduction and development initiatives would have been delayed."

He added; "You have been instrumental in supporting the government to implement economic policies and reforms in order to foster economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve socio-economic welfare of our people, through the aforementioned thematic areas."

According to the PS, Through UNCT and other Development Partners' support, Tanzania sustained a robust economic performance, growing at an annual average rate of 6.0 to 7.0 percent. However, growth slowed down to 4.8 percent in 2020 attributed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, he said Tanzania recorded a positive economic growth unlike many other countries primarily due to government's decision of not adopting lockdown.

Govt, WIPO sign agreement to strengthen judicial systems and internet protocol services

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen judicial systems and Internet Protocol (IP) services and protection in the country.

The Chief Executive Officer for Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) Godfrey Nyaisa said implementation of the MoU will ultimately help to address the legal challenges related to intellectual property (IP) adjudication facing the Judiciary system in Tanzania.

Nyaisa was speaking during the opening of the 62nd series of meetings of WIPO member states which took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

He hailed WIPO for supporting Tanzania with a number of projects for welfare of the people aimed at improving their economic welfare.

According to him, other projects and activities being implemented in Tanzania include the distance learning access platform as a starting point for students enrolling in Masters programme for IP at the University of Dar es Salaam, and that the availability of IP reference materials; and the joint Programme for Training of Trainers on IP teaching methodologies through the

WIPO Academy.

He told the delegates that the WIPO support contributes to the country's efforts to promote a conducive environment for the prosperity of knowledge and economic development based on innovation and creative works.

"We are confident that WIPO will also collaborate with our government to expedite the finalisation of the ongoing consultative process, with a view that they can catch up with the global developments and the benefits associated with membership and implementation of the referred treaties and protocols," he said.

Nyaisa also appealed to WIPO and member states to devise measures and efforts that will ensure there is an equitable access to affordable, safe and effective treatments and therapeutics for COVID-19.

"We need to build back the world better in order to make it a safe place for the human kind. Tanzania will continue to cooperate with WIPO and other member states to deliver the best for everyone," he said.

He commended works of various WIPO committees for continuing to implement their programmes as per the General Assembly's directives and mandate in line with the development agenda irrespective of the difficult situation of Covid-19.



DTB Bank managing director Ravneet Chowdhury (L) and head of retail banking Dennis Rauya pictured at their Customer Care desk in Dar es Salaam yesterday receiving calls from the bank's customers, all as part of the commemoration of Customer Care Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TADB advises stakeholders to support economic growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has appealed to various agriculture, livestock and fisheries stakeholders to continue working together in order to strengthen the sector for economic growth.

The appeal was made here by TADB director, Frank Nyambunge at the commemoration of Customers Service Week for Southern Highlands regions, stressing that the sectors were essential for the national economy. He called upon the youth to grab various opportunities in the sectors including access to loans provided by the bank to enhance

their economic wellbeing and that of the nation in general.

"We at TADB have the responsibility to push forward development and growth of these sectors to enable them to adequately contribute to the nation's economic growth as well as to increase income for individual farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen," he added.

Nyambunge said Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma, Songwe and Rukwa regions are in a better location to grow more food and cash crops and therefore to add to their value chain.

He said in marking the Customer Service Week, TADB experts sat with its customers and listened to

challenges facing them and that they learned many things that will help them to improve its services.

He said he personally met with groups representing farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen as well as officials from various institutions associated with the sectors and many asked for assistance to improve their activities.

He said TADB, just like any other government institutions, has the responsibility to implement government goals that were the reason behind the establishment of TADB and assured the people that the bank has mobilized itself to reach farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen in time.

Some stakeholders in farming in Southern Highlands regions thanked the government for establishing the bank claiming that it has been of great assistance to the agricultural development, especially in regards to food crops production.

The managing director of Forever Investment that deals in coffee farming in Songwe Region, Jane Daima said the bank Customer Service Week has helped people to know about various services provided by the bank.

She said as stakeholders, TADB has assisted them to hold discussions with bank officials as well as farmers and they told the bank officials about the challenges they face.



Morogoro Urban Water Supply and Sanitary Authority (Moruwasa) CEO Tamim Katakweba (standing) pictured in Morogoro municipality yesterday briefing Morogoro regional commissioner Martine Shigella (standing), who was chief guest at one-day gender training for over 100 Moruwasa officials. The others are integrated water resources expert Joel Verstoep (L) and assistant director (diversity section) Mwanaamani Mtoo. Photo: Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa

Kigoma Region authorities begin spraying households with non-toxic insecticides in effort to combat malaria

By Correspondent Deogratius Nsokolo,

Kakonko

AUTHORITIES in Kakonko, Kibondo and Kasulu districts in Kigoma Region yesterday began spraying thousands of households with a non-toxic insecticides in an effort to control the breeding of mosquitoes that transmit malaria – one of the leading killer diseases in Tanzania and Africa at large.

Inaugurating the exercise, Kakonko District Commissioner Evance Malasa said the move

will entail the spraying of homes, revealing that more than 52,000 houses in Kakonko district will be blown up amongst which 7,000 are of Burundian refugees at Mtendeli camp in the district.

He noted that the initiative is piloted in partnership with the government and ABT ASSOCIATES INC, with funding from the US Development Agency USAID and aimed at eradicating malaria in the district.

"Let's cooperate with the experts who are doing the work by allowing our houses to be blown up," he

cautioned.

Kigoma Regional Chief Physician Dr Simon Chacha said Kigoma was one of the five regions with the highest number of malaria-related deaths in the country, hoping that the exercise would help slow down the spread of the disease.

"The people involved in the work which is due for two months have been trained to make sure they do it with great care because the pesticide is toxic," he stated.

For his part, the chief physician of Kakonko district Dr Joseph Malima said 44 per cent of patients arriving

at the hospital were diagnosed with malaria, a condition that causes a lot of money to be spent on treatment.

He added that they are continuing with other ways of fighting malaria including distributing bed nets to pregnant women and children and promoting sanitation.

Julius Mbonankila who is a resident of Kakonko District said if the plan is fully implemented, would help reduce malaria deaths, he also called on the government to provide education to the people so that they can better understand the plan.

Mining company seals pact to provide medical boat services on Lake Victoria

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGM) has signed a letter of intent to extend support for the first medical boat on Lake Victoria for the next five years.

Under the MOU, GGML has increased its contribution from US\$87,000 to US\$120,000 compared to the previous agreement.

Speaking at the signing ceremony GGML Vice President (Sustainability), Simon Shayo said over the next five years, GGML will provide a total of 1.5bn/- for the maintenance of the converted 160-tonne British Royal Navy vessel.

He said the medical boat will provide a range of primary health care services including maternal health care, voluntary HIV testing and care and treatment for AIDS, immunization, dentistry and general basic health education and care with a focus on maternal and child health. Basic laboratory services and a general pharmacy are also provided, with all services free of charge.

"The Jubilee Medical Boat project is an initiative of the Jubilee Hope Medical and Dental Program, which

was launched in February 2015. The project is part of the partnership between the African Inland Church of Tanzania, the Vine Trust of Scotland and Geita Gold Mining Limited.

"The boat operates in the islands of Lake Victoria, which originally had no access to medical services. In 2017, more than 55,600 people were treated on the boat, marking an important milestone in the history of the humanitarian project and bringing the total number of patients treated since its inception to over 158,000," he said.

He added that medical boat shuttles between the islands of Lake Victoria for fourteen days and then docks again in Mwanza for refuel as well as replenish medical supplies and carry out general maintenance before resuming its route.

He explained that the project aims to improve primary health care for more than 450,000 residents on the islands in Lake Victoria.

"We are proud that the medical boat has reached over 46,000 people in its first year, most of whom are women and children, as well as fishing communities on remote

islands where access to healthcare is a major challenge. Our support for this boat consists of daily supplies of fuel, lubricants and maintenance costs. We are pleased to have been able to play a key role in such a noble initiative," he said.

He added that as a corporate citizen, GGML supports government and United Nations initiatives to ensure that all people can live in peace and prosperity by 2030, which is only possible if the majority of people are healthy.

The Archbishop of the African Inland Church in Tanzania, Mussa Magwesela, said the extension of the MOU for another five years is an important milestone for GGML and other partners such as AICT who are working with the government to improve health services in Tanzania.

Asha Ruhenga, a resident of Chakazimbwe Island, praised GGML's support for the project and said the services were timely.

"Such health services are rare in our community. Whenever it is announced that the boat will come on a particular day, the whole community comes and everyone enjoys the services," she said.



Adam Mihayo (R), Bank of Africa's managing director and CEO, has an audience with Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation's CEO, Helena Mzena, at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

USAID appreciates efforts by govt in protecting women's right to own land

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has appreciated the government's efforts in ensuring women ownership of land in rural areas as their legal right and not on the basis of privilege as before.

USAID Mission Director for Tanzania Veeraya Kate Somvongsiri noted that in the past, women in the country had no rights to own land in the villages due to the customs that denied girls and women the rights to land ownership, but things have changed nowadays for good.

Somvongsiri made the statement yesterday when delivering approximately 1,300 certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to Nyabula Village residents in Iringa District, through the USAID Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) project.

"Many thought that a woman's ownership of land was a privilege, not a right protected by the law, and that woman's land rights were dependent on her father, husband, brother and sons," she insisted.

She also mentioned that it was up to the governments' efforts to inform women about their rights, with support from LTA, that more than half of the CCROs register list a woman as having rights to a piece of land in the village.

"The rights of those women are henceforth protected by law more strongly than ever, even if one becomes divorced or widowed," she affirmed.

She underscored that USAID Tanzania is in partnership with the government to improve the lives and livelihoods of Tanzanians by promoting wise land stewardship,

equitable access to land, and strengthened tenure security through more effective and transparent land administration and management systems, institutions, laws and regulations.

"The CCROs given to the villagers will help in reducing land use conflict between land users because every registered land has defined use and clear owner," she explained adding that the stronger legal protection allows the land holder to access, use, and invest in their land with greater confidence.

USAID commended the government of Tanzania in its effort to reach an understanding with banks and lending institutions about what is needed to make CCROs more suitable for use as collateral in loans.

"We hope the financial security you now have due to titled land allows you to strengthen that land for increasing income. We believe that investment takes many forms and goes far beyond the one idea of mortgaging land for a loan," she asserted.

"The US government looks forward to a continued partnership to improve the lives and opportunities for every Tanzanian citizen," she emphasised.

USAID Mission Director for Tanzania pointed out that what they hope to achieve through their support to the government of Tanzania (GOT) and Local Government Authority (LGA) is a transition of LTA activity to LTA-NGO and create sustainability in the long run.

"The USAID- Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) project is coming to an end in December this year, what we can achieve through our support to the GOT and LGA is a transition of LTA to LTA-NGO and create sustainability in the long run."

Chief of Party (COP) USAID-Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) project, Yohanne Gabrimehidhin said the residents of Nyabula Village in Iringa District, Iringa region who have obtained Certificates of Customary Rights Occupancy (CCROs) will start enjoying security tenure recognised by the government.

He insisted that the CCROs will enable villagers to invest in their parcels of land with more confidence, adding that the formal land registration was achieved through the collaboration efforts made by USAID -LTA, Tanzanian government through the Ministry of Lands, Iringa District Council, and village council with the full participation of all residents of Nyabula.

Gabrimehidhin added that local leaders and residents participated in the village land registration process in collaboration with USAID Land Tenure Assistance and all groups of women, men and youth have access to equal opportunity to benefit from the LTA project.

"This is a level of importance that USAID places on improving tenure security, improving livelihoods as well as promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth to rural Tanzanians," he elaborated.

He applauded the Mission Director Mission Director for USAID Tanzania for blessing the occasion CCROs distribution ceremony to the Nyabula Village residents in Iringa District, where nearly 1,300 CCROs were issued.

"Feed the Future Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) seeks to clarify and document land ownership, increase local understanding of land use and land rights, and support land use planning," he intoned.



RE-ADVERTISED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF MAINTENANCE OF COMPRESSORS (SULLAIR CHAMPION SCREW COMPRESSORS) TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of Procuring the service of Maintenance of Compressor (Sullair Champion Screw Compressors) and is therefore inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01009	PROVISION OF MAINTENANCE OF COMPRESSORS (SULLAIR CHAMPION SCREW COMPRESSORS)

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01009)	60%
Proof of technical capability to conduct maintenance of sullair champion -screw compressors	15%
Proof of ability to supply of correct spares for sullair champion - screw compressors	15%
Sullair champion - screw compressors 3000hrs service	5%
Sullair champion - screw compressors 6000hrs service	5%
Proof of ability to conduct major overhaul of compressors and annual inspection of all 160kw - 185kw sullair champion -screw compressors	10%
Proof of ability to conduct safety and PRF inspections	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01307) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 25TH October 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

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Taking A New Look
At The News
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Every reason for Africa to keep asking itself on use of resources

HERE was so much for Africa to learn from the African Development Forum held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, nine years ago that reflecting on the event today stands as an immensely important reminder.

Among the high points was an impassioned appeal to African countries to harness their enormous wealth in natural resources for the benefit of their growing populations - now and in the future.

There was an especially relevant note from the African Development Bank (AfDB) - that it was decisive for the continent to do more in exploiting the many and varied natural and other resources it is endowed with to accelerate wealth creation, with a view to realising faster and far more noticeable social and economic transformation than obtained then.

According to AfDB, the continent boasted some of the world's largest deposits of oil and gas, gold reserves and strategic minerals, these including uranium, cobalt and bauxite.

The bank could hardly have put it better in saying that the challenge for the continent was "how to govern and harness this rich pool of natural resources to achieve a broad-based growth".

For its part, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) told the Addis Ababa forum that the continent accounted for some 75 per cent of the world's platinum supply, half of the diamonds and chromium, and 25 per cent of the gold deposits.

It said that Africa was also a leading supplier of cobalt, copper, iron and coal, and was home to 60 per cent of the world's uncultivated arable land.

Analysts have however long seen a paradox here in that, despite such wealth, the continent neither consumes its minerals nor adds value to them before exporting them.

It is widely acknowledged that the continent has high potential to feed its growing global population but it finds it hugely challenging realising this, a major explanation being that its largely underdeveloped agriculture translates into low crop yields.

To be fair to the continent, though, it has addressed - with some success - some of the factors commonly

deemed as critical for a country to shift from being "resource cursed" to being "resource blessed".

These factors include promoting responsible investment for broad-based growth, strengthening governance for enhanced transparency and accountability, and building capable and responsive mechanisms for human development and economic effectiveness.

At the Addis Ababa forum, UNECA emphatically recounted how outsiders continued to reap enormous benefits from Africa's resources. It gave the Democratic Republic of Congo as exemplifying countries where all the inputs of the mining companies are imported, nearly all outputs are exported unprocessed, and the most important tasks are performed by expatriate labour.

For its part, the African Union Commission raised questions concerning the continent's wealth and development paradox for the forum to consider and chart ways to tackle.

In the AUC's own words: "Africa is today among the fastest-growing regions in the world. How come the growth is not generating enough jobs for our people, especially the youth? How come the jobs our people have are low-level and poorly paid?"

One of the several observations at the forum, which ran on the theme 'Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development', was that the continent could more effectively govern and harness its natural resources if it had a developmental state and transformational leadership.

Now, ADF is a UNECA flagship biennial event convened jointly with the AU Commission, AfDB and other key partners in establishing an African-driven development agenda.

It was to be expected that governments and people across Africa would take the deliberations and recommendations at the likes of the Addis Ababa forum with utmost seriousness.

It remains to be seen whether, just short of a decade since, this dream has come true. If not, the last thing one would expect is to lament the failures and instead wage a fiercer and more focused war of social and economic liberation.

What befell dream of making Dar 'non-sleeping' commercial centre?

A Dar es Salaam regional commissioner was once quoted as having declared that he hoped to see the completion of arrangements for the formalisation of a schedule under which business in the country's commercial capital would be conducted non-stop - day and night. It was just a week or so after New Year's Day in 2019.

His remarks targeted generally bars - or pubs - where people often had literally to be pushed from their chairs and stools simply because it is closing time, according to laid-down regulations.

The unofficial explanation for this decades-old practice is that it is feared that, unless that was done, some people would not have enough energy or sobriety to work as expected the next day.

In fairness, police and other authorities in the city (and elsewhere) will have had many reasons to wish that businesses operated on an 18-hour schedule at most - to be precise, a 17-hour schedule except for two days whose mornings - for many people - fall on non-working days.

Of course, the model currently in place is not all that popular as it kills

continuity in business operations, especially for a city priding itself with attracting tourism and for people on vacation but being forced to go to bed by 11 p.m.

Putting our major towns on a non-stop business schedule like many cities across the globe will have its pluses and minuses, with critics arguing that it is not much of a priority for now or that it would fan criminality.

However, supporters might say that it would raise sales of goods and services, attracting investments in the hospitality sector, etc.

Surely, stern disciplinary controls are usually expected to lead to an enhancement of discipline, while the pursuit of leisure is credited with making the world go round.

This, essentially, underscores the need to strike a balance between taking measures to make business grow on the one hand and maintaining law and order on the other.

The world is not flat, and it is thus important to take a new and more realistic look at the whole idea of 'working hours'.

The point, though, lies in this short rhetorical question: What happened to the good RC's grand dream?

COVID-19



By Júlio Lubianco

NEWS outlets that have the public as their main source of revenue, through subscriptions, membership and other programmes, are more inclined to integrate the voice of the audience into their editorial decisions.

That is according to a study published in Brazilian Journalism Research, which analysed 80 media from 20 countries in Latin America in connection with the incidence of content generated by the audience.

"What we see in their speech is that they depend on the public for their financial survival - because they are not dependent on advertising," researcher Gabriela Gruszynski Sanseverino, one of the authors, told LatAm Journalism Review (LJR).

She added: "They really need the members, the crowdsourcing, The Intercept's crowdsourcing success. It depends so much on the public that they want to do journalism for, bringing them closer."

The study shows that most of the outlets analysed relegate audience participation to social media content, such as viral photos and videos, republished with a focus on curiosity, without support for a deeper journalistic investigation.

However, this was not the case for three of the media analysed, which relied on the audience to produce relevant and high-level journalistic content in the context of the first months of the coronavirus pandemic.

The previous existence of contact structures with members of the public also contributed to these experiences being successful.

In the case of Argentina's RED/ ACCIÓN, collaboration tools have been part of its structure since the media outlet's founding in 2018, with the proposal to reconnect journalism with the audience, promoting its active participation in the editorial process.

In the last 18 months since the Covid-19 pandemic was declared, the media outlet has been supported by its community to "co-create" content and identify opportunities to work on content that is useful to it. This is according to its editorial director, Javier Drovetto.

The director told LJR: "A very clear example of this is the Guía para vivir en tiempos de coronavirus (Guide to Living in Times of Coronavirus). From its birth, in the first months of the pandemic, this was intended as a tool to answer people's daily doubts in the face of the health crisis.

"And in that sense, the audience was key: from a query form and from our social networks, we have gathered a large proportion of the 80 questions that are answered in the guide."

He elaborated: "The stricter

Audiences helping Latin American news outlets produce high-level journalism



quarantine closed many possibilities for us to be able to face with our audience. However, through its participation, we were able to explain complex issues in a very welcoming way.

"Ready examples include the nightmares we can have when there is a crisis of this nature. That was very well achieved in this special Las pesadillas nos hablan: historia ilustrada de los sueños de nuestros lectores (Nightmares speak to us: An illustrated story of our readers' dreams)."

According to the director, the community of paying members and subscribers to RED/ ACCIÓN content continued to grow during the pandemic. He said he believes that the health crisis has given more value to the idea of community and the concept of subscriptions.

He noted further: "In quarantine, many people saw a company in media such as RED/ ACCIÓN. In every sense: an informative company, because we have made many efforts to generate useful content that is of service and that clarify, as far as possible, the health crisis; and a company in terms of community building, because we have precisely taken care to value the opinion, the contribution and the view of our readers in our journalism.

Researcher Mathias Felipe de Lima Santos, one of the authors of the study, meanwhile told LJR: "RED/ ACCIÓN, even before the pandemic, brought the public to work with reporters. A group of members, who they call, would go out into the streets to participate in this process. ... It has this structure from the ground up, unlike the others. And the other examples made good use of the pandemic period to carry out these experiments."

In Ecuador, the site GK was more than just a company during the pandemic, but a crucial service

provider at a time when its readers needed it most. The country was one of the hardest hit by Covid-19, with the collapse of the health system that led to a high number of deaths in a short period of time.

To contain the contagion, a severe quarantine was decreed that even prohibited funerals of victims of the coronavirus. Sensitive to the public's pain, GK created the collaborative project 'Voces para la Memoria' (Voices for Memory).

"A lot of people died very suddenly so that funerals were forbidden, groups were forbidden, goodbyes were forbidden, and hugs were forbidden," Isabela Ponce, editorial director of GK, told LJR.

She added: "And it seemed to us that it was important to be able to have a memorial - that is, to create a digital space so that family members could say goodbye and could say what they would have said at the wake, the funeral."

GK's audience was also key in the special "Los que no aparecen" (Those who don't appear). After a report showed a delay in the release of bodies of victims of Covid-19 in Guayaquil city, the GK newsroom began to receive reports from readers who were facing the same problem. The site has since created a page for submitting reports.

"We began to follow up on what had happened to those bodies. Then, the relatives themselves, we began to contact them one by one to find out the story and it seemed to us that the best way to tell the story was for them to tell it and then to be able to write it in first person," Ponce said.

She added: "There are still bodies that have not appeared and we are working on this project, whose results will soon come out, a new stage for relatives who have not yet found their loved one."

The first person was also the format preferred by The Intercept Brasil. Even before the pandemic, the "Voces" (Voices) section was used to tell stories from audience members.

The site focuses on investigative journalism and prioritises in-depth reports that take a longer time to investigate. With Voces, the site gave more dynamism to its coverage of the pandemic.

"Some reader stories arrived, and we received them. We do fundraising newsletters, and in them we explain what we are doing, then we give the example of Voces - what we want with that, and ask the readers to send suggestions," Silvia Lisboa, who is responsible for Voces, told LJR.

She added: "But, of course, we do a whole search to check the information. There are many that don't come to anything, so we then go back and the thing is not confirmed - it wasn't quite like that. We have a whole journalistic procedure to check that information, to see if it really exists."

The process described by Lisboa is, in the researchers' assessment, one of the things that limit the implementation of more audience collaborations in journalistic outlets on the continent.

"It's because it takes work, right?" Sanseverino said, elaborating: "It takes a lot of work, the moment you start working with the public. That's what user-generated articles are usually about, which is the verification process, the ethical question of how and why to use. And increasingly, with newsrooms shrinking, it's a lot of work."

This piece was originally published by the LatAm Journalism Review and reproduced in International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

Social media: New frontier for gender equality push

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

GENDER equality movement has shifted to where more women spend most of their time these days: social media.

Digital space seems to be the new frontier for discussions and debates on women leadership as well as political discourse.

Women are arguably the driving force for any social changes and movement; fortunately, most of them are the working class of any country thus they also spend most of their time online.

For any movement to keep pace, one must find where the participants are located, therefore social media seem to be the home the majority of women; especial young women.

The debate on women and leadership, dubbed the 'storytelling' which brought together women from various non-governmental organizations and political parties, ended last weekend.

The debate was held in Dar es Salaam, with participants from various regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar representing civil society and political parties.

Leadership and gender issues through social media were a major part of the debate that involved women and young people, discussing how to use those networks to advance their main agenda.

The debate facilitator, Sadaka Gandhi, said that the main objective was to achieve gender equality for women and the youth, and that the time has come to bring the agenda to more women through the social media.

Gandhi said currently people are hesitant to read books but use more social networks hence women should use that opportunity to penetrate their agenda, where she argued it is easier for their voices to spread quickly than traditional media.

"In the context of the story, we agree that the time has come now for all of us, regardless of our age, to use social media to convey our agenda to more people," says Gandhi.

She said women have the will to lead as much as their male counterparts, adding that what's needed is the political will to fully support them the same way men are supported.

"We need to use social network platforms for our agenda to go far but also we can use them to set clear historical records on past women activists who contributed immensely to the liberation of this country," She elaborated.

However, in the debate, it was argued that there are a lot of women who do not use such social networks due to various reasons including lack of access to digital devices and proper education on how to use them.

Training Manager from Reach and Save the Needy (RESANE) Institute, Neema Komba, said that most older women do not know how to use social networks and that there is a need to educate them.

"Some of them believe that social networks are hooliganism or just for teenagers, but the fact is that we



A section of participants in a debate on women and leadership which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Photo/ Sabato Kasika

should all use them for many benefits, including the movement towards achieving gender equality," she said.

Adelina Muluge from Voice for Women with Disabilities in Tanzania (SWAUTA) said that married women are particularly not free to use social networks, claiming that they are being denied such opportunity by their spouses.

She added that if this remains unchanged, it will be difficult for wives to make their contribution to the issues of women empowerment.

"If a man is forbidding you from using a smartphone or is constantly scrutinizing you, this actually prevents you from fully participating in the movements we are discussing here," she said.

She mentioned too much household

responsibilities as another hurdle that in one way or another deny women time to browse social networks to find out what's going on in the world.

Another activist, Zawadi Mkwereu from Jamii Forums called upon older women to use social media as much as the young generation does, because it enables them to discuss issues that concern them the most.

"As a teenager, I do not fully buy the idea that using social media is immoral or dangerous though I agree that it can be harmful if misused," she said.

She admitted that there are some young people who are abusing social networks due to lack of proper education. Moreover, she advised the debate participants to provide proper education in their respec-

tive places of work.

"We are young people and adults from various institutions as well as political parties, let us be the catalyst for change in the proper use of social media," she added.

Mkwereu said that if social media literacy is provided, it will help young people know the proper use of the same and also enable old women who resist digital space to embrace it.

Angella Karashani from LP Digital said the debate should be the beginning of change and women should realize that these days most issues are discussed and decisions made online.

"We are discussing leadership and gender issues on social networks, this is a great opportunity to let people know how

women are making efforts to seek gender equality, so let's not be hesitant to embrace this new normal," she said.

Concluding the debate, some participants said that the time has come for women and young women to unite, to educate each other about the importance of using social networks in their movement for emancipation.

Joyce Mkina, leader of the Joint Forces Department at the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) who coordinated the event said there is a need to unite women groups into a strong movement that represents all women in the country.

"Each group must acknowledge its weakness first then we establish a coalition to fight for women's rights through social media and social networks by involving young and old generation for our agenda to go further," she said.

She said that in the movement, no group can stand without collaborating with others, adding that the emergence of women on digital platforms with issues gender equality is very crucial.

"The notion that social media is not appropriate and not part of a decent person should not be given a chance; it really depends on how an individual uses it," she said.

Mkina added that through social media one can find history of past activists such as Lucy Lamecka, Bibi Titi Mohamed, Sofia Kawaka, Mary Rusimbi and many others.

"We are not suggesting that there have not been efforts towards ensuring that women get leadership positions; rather, we believe that there is still a need to push more to achieve gender equality goals," she said.

Mkina elaborated that political leaders can help achieve these goals through appointment of more women to all positions from the grassroots to the top because leadership is not a burden to carry on one's head but an aptitude.

According to Article 5 (1) of the constitution of Tanzania (1977), any person regardless of gender, of the age of 18 years and above has the right to elect or be elected to be a leader.

Australian defamation ruling threatens media companies

By Mathew Ingram

EARLIER last month, an Australian court issued a decision in a long-running defamation case of Dylan Voller who filed a suit in 2017 against a number of Australian media outlets, including Murdoch-owned The Australian and Sky News, for comments made on their Facebook pages by other Facebook users.

In effect, the court said that the media outlets are legally responsible for the comments their readers left in response to posts, likening them to "publishers of those comments" for their participation in "facilitating, encouraging and thereby assisting the posting of comments by third-party Facebook users".

In its ruling, the court added that an attempt by the media companies to portray themselves as "passive and unwitting victims of Facebook's functionality" was not credible.

"Having taken action to secure the commercial benefit of the Facebook functionality, the appellants bear the legal consequences," the court said.

The ruling doesn't mark the end of the case. As David Rolph, a law professor at the University of Sydney, wrote for The Conversation: "Now that it has been established that the media companies are publishers of the comments, Voller's defamation case can start in earnest."

"In other words, it's still yet to be decided whether or not the comments were in fact defamatory and what defences the media publishers might have under defamation law."

Speaking to the Sydney Morning Herald, Rolph said the ultimate outcome of Voller's case may depend



on whether the media outlets had knowledge of any defamatory comments.

Still, the ruling has sent ripples through Australian media. When it was first released, some people speculated that media companies might shut down their comments, or even their entire Facebook presence, for fear of being caught up in similar lawsuits.

Dave Earley, the audience editor for the Australian version of the UK-based Guardian, told the New York Times that his newspaper plans to shut off comments on any story that is controversial in order to avoid lawsuits, and limit what it posts to social media.

"We won't post stories about

politicians, Indigenous issues, court decisions, anything that we feel could get a problematic reaction from readers," he said.

The ruling has also had an impact beyond Australia: according to a recent report in the Wall Street Journal, CNN says it has shut off all public access to its Facebook pages in Australia because of the ruling.

CNN reportedly asked Facebook for help in turning off comments on all of its posts in Australia, but the social network refused. Until recently, Facebook didn't allow comments to be turned off on pages, presumably because they are a significant source of user engagement.

Facebook introduced the abil-

ity to do so in 2019, after the original Australian court decision in the Voller case, but comments have to be disabled on a per-post basis, rather than across all a publisher's pages.

In response to CNN's request to turn off all comments, the Journal's Benjamin Mullin reports that Facebook instead offered to "help CNN disable comments on its posts one by one".

As Earley noted, Facebook is not interested in making it easy for page publishers to shut off comments because "it's to their benefit for there to be comments on everything".

While the Australian ruling might be used as a precedent in countries such as the UK and

Canada, which used to be part of the British Commonwealth and share similar legal traditions, such a decision seems unlikely to affect the US.

Social networks and publishers are protected from that kind of liability by Section 230, a clause in the Communications Decency Act of 1996 that says "interactive service providers" are not responsible for anything posted by their users.

While that might seem like iron-clad protection, Section 230 has come under fire from both Democrats and Republicans - the former because they feel that social networks don't take down enough disinformation, and the latter because they feel that

these services censor too much.

There is a lot more on defamation and the internet. In a piece about the Australian court ruling, Rolph, the law professor, pointed out that while the decision might open the door to more such defamation lawsuits, Australia has also recently updated the law surrounding defamation - and that could make it more difficult for cases like Voller's to succeed in proving defamation.

The new laws raise the bar for proving that defamation has occurred, requiring that plaintiffs show that they have suffered "serious harm" as a result of the comments. They also provide a defence for material that is considered to be "in the public interest", which could apply to news stories.

For the Nieman Journalism Lab, Josh Benton wonders what the impact might be if a malicious actor - like Silicon Valley investor Peter Thiel, who financed the lawsuit that bankrupted Gawker Media - decided to pursue defamation lawsuits against other companies.

"I don't expect a ruling like this in the United States anytime soon," Benton says, adding: "But other countries across Europe and Asia? It's easy to imagine - especially in less-free countries where the man who lives in the palace would be happy to open up independent media to a whole new genre of lawsuits."

Right and left: In July, CJR invited a wide range of legal and technology experts to do a series of online interviews about Section 230 using the publication's Galley discussion platform.

The conversations followed a number of related developments, including an attempt by Senator Amy Klobuchar to amend the section in order to make social networks like Facebook liable for spreading medical disinformation about the Covid-19 pandemic.

A group of Republican members of Congress have also proposed their own "carve-outs" to the law, which they hope they can implement to reduce the particular section's protections for certain things, including the removal of conservative speech by social platforms.

Will Taliban honour UN treaties signed by Afghanistan over the last 20 years?

UNITED NATIONS

When the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan receives the political blessings of the 193-member General Assembly - and eventually inherits its seat at the United Nations - it will have to ultimately prove its credentials as a member of good standing by adhering to the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - as all member states do.

But judging by Taliban's crackdown on women's rights since it took office after the US pullout on August 30, it has given no indication it will abandon its longstanding policy of repressing women - and have barred them from schools, universities and workplaces.

The Taliban's UN membership will undeniably give legitimacy to the only - or perhaps one of the few - member states which is ruled by an insurgent group once designated as a terrorist organization by the United States.

But a lingering question remains: will the Taliban, as a member state, honour all those UN treaties and international conventions - guaranteeing both human rights and women's rights - signed or ratified by the former US-backed Afghan government over the last 20 years?

"With regard to accepting and honouring international human rights Treaties and Conventions - based on what we know today and the public declarations they have made, as opposed to practices on the ground - I would speculate they may declare their observation of Human Rights Treaties 'within the context of Sharia Law' which, of course, they will not define," says one former senior UN official, who served in Afghanistan during the former Taliban regime (1996-2001).

Dr Palitha Kohona, a former Chief of the UN Treaty Section, set the record straight, when he told IPS: "Afghanistan is a member state of the UN, not the Taliban. Being a member state of the UN does not imply that Afghanistan is a party to all UN treaties. Only to those treaties to which it has, as a State, become party. The act of becoming party to a treaty is a conscious, well considered and deliberate act of a State."

Afghanistan, as a State, will continue to be bound by the treaties to which the State of Afghanistan is a party, he said.

"When a State becomes party to a convention/treaty, the government becomes bound by it too. If Afghanistan is already party to any Human Rights treaty, including women's rights and child rights, the government of Afghanistan will be bound by it," he noted.

And there is no squiggling out of such an obligation, declared Dr Kohona, a former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.



As schools slowly reopen in parts of Afghanistan, it is important to ensure that both girls and boys are able to return safely. Since the Taliban seized power in August, they have made some commitments to uphold human rights. However, their subsequent actions have "sadly contradicted" those promises, the UN rights chief told a side event of the General Assembly on 21 September 2021. Credit: UNICEF

Meanwhile, one of the Articles of the UDHR, described as a milestone document in the history of human rights, points out everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, says the UDHR, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

The former Taliban government was described as an oppres-

sive regime that denied some of the basic civil liberties to Afghans and provided a safe haven for terrorists of all political stripes while it also rejected a demand from the UN and the international community to name an inclusive cabinet with representation of women.

"Those who hoped for, and urged for, inclusivity will be disappointed," said Deborah Lyons, UN Secretary-General's Representative for Afghanistan.

"There are no women in the names listed," she said last month. Lyons also pointed out that the (new) Taliban government in Kabul "contains many of the same figures who were part of the Taliban leadership from 1996-2001".

Of the 33 appointments, she said, many are on the UN's sanc-

tions list, including the prime minister, two deputy prime ministers and the foreign minister.

According to published reports, the Taliban has not only dismantled the Ministry for Women's Affairs but also replaced it with the Ministry for Vice and Virtue, a notorious religious police of a by-gone era known to ruthlessly crack down on women who were seen in public without male relatives.

Dr Kohona, meanwhile, said the current Taliban authorities are not recognised by any other state. In the circumstances could they be considered to be the legitimate successor government to the previous authorities?

For all practical purposes, he pointed out, the Taliban appears

to be in full control, including of the territory of Afghanistan and its population.

"The Taliban's writ applies through most of the country. These elements are critical for the recognition of a government by the international community."

Already Afghanistan's neighbours have begun the process of working with the new authorities. Reports suggest that Afghanistan has been invited to join the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, said Dr Kohona.

"Afghanistan's strategic location and its hoard of precious minerals tempted many before. One can assume that it would only a matter of time before the new authorities are recognised by other important states".

Recognition of the new authorities in Kabul and efforts to pressure them into abiding by global human rights standards might also open up another can of worms, he argued.

The Afghan authorities could also turn round and seek accountability for the human rights violations and war crimes committed by the occupying NATO and other forces. Allegations abound, he said.

Australia has publicly acknowledged and apologised for the egregious acts committed in Afghanistan by its Special Forces. Many allegations relating to the troops of other occupying forces have also been made, said Dr Kohona.

Addressing the UN's Third Committee on October 4, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Afghanistan's human rights situation is "deeply worrisome".

The Taliban said it will build a more inclusive political order which respects the rights of all persons. But early actions have been inconsistent with those commitments.

"We welcome the UN's efforts to monitor and report on the human rights situation moving forward. We will judge the Taliban by its actions, not its words," she declared.

Meanwhile, the Taliban - represented by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan - last month named its own Ambassador Suhail Shaheen to replace the outgoing office holder Ghulam Isac-zai - even as it unsuccessfully staked its claim for a speaking slot at the high-level session, which ended September 25, and a seat at the UN General Assembly.

So far, it failed in all its efforts.

Perhaps the most significant is its attempt to capture a UN seat which has to be approved, first, by the nine-member UN Credentials committee comprising Russia, China, the US, Sweden, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Chile, Bhutan and the Bahamas, and subsequently ratified by the 193-member General Assembly.

A tall order but it is likely to clear both hurdles - sooner or later. As of now, the Credential Committee is expected to meet sometime in November.

Asked about the status of Afghanistan's membership, the President of the General Assembly Abdullah Shahid told reporters last week: "The General Assembly, as the universal body, makes the decision".

So, it will be the 193 countries who will decide," he said, pointing out that the Credentials Committee will review and submit its findings and then the entire 193 member countries "will have the opportunity to decide.

"This has been the past practice and it's been done many, many times", he declared.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

TADB set to strengthen Mbozi Coffee Curing Plant company

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

IN a bid to popularise coffee growing in southern highlands regions and provide a bigger and stable coffee market to Mbozi District growers, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has vowed to give the curing plant company a soft loan to increase the company's production efficiency.

The TADB Managing Director, Frank Nyabundege, accompanied by senior bank officials, told the company's management that TADB is implementing government's farming policies and is committed to improving quickly and steadily the crop value chains countrywide. Therefore, he said, the bank will give their company a soft loan to increase the plants' curing capacity.

"We have organised ourselves because we want to reach farmers and investors in crop value chains and get first-hand information on the problems and challenges they are facing so that we can provide loans that will improve agricultural production and make farmers benefit from their farming activities," he said.

Nyabundege said by strengthening the curing plant, Mbozi coffee growers will get a reliable market and will be motivated to increase coffee production and improve

their living standards. Further, other growers in the southern highland regions will also be motivated to grow more coffee.

Nyabundege said it is important to give capital to projects like the Mbozi curing plant because they offer reliable markets to farmers and increase national prosperity. He also said the bank will continue to give farmers soft loans to secure in time good seeds, farm inputs, and good farming tools to increase productivity so that farmers can produce quality crops for local and foreign markets.

He also said the bank will support active agro-industries that buy crops directly from farmers and are capable of repaying loans after processing the crops and get profit.

Nyabundege explained that loans that improve production capacity of farmers and processors also improve growth of the national economy. As of June this year, the TADB had disbursed 99,466,324,946.21 to improve coffee value chain.

The government wants to increase coffee production because the crop is one of the nine natural strategic cash crops alongside cotton, tea, pyrethrum, cashew nuts, sisal, sugar and tobacco. During the 2018/19 fiscal year more than 60,000 tonnes were harvested



The Managing Director of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank, Frank Nyabundege (L) inspects coffee that is being hand-picked by Matrida Mwaitege, a worker of Mbozi Coffee Curing Company (MCCCO) in Mlowo, Songwe Region. Right is MCCCO's General Manager, Oscar Mvanda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

IUCN World conservation congress says humanity at 'tipping point'

ST DAVIDS, Wales

THE world's most influential conservation congress, meeting for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, has issued its starkest warning to date over the planet's escalating climate and biodiversity emergencies.

"Humanity has reached a tipping point. Our window of opportunity to respond to these interlinked emergencies and share planetary resources equitably is narrowing quickly," the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared in its Marseille Manifesto at the conclusion of its World Conservation Congress in the French port city.

"Our existing systems do not work. Economic 'success' can no longer come at nature's expense. We urgently need systemic reform."

The Congress, held every four years but delayed from 2020 by the pandemic, acts as a kind of global parliament on major conservation issues, bringing together a unique combination of states, governmental agencies, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and affiliate members. Its

resolutions and recommendations do not set policy but have shaped UN treaties and conventions in the past and will help set the agenda for three key upcoming UN summits - food systems security, climate change and biodiversity.

"The decisions taken here in Marseille will drive action to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises in the crucial decade to come," said Dr Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director-General. "Collectively, IUCN's members are sending a powerful message to Glasgow and Kunming: the time for fundamental change is now," he added, referring to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be hosted by the UK in November, and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) to be held in China in two parts, online next month and in person in April-May 2022.

The week-long IUCN Congress, attended in Marseille by nearly 6,000 delegates with over 3,500 more participating online, was opened by French President Emmanuel Macron who declared: "There is no vaccine for a sick planet."

He urged world leaders to make financial commitments

for conservation of nature equivalent to those for the climate, listing such tasks as ending plastic pollution, stopping the deforestation of rainforests by eradicating their raw materials in supply chains, and phasing out pesticides.

China's prime minister, Li Keqiang, said in a recorded message that protecting nature and tackling the climate crisis were "global not-traditional security issues".

While noting that some scientists fear that the climate emergency is "now close to an irreversible tipping point", the Marseille Manifesto also spoke of "reason to be optimistic".

"We are perfectly capable of making transformative change and doing it swiftly... To invest in nature is to invest in our collective future."

Major themes that dominated the IUCN Congress included: the post-2020 biodiversity conservation framework; the role of nature in the global recovery from the pandemic; the climate emergency; and the need to transform the global financial system and direct investments into projects that benefit nature.

Among the 148 resolutions

and recommendations voted in Marseille and through pre-event online voting, the Congress called for 80 percent of the Amazon and 30 percent of Earth's surface-land and sea- to be designated "protected areas" to halt and reverse the loss of wildlife.

Members also voted overwhelmingly to recommend a moratorium on deep-sea mining and reform the International Seabed Authority, an intergovernmental regulatory body.

"The resounding Yes in support for a global freeze on deep seabed mining is a clear signal that there is no social licence to open the deep seafloor to mining," Jessica Battle, leader of the WWF's Deep Sea Mining Initiative, said, quoted by AFP news agency.

The emergency motion calling for four-fifths of the Amazon basin to be declared a protected area by 2025 was submitted by COICA, an umbrella group representing more than two million indigenous peoples across nine South American nations. It passed with overwhelming support.

Jose Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, general coordinator of COICA and a leader of the Curripaco people in Venezuela, said the

proposal was a "plan for the salvation of indigenous peoples and the planet".

The Amazon has lost some 10,000 square kilometres every year to deforestation over the past two decades. Brazil is not an IUCN member and thus could not take part in the vote which runs against President Jair Bolsonaro's agenda.

The five-page Marseille Manifesto makes repeated references to indigenous peoples and local communities, noting "their central role in conservation, as leaders and custodians of biodiversity" and amongst those most vulnerable to the climate and nature emergencies.

"Around the world, those working to defend the environment are under attack," the document recalled.

Global Witness, a campaign group, reported that at least 227 environmental and land rights activists were killed in 2020, the highest number documented for a second consecutive year. Indigenous peoples accounted for one-third of victims. Colombia had the highest recorded attacks.

The resolution calling for 30 percent of the planet's land and

ocean area to be given protected status by 2030, said selected zones must include "biodiversity hotspots", be rigorously monitored and enforced, and recognise the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources. The "30 by 30" target is meant as a message to the UN biodiversity summit which is tasked with delivering a treaty to protect nature by next May.

Many conservationists are campaigning for a more ambitious target of 50 percent.

However, the 30 by 30 initiative, already formally backed by France, the UK and Costa Rica, is of considerable concern to some indigenous peoples who have been frequently sidelined from environmental efforts and sometimes even removed from their land in the name of conservation.

The IUCN Congress also released its updated IUCN Red List. The Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard, was reclassified from 'vulnerable' status to 'endangered', while 37 percent of shark and ray species are now reported to be threatened with extinction. Four species of tuna are

showing signs of recovery, however.

Craig Hilton-Taylor, head of IUCN's Head of Red List Unit, said the current rate of species extinctions is running 100 to 1,000 times the 'normal' or 'background' rate, a warning that Earth is on the cusp of the sixth extinction event. The fifth, known as the Cretaceous mass extinction event, occurred 65 million years ago, killing an estimated 78 percent of species, including the remaining non-avian dinosaurs.

One of the more controversial motions adopted - on "synthetic biology" or genetic engineering - could actually promote the localised extinction of a species. The motion opens the way for more research and experimentation in technology called gene drive. This could be used to fight invasive species, such as rodents, snakes and mosquitoes, which have wiped out other species, particularly birds, in island habitats.

It was left to Harrison Ford, a 79-year-old Hollywood actor and activist, to offer hope to the Congress by paying tribute to young environmentalists.

Fuel prices: President Samia turns the corner

By Guardian Reporter

THE Guardian has learned of how President Samia Suluhu Hassan managed to finally turn the corner on the issue of fuel prices in Tanzania.

In what Energy minister January Makamba described this week as "historic decision", the government decided to scrap eight levies on fuel importation that was one of the reason fuel prices were higher in the country than was supposed to be.

In one decisive action, President Samia's government lowered petrol prices by 132 Tanzania shillings in Dar es Salaam and nearby regions - thereby averting the expecting fuel prices increase in the country.

The fuel prices in the world market is already at the highest in three years and it was expected that if the current trend continues, Tanzania and other oil importing countries were bracing for more hikes.

To pull that off, this paper has learnt, President Samia had to use her known negotiations and political skills to make all government department involved with oil issues to sit down and agree on the best way forward.

A cabinet minister who preferred anonymity told "The Guardian" that Samia showed enough courage, passion and leadership in steering the government leaders and the technocrats to agree on what to do.

"By agreeing to this decision, the government will be losing 102bn/ per year. In those meetings we had Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) people whose sole responsibility is tax collection. How can you convince



them it was the right thing to do to lose all the money?"

"But, Samia was open from the off that we need to do what we can to stop fuel prices from increasing. She told us that fuel is cross cutting and if we cannot deal with that, we will

be facing a lot of problem in the future.

"She did not force us to do anything we did not want. She was with us and only interfering when needed. Otherwise she let us talk and agreed and now we have made a historic

decision," said the minister.

During her predecessor, the late John Magufuli reigns, fuel prices dropped to the lowest in a decade because of the COVID 19 outbreak but following global vaccination drive, things are turning to normal

and demands for fuel has increased causing hike in prices.

A total of 23 different levies were taxed on oil importation in Tanzania from various government institutions and that was why President Samia had to call all of them to find a bet-

ter solution.

It was always argued that even though Tanzania has a harbor, most of the time when there is a fuel crisis around the world, the prices in the country were always higher than in countries that use Dar es Salaam Port to import oil.

A renowned professor of economics, Samuel Wangwe, was quoted in the media this week saying that Samia's government made a bold move in trying to make sure that fuel prices will always be fair to the customers beginning now.

He said fuel is a very essential commodity whose effect in the economy of any country is immense. In Tanzania, said the academic, the poor people always bear the worst effects because it is always trickled downward.

"When fuel prices are up, transport cost increases as well as production cost which means commodity prices will increase as well. Samia's government did a commendable job in finding the lasting solution," he said.

Tanzania is not oil producing country which means it is always susceptible to global prices but Samia Suluhu Hassan's government intervention means the prices will at least be fair all the time.

TANTRADE LURES INVESTORS TO DUBAI EXPO WITH MEGA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

By Francis Kajubi

THE country's mega infrastructure projects are being showcased at Dubai Expo 2020 to lure foreign investors come to destination Tanzania which promises windfall profits.

The Acting Director of Trade Promotion at Tanzania Trade development Authority, (TanTrade), Getrude Ng'weshemi, said in Dar es Salaam mid this week that they deliberately decided to participate under the mobility category to lure investors to the country.

"We have opted to participate via the mobility category under our national them 'Connectivity, Tanzania ready for takeoff' to attract new investments by showcasing ongoing mega projects such as the standard gauge railway (SGR), Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project, expansion of Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar ports to potential investors at the global fair," Ng'weshemi said.

Briefing journalists and editors allied to Tanzania Editors' Forum, the TanTrade Director further said that the Dubai Expo exhibition organized by Bureau of International Expositions and being hosted by the government of United Arab Emirates, also involves two different categories of opportunity and sustainability.

According to her, about 600 participants from the country's public and private sector will take part in the expo that brings 207,600



Construction work of the SGR which is in progress between Dar es Salaam and Makutupora in Dodoma, will be a subject of display at Dubai Expo 2020 according to TanTrade.

participants from 191 countries of the world. A whopping 16 delegations will

visit the expo from Tanzania between this month and March 31 next year.

The country's pavilion will be divided into four zones namely: fly which por-

trays cities, shores, mountains and natural resources found in Tanzania. The second zone is named walk and shows museums and historical sites, the Kilwa mosque, former leaders' history and the freedom fighter monument.

At the ride zone, there will be visually national parks and lakes while the forth zone named drive will showcase different samples of agricultural products and the ongoing mega projects. "At the Dubai Expo, we will have a special day to showcase what we intend the world to see and will be held on 26th of February 2022," she said.

Commenting on the subject, TanTrade Director General, Latifa Khamis said about 700m/- has been used in Tanzania's preparation for the expo. "From our preparations and how we have organized ourselves, we are expecting to attract at least 80 percent of participants to come and explore investment opportunities in Tanzania," Khamis said.

In a vote of thanks, TEF Chairman, Deodatus Balile urged media houses to give the country's delegation enough coverage so that the public should know what's going on. "We must let the world understand what Tanzania has in terms of investment opportunities," Balile said.

Rwanda agency allots 6,000 hectares of subsidised land to fix housing shortage

KIGALI

RWANDA Housing Authority (RHA) has earmarked 6,100 hectares where the private sector will construct affordable houses as part of the 30-year plan to fix Kigali's shortage of affordable homes.

The demand for affordable houses in Kigali is rising faster than its supply with various studies showing that the city needs at least 20,700 housing units every year or 310,000 units by 2032. Felix Nshimyumuremyi, the Director General of RHA says allocating free land to private developers is part of a wide range of subsidies aimed at offsetting the rising cost of housing in the city.

In the long run, the government aims to ensure that every city dweller is accommodated in a decent home. However, experts say that the cost of

owning a house is rising faster than people's income. Kigali's population is projected to more than double from the current 1.6 million to 3.8 million by 2050.

"There is a long way to meet the demand of 30,000 units per year. It is a long process that will be achieved over time, accompanied by continuous reforms to support and attract the supply side," he said. Previous efforts to boost the supply of decent affordable houses have yielded minimum results.

There are sustained complaints from low-income earners and analysts that the current "affordable housing" projects only cater for the middle and upper classes of society. Developers have expressed low interest in constructing houses with a price ceiling of Rwf35 million - currently defined as affordable.



Kigali skyline.

Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva, Senior Research Fellow at Institute of Policy Analysis and Research-Rwanda (IPAR-Rwanda), argues that a house should be called affordable depending on the buyer's level of income. "Developers must consider income categories when building

houses. Otherwise, people will continue complaining," he said. The government has said it is weighing option of playing a direct role.

Addressing concerns of low-income earners

The developers, Nshimyumuremyi

added, on many occasions, underlined that construction projects of affordable homes are not profitable. Yet, on the demand side, many people also complain that their incomes are very low.

To address these challenges, the government is reviewing its policies, he added. The affordable housing programme caters for people who earn a monthly income of between Rwf200, 000 and Rwf700,000.

"A separate social rental programme (rent and rent to own scheme) is being designed to facilitate access to decent housing for low and extremely low-income earners," he assured. Real estate developers have also complained about the high cost of borrowing to fund the construction of houses.

Covid-19 disrupts market
 The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation, triggering a rise in transport costs and disrupting

the supply chain of construction materials. Foreign investments in the construction sector have not been forthcoming as Covid-19 hit investors adopted a strategy to wait and see how the industry recovers.

Among the incentives, the government waived VAT on imported and locally made construction materials for affordable housing projects exceeding \$10 million. The tax waiver could potentially add impetus to the implementation of affordable housing projects which have stalled as highlighted by the Auditor General's report.

Currently, Nshimyumuremyi said there are 12 major projects which will add about 7,400 units once completed in the next three years and six other projects that will supply 7,600 units in the next four years. "The figures keep increasing as many investors keep exploring the affordable housing market regularly," he said.

AngloGold Ashanti bumped off list of Top 10 mining companies

JOHANNESBURG

THE once mighty AngloGold Ashanti has been bumped off the list of SAs Top 10 mining companies, replaced by Royal Bafokeng Platinum, according to the PwC SA Mine 2021 report released on Tuesday. "The gold sector experienced the largest negative share price movements as a result of the declining gold stocks and lack of investor confidence in the precious metal," says the report.

"In addition, gold was also ranked as the least preferred commodity in June 2021 and this is reinforced by the drop in position by AngloGold Ashanti and Gold Fields." Strong iron ore price movements saw Kumba Iron Ore move up to second place, on the back of its record financial performance.

In terms of ranking, Impala Platinum was the biggest climber, moving from sixth place to replace AngloGold Ashanti in the top three, after its market capitalisation more than doubled between June 2020 and June 2021. In addition to Impala Platinum, Sibanye-Stillwater moved from fifth place to fourth place. Both these improvements in ranking are attributable to the favourable platinum group metal (PGM) prices.

Sector shows resilience

Mining was among the most resilient sectors in the SA economy, benefitting from a 71% average increase in PGM prices and a 48% increase in iron ore prices. These higher prices helped offset the drop in production that occurred at the start of the hard lockdown in March 2020.

There was a 13% increase in mining production over the previous year, with diamonds, manganese ore and chromium leading the way. Diamond production was up 30% year on year, while coal was down 6%. Iron ore prices increased by more than 200% from the prior year



Tanzania Commercial Bank's marketing and communication manager, Grace Majige (R), and Mpanda branch manager Julius Mlanga (2nd R) hand over some of the 15 bundles of galvanized iron sheets which the bank donated to Katavi Primary School in Mpanda municipality mid this week. The 5.4m/- donation was received by Katavi Regional Education Officer Dr Elipidius Baganda (2nd L), Mpanda mayor Haidari Sumri (L) and head-teacher Wailes Kibona (3rd L). Photo courtesy of TCB.

and this was largely driven by China's rapid economic recovery and subsequent reopening of other global steel markets.

A total distribution of R76 billion was made for the year to June 2021, up from R43 billion the prior year. Impala Platinum paid a dividend of R11 billion (2020: R0.9 billion) for the year to June 2021, while Kumba gave R25 billion (2020: R19 billion) to shareholders.

Dividend yield

Though gold mining companies struggle to make it onto the list of the Top 10 companies ranked by market cap, Harmony increased revenue by 42%, due largely to a 26% improvement in production and a higher average rand gold price.

"The excellent financial performance resulted in mining companies being in a very strong

financial position," says Andries Rossouw, PwC's Africa energy, utilities and resources leader. "Debt has largely been repaid and returns to shareholders reached record rand levels for many companies.

The fiscus benefitted from increased direct and indirect taxes and mining royalties to the extent that it could support ongoing socioeconomic support during the pandemic.

HF sweetens sale offer for Nairobi hotel after investors snub its bid

NAIROBI

MORTGAGE lender Housing Finance Group (HF) has sweetened an offer to sell Hotel Lazinos, a popular bar and restaurant with accommodation facilities in Nairobi West, after successive bids failed to draw the interest of investors.

HF on Wednesday cut the reserve price of the property by Sh10 million in a bid to attract buyers, signalling the hotel had either attracted lower offers from potential buyers or failed to draw interest. "The selling price is (now) Sh240 million," said HF in an advertisement placed on local dailies announcing the sale.

In March 2019, the hotel was put up for auction for the second time following a similar plan in 2016 over debt. At the time, the auctioneer said the business had an estimated rental income of Sh3.5 million a month.

A few months later, in May 2019, HF and Lazinos owner David Njuguna agreed to sell the hotel under a private treaty without recourse to an auction process. The reserve price was set at Sh250 million. The facility located on Gandhi Avenue off Lang'ata Road, has been popular with Nairobi West revellers.

The prime commercial property has four floors with two wings and 43 self-contained guestrooms. It also has conference halls, shops, laundry and salon units. Hotel Lazinos is registered under Turitu Service Station and sits on 0.1791 acres of land.

The sale of the property comes as the number of properties going under the hammer crippled by mounting debt has risen sharply in recent months. But auctioneers are finding it difficult to get buyers amid a glut on the back of a slowdown in the economy, especially in the real estate business.

PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM DEBUTS STAFF HIV SELF-TESTING CAMPAIGN

By Property Watch Reporter

In a bid to encourage its members of staff to regularly check their health status, SGA Tanzania Limited has kick-started a campaign of HIV and AIDS self testing.

Addressing some of its 6000 strong staff members who turned up for the exercise in Dar es Salaam mid this week, SGA Tanzania Managing Director, Eric Sambu commended the partnership with Tanzania Employers Association and PSI Tanzania which has made the initiative possible.

"Our secret of success is the welfare of our employees, and that is why we take an initiative to embrace every opportunity to improve their health and welfare through self-testing for HIV/AIDS," Sambu said.

He pointed out that although the HIV status of a person is private, testing and knowing one's status may help individuals to take appropriate steps at early stage in the development of the virus. Sambu explained that SGA prioritizes quality of working life programs because it enhances employees' wellbeing and satisfaction.

"We ensure that staff get fair and adequate compensation, work in safe and healthy environments, get assigned tasks that develop and utilise their capacities, personal growth and freedom from any form of discrimination," he added.

Explaining the importance of employees to self-test for HIV, SGA Health and Safety Manager, Dickson Webi knowing the health status of



SGA Tanzania managing director Eric Sambu (L) receives some HIV rapid test kits from the company's nurse, Jesca Pande, at the launch of a workplace self-testing drive held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

employees helps the company support them with treatment and counselling.

Webi said, in addition, SGA invests heavily in staff health to ensure that the work place

is safe and that people are happy to reduce turnover, absenteeism, thefts, sabotage and encourages creativity, innovation and hard work.

ATE representative, Hellen Mkwizu commended SGA management for the initiative and called on other employers to emulate the security company in facilitating their employ-

ees to know their status and live healthy lifestyles.

Mkwizu stated that Ministry of Health's target is 95:95:95, which means 95 percent of people who are HIV infected will be diagnosed, 95 percent of these diagnosed will be on anti-retroviral treatment, if necessary while the other 95 percent of those put on ARV medication will be virally suppressed.

"Creating awareness in workplaces will help achieve this target and we thank SGA for being an example to other employers," she said while noting that the company's decision to play host to the launch of the HIV/AIDS self-testing at workplace campaign is exemplary.

Speaking at the same event, PSI Tanzania Director, Ajuae Hassan also commended SGA for taking the initiative and being the employer of choice. "SGA has demonstrated that it leads by example, not only by being one of the largest employers in the country, but also by accepting to host the launch of this initiative of self-testing," Hassan said.

Established in 1984 as Group Four Security, SGA Tanzania is one of the largest and most well equipped private security companies in the country with offices almost in all regions.

Radisson Hotel Group announces a record year in Africa, with 13 hotels and 2,500 rooms

RABAT

RADISSON Hotel Group, one of the world's leading hotel groups, this month announced a hotel expansion record in Africa with 13 signings to date, translating to a new hotel signed every 20 days.

The Group's expansion drive, adding 2,500 rooms to its African portfolio, includes the announcement of nine hotels in Morocco, the Group's debut in Djibouti, and the introduction of the Radisson Individuals brand in Africa. Adding to this expansion milestone, the Group has also opened five hotels to date this year, including Africa's second Radisson RED in South Africa and four Radisson Blu resort offerings in Morocco.

With additional hotel signings and a further three openings in Africa expected before year-end, Radisson Hotel Group remains prudently optimistic regarding the business recovery within the last quarter of 2021. The Group's aggressive expansion places them firmly on track to boost the current African portfolio of almost 100 hotels currently in operation and under development to its ambition of 150 hotels by 2025. As part of the expansion strategy, the Group has put forward growth priorities across key markets such as Morocco, Egypt and South Africa.



Radisson Blu Resort Mosi-Oa-Tunya Hotel.

From a single hotel in Africa 20 years ago, Radisson Hotel Group's current African portfolio of almost 100 hotels in operation and under development is located in more than 30 countries across the continent, cementing the Group's leading position as the hotel company with the largest active presence in the most countries across Africa.

The 13 signings, reinforcing the Group's expansion strategy, have secured a record growth in Morocco with an additional nine hotels, comprising two hotels in Casablanca, including the debut of the Radisson brand with the Radisson Hotel Casablanca Gauthier La Citadelle and the recent partnership established with Madaef which translates to seven additional hotels across key leisure destinations in the country.

The group has also announced the launch of their first project, the Earl Heights Suite Hotel, a member of Radisson Individuals in Accra, Ghana joining their new affiliation brand; their market entry in Victory Falls with the introduction of Radisson Blu Resort Mosi-Oa-Tunya Livingstone as well as another new entry with Radisson Hotel Djibouti. The most recent announcement was the Radisson Hotel Middleburg which further complements the Group's presence across South Africa.

These hotel signings equate to almost 2,500 rooms, most of which are in the Group's core focus countries, especially across Morocco, with the remainder reinforcing their presence in cluster markets or entering into new territories.

"For the remainder of the year, we will continue to build on the success and momentum we've had thus far, with a continued focus on our identified key markets, specifically Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa. We aim to further accelerate our presence across the continent through both new build and conversions, especially post-pandemic, as there is less liquidity for newer developments. We therefore seek to form wider partnerships and strategic ventures with local or regional chains and forge ahead with our city scale and critical mass strategy.

The execution of our strategy with clear priorities will equally support in achieving positive economic efficiencies and synergies operationally across all our existing and fu-

ture hotels, further unlocking value to our owners. We have also demonstrated the relevant flexibility in addressing the current investment climate by providing not only tailored solutions to every project but also rationalizing our relationships with our investors to assess the best timings in terms of openings and the right budget allocation in terms of segment, space program and development cost," says Ramsay Rankoussi, vice president, development, Africa & Turkey at Radisson Hotel Group, said.

"Africa is mainly led by business hotels, but with the recent signings, we have expanded our leisure offerings and serviced apartments which has not only proven resilient during Covid-19 but is also fuelling a faster recovery. Our ambitions are driven by creating critical mass in each of our identified focus markets but also ensuring market proximity. These regions are subdivided based on priorities, focus and potential scale.

"Despite the current situation and supporting our robust expansion strategy, our teams are working tirelessly to realize the pipeline, with eight hotel openings in Africa this year. We have already opened five hotels, consisting of four of the seven hotels we've just announced in Morocco, which consist of resorts and residences as well the opening of Africa's second Radisson RED hotel in Rosebank. The remaining three hotels, all due to open before year-end, represent our debut in Madagascar with a portfolio of three hotels," he added.

Building on the success of the Group's five-year expansion and transformation plan, Radisson Hotel Group is ready for the rebound of travel and remains firmly committed to becoming the brand of choice for owners, partners, and guests.

SA fund targets R100bn for infrastructure by 2022

JOHANNESBURG

A South African fund that was established to promote investment in water provision, low-cost housing and other infrastructure expects to galvanise funding for projects worth more than R100 billion by next year.

Established in August 2020, the Infrastructure Fund aims to catalyse R11 trillion in investment over the next decade, with pension funds, banks and other private institutions providing R10 for every rand the government spends. The fund, so far, has eight sets of projects in the pipeline that require R105 billion to implement, it said in a presentation.

We are bringing "in new ideas around the financing of infrastructure projects," Misaveni Ngobeni, the fund's public finance management specialist, said in an interview. "Most of the instruments that we're starting to introduce have never been used in the public sector before to be able to assist in leveraging private financing."

Increased infrastructure investment underpins plans unveiled by President Cyril Ramaphosa last October to reignite an economy that contracted the most in at least 27 years in



Mokolo Crocodile Water Augmentation Project.

2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Investment as a percentage of South Africa's gross domestic product plunged to a record low of 12% last year, World Bank data show. The National Treasury allocated the fund 18 billion over

the next three fiscal years and it has applied to draw down R5.2 billion to fund four sets of projects, ranging from building student housing to improving water supplies.

All projects have been vetted by the government, business groups, the Banking Association South Africa and the Association for Savings and Investment South Africa, according to Mohale Rakgate, the fund's chief investment officer. A second phase of the Mokolo Crocodile Water Augmentation Project, which is being built by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority in the northeastern Limpopo province, is among the most advanced, with funding to be sought from private investors in October, he said.

Once complete, the project will be used to transfer water from the Crocodile River to the Lephalele area to support mining and energy generation, including state power utility Eskom Holding SOC Ltd's Matimba and Medupi coal-fired plants. The fund, which falls under the state's Development Bank of Southern Africa, will take equity stakes in some projects, and provide loans, debt guarantees or grants to others.

TECHNOLOGY

HOPSON: WE'RE BUYING STAKE IN EVERGRANDE PROPERTY SERVICES

BEIJING

HOPSON Development will purchase a 51 percent stake in the property management division of China Evergrande Group for more than HK\$20 billion (\$2.6 billion), according to an account in mainland financial news site Cailian.com today, as a widely-expected restructuring of China's second-largest developer continues to take shape.

Both China Evergrande Group and its Evergrande Property Services division halted trading this morning pending announcements, with the developer noting that news of a "major transaction" was pending. At the time of publication, shares in the two Evergrande units remained suspended, with Evergrande Property Services indicating in its notice to the Hong Kong stock exchange that trading was halting pursuant to an announcement which constitutes "a possible general offer for the shares of the Company."

Hopson also halted trading in its shares, "pending the release of announcement(s) in relation to a major transaction of the Company under which the Company agreed to acquire the shares of a company ("Target Company") listed on the Stock Exchange," noting that the deal could also necessitate a mandatory offer for all of the shares in the target company.

Should the reported transaction move forward, it would provide fresh liquidity for China Evergrande Group, after it missed two US dollar bond payments last month which form a sliver of the group's \$300 billion in debt obligations.

Originally from Evergrande's hometown of Guangzhou, as of 30 June this year, Hopson had cash and bank deposits on hand of HK\$42.9 billion and a liability-to-asset ratio of 67 percent. This level of liquidity makes Evergrande Property Services an easy target after the company saw its market cap shrink by more than 70 percent this year to fall to HK\$55.4 billion today.

Since February of this year, the property management spin-off of China's largest real estate developer saw its share price slide from HK\$18.90 to HK\$5.12 this week. Evergrande found-



Hopson chair Chu Kut Yung (left) is eager to expand his company with Evergrande acquisition.

er Xu Jiayin (centre) has seen some of his biggest backers jump ship

A report in Cailian's sister publication, Jiemian.com, indicated that final details of the proposed transaction would be confirmed in the next few days. Inquiries by Mingtiandi to China Evergrande Group and Hopson Development remained unanswered at the time of publication.

Ranked as China's 77th largest developer with RMB 297 billion (\$46 billion) in contracted sales attributable to shareholders in 2020, Hopson took a step to internationalise its business in July this year when it hired former CapitalLand China chief executive Lucas Loh as its co-president, serving alongside fellow co-president Fan Zhang.

Loh and Fan serve under 32-year-old Hopson chair Chu Kut Yung, who took over the top spot at the company founded by her father, Chu Mang Ye, in January of last year. The younger Chu had previously served as vice chairman of Hopson for six years, during which time she was credited with expanding the firm's technology investments.

Active in both the residential and commercial markets in mainland China, Hopson made its first overseas acquisition in 2019 when it purchased

a stalled project at 131-141 East 47th Street in Manhattan for \$113.5 million. Originally aiming to launch pre-sales this year, Hopson has since taken on a US partner and submitted new plans for the \$320 million project last month.

The prospect of Hopson's takeover of Evergrande Services today distracted investors from yet another debt failure by the property group on Sunday. A US dollar bond for Jumbo Fortune Enterprises which matured on 3 October is guaranteed by Evergrande, according to a Bloomberg account citing informed sources, making payment on the \$260 million debenture due today.

Evergrande missed its second offshore bond payment last Wednesday, when it failed to come up with \$83.5 million in interest due to investors. On that same day Evergrande announced an agreement to sell a \$1.5 billion stake in Shengjing Bank to a state-owned asset management company. The acquisition of Evergrande Property Services could make the management firm a unit of Hopson less than one year after it had listed on the Hong Kong exchange.

Evergrande Property Services had received a tepid reception from investors for its initial public offer-

ing in November last year, which raised \$1.8 billion and valued the spinoff at \$12.3 billion. Since that time shares in Evergrande's Hong Kong-listed units have been losing fans as the depth of its financial crisis frighten off even long-term backers.

Chinese Estates and the family of its leading man, Joseph Lau, last week said that it had sold off 13 percent of its stake in China Evergrande Group, and was planning to potentially dispose of its entire 5.66 percent holding in the developer in the months ahead.

With electric car division China Evergrande New Energy Vehicle Group having reportedly missed payroll last month, Charles Chan Kwok-keung's China Strategic Holdings said on 21 September that it planned to dispose of up to 133.6 million shares in the electric car maker.

Soaring home prices in Australia spur calls for stricter lending curbs

SYDNEY

THE unrelenting surge in Australia's home prices – rising by hundreds of dollars a day in Sydney and Melbourne – is fuelling momentum for macroprudential measures to contain credit growth and keep a lid on swelling financial risks.

Driving the gains are record-low official interest rates, which Reserve Bank of Australia governor Philip Lowe is expected to hold at 0.1 per cent at the October 5 meeting. While Mr Lowe cut weekly bond purchases to AS4 billion (\$2.9 billion) last month, the RBA consistently said it does not expect to raise interest rates until 2024 at the earliest.

That leaves tighter lending rules as the only way to rein in the property market, which is increasingly unaffordable for regular workers in major cities. Citing concerns over financial stability, the International Monetary Fund called last week for lending curbs to tame the red-hot prices.

The central bank said it is constantly assessing tools, but has held back until now as it focused on supporting the economy with the coronavirus leaving much of the population-heavy east coast in lockdown. The government, which must go to the polls by May, also seemingly wants

action on house prices.

"They do seem to be homing in on high debt-to-income loans," said Felicity Emmett, a senior economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group in Sydney. "On balance, it's more likely to happen before the end of the year."

Housing is roaring in response to ultra-low rates, a phenomenon seen across the developed world as central banks eased policy to support economies during the pandemic. Prices in Australia have risen at more than 10 times the pace of wages, putting up a major barrier to entry for first-home buyers.

The rapid house price gains in Sydney and Melbourne come despite protracted lockdowns and as growing household debt raises financial stability issues. The RBA ruled out tightening policy to cool asset prices – unlike South Korea, and as New Zealand's central bank appears set to do at its October 6 meeting – focusing instead on pushing the economy to full employment.

Australian housing data for September released on Friday showed prices climbed 17.6 per cent in the first nine months of this year. The RBA does not control macroprudential tools directly. Rather, they fall under the remit of the banking regulator, which is in regular discussions with the central bank.

Demand for smaller offices could spark refit boom, survey suggests

LONDON

DEMAND for new, smaller offices to accommodate a mix of home and office working in Europe could spark a flurry of imaginative refit work, a survey suggests.

Some 52% of global companies anticipate a return to the office for at least three days a week by the end of June this year, according to a survey conducted by Unispace, a company that designs and builds offices. It surveyed around 150 decision-makers in a variety of industries around the world in May.

Across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, a regional grouping often referred to as EMEA, 45% of companies surveyed are planning projects, which Unispace said were either new spaces or completely re-imagined ones. That compares to 20% of respondents planning new projects in the Americas. And nearly half of new workplace projects planned in Europe (48%) are smaller sites, under 20,000 sq ft in area.

Just 16% of respondents globally expected to proceed with major projects of 50,000 sq ft or more. More companies anticipate hybrid working, with employees carrying out what Unispace called "focus work" from home and going to the office for collaboration, socialisation and strategic work.

Tom Helliwell, Unispace's strategy director for EMEA, said in a press release that companies should plan carefully. "The strategy question can be distilled down to three key considerations: what do employees really want, how much space is needed and how is it going to be used?" Helliwell said.

"It's key to ensure that data is informing our global strategy for returning to the office – a strategy based on employees' needs and behaviours, rather than guesswork and speculation. If companies get this wrong, they run the risk of shrinking their space too far, too fast. "This is where space utilisation data and predictive analytics can unlock strategic insights about how the post-Covid workplace will function – from basic occupancy levels to real-time analysis of in-office footfall and employee behaviours."

While 52% of global companies across the board anticipate at least a partial return to the office by the end of June, that figure masks big regional variations. It is much higher in the Asia-Pacific region, at 71%, compared to the Americas, where it is 43%.

House prices in central London at 'turning point' after race for space

LONDON

PROPERTY prices in prime central London have reached a "turning point," rising for the first time since September 2014 despite the absence of international buyers, according to consultancy Savills.

Easing lockdown restrictions and the return of office workers to the UK capital resulted in annual house price growth of 1.4 per cent in the third quarter – the second three-month period of growth in a row – after prices for the central London market bottomed out.

"Families searching for space have been the driving force within the prime London market throughout the pandemic. These buyers have been spurred on by the low interest rate environment which has cushioned any impact of the tapered withdrawal of the stamp duty holiday," said Lucian Cook, head of residential research at Savills. "However, as we edge back towards normality, we are seeing prices rise across a wider range of properties."

Meanwhile, Mr Cook said, London is yet to feel the full force of international demand returning to the market. "As international travel is progressively reinstated, we expect to see more pronounced price growth in this market, which has been a long time coming. While we expect prices to end the year around 2 per cent higher in 2021, we expect annual price growth to rise to 8 per cent next year," he said.

Prime London houses with six or more bedrooms have risen by an



Belgravia in London one of the places in London where prices of houses with six bedrooms or more have risen by an average of 6.2 percent in the past year.

average of 6.2 per cent in the past year, with values of five-bedroom properties up 5.3 per cent. However, in a sign a more traditional market is set to return, prices for prime central London flats have grown 0.6 per cent on the year for the first time since the 2014 market peak.

"Year-on-year movements in the capital value of two and three-bedroom homes in London's most desirable locations have now moved into positive territory. We are beginning to see the return of demand for the pied-a-terre in London, particularly from those who bought in the country," Mr Cook said.

"A lot of these changes have been driven by the changing priorities

of those who have either started to return to the office or who are contemplating it. In our September buyer survey, proximity to the tube or train station took over from proximity to a park or green space at the top of buyers' wish lists."

British house price increases slowed in September, rising 10 per cent compared with the same period a year ago – the fifth month of double-digit growth in a row, according to the recent Nationwide House Price Index.

The dip on the 11 per cent annual increase recorded in August reflected the tapering of the stamp duty tax break, with London house prices posting the worst performance

in the UK in the third quarter as the market continued to rebalance after the pandemic.

However, Savills said the slight rise in prime central London prices was being driven by growth in Notting Hill, which recorded a 4.6 per cent increase, with Bayswater achieving growth of 3.3 per cent, and Holland Park 2.6 per cent as buyers were still drawn to larger homes with gardens.

Prices outside of central London are up by an average 2.7 per cent on an annual basis, again underpinned by demand for large family homes, although growth across a wider range of properties is starting to return.



WORLD

WHO backs malaria jab rollout for African kids in key progress

NAIROBI

THE World Health Organization said on Wednesday the only approved vaccine against malaria should be widely given to African children, potentially marking a major advance against a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of people annually.

The WHO recommendation is for RTS,S - or Mosquirix - a vaccine developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline.

Since 2019, 2.3 million doses of Mosquirix have been administered to infants in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in a large-scale pilot program coordinated by the WHO. The majority of those whom the disease kills are under age five.

That program followed a decade of clinical trials in seven African countries. "This is a vaccine developed in Africa by African scientists and we're very proud," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Using this vaccine in addition to existing tools to prevent malaria could save tens of thousands of young lives each year," he added, referring to anti-malaria measures like bed nets and spraying to kill mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

One of the ingredients in the Mos-

quirix vaccine is sourced from a rare evergreen native to Chile called a Quilay tree. Reuters reported on Wednesday that the long-term supply of these trees is in question.

Malaria is far more deadly than COVID-19 in Africa. It killed 386,000 Africans in 2019, according to a WHO estimate, compared with 212,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the past 18 months.

The WHO says 94 percent of malaria cases and deaths occur in Africa, a continent of 1.3 billion people. The preventable disease is caused by parasites transmitted to people by the bites of infected mosquitoes. Symptoms include fever, vomiting and fatigue.

The vaccine's effectiveness at preventing severe cases of malaria in children is only around 30 percent, but it is the only approved vaccine. The European Union's drugs regulator approved it in 2015, saying its benefits outweighed the risks.

"This is how we fight malaria, layering imperfect tools on top of each other," said Ashley Birkett, who leads global malaria vaccine work at Path, a non-profit global health organization that has funded development of the vaccine with GSK and the three-country pilot.

Another vaccine against malaria called R21/Matrix-M that was developed by sci-



A health worker vaccinates a child against malaria in Ndhiwa, Homabay county, in western Kenya on Sept 13, 2019, during the launch of malaria vaccine in Kenya. (AFP)

entists at Britain's University of Oxford showed up to 77 percent efficacy in a year-long study involving 450 children in Burkina Faso, researchers said in April. It is still in the trial stages.

GSK welcomed the WHO recommendation

"This long-awaited landmark decision can reinvigorate the fight against malaria in the region at a time when progress on malaria control has stalled," Thomas Breuer, GSK's chief global health officer, said in a statement.

GSK shares held steady in New York following the announcement, which came after the close of trading in its London-listed shares.

Funding challenge

The recommendation was jointly announced in Geneva by the WHO's top advisory bodies for malaria and immunization, the Malaria Policy Advisory Group and the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization.

Experts said the challenge now would be mobilizing financing for production and distribution of the vaccine to some of the world's poorest countries.

GSK has to date committed to produce

15 million doses of Mosquirix annually up to 2028 at a cost of production plus no more than 5 percent margin.

A global market study led by the WHO this year projected demand for a malaria vaccine would be 50 to 110 million doses per year by 2030 if it is deployed in areas with moderate to high transmission of the disease.

The GAVI vaccine alliance, a global public-private partnership, will consider in December whether and how to finance the vaccination programme.

"As we've seen from the COVID-19 vaccine, where there is political will, there is funding available to ensure that vaccines are scaled to the level they are needed," said Kate O'Brien, director of WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals.

A source familiar with planning for the vaccine's development said the price per dose was not yet set, but would be confirmed after GAVI's funding decision and once there is a clear sense of demand.

Agencies

UN chief says Ethiopia has no right to expel UN staff

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday that Ethiopia has no right to expel UN staff and it is violating international law in doing this.

In his right of reply at the Security Council meeting on Ethiopia, the top UN official said that "we believe that Ethiopia has not the right to expel these members of the UN."

"We believe Ethiopia is violating international law in doing so," he added.

Speaking directly to Ethiopia's permanent representative to the UN, Taye Atske Selassie, who was also in the Security Council chamber, the secretary-general said that "if there is any written document, provided by the Ethiopian Government to any UN institution, about any of the members of the UN that were expelled, I would like to receive a copy of that document, because I have not had any knowledge of any of them."

"It would be very useful for me to detect, if documents are given to the UN and not given to my knowledge, then I have to investigate what has happened in my organization," he added.

Guterres recalled that he "twice" told the Ethiopian prime minister that "if there were concerns about lack of, how to say, lack of impartiality of UN staff, that I asked him, please, send me those situations for me to be able to investigate."

"Until now I have no response to these requests," he stressed.

The secretary-general said that "we are ready to cooperate with the government of Ethiopia in relation to any situation in which the government of Ethiopia feels that any member of the UN is not behaving in total impartiality, in total independence, as humanitarian law prescribes and humanitarian principles establish."

"I want to tell you, Mr. ambassador, we want to cooperate with the government of Ethiopia, because we have only one agenda in Ethiopia, and that agenda is the people of Ethiopia - Tigrayans, Amharans, Afaris, Somalis, the people of Ethiopia."

"The people of Ethiopia are suffering. We have no other interest but to help stop that suffering," he said.

Guterres told the Council before he exercised his right of reply that up to 7 million people in Tigray, Amhara and Afar are now in need of food assistance and other emergency support. This includes more than 5 million people in Tigray where an estimated 400,000 people are "living in famine-like conditions."

The Ethiopian Government announced on Sept 30 that seven UN officials had been declared "persona non grata" and given 72 hours to leave the country.

Putin urges Gazprom to continue fulfilling commitments on gas supplies via Ukraine

NOVO-OGAREVO

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin believes that Gazprom must continue to fulfill its contractual obligations to supply gas through Ukraine to the EU.

"It is necessary to fully comply with the contractual obligations for the transit, delivering our gas through the territory of Ukraine, through the gas transportation system of Ukraine," the head of state said at a meeting on the development of the energy sector on Wednesday.

"Firstly, we should not put anyone in a difficult position, including Ukraine, despite all the aspects related to the Russian-Ukrainian relations today, and secondly, we should not undermine the credibility of Gazprom as a reliable, absolutely reliable partner in every way," Putin explained.

"I am asking you, as the Energy Minister, to take these issues under your personal control and ensure that Gazprom fulfills all its contractual obligations for the transit of Russian gas through Ukraine to Europe," the President told Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov.

The Russian President also noted that Gazprom should not increase gas supplies through new pipelines bypassing Ukraine, although this is beneficial.

"Gazprom believes that it is economically more viable, it would even be more profitable to pay a fine to Ukraine, but to increase the volume of pumping through new systems precisely because of the circumstances that I mentioned - there is more pressure in the pipe, less CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. Everything is cheaper, around 3 billion a year. But I ask you not to do this," the President said.



Senior Chinese diplomat meets US national security advisor

ZURICH

YANG Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met here Wednesday with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

The two sides, in a candid manner, had a comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views on China-U.S. relations as well as international and regional issues of common concern. The meeting was described as constructive, and conducive to enhancing mutual understanding.

The two sides agreed to take action, following the spirit of the phone call between Chinese and U.S. heads-of-state on Sept. 10, strengthen strategic communication, properly manage differences, avoid confrontation and conflict, seek mutual benefit and win-win results, and work together to bring China-U.S. relations back to the right track of sound and steady development.

Yang said that whether China and the United States can handle their relations well bears on the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, as well as the future of the world.

When China and the United States



Yang Jiechi (1st R), a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met here Wednesday with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan (1st L). Xinhua

cooperate, the two countries and the world will benefit; when China and the United States are in confrontation, the two countries and the world will suffer seriously, said Yang, also director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee.

The U.S. side needs to have a deep understanding of the mutually beneficial nature of China-U.S. relations and correctly understand China's domestic and foreign policies and strategic intentions, said Yang, adding that China op-

poses defining China-U.S. relations as "competitive."

Yang said that China attaches importance to the positive remarks on China-U.S. relations made recently by U.S. President Joe Biden, and China has noticed that the U.S. side said it has no intention to contain China's development, and is not seeking a "new Cold War."

China hopes the U.S. side could adopt a rational and pragmatic China policy, and, together with China, follow a path

of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, with respect for each other's core interests and major concerns.

During the meeting, Yang expounded China's solemn position on issues related to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet and human rights as well as on maritime issues, urging the United States to truly respect China's sovereignty, security and development interests, and stop using the above issues to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The U.S. side expressed its adherence to the one-China policy.

The two sides also exchanged views on climate change and regional issues of common concern.

The two sides agreed to maintain regular dialogue and communication on important issues.

Xinhua

World Bank projects sub-Saharan Africa's economy to expand by 3.3 pct in 2021

NAIROBI

SUB-SAHARAN Africa's economy is expected to expand by 3.3 percent in 2021 after a contraction of 2 percent in 2020, the World Bank said on Wednesday.

According to analysis in the Pulse, the World Bank's twice-yearly economic update for the region, the economic recovery will be fueled by elevated commodity prices, relaxation of stringent measures as well as

recovery in global trade.

"The surge in commodity prices combined with rapid growth in China in the first half of the year boosted African exports," says the October 2021 edition of Africa's Pulse.

The global lender also projects the region's economic growth for 2022 and 2023 at just below 4 percent.

The findings show that the region's recovery process from the 2020 recession has been affected by a third wave of the

pandemic, led by the Delta variant, a more transmissible and virulent strain of COVID-19.

The analysis indicates that the rollout of vaccine campaigns in Africa is falling considerably shorter compared with other continents, as about 3.3 percent of the population is inoculated compared with more than 50 percent in advanced economies.

"Fair and broad access to effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines is key to saving lives

and strengthening Africa's economic recovery. Faster vaccine deployment would accelerate the region's growth to 5.1 percent in 2022 and 5.4 percent in 2023 - as more containment measures are lifted, boosting consumption and investment," Albert Zeufack, chief economist for Africa at World Bank said.

The report notes that African countries have seized the opportunity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic to foster structural and macroeconomic

reforms.

The World Bank added that accelerating the economic recovery in sub-Saharan Africa requires significant additional financing.

"The region needs more financing to counter the effects of the pandemic and sustain a robust and inclusive recovery. This is needed to narrow the unequal recovery path between rich and poor countries," it said.

Xinhua

White House economists warn of financial crisis if US defaults on debt

WASHINGTON

WHITE House economists on Wednesday warned of a potential global financial crisis if US Congress fails to raise the federal government's debt limit before the country is expected to default on the national debt.

"A default would have serious and protracted financial and economic effects. Financial markets would lose faith in the United States, the dollar would weaken, and stocks would fall," economists at the White House Council of Economic Advisers led by Cecilia

Rouse said in a blog post.

"The US credit rating would almost certainly be downgraded, and interest rates would broadly rise for many consumer loans," the economists said, adding these and other consequences could trigger a US economic recession.

Meanwhile, the global economy, which relies on a strong US economy, could begin to slide into a financial crisis and a recession, as the consequences of a US default could accelerate rapidly if not resolved, they noted.

"A default would send shock waves through global financial

markets and would likely cause credit markets worldwide to freeze up and stock markets to plunge. Employers around the world would likely have to begin laying off workers," said the economists.

Noting that the 2008 financial crisis had ripple effects throughout the global economy that ricocheted back to US shores, they believed that a global financial crisis driven by a US default "has the potential to be even worse," as the global economy is not fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The debt ceiling is not and should not be used as a political football. The consequences are too great," the economists concluded.

The warning from the White House economists came after US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that she fully expected the US economy to fall into a recession if Congress failed to raise the debt limit.

Yellen has told US lawmakers that they have to raise or suspend the debt limit by Oct 18 when the US Treasury Department is likely to exhaust its "extraordinary mea-

asures".

As part of a bipartisan budget deal enacted in August 2019, Congress suspended the debt limit through July 31. After the debt limit was reinstated on Aug 1, US Treasury Department began using "extraordinary measures" to continue to finance the government on a temporary basis.

The debt limit, commonly called the debt ceiling, is the total amount of money that the US government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including social security and Medicare benefits, interest on

the national debt, and other payments.



Xinhua

The US credit rating would almost certainly be downgraded, and interest rates would broadly rise for many consumer loans

NATO's decisions regarding Russian diplomats upset normalisation – Kremlin

MOSCOW

NATO's decision to expel Russian diplomats and accusations of hostile activity totally upset the chances for normalization of relations and a resumption of the dialogue, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"There is a glaring discrepancy between NATO officials' statements about their wish to normalize relations with our country and real actions. These actions, of course, leave no room for illusions regarding the normalization of relations and the resumption of the dialogue with NATO. These prospects are rather completely upset," Peskov said.

NATO has decided to expel eight Russian diplomats and halve the size of Russia's mission to the alliance in response to suspected "malign activities", Sky News said on Wednesday.

The eight diplomats are expected to leave Brussels, where the alliance is headquartered, by the end of the month and their positions scrapped. Two other positions that are currently vacant will also be abolished, Sky News said.

"We can confirm that we have withdrawn the accreditation of eight

Philippines vice-president to run for president in 2022

MANILA

PHILIPPINE Vice-President Leni Robredo said yesterday she will run for the presidency in a 2022 election.

Robredo, 56, (pictured) a human rights lawyer and widow of a former interior minister, leads the opposition and has been critical of incumbent Rodrigo Duterte and his bloody war on drugs.

"I pledge to give all my strength not just in this election but in my remaining days (as vice-president) to fight for the Philippines," Robredo said in a 15-minute speech streamed live on social media, adding that she was ready to embark on a bigger fight.

Vice-presidents are elected separately from presidents in the Philippines and Robredo has been at loggerheads with Duterte on a range of issues.

Duterte can not run for president in May due to rules on term limits. He had said he would run for vice-president but announced on Saturday he would retire from politics.

Robredo, a mother of three, is expected to file her candidacy papers later on Thursday. She will become the fifth candidate to officially enter the race.

Should she win, Robredo would be the third woman to lead the Philippines after democracy champion Corazon Aquino in 1986 and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001.

Under Duterte, Robredo served as a housing minister but quit here after being excluded from cabinet meetings.

After criticising what she called "senseless killings" in his war on drugs, Duterte appointed her "drugs tsar", but sacked her after 18 days. **Agencies**

FAO: World food prices hit 10-year peak

PARIS

WORLD food prices rose for a second consecutive month in September to reach a 10-year peak, driven by gains for cereals and vegetable oils, the United Nations food agency said yesterday.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also projected record global cereal production in 2021, but said this would be outpaced by forecast consumption.

FAO's food price index, which tracks international prices of the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 130.0 points last month, the highest reading since September 2011, according to the agency's data.

The figure compared with a revised 128.5 for August. The August figure was previously given as 127.4.

On a year-on-year basis, prices were up 32.8 percent in September.

Agricultural commodity prices have risen steeply in the past year, fueled by harvest setbacks.

The FAO's cereal price index rose by 2.0 percent in September from the previous month. That was led by a near 4 percent increase for wheat prices, with the UN agency citing tightening export availabilities amid strong demand.

"Among major cereals, wheat will be the focus in the coming weeks as demand need to be tested against fast rising prices," FAO Senior Economist Abdolreza Abbassian said in a statement.

World vegetable oil prices were up 1.7 percent on the month and showing a year-on-year rise of about 60 percent, as palm oil prices climbed on robust import demand and concerns over labour shortages in Malaysia, FAO said.

Palm oil futures have rallied further in early October to hit record highs as a surge in crude oil markets has lent further support to vegetable oils used in biodiesel.

Global sugar prices rose 0.5 percent in September with concern over adverse crop weather in top exporter Brazil partly offset by slowing import demand and a favourable production outlook in India and Thailand, according to FAO.

For cereal production, FAO projected a record world crop of 2.800 billion tonnes in 2021, up slightly from 2.788 billion estimated a month ago.

That would be below world cereal use of 2.811 billion tonnes, a forecast revised up by 2.7 million tonnes from a month earlier mainly to reflect increased wheat use in animal feed, FAO said in a cereal supply and demand note.

Global cereal stocks were expected to ease in 2021/22 but would still be at a comfortable level, FAO added.

Middle East nations push booster shots to guard against variants

CAPE TOWN

AS a global debate continues over the need for COVID-19 booster shots, many nations in the Middle East seem to have made up their minds as to which side they are on.

Having rolled out mass inoculation programs successfully, countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel are focusing on providing additional vaccine doses to their citizens as they do not want to take any chances amid the threat of new virus variants.

Experts in the region said they can understand the thinking behind the moves, noting that governments need to be a step ahead of the virus curve to prevent the risk of new infections and safeguard the economic recovery.

The best global solution is not to restrict vaccine access, so as to sustain the progress made by many countries, they said.

Ahmed Nisar Laghari, chief medical officer at Response Plus Medical, an integrated healthcare provider in Abu Dhabi, said the UAE has been committed to prioritizing the well-being of its citizens, which ensured robust COVID-19 testing. "Likewise, as giving booster vaccines is widely supported and recommended by the UAE doctors, the UAE has also embarked upon giving booster vaccinations," Laghari told China Daily.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Israel and Turkey are among those that have rolled out COVID booster shots. Israel is offering boosters to fully inoculated citizens above the age of 12 while Turkey has begun offering a fourth dose to would-be travelers. Saudi Arabia has been giving booster shots to high-risk groups and soon, to those aged 60 and above.

Governments have opted for booster campaigns despite an appeal from the World Health Organization to suspend such programs to ensure availability of the jabs to the more needy populations in the world, especially the still unvaccinated people in many poor countries.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has urged countries with a robust supply of vaccines to halt booster shots for the rest of the year, citing unequal vaccine distribution and lack of evidence for its necessity.

Avi Weissman, deputy director at the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa, which hosts one of the largest COVID-19 facilities in Israel, said while he agrees with the WHO that the world needs to vaccinate as many people as possible, it was also "natural" for Israel to take care of its citizens.

"Because the Delta variant is so virulent, more people are being infected. Now, we're seeing mostly unvaccinat-



A medical worker prepares a vial of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine at Clalit Health Service's center in the Cinema City complex in Jerusalem, Sept 22, 2021. (AP)

ed people getting the disease and it is spreading again in the country," Weissman told China Daily, adding that there are also cases where people are getting reinfect.

In late August, Israel expanded a COVID-19 booster program to cover all people above the age of 12 after authorities noted encouraging results from such campaign earlier on senior citizens.

Israel, which is now experiencing its fourth wave, was the first country to inoculate a majority of its citizens using the Pfizer-BioNTech-developed COVID-19 vaccines. But in early September, it experienced one of the world's highest daily infection rates, topping some 11,000.

"The problem is that (the) unvaccinated are so young, and they go to the Intensive Care Units, occupying the beds and we're afraid that we won't have enough beds for people who have other diseases.

This is what we're trying to control, the situation - and yes, trying to deal with it," said Weissman, who is a medical doctor.

In Bahrain, authorities have announced the availability of booster shots for those 18 and above who completed six months of the second dose of the Sputnik V vaccine.

"I think the booster decision is adequate. Indeed, combatting the coronavirus is a race against a deadly virus, in which every country must strive to always stay ahead," said Anis Khayati, an economics professor at the University of Bahrain. The professor said it is important that the economy remains open as many citizens, the state and various economic sectors have "paid a heavy economic price" for the restrictions and quarantine measures throughout 2020.

Bahrain's decision to move to the third dose was a difficult one, Khayati said,

given that the WHO had expressed concerns about the use of booster shots at this stage.

"But Bahrain was faced with the choice of either having to face another set of restrictions, thus further harming the economy and the society, or doubling down on vaccinations. And it chose the last solution through booster shots which showed its effectiveness in some countries that had previously adopted it," Khayati said.

On Sept 15, the WHO said that most countries in the Middle East reported a fall in the number of coronavirus cases and deaths in recent weeks. But it warned that the

Brexit showdown looks to intensify



This file photo shows the flag of the UK and the flag of EU on Sept 20, 2019 in Brussels. (AFP)

LONDON

A row between the United Kingdom and the European Union could escalate in the coming days, after both sides indicated they are ready to take things to the next level regarding the divorce deal they signed as London left the bloc.

Aspects of the deal, known as the Brexit withdrawal agreement, have rankled the UK government ever since it tried to put them into practice on Jan 1, 2021. London has repeatedly called on the bloc to renegotiate it since then.

But Brussels has insisted the legally binding agreement can and should be made to work, and said London must honor its commitments under the deal.

Reuters reported on Tuesday that the EU will announce measures in the coming days to try to force the UK to abide by the agreement.

Clement Beaune, France's European affairs minister, said in an interview with Europe 1 radio on Tuesday that the UK depends on the EU for energy supplies.

"Enough already," he said. "We have an agreement negotiated... by Michel Barnier, and it should be applied 100 percent. It isn't being."

He said he had talked to his Euro-

pean counterparts who were ready to "take measures at the European level or nationally, to apply pressure on the United Kingdom".

France has been particularly perplexed by the UK's refusal of fishing permits for French vessels, despite the withdrawal agreement calling for them to be granted.

"We defend our interests," Beaune said. "We do it nicely, and diplomatically, but when that doesn't work, we take measures."

The Financial Times reported a similarly exasperated UK has issued threats of its own, with London saying it will suspend parts of the withdrawal agreement that pertain to trade between the British mainland and the UK province of Northern Ireland. David Frost, who negotiated the withdrawal agreement with Barnier, is seeking a massive rewrite of that part of the deal, which is known as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

During the annual conference of the UK's ruling Conservative Party, Frost said Brussels has not understood how much London dislikes the protocol. "I urge the EU to be ambitious. ... We need significant change," Frost said.

The protocol, which was put in place to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland, irks London as it treats one part of the UK differently from the rest, and because it gives oversight to the European Court of Justice.

The BBC reported that Frost claimed suspending the Northern Ireland Protocol may be "the only way" forward.

Fuel shortages

In another development, the UK has sourced less than 10 percent of the 300 EU lorry drivers earmarked for immediate short-term visas to help ease the country's post-Brexit fuel supply crisis, the government confirmed on Tuesday.

Britain has seen more than two weeks of queues and panic-buying at petrol stations, particularly in London and southeast England, after supply issues initially prompted the temporary closure of a small number of retailers.

A survey by the Petrol Retailers Association showed that around a fifth of fuel stations around London and the southeast still had low supplies on Monday. It said the shortages could continue for another week. **Agencies**

Australian PM slams social media amid defamation law controversy

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister lambasted social media yesterday as "a coward's palace", saying platforms should be treated as publishers when defamatory comments by unidentified people are posted, pouring fuel on a raging debate over the country's libel laws.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's comments suggest he would favour making companies like Facebook Inc liable for defamation with regards to some content posted by third parties, a position that could further cement Australia's outlier status on the subject.

The country's highest court ruled last month that publishers can be held liable for public comments on online forums, a judgement that has pitted Facebook and news organisations against each other and spread alarm among all sectors that engage with the public via social media.

That in turn has lent new urgency to an ongoing review of Australia's defamation laws, with the federal attorney general this week writing to state counterparts stressing the importance of tackling the issue.

"Social media has become a coward's palace where people can go on there, not say who they are, destroy people's lives, and say the most foul and offensive things to people, and do so with impunity," Morrison told reporters in Canberra.

"They should have to identify who they are, and the companies, if they're not going to say who they are, well, they're not a platform anymore, they're a publisher. You can expect us to be leaning further into this," he added.

A Facebook spokesperson did not directly respond to a Reuters question about Morrison's remarks, but said the company was actively engaging with the review.

"We support modernisation of Australia's uniform defamation laws and hope for greater clarity and certainty in this area," the spokesperson said. "Recent court decisions have reaffirmed the need for such law reform."

A representative for Twitter Inc's Australian unit did not address the question of potential liability but said "anonymity or pseudonymity is not a shield against Terms of Service violations, and Twitter will take action against any accounts that are in violation of the Twitter Rules".

Since the court ruling, CNN, which is owned by AT&T Inc, has blocked Australians from its Facebook pages, citing concern about defamation liability, while the Australian arm of British newspaper the Guardian says it has disabled comments below most articles posted to the platform.

Australia has butted heads with Facebook previously, enacting a new law this year that forces it and Google to pay for links to media companies' content. Federal Attorney-General Michaelia Cash said in an Oct 6 letter to state counterparts that she had "received considerable feedback from stakeholders regarding the potential implications of the High Court's decision".

Agencies

SPORT

Dar boxing club shines in National Open Championship's opening day

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's National Open Boxing Championship got underway at Dar Live Club in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) Secretary-General, Lukelo Wililo, disclosed 15 fights took place on an opening day, with many of them ending in Knockout (KO), Technical Knockout (TKO), and Referee Stopping the Contest Outclassed (RSCO).

Wililo pointed out in the Flyweight division, Shazir Hija from Mbagala won by KO against Athumani Mtondo from Dovyva Boxing Club, in the same division Iddi Athumani from MMJKT won by KO in the first round of his bout against Hussein Hamis from JKT Mgulani.

In the Featherweight division, Boniface Mlingwa won via RSCO in the first round of his bout against Iringabased Karim Mwenda.

John Yomba from MMJKT won via TKO in the third round of his fight against Daniel Leonard of JKT Makutopora.

In the same category, Stephano Mika from JKT Kibiti won 5-0 against Ramadhani Joseph of JKT Kimbiji and Abdullah Kassim from Band Coy outclassed Samwel Samwel of Yombayomba Boxing Club via RSCO.

Wililo said in the Lightweight division, Ngome JWTZ boxer Simon Ayoub was awarded a walkover after his opponent, Paschal Labani from Keko Boxing Club failed to show up.

Rajab Chande from Yombayomba Boxing Club won 4-1 against Baraka Edon of ChuiJWTZ.

Wililo revealed in the same division, Mwarami Salum from MMJKT won 4-1 against Musa Omari from Band Coy, Shaibu Baruti from Iringa Boxing Club won via TKO against Nasir Rajabu from Yombayomba Boxing Club.

Kedo Peter of JKT Mweni won 4-1 against Zawadi Charles from Dovyva Boxing Club.

Also in the same division, Hamdani Issa of JKT Ruwu won 5-0 against Edward Gabriel of JKT Kibiti, Hassan Mrutu from JKT Mgulani outclassed Yusuf Jani from Mwanza Boxing Club 5-0.

Hamza Ally of Yombayomba Boxing Club won his bout against Charles Juma from Mafinga after the fight's referee disqualified Juma in the second round.

In the Light Welterweight division, national team boxer, Alex Isendi from Ngome JWTZ, won 5-0 against Saidi Kanenda of JKT Mgulani in what was the category's last bout.

The National Open Boxing Championship will also be used to select four boxers who will join two domestic pugilists, Isendi and Yusuf Changarawe, who qualified for AIBA World Championship which will be held in Serbia.

The AIBA World Championship was last held in 2019 in Ekaterinburg, Russia, but Tanzania did not send its boxers.

Seleman Kindunda is the last domestic boxer to have represented the country at the AIBA World Championship, he competed at the 2013 edition in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Serbia event will be overseen by Serbia's President, Alexander Vucic, who heads the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

AIBA president, Omar Kremlev, is reported to have said the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championship will show determination to provide boxers around the world a platform to achieve their full potential.



Dar es Salaam boxers, Juma Choki (L), and Ibrahim Makubi, feature in a sparring session in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJAB MHAMILA

Azam FC appoints Mohamed Badru as U-17 squad coach

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE NBC Premier League outfit, Azam FC, has appointed former Mtibwa Sugar's head coach, Mohamed Badru, as the former's U-17 squad's coach.

Abdulkarim Amin, Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), revealed Badru, who coached Gwambina FC before joining Mtibwa Sugar, signed a two-year deal.

He said the club believes Badru, who got his coaching badges in Germany, will help the club in its efforts of having a very strong development side.

According to the official, the coach has what it takes to train youth teams.

Amin revealed: "We are happy that we have required the services of one of the best developmental coaches on the land, he comes with vast experience of coaching senior teams."

"But he has said many times that he is good at grooming young players," he said.

The youthful Badru is remembered for guiding Mtibwa Sugar to avoid relegation, notching a victory over Championship outfit, Transit Camp FC, in 2020/21 Premier League's relegation/promotion playoffs.

While at Mtibwa Sugar, he was entrusted with the responsibility of being the overall in charge of senior and junior teams.

Azam FC's efforts to improve the team's performance drove the outfit into hiring Jonas Tibohora, former secretary-general of Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, as director of sports.

Tibohora is also a senior lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam and he is regarded as one of the locals with vast experience in sports management.

Amin pointed out: "We are delighted to have Jonas Tibohora on board. Tibohora is a person who is well knowledgeable and experienced in running the football."

"We are of the view that he will help the team reach its goals," Amin pointed out.

SPORTS

2021 Tanzania Digital Awards launched in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2021 Tanzania Digital Awards (TDA) season was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The awards scheme aims at promoting accountability, creativity, and innovation in the digital space in Tanzania.

The first season of the Tanzania Digital Awards, which took place in 2020, received a desirable impression from stakeholders and the public.

More than 50,000 nominations were received while 150,000 votes were cast by the public, resulting in 50 winners.

In its first season, TDA received the impression of more than 36,000,000 online and on traditional media in the country and across the region.

Public institutions, corporates, non-governmental organizations, and individuals were nominated and voted in 10 categories.

The main categories contested last year, the organizers, Serengeti Bytes, noted, were Digital Governance, Digital Diplomacy, Digital Marketing, Digital Entertainment, Digital Media, Digital Innovation, Digital Communication, Digital Advocacy, the People's Choice Award, and the Honorary Award.

In response to the feedback from stakeholders and members of the public, this year TDA has expanded the number of main categories to 12 and subcategories to 52.

This year's main categories include Digital Innovation, Digital Banking, Digital and Telecommunication, Digital Communication, Digital Entertainment, Digital Marketing and Business, Digital Media, Digital Governance, Digital Advocacy, Digital Diplomacy, People's Choice Award, and Honorary Award.

The launching of the 2021 season went hand in hand with the launch of the nomination process set to run from October 7 to November 1, 2021.

The nomination process will be carried out through the digital nomination form available on the TDA website.

Members of the public are allowed to nominate potential nominees in all categories and subcategories. Potential nominees can also self-nominate in categories they deem fit.

Speaking at the launch event in Dar



Serengeti Bytes' Chief Operating Officer, Michael Mallya, speaks to journalists during the 2021 Tanzania Digital Awards (TDA) launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

es Salaam, Michael Mallya, Chief Operating Officer for the TDA organizers, Serengeti Bytes, said they are expecting a more competitive and exciting season this year.

Mallya revealed: "After a successful launch last year, we are expecting a more competitive and exciting season this year because most people and stakeholders are aware of the value the initiative adds to Tanzania's digital ecosystem."

"We are expecting to receive a larger number of nominees and when the voting opens, we are confident that people will vote with enthusiasm to see digital changemakers emerge winners in their respective sectors," he stated.

Mallya described the overall plan for the 2021 Tanzania Digital Awards. He said that after the nomination process is closed on November 1, the technical committee, which is responsible for evaluation, will shortlist nominees per

each subcategory and the names will be posted on the website for voting which is set to commence on November 4 and climax on November 25.

After the conclusion of the voting process, the technical committee will evaluate votes and approve winners ready for the award ceremony which is set for December 10, 2021.

Mallya revealed: "Last year things didn't go as we had planned because of the interruption by the coronavirus pandemic but this year we are expecting to convene key stakeholders and winners of Tanzania Digital Awards to celebrate digital milestones in the country."

"We will keep updating the public on all the processes and preparations until winners are announced," he disclosed.

The 2021 Tanzania Digital Awards are themed 'Digital For Development', the theme aims at encouraging innovation, creativity, and accountability for Tanzania's socio-economic development.

Members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to visit the Tanzania Digital Awards website, www.digitalawards.co.tz, for more information on categories, nominations, voting, and partnerships.

In case of the need for additional information, the TDA organizers can be reached via e-mail at hello@serengetibytes.com or via phone at +255 737 957 082.

Established on January 16, 2020, the Tanzania Digital Awards extend recognition to individuals and organizations who make effective use of digital platforms to creatively and innovatively inspire actions, bring change and foster lasting impact across and beyond the online community.

The Tanzania Digital Awards are coordinated by Serengeti Bytes, a Creative Public Relations, Strategic Communications, and Digital Marketing Agency.

TFF distances itself from Denis Kibu saga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has distanced itself from rumours making rounds that its president, Wallace Karia, was behind the citizenship granted to a soccer player, Denis Kibu.

Kibu was recently offered Tanzania citizenship by Home Affairs Ministry and, according to TFF, there have been speculations and rumours that Karia was behind the move.

TFF said those speculating the rumours are saying Karia forced the development as he wanted the player to turn out for the senior national football side.

However, it was not known why the TFF president is alleged to have said he wants the player to play for the senior national football side.

TFF revealed in a statement: "TFF distances itself from rumours that its president is the one who wanted the player (Dennis Kibu) and used his influence to have the player offered a Tanzanian citizenship."

"It must be known that issues concerning citizenship are dealt with by the Immigration Department," said part of the press release from TFF signed by its information officer Clifford Ndimbo.

The former Mbeya City FC player, who is now with Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, recently was on the news when it was disclosed that he is not a Tanzanian.

This news sent shockwaves to many domestic football followers considering that before the revelations he played for the senior national team in a friendly clash against Malawi.

However, the matter was put to rest after the Home Affairs Ministry issued him Tanzanian citizenship and he has since joined the national team.

The muscular attacker rose to prominence once the footballer featured for Geita Gold FC in the 2020/21 Mainland Tanzania Premier League promotion/relegation playoffs fixtures against Mbeya City FC.

Geita Gold FC that was then a



Denis Kibu

First Division League side lost to Premier League's Mbeya City FC in the clashes, Kibu nevertheless impressed the latter that ultimately signed him.

The attacker then proved to be a key player in the Mbeya-based squad as he linked with the rest of the outfit's players to see to it the club gets hold of its position in Premier League in 2020/21 season.

Kibu thereafter won a call-up to the senior national team and he was then roped in by Simba SC.

Morocco score five after Guinea-Bissau hit by medical drama

LONDON

MOROCCO rose to the top of their African World Cup qualifying group on Wednesday with a 5-0 thrashing of Guinea-Bissau, many of whose players became ill after eating dinner on the eve of the match.

Achraf Hakimi and debutant Imran Louza in the first half and Ilias Chair, Ayoub El Kaabi and Munir El Haddadi netted for the Moroccans, who are chasing a sixth appearance at the global showpiece.

But the convincing Group I win for the Atlas Lions in the top-of-the-table clash was overshadowed by the Guinea-Bissau medical drama, which affected 25 players and technical staff.

Guinea-Bissau delegation head Carlos Teixeira had temporarily threatened to boycott the match, saying "I will not send the players to the field – it would be a criminal act on my part".

Head coach Baciro Cande said players and coaches "developed stomach aches about 15 minutes after dinner, followed by diarrhoea and vomiting."

"Twenty-five were taken to hospital and released just before dawn on Wednesday. As a precaution, we then brought our own food to the hotel."

The pre-match drama took some gloss off an impressive performance by Morocco under veteran coach Vahid Halilhodzic.

Morocco have six points, Guinea-

Bissau four, Guinea two and Sudan one in a section badly disrupted by a lack of international-standard stadiums and security issues.

Guinea-Bissau and Sudan have been forced to stage home fixtures in Morocco due to sub-standard stadium and Guinea are currently barred from hosting qualifiers after a coup last month.

Morocco triumphed despite the absence of several stars, including Sevilla forward Youssef En-Nesyri and Chelsea midfielder Hakim Ziyech.

Consistent scorer En-Nesyri is injured while Ziyech was dropped because of "unacceptable behaviour" during mid-year World Cup warm-up matches.

Halilhodzic told reporters that Ziyech had arrived late for friendlies against Ghana and Burkina Faso, displayed a bad attitude, and the medical staff said the midfielder had feigned injury.

Guinea, who had been expected to pose the greatest threat to Morocco, could only draw 1-1 with Sudan in Marrakech.

Mohamed Bayo, who scored for Clermont in the French Ligue 1 at the weekend, took his scoring habit to north Africa by nodding Guinea in front off a second-half corner.

Saïfedin Bakht equalised 18 minutes from time with a close-range shot to earn Sudan a first point in the group.

AFP

Mbappe in PSG renewal talks amid Real Madrid interest, mother says

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappe's mother, Fayza Lamari, said her son is in talks to sign a new deal with Paris Saint-Germain following a summer of intense interest from Real Madrid.

Mbappe, 22, can sign for a new club on Jan. 1, as he will be a free agent next summer, and Madrid president Florentino Perez said on Tuesday he is optimistic in securing the forward's signature on a pre-contract next year.

However, in an interview with Le Parisien on Thursday, Lamari said her son is in negotiations over a new deal.

"We are talking right now with PSG and all is well," Lamari said when asked about her son's future.

"I spoke last night with [PSG sporting director] Leonardo. Will we reach a solution? One thing is clear. He is going to give everything until the end to win the Champions League."

Lamari said her son will make a decision based on his happiness.

"Kylian needs to be happy. If he is sad, he is capable of saying, 'I give it up,'" she added before joking: "And he says that often. With Kylian, everything can change from one day to the next."

Sources in Madrid previously told ESPN that PSG rejected a €200m offer from Madrid on transfer deadline day despite Mbappe having made it clear he did not wish to renew his contract at the Parc des Princes.

The France international told RMC Sport on Monday he had wanted to leave PSG in July to join Madrid

and rejected the claim that he told the club about it at the end of the transfer window.

On Thursday, Leonardo said he has been angry with Madrid's ongoing pursuit of Mbappe, adding it shows a "lack of respect" towards the French club.

"In the same week, we've had a Real Madrid player [Karim Benzema], the coach [Carlo Ancelotti] and now the president of Real Madrid speak of Kylian as if it was their own player ... it's a lack of respect that we can't tolerate," Leonardo told L'Equipe.

"Kylian is a PSG player and the club understands perfectly that this relationship will last."

French media have reported that PSG are working on making Mbappe a new offer that would make him the highest paid player at the club, above Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Mbappe, who is on international duty with France, has not ruled out remaining at PSG.

"It's a club that's given me a lot," he said. "I've always been happy during the four years I've been here and I still am."

Mbappe joined PSG from Monaco in 2017 in a €180m deal, despite interest from Madrid.

A World Cup winner with France in 2018, Mbappe has won three league titles during his four years in Paris and finished as Ligue 1's top scorer three seasons in a row.

He has scored four goals and set up five more in 11 appearances in all competitions for PSG this season. (Agencies)

PFA boss says vaccine uptake 'heading in the right direction'

LONDON

THE head of the English Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) said uptake of the coronavirus vaccine is increasing amid a backlash over the low numbers of players who have been fully jabbed.

Reports suggest only seven of the Premier League's 20 clubs have had more than half of their players fully inoculated against coronavirus.

Vaccination rates are also lower than the general population further down the English football pyramid.

The most prominent reasons put forward for the hesitancy are that players are young, healthy individuals less likely to suffer the worst effects of Covid-19, and the influence of anti-vaccination propaganda on social media.

Maheta Molango, chief executive of the PFA, said his organisation were working to make sure players were fully educated on the consequences of not taking the vaccine.

"We want them to make an educated decision based on science, not on rumours or myth or misinformation towards the right source of information."

"Our role has been to drive them towards the right source of information."

"Our perception, because there are GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) reasons which prevent us reading the actual data, is that the percentage (of vaccinated players) is picking up. It's encouraging, we're heading in the right direction."

Denmark on brink, Kane on streak in WCup qualifying

LONDON

EUROPEAN countries resume their qualifying campaigns for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar this week.

Here are some things to look out for: COPING WITHOUT ERIKSEN

Christian Eriksen's future in soccer is still unknown following his collapse during a game for Denmark in the European Championship when suffering cardiac arrest. As Eriksen continues his recovery, his national team is coping extremely well without its star player.

After reaching the Euro 2020 semi-finals without the midfielder, Denmark is the only European team in World Cup qualifying to win its first six games. Beat Moldova away on Saturday then Austria at home on Tuesday in Group F and Denmark will most likely be the first country to qualify for the tournament in Qatar.

Mikkel Damsgaard, while not a like-for-like replacement for Eriksen, has stepped up as Denmark's most creative player in the absence of someone he calls his "role model."

In setting up Joakim Maehle for the second goal in the Danes' 2-0 win over Scotland last month, Damsgaard took his goal involvement to nine in nine international games – scoring four and assisting five – and he added another assist in a 5-0 win over Israel that has taken Denmark to the brink of qualifying.

KANE'S STREAK

Without a goal for Tottenham in the Premier League this season, Harry Kane cannot stop scoring for England, particularly in qualifying for major competitions.

Kane scored in each of England's three games in Group I last month and has now netted in each of the last 15 World Cup or European Championship qualifiers he has played in, stretching back to September 2017.

That streak has seen him close in on Wayne Rooney's all-time scoring record for England of 53 goals. Kane has 41, putting him fifth on the list. England leads its group by four points and could qualify with wins over Andorra



England's Harry Kane smiles during a training session at St George's Park, Burton upon Trent, England, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021 ahead of the upcoming World Cup 2022, group I qualifying soccer matches against Andorra and Hungary. (AP)

and Hungary, which visits Wembley Stadium a month after its fans racially abused England players in Budapest.

Hungary will have to host Albania on Saturday in an empty stadium as a punishment.

GERMANY'S NEW TALENT

Watch out for Karim Adeyemi as Germany takes on Romania on Friday and North Macedonia on Monday in Group J.

The 19-year-old striker is making waves after scoring on his Germany debut against Armenia last month and grabbing two goals for Salzburg against French champion Lille in the Champions League.

Adeyemi, a speedy player who can also be deployed out wide, is fast outgrowing the Austrian league with eight goals in 10 games this season and could be heading back to Germany soon. Bayern Munich, where Adeyemi spent time in the academy, is one option, along with Borussia Dortmund

or Leipzig, which has a long history of signing young talents from its Red Bull sister club Salzburg.

Germany isn't rich with strikers at the moment and Adeyemi is competing with Timo Werner as well as Kai Havertz, Leroy Sane, Serge Gnabry – three players who mostly play wide or as a deeper-lying forward – for a place. Germany leads the group by four points.

CROATIA UNDER PRESSURE

Croatia enjoyed its most successful World Cup ever in finishing runner-up in 2018, but just getting to the 2022 tournament is proving a struggle.

Croatia is level on points with Russia at the top of Group H ahead of games against Cyprus on Friday and third-placed Slovakia on Monday, with only one country qualifying from each group.

Coach Zlatko Dalic is trying to find long-term replacements for the 2018 generation but the team still relies

heavily on 36-year-old Luka Modric in midfield. The only teenager in the squad is defender Josko Gvardiol.

He was impressive at the European Championship and has swiftly become a regular starter for Leipzig since signing from Dinamo Zagreb. Russia is still experimenting with its squad after coach Valery Karpin took charge in July.

Arsen Zakharyan, an 18-year-old attacking midfielder, made his debut last month and could feature against Slovakia on Friday or Slovenia on Monday.

MISSING POWERS

There will be a lack of heavyweight power in European qualifying over the next week with Italy, Spain, Belgium and France competing in the final four of the Nations League in Milan and Turin.

All four countries are leading their respective groups, albeit having played more games than their rivals.

AP

Barcelona could have been 'dissolved' - CEO

BARCELONA

BARCELONA chief executive Ferran Reverter has said the club would have been "dissolved" in April if it was a public limited company (PLC) after being taken to the brink of bankruptcy by the previous board.

Reverter branded former president Josep Maria Bartomeu's running of the club as "disastrous," accusing him and his directors of signing players they could not afford, offering inflated wages and paying money to journalists.

Bartomeu resigned amid growing discontent among supporters in October 2020 and was eventually replaced by Joan Laporta in March following a delayed election process due to the pandemic.

After Laporta's board looked deeper into the club's accounts, Reverter revealed the full extent of the club's financial woes in a news conference at Camp Nou on Wednesday.

"When we came in this March, we found a club that was technically bankrupt; if it was a PLC, [the club] would have been dissolved," Reverter said.

"There was no cash flow and we had difficulties paying salaries. Debt and future liabilities amounted to €1.35 billion and there was an urgent need for refinancing."

Reverter said it had been difficult to carry out due diligence because the previous board had deleted emails every 90 days and used personal computers at times, too, making it hard to track everything that had gone on behind the scenes.

He also detailed how "deteriorated training facilities" and "a Camp Nou in a precarious situation" needed immediate upgrades after Laporta was elected earlier this year.

However, he said the bulk of Barca's financial problems are down to overspending on players and wages.

"Between 2016 and 2020, there was a 61% increase in the payroll, which is the same as Juventus' entire payroll, caused



by new signings and player renewals," Reverter said.

"The signings were made at high prices and by signing contracts that included new remuneration concepts such as loyalty bonuses and end-of-contract premiums that increase future spending."

"If the same squad had been kept in this season, the payroll would have amounted to €835 million, 108% over recurring revenue. Moreover, these operations have resulted in significant and unusual intermediation costs in previous years."

Reverter went one step further, criticising the club for signing players they could not afford.

"They didn't consider if they could pay for the players," he added. "[Antoine] Griezmann was signed in a rush. They realised they could not pay for him and ended up needing

€85m in credit to do the deal."

A forensic research study has been commissioned with the aim of detecting other possible irregularities in the previous management of the club, including whether payments made to journalists were justifiable.

Reverter also played down the effects of the coronavirus, saying that, even without the impact of the pandemic, Barca would still have registered losses of €390m for the 2020-21 season. The club's actual losses have totalled €481m.

Therefore, Barca have had to make sacrifices this summer to guarantee the club's future. Big earners Lionel Messi and Griezmann both left the club, while other players agreed to pay cuts, with €155m coming off the wage bill in total.

The Catalan club also took out a line of credit with Goldman Sachs

worth over €500m, repayable over 10 years with 1.98% interest.

These measures, along with the deadline day transfers of Emerson Royal and Ilaix Moriba, mean the club are now in a position where they can renew some of their talented youngsters, such as winger Ansu Fati and midfielder Pedri, and even consider making signings in January.

"We're not over the hill yet and we still need to reduce outgoings, but we can sign and renew [players]," Reverter said.

"The contract renewals of Pedri and Ansu are on the right track and player exits [at the end of August] generated more than €20m per LaLiga's Fair Play rules, so we can sign if we consider it necessary."

Reverter hopes by next summer the club will be in a significantly stronger position in the transfer market.

Pressed on Messi's exit, Reverter said it was only from July, when the due diligence process began, that the full extent of the club's money problems became apparent and that Messi "could not wait until Aug. 31" to know whether the club could afford to register his new contract with LaLiga.

Without Messi, Reverter played down fears over a loss in revenue with sponsors as the club negotiate several key contracts, including a new shirt sponsor, saying the "Barca brand remains strong" and assuring the club expect to "increase income" moving forward.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Denmark on brink, Kane on streak in WCup qualifying

Dar es Salaam school holds half marathon for backing orphans

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM'S ATLAS Schools have organized a half marathon to help more than 200 students, who lost their parents and fail to pay school fees.

The half marathon will be held in the city on October 14, during the commemoration of Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

There will, as well, be a graduation ceremony for over 750 students of the nursery, primary and secondary school at the schools.

ATLAS Schools Public Relation Officer, Lenarda Philbert, said the half marathon also intends to help the children, whose parents faced different challenges and consequently fail to pay school fees for their children at the school.

He said the race will have three events, 5km, 10km, and the main event, 21km, which will start from the schools' grounds at Madale in the city and end in various parts of the city.

The half marathon will involve parents, ATLAS Schools' staff, and various guests set to be in attendance.

Lenarda pointed out: "There are parents who died while their children continue with studies here, some of them got redundancy at their workplaces, whereas others failed in their businesses."

"We cannot abandon their children due to that circumstances. We will accommodate all of them and that is why we have arranged a half marathon to raise funds to help them," she disclosed.

She further revealed they have chosen to host the half marathon during the commemoration of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere because ATLAS Schools believe in his vision and philosophy of freedom and accountability as part of honouring his life.

She said Nyerere wanted to see every person work diligently without close supervision, so, ATLAS Schools believe in accountability, noting that is why they will continue to cherish his life.

"Our schools have been doing well academically and we promise parents that we will not relax, instead, we will work hard to make sure we continue doing better in national examinations and emerge in top 10 rank," she said.

EATV FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00




11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA !
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrika RADIO

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live



Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Tulia Ackson, makes a shot to officially launch the 2021 national basketball tournament, known as 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (L-R) are CRDB Bank Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela, Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa, and a basketball official. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

2021 CRDB Bank Taifa Cup tourney attracts 32 outfits

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2021 national basketball tournament, known as the 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', was officially launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday, bringing together 32 regional basketball teams.

The sides are expected to compete in the showdown, which is expected to take place at Chinangali Stadium in Dodoma from November 5-14, 2021, with a total prize of 29m/- set aside for winners.

Announcing the prizes, CRDB Bank Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela, said the increase in prizes at the 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup' this year is due to increase the bank's sponsorship of the competition nearing 300m/-.

Nsekela pointed out: "Young basketballers will participate in it. We believe the increase in prizes will motivate young people to showcase their talents."

The CRDB Bank boss disclosed the bank has continued with its decision to sponsor the national basketball competition for the second time in a row as part of the bank's efforts to empower Tanzanian youths through sports.

He added that CRDB Bank, through its Community Investment Policy, has been investing in youths sports, believing that sports help to increase their participation in various development activities in the community.

Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Tulia Ackson, an official guest at the inauguration ceremony of 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', commended CRDB Bank for continuing to be at the forefront in supporting the government's efforts to develop sports in the country.

Tulia said the sixth phase government, led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, has placed a high priority on sports by recognizing the economic opportunities arising from the industry.

She stated: "I would also like to commend the importance of increasing the number of women's teams participating in the 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup' this year to 16."

Tulia revealed: "For many years the participation of women in these games has been lower compared to men. The 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup' is going to change this image and empower all women, who aspire to participate in basketball."

Tulia also commended the companies and institutions, GSM Group, Sanlam, Azam TV, PSSE, Tulia Trust, and the University of Dodoma (UDOM), for partnering with CRDB Bank to help organize the competition, which is themed 'It's More Than A Game, It's Life', for backing the showdown.

She revealed that basketball can be used to create employment opportunities for young people and empower them economically.

Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa, thanked CRDB Bank for continuing the sponsorship of the league, pointing out the sponsorship offered by the largest bank in the country has helped to increase the enthusiasm and passion for basketball among young people, as is the case football and other sports. Magesa told Tulia that apart from the sponsorship provided by CRDB Bank, the bank has been involved in every step of the way to ensure that the competition is a success, including helping other institutions to participate in the competition.

The TBF official noted: "When we congratulate GSM Group, Sanlam, Azam, PSSE, Tulia Trust, and the University of Dodoma (UDOM) for sponsoring this competition, we would like to congratulate CRDB Bank twice for persuading them to join us."

Azam TV's sports programs manager, Michael Maluwe, asked Tanzanians to start watching 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup' through the Azam Sports 2 sports channel, where a special program has been launched towards the basketball tournament.

"Azam TV will set up camp in Dodoma to bring entertainment to all Tanzanians towards this competition, I invite Tanzanians to join Azam TV to celebrate our youths," he noted.

The CRDB Bank Taifa Cup's previous edition was held at Chinangali Stadium and Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma where 900 young people from all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar participated in.

Mbeya regional basketball team emerged as the tournament's champions.

Alliance Caravans cricketers to participate in doubleheader in 2021 Caravans T20 Cup



Officials of the 2021 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's co-sponsors, (L-R) Saurabh Nandeshwar (L) representing TATA International, Kennedy Chisora (C) representing Colourflex, and Kishan Patel, join hands as a symbolic gesture of their firms' commitment towards the development of cricket in Tanzania after one of the tournament's matches played early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

WITH the knockout phase of this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament taking shape, local cricket fraternity members' eyes will be on the tournament's last two group stage games involving hosts, Alliance Caravans, scheduled for this weekend.

The hosts will first take on Balakrishna Strikers in a Group B fixture tomorrow, followed by the last group stage match of the tournament against rivals, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, the following day, with the clashes taking place at Leaders Club venue.

The results of the Sunday fixture will determine Alliance Caravans' qualification for the knockout phase, as well as an outfit that will finish as group leader.

A win against Balakrishna Strikers will ensure Alliance Caravans' qualification and winners of the Sunday match will turn into the group's top side.

Aruti Aces will be watching this tie closely to see who the squad will face in the qualifier match.

The team that finishes second

in the group will go on to play Group A's second-placed Harab Motors Pak Stars in a playoff, dubbed 'Eliminator'.

Alliance Caravans will be hoping that their talisman, Kassim Nassoro, who has been their most influential player, will continue his good form.

They will also be hoping for the experienced Jitin Pratap Singh to spring back into form as the tournament is nearing a crucial juncture.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC has garnered three wins in three fixtures and will be hoping to quieten their critics after their hard-fought win against Honest Logistics.

They will be hoping for openers, Abhik Patwa and Arshaan Jasani, to continue their decent partnership which has been crucial in their performances so far.

Every match is, from now on, crucial as the tournament is shaping up and all favourites have made it into the next round.

With the final set to be held on October 17, no team would want to lose focus now.

The tournament has thus far lived up to its expectations of being the biggest cricket tournament in the country.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup has been held annually since 2015. Petrofuel Limited is the title sponsor of this year's tournament and is joined by Colourflex, TATA International, and Pepsi as the co-sponsors.

This year's tournament features the top 10 teams in the country playing under the franchise model with each team being backed by top corporates in the country.

The teams include Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani, Honest Logistics SKLPSC, Balakrishna Strikers and hosts, Alliance Caravans.

Aruti Aces, Kaon Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, NTS Bosch Gymkhana, and FMED Upanga are the other contenders.

Other sponsors of the tournament include NGK Gathani, Jihusu, Flashnet, RAS Logistics, Mlimani City, AOne Bottlers, Kishen Enterprises, Samaki Samaki, Delta Africa, DeepHeat, and G1 Security.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

