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Revisit EAC milestones, JK urges youth activists

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi holds talks with Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania CEO Sanjay Rughani (3rd-L) and his delegation at Zanzibar State House at the weekend. Others are the bank's Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand Marketing, Juanita Mramba (2nd-L); and Head, Financial Institutions, Sapientia Balele (L). Photo: Zanzibar State House

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has advised young people in East African countries to look back to the region's past milestones in order to create the right future, built on the community's backbone.

He was speaking during the 'You Lead Summit 20' gathering here, organized by Action-Aid Denmark through the MS Training Center for Development Cooperation, in association with the East African Community, attended by over 5,000 young people.

"Our youth must own East African integration and be proud of being East Africans; the young people should not consider themselves as future leaders but rather as current ones, which means most of their respective countries' responsibilities lie on their shoulders," he observed.

This year's 'YouLead Summit' was cited as yet another vibrant platform that allows the old and young, experienced and novice members of the community to meet, interact and discuss developmental issues without prejudice.

The five-day summit features many exciting topics for discussion and actions to take forward this year, among them: the African Union Year of 'Silencing the Guns' and the role of youth in peace building.

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'Africa risks disease outbreaks from low immunisation levels'

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization (WHO) and immunization experts in the WHO Africa Region have called on countries and health stakeholders to prioritize immunization services which have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect children and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The African Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG), convening virtually from 18-19 November sat to discuss the status of immunization in the region as well as preparedness for a future COVID-19 vaccine.

RITAG serves as the principal advisory

group to WHO on immunization policies and programmes in the Africa Region.

"COVID-19 has disrupted the delivery of essential health services, including routine immunization. This puts people at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, and threatens the gains we have made to date. As we prepare for a COVID-19 vaccine, we must ensure that the life-saving vaccines we already have reach those most in need," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

In 2019, immunization coverage in the African region stagnated at 74 percent for the third dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis containing-vaccine (DTP3), and at 69 percent for the first dose of the measles vaccine - far below the regional target of 90 percent. These gaps in coverage have been exacerbated in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, putting millions of children at risk for deadly diseases.

For example, an additional 1.37 million children across the African region missed the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine which protects against tuberculosis and an extra 1.32 million children below the age of one missed their first dose of measles

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President Mwinyi welcomes Bohra community investors

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has welcomed investors from the Dawoodi Bohra community to come and invest in the Indian Ocean archipelago due to the various opportunities available.

Dr Mwinyi made the call yesterday at a State House function, meeting with members of the Bohra community from Zanzibar and the Mainland led by Sheikh Tayabali Hamzabhai Patanwalla.

The president informed the Bohora delegation that the door is open; hence they invited to invest



Z'bar has a wide range of investment opportunities especially in the field of industry, he said, urging the community to chip in and explore those opportunities

in Zanzibar, considering that the majority in the Bohra community are families of businessmen.

Zanzibar has a wide range of investment opportunities especially in the field of industry, he said, urging the community to chip in and explore those opportunities.

The Isles leader underlined the importance of investments to help in providing employment for young people, noting that the eighth-phase government will continue to work with the community in ensuring strong ties, to developing and strengthen various sectors.

Dr Mwinyi commended the community for supporting the Zanzibar government in health services and education in particular.

He further expressed gratitude to the global spiritual leader of the Bohra community, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin for his greetings to him, presented by the delegation in the meeting

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'MPs must speak out for govt to act on children'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai has called on MPs to strongly speak out on challenges facing children for the government to find solutions on those issues.

He made the call over the weekend during an event to mark World Children's Day organized by UNICEF at Parliament grounds, where MPs and activists attended.

Speaker Ndugai (pictured) laid accent on the need for MPs to advocate for Tanzania children's rights and the challenges they face so that relevant authorities make the necessary decisions.

"They are the future voters. Let us ensure all challenges facing them are solved," he said, noting that the challenge was especially on women parliamentarians, "who should be at the



forefront in the matter as they know better that we men."

He said that Parliament has signed a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF which involves training MPs on the issues, as many of them are new to advocacy on children's agenda.

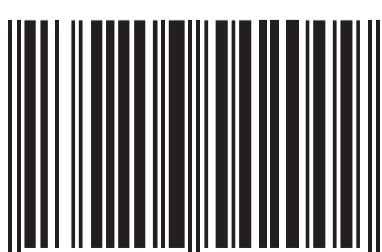
The top legislator said time is right for parliamentarians to bring up children's development agenda and come up with options or measures needed as to how best the government should handle the issues involved.

Earlier, UNICEF country representative Shalini Bahuguna commended the government for taking a number of initiatives to address children's issues, suggesting that more focus be directed to universal health coverage, access to clean and potable water, improved sanitation and access to education.

She said the government has taken a number of measures including altering laws to align them with the Child Rights Convention, ratified by most UN member states.

Bahuguna listed areas where excellent performance on children issues has been registered

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Pinda: Districts, schools should plant more trees

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has advised all district councils and schools to plant shade and fruit trees in their surroundings to prevent the effects of climate change.

Pinda gave the advice while inaugurating tree planting at Msanga secondary school in Chamwino District organised by a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the conservation and care of trees called Habari Development Association (HDA).

He said planting the trees would help reduce the number of children suffering from malnutrition and stunting due to lack of balanced diet.

"The presence of fruit trees in the community helps to get food to build children health and the trees also help to bring fresh air, shade and including to prevent soil erosion," said Pinda.

He said that if council leaders would emulate the example shown by HDA, it will help to address stunting to more than 3 million annually due to the fact that pregnant women lack balanced diet.

Pinda said in order to ensure that the community recognizes the importance

of trees and to eliminate desertification and drought, the government has set strategies for each council to plant 1.5 million trees where in 2015 to 2020 608 million trees were planted.

"I commend HDA for complementing government's tree planting drive and making Dodoma a green city, especially in this Chamwino District where there is the country's headquarters and the government has put in place a strategy to coordinate and manage local government authorities to continue conserving trees," he said.

Kongwa District Commissioner, Dr Suleiman Selela representing Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Bilinith Mahenge, said Dodoma currently has a large population so there is a need to plant trees in large numbers to get fresh air.

HDA coordinator Godfrey Mbowe said in helping the government to make Dodoma green by 2021 the institution is committed to planting 100,000 trees.

He said strategic areas will be planted with trees in primary and secondary schools, which will be part of the tourist attraction. He asked the government to help rehabilitate a vehicle that will be used to supply water to properly irrigate the planted trees.



Former President Jakaya Kikwete takes a selfie in Arusha city yesterday shortly after opening the You Lead Summit 2020, jointly organised by Action-Aid Denmark through the MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation and the East African Community secretariat. It attracted over 5,000 youths. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

President Mwinyi welcomes Bohra community investors

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yesterday.

President Dr Mwinyi commended the community for the existing relations and cooperation, promising that the Zanzibar government will continue to work with the community shoulder to shoulder.

Reading the greetings from the world leader, Murtaza Zakirhussein Alibhai said that the leader of the Bohra community worldwide congratulated Dr Mwinyi, underlining that the people of Zanzibar have high hopes on his leadership.

For their part, Bohra leaders commended Dr Mwinyi for the maiden speech he delivered on the day he swore in his cabinet ministers, saying that it had encouraged and given them great hope, pledging to invest in various development sectors, including industry.

The Dawoodi Bohras are a religious denomination within the Ism ili branch of Shia Islam. Their largest numbers reside in India, Pakistan, Yemen, East Africa and the Gulf states. There are also significant numbers in the Middle East, East Africa, Europe, North America, South East Asia and Australasia.

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Another is the COVID-19 pandemic disruption and impact on youth socio-economic life regionally and globally.

Participants are scheduled to address the status of youth involvement in leadership, and how a youth-centered policy environment could be created for accessing economic opportunities and decent work for youth.

The discussion is organized on the basis of the spirit of African Union Agenda 2063, the United Nations Global Development Agenda - Agenda 2063,

Revisit EAC milestones, JK urges youth activists

while taking into account individual countries' domestic development policy frameworks.

YouLead is East Africa's flagship youth leadership development program seeking to unlock youth leadership potential for a prosperous

region.

It serves as a collective action youth program hosted by the centre (MSTCDC) and the East African Community (EAC) wing, the Youth Ambassadors Platform (EACYAP).

The event is supported by the

YouLead Consortium of State and Non-State Partners across the six EAC member states in the spirit of the United Nations Agenda 2030 - 'Leaving no one behind' and the African Union Agenda 2063 - 'the Africa we want'.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zuber bin Ally (C) presents to Suleiman Nuur Mosque sheikh Nasoor Semamba (L) and board member Sheikh Hassan Chizenga (R) keys to the mosque shortly after its launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The 185m/- mosque has been built with sponsorship from Alfidau community institution. Looking on are the community's secretary general, Seleh Alhina (2nd-R) and the Dar es Salaam Regional Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'MPs must speak out for govt to act on children'

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as including the free education policy and significant decrease in under-fives' mortality levels.

She appealed that greater focus be directed on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that they are reflected in the National

Development Plan, with the country having attained lower middle income status.

On his part, UN resident coordinator Zlatan Milisic, also UNDP country representative, said this year's event comes under the theme "Reimagine a better future for every child," calling for

government support to realize the breadth of children's rights.

The child population is growing fast in the country, compelling a rethinking and creating an enabling environment to lay an adequate foundation for children to grow in an environment catering for their prosperity in terms of skills, knowledge and competence.

"This is something that must be well attended," the coordinator emphasized.

"If we fail to invest in a child, we will fail to establish the premise for socio-economic development for children. Thus national plans, budget, policy needs to be formulated to meet those needs," he added.

'Africa risks disease outbreaks from low immunisation levels'

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vaccine between January and August 2020, compared with the same period in 2019.

Immunization campaigns covering measles, yellow fever, polio and other diseases have been postponed in at least 15 African countries this year.

In light of these circumstances, RITAG members stressed the urgency of resuming routine immunization services, while following WHO guidelines for planning and implementing catch-up immunization, and adhering to strict COVID-19 prevention protocols.

"Collective action to strengthen immunization is needed, now more than ever, as we approach the end of the Decade of Vaccines and COVID-19 limits access to essential health services across Africa," stated Prof Helen Rees, the RITAG chairperson.

Experts attending the meeting also discussed the need for countries to lay the groundwork for the introduction and delivery of an eventual COVID-19 vaccine, as an urgent priority. RITAG members urged WHO and partners to engage all relevant stakeholders in the vaccine preparedness process, including national leadership.

While research and development for a COVID-19 vaccine advances at an unprecedented pace, WHO has established the African COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness and Deployment Taskforce (ACREDIT), which will work to assist countries in the region in planning for vaccine introduction, including obtaining regulatory approvals, and defining priority groups and delivery strategies.

In addition, WHO is collaborating with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to co-lead the COVAX Facility - a global risk-sharing mechanism for pooled procurement

and equitable distribution of eventual COVID-19 vaccines.

Despite significant challenges in the past year, the RITAG also noted key achievements, including the ending of the eleventh Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the eradication of wild poliovirus in the African Region.

Dr Richard Mihigo, programme manager for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases at the WHO Regional Office for Africa said current outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases are an apt reminder of the work that remains to be done. "How we respond to these outbreaks amid the COVID-19 pandemic will be critical to protecting children and communities, and to preventing further disease outbreaks," he added.



Collective action to strengthen immunization is needed, now more than ever, as we approach the end of the Decade of Vaccines and COVID-19 limits access to essential health services across Africa



Dr Majige Mabulla (L), head of the occupational health and safety unit of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco), briefs National Environment Management Council (NEMC) board members during their one-day visit to Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) site in Rufiji District, Coast Region, at the weekend. Second left is the board's chairperson, Prof Esnat Chaggu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Farmers told to use modern cereals shelling technology

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

CEREALS farmers from Ruvuma, Iringa and Njombe Regions are required to use machine technology for shelling their crops that reduces crop loss and unnecessary use of many workers for the job.

The call was given by Ayoub Mndeme, Njombe Region Assistant Administrative Officer here at the weekend when launching shelling technology for cereal crops by using machines.

Mndeme said apart from employing a small number of people, the technology can shell huge volumes of cereals crop in a short time.

He said the technology is also health friendly for the machine operators as its infrastructures does not allow dust to reach them.

Deodati Bernard, Representative from Tanzania Association of Professional Business Development Service Providers (TAPBDS) said they decided to take the project to Njombe Region because they were stakeholders engaged in developing farmers to ensure the adopt commercial farming.

He said the project that is also managed by Agra has reached more than 30,000 farmers since its inception

in 2017.

"The exercise to get beneficiaries of the shelling machines was done via advertisement with farmers applying for subsidies whereby 57 farmers emerged and 17 of them qualified to get the machines that cost more than 60m/-," Bernard explained.

In addition, he said, more than 250 entrepreneurs including youth were facilitated by a total of 60m/- in the subsidy plan that saw the increase of more than 350 job opportunities in the three regions of Njombe, Iringa and Ruvuma.

Lucy Kitavile, and Ibrahim Mhesi, among the machines' beneficiaries, were pleased to get the machines via AGRA and TAPBDS, saying they would enable them shell large quantities of cereals as opposed to what was the case in the past.

"The exercise to get beneficiaries of the shelling machines was done via advertisement with farmers applying for subsidies whereby 57 farmers emerged and 17 of them qualified to get the machines that cost more than 60m/-"

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Ecology and management of Miombo woodlands for sustainable livelihoods

TANZANIA Forests Services Agency (TFS) in collaboration with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and other stakeholders from the forests sector have prepared a project document for inclusive management of Miombo woodlands of the country arid areas.

The project will be funded by Global Phase Seven of the Environment Facility (GEF-7) and aims to prevent land degradation and loss of the biodiversity in the forests' ecology of in Southern Highlands Zone's Miombo Woodlands - in Katavi, Rukwa and Songwe Regions and in Western Zone - Tabora Region.

Speaking at a meeting to verify the project that brought together experts from the Vice President's Office, FAO, ministry's directors, local councils as well as development partners, the Commissioner for Forests Protection, Prof. Dos Santos Silayo said the project is expected to cost USD 7 million.

He said the project would be implemented in several phases with the first one to begin between Mlale (Katavi

Region) and Kaliua (Tabora Region) that will assist in land degradation and loss of biodiversity in the Miombo Woodland's ecology.

Geoffrey Bakanga from FAO said the importance of forests was an open issue for every one due to the fact that evert human being in the world depends on the existence of forests,

However, he said forests have been disappearing from the face of the earth

at an alarming rate, adding that about 7.3 million hectares is lost every year and the African continent leads in that disappearance as an estimated 3.94 million hectares was lost during the period 2010-2020.

He said from that challenge, GEF aims to assist developing countries to solve the challenge by coming up with a special plan to show results that abides by inclusive forests

management through sectoral production zones.

Zainabu Bungwa, the Project's Coordinator who is also a TFS official said the project will last for five years to solve various challenges within the surrounding communities as the Miombo woodlands have been supporting various communities including herders, farmers and beekeepers including traditional herbalists.

JUBILEE LIFE INSURANCE
Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524
DAR ES SALAAM
LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO.
T1201800042393
GWAKISA BARDEN MWAIKASU

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Rufiji

NEMC board members satisfied with ongoing hydro power project

NATIONAL Environmental Management Council (NEMC) board members have expressed their satisfaction on the construction progress of the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) on Rufiji River by adhering to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Speaking soon after touring the huge project, NEMC Board Chairman Prof Esnati Chaggu said the Board has seen for itself the progress of the project and its abiding by environment regulations by all stakeholders thereof.

"The Board is close to the project to ensure its progress follows regulations of environmental protection," said Prof Chaggu, adding that the ecology in the entire project area is supposed to be protected.

He said the completion of the project will also spur tourism in the country due to the infrastructures to be built including investment in hotels near the project area.

"The project will to a very large measure depend on the protection of water sources feeding the Rufiji River hence it is the responsibility of evert Tanzanian to ensure all water sources are protected," he added.

He said NEMC will continue to educate on the importance of environmental preservation in all water sources areas.

NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said: "We have come to inspect the project's construction

work as part of our responsibilities to ensure the Phase V Government implements the project in deeds and for every official to be accountable."

He said the 2,115 MW of power to be produced from the project will place Tanzania on the world map for having reliable power that would spur economic growth in the country's industrial sector specifically.

Damas Masolongo, NEMC Board Member

said the project has abided by EIA hence it should to ensure the environment is protected including the wildlife as it is located inside a national park.

Dr Majige Mabulla, TANESCO's Head of Health Unit in the project area said work was being done day and night to ensure the project is completed within the time in the contract agreement without endangering the environment and the wildlife in the area.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAR ES SALAAM

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of the United States of America. We shall sell Household, Office furniture's and Vehicles by public auction on Saturday November 28th, 2020 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture's Bidding Start at 10:00am; Sofa set, Chest drawer, Wardrobe, Dressers, China base, Hutch, Credenza, Dining table, chairs, Office Desk, Chair, Book case, Garden table, Chairs, Carpet, Beds, Mattress, Fridge, Freezer, Washer, Dryer, Electric cooker, A/c split units, Photocopy, and etc

VEHICLES Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Toyota Hilux Double Cabin 4X4	2KD Diesel Engine	2013	Not paid
2	Nissan Min Bus	ZD30 Diesel Engine	2012	Not paid
3	Suzuki Jimmy Station Wagon 4X4	M13A Petrol Engine	2014	Not paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from November 26 to 27, 2020 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by December 3rd 2020 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB Bank and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.

For further information contact:
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA) DAR ES SALAAM
CELL NO: 0754 284 926, 0757 284 926 E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com



ADVERTISEMENT INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, USER TRAINING AND AFTER-SALES SERVICE OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR SOMALILAND QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION (SQCC) AT BERBERA PORT FACILITY

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200343

The Somaliland Quality Control Commission (SQCC) with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) seeks to engage the services of a firm/consortium to supply, deliver, install, commission, train and provide after-sales service of laboratory equipment for Somaliland Quality Control Commission (SQCC) at Berbera Port Facility.

The tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/work-with-us/>. All queries quoting the above tender title and number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com. All queries with email attachments must be 10MBS or less.

Bids quoting the above tender title and number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com and email attachments must be 10MBS or less. The closing date for submission is 21st December 2020. Only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven (7) working days or less prior to the submission deadline



Banana growers in Gairo district decry poor roads

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

BANANA growers at Mtega village, Nongwe ward, Gairo District, Morogoro Region had decry poor roads in the area leading to huge losses of their farm produce.

They appealed to the government to look into the possibility of repairing the Nongwe - Gairo road, which is in bad state.

The complaints were aired by Daimon Chisongela, a farmer from Mtega village when speaking to reporters when he also admitted that they have benefitted from the banana crop in the two years' period 2018-19 after they received training from the Community Development Department through the Morogoro Diocese of the Tanzania Anglican Church under the Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP).

He said as for now they use tractors and motor cycles to transport whenever a farmer gets banana customer due to the area's wet condition that make roads virtually impassable throughout the year.

Chisongela said for many years they have been living hard even to the extent of failing to meet various statutory taxes due to lack of money generating activities.

"In the past we used to see water flowing in these mountains but we did not know its value other than being engaged in maize farming, but now we cultivate various crops including vegetables, fruits and maize for food as well as livestock keeping," he said.

He said banana growing has helped him to cater for his various essentials including improvement of his own health as well as other basic needs.

"I once sold 150 bunches of bananas at Kibaigwa market after transport the same with difficulties, but was able to

sell one bunch for between 5,000/- and 8,000/-, as opposed between 2,000/- and 2,500/- we used to sell to customers who came to our farm," Chisongela added.

Emmanuel Kasembe, ICDP agriculture officer said they did earlier research in various areas at the beginning of 2019 and found out the existence wards with villages whose people had no certainty of eating three meals a day, hence, they saw the need in the training for better farming practices.

He said they found out for instance that many areas in Nongwe Division could grow various crops including maize, vegetables and fruits but lacked reliable markets.

He said they worked with the farmers to look for markets in Dodoma City and Gairo and now they were training farmers on how to add value to their crops.

Stella Sabuhoro, the coordinator of the project funded by various donors from Germany said the project that begun in October 2019 is expected to end in 2022 and was being conducted in 14 villages and in seven divisions of Kilosa and Gairo districts.

She mentioned the divisions as Mtumbatu, Maguha and Msungwe in Kilosa District; and Iyogwe, Italgwe, Chanjale and Lubeho in Gairo District

"In the past we used to see water flowing in these mountains but we did not know its value other than being engaged in maize farming, but now we cultivate various crops including vegetables, fruits and maize for food as well as livestock keeping"



GF Vehicle Assemblers Ltd production manager Laban Dundo (L) explains points to GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd staff who toured the former firm's factory in Kibaha District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Outbreaks of communicable diseases decline in Tanga'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA regional medical officer Dr Jonathan Budenu has said that the outbreak of communicable diseases in the region had gone down by 14 per cent between March and June, this year.

In an interview with this paper, Dr Budenu acknowledged that adherence of COVID-19 preventive measures had also helped Tanzania fight a number of communicable diseases.

"Communicable diseases caused by poor sanitation have decreased significantly in Tanga Region due to adherence to sanitation measures including washing hands with soap taken during the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

According to him, maintaining the

culture including frequent hand-washing and other sanitation measures, could help the region and country as a whole eradicate communicable diseases.

He said that people had to adhere to the preventive measures due to fear of contracting COVID-19 infections.

"Before COVID-19, communicable diseases were at over 30 per cent because majority of people were not taking preventative measures such as frequent hand-washing with soap," he said.

He noted that one of the most important factors in eliminating diarrheal deaths, next to proper sanitation facilities, is hand washing with soap, something which is simple and can save lives.

Dr Budenu urged the public

that maintenance of the culture of washing hands with soap and general sanitation can minimise the possibility of recurrence of such diseases or eliminate them altogether.

A random observation conducted by this paper in Tanga shows that most people and institutions that put buckets and soaps for washing hands had abandoned the health guidelines.

"It is true that some have literally decided to keep those buckets away while some of them are still in place but without water," said Jumaa Mwedo a resident of Makorora, Tanga.

He further expressed concerns over possible recurrence of COVID-19 and continued persistence of other communicable diseases as majority of Tanzanians are no longer adhering to

the preventive measures issued by the government.

The World Health Organisation estimates that four per cent of all deaths worldwide are the result of waterborne diseases like diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio that thrive in unimproved sanitation conditions.

This might not sound like a high number, but when considering that these diseases can be relatively easily prevented with inexpensive sanitation and potable water solutions, this percentage sounds ridiculous.

It says a glimpse of five waterborne diseases that thrive in poor sanitation provides a glimpse of what is at stake when communities are devoid of proper water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.



T-MARC TANZANIA
Tanzania Marketing and Communications
Serving Communities, Improving Lives

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Background

T-MARC Tanzania is a non-profit Tanzanian organization working to improve public health and promote social development. Our socially marketed products and behavior change communication initiatives address pertinent health issues in family planning and reproductive health, child survival, water and sanitation, nutrition and communicable/non-communicable infections like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and cervical cancer.

T-MARC Tanzania wishes to invite interested firms to submit proposals to provide the organisation with the following services

1. External Audit for the financial year ending 31st December 2020
2. Internal Audit services
3. Debt collection

Qualified and interested firms should request for a detailed scope of work through procurement@tmarc.or.tz or collect hard copies from T-MARC Tanzania offices located on Plot No. 215/217 Block D, Kuringa Drive, Tegeta P.O Box 63266, Dar es Salaam.

Please note that participation in this call does not guarantee selection. Proposals submitted will be evaluated in accordance with T-MARC Tanzania procurement guidelines. ONLY the selected firms will be informed about the outcome of their proposal and will receive guidance on how to proceed further. Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment, nor does it commit T-MARC to pay for any cost incurred to prepare and submission of the proposal.

Submission deadline

Proposals must be submitted not later than 2nd December 2020 1600HRS to the following address

Managing Director
T-MARC Tanzania
Plot No. 215/217 Block D, Kuringa Drive, Tegeta
P.O Box 63266,
Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Reporter

THE 'UN Women' representative in Tanzania, Hidon Addou has called for increased efforts to address violence against women, and provide essential services for survivors.

Addou made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking on 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV), with the key message 'Women empowerment benefits the whole society.' The event was attended by ambassadors from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France and the European Union.

The UN Women official said that domestic violence, as well as cyber violence against women and girls, have increased during this period of COVID-19.

She said: "Women globally have been economically impacted by the pandemic due to many reasons including closure of businesses."

Addou said through the campaign this year, they want to promote positive gender norms and raise awareness of persistent harmful practices; expand accountability beyond the government; promote male engagement, and the engagement of traditional and religious leaders as important change

UN Women official calls for more efforts on GBV fight

agents, and inspire all Tanzanians to be active participants in ending gender-based violence.

The campaign is celebrated for a period of 16 days every year, from November 25 to December 10. Countries all over the world take part in this international campaign, with the purpose of raising awareness; and calling on governments, civil society, women's rights organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and development partners to join forces in speaking out against, and addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

For his part, the head of delegation of the European Union, Manfredo Fanri, said the Tanzanian national theme for the campaign is 'end gender-based violence - change begins with me.'

"We want to focus this year's initiative on how to contribute to overcoming the problem through women engagement in income-generating activities with the support of the entire community at

large," he said.

France ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier said France fought for the adoption and implementation of the Security Council resolutions of safeguarding women's peace and security. "2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the resolution '1325'."

He added that the target will not only be on women, who are mostly victims, but men will also be involved as part of the solution.

According to Fanri, although over the years, more women have entered the workforce in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy, there still is a high discrepancy in wages and equal treatment. This is not only in Tanzania; it is a widespread, global phenomenon.

"In earnings, those earning above Sh1.5 million in paid employment, men account for 81 percent while only 15 percent of women account for this income bracket in self-employment," he said.



Prudence Constantine (C), spokesperson of the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the launch of this year's 16-day campaign on gender-based violence to be in the city tomorrow. Others are Legal Services Facility director Lulu Ng'wanakilala (3rd-L); Anna Kulaya (3rd-R), director of the Tanzania chapter of Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF); UNFPA's deputy country representative in Tanzania, Dr Wilfred Ochan (2nd-R); UN Women programme analyst Elina Kervinen (L); Legal Human Right Centre (LHRC) executive director Anna Henga (R); and the ministry Assistant Director Grace Mwangwa, an assistant director in the ministry. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

RC orders arrest and prosecution of inheritance swindlers in region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has ordered the arrest and legal measures to any person who will be found to have swindled inheritance assets in the family.

The RC issued the directive at the weekend when closing the sixth gender conference at district level organised by Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) that was conducted for three days at Hatwelo village, Ijombe Ward in Mbeya District.

He said there have been many complaints from widows that when it comes to the sharing of inheritance assets, male relatives employ muscles to literally rob the assets on pretext that a woman cannot inherit such assets.

Chalamila said when such a situation arises in any family; the women should immediately inform the authorities so that legal steps should be taken against the perpetrators.

"Some men have very negative approach on land ownership and inheritance by women claiming they (women) have no rights for inheritance, so now I am directing the arrest of any person who will inheritance swindlers. I would even like such a person to be detained," he said.

Meanwhile Chalamila appealed to women not to close their eyes on acts of violence in their marriage including beatings, assaults and swindling of assets acquired out of their own sweat. He also appealed to men in Mbeya Region to work and abandon the habit of being kept by women who to a large extent engage in small businesses to feed their families.

He said according to research he conducted, a big percentage of men in the region have the habit of being kept by women and use force to grab their spouses' money for drinking and indulge in extra-marital affairs.

Jovitha Mlay, TGNP board member

said the concept of gender based violence (GBV) needs great involvement of various stakeholders including men in various discussions on gender issues to give them opportunity to learn.

She said men should participate in large numbers in all conferences that discuss gender issues in order to identify their responsibilities.

Rose Kimaro, Muheza District community development officer from Tanga Region said at the conference, one of the strategies put forward was for leaders starting from street level to be trained on the importance gender based budgeting.

She said such budgeting will help in the budget allocation for all issues on gender by abiding to the needs of various vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, women and children in issues like road infrastructure, water, agriculture and purchase of sanitary pads for school girls.



Mzumbe University Chancellor Chief Justice (rtd) Barnabas Samatta confers a master's degree upon Ruth Elias at the graduation ceremony held at the university's main campus in Morogoro municipality at the weekend. Left is the Vice Chancellor Prof Lughano Kusiluka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Investing in health crucial to Tanzania's economic growth'

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

SENGEREMA District Commissioner Emmanuel Kipole has said that for the country to develop and maintain the middle economy status it needs to invest in health initiatives.

DC Kipole made the remarks recently here when he was speaking at the 40th anniversary of National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Mwanza centre.

According to him, the existence of uncontrollable diseases accordingly in the country can negatively impact efforts made to achieve development targets.

"We should all together join efforts and invest in people's health, this will enable more people to engage in economic activities and thus contribute to the growth of the economy," he said.

He said that it is good for the country to have its own institutes for medical research as it ensures quick and reliable measures to address health challenges.

"An institute for medical research is an important pillar in fighting diseases affecting people as it conducts research aiming at coming up with knowledge for cure and protect people's health," he said.

He said: "Tanzanians have expectations from NIMR as it can play a very significant role in addressing solutions when it comes for the country's needs."

He explained that this obviously evidenced early this year during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic whereby the institute stood firm in collaboration with government and people and came with medicine named NIMRCAF and other

medicines that helped in the fight against the scourge.

According to him, commemorating 40 years since its establishment, reminds NIMR to continue investing in innovative scientific research that can bring solutions to people's problems.

Dr Safari Kinung'hi, director of NIMR Mwanza centre said that since 1980, the centre had been doing research on different diseases affecting people such as HIV/AIDS, TB, worms, malaria among others and non-communicable diseases like diabetes and blood pressure.

"The created over 1000 short and long-term employment opportunities for Tanzanian youths in the past five years in its different research projects among other successes," he added.

Herders appeal for construction of cattle dip tank in Mjere Ward

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Livestock keepers in Mjere Ward in Mbeya District have appealed to the government to construct cattle dip tank for their livestock as they are forced to walk long distances in nearby Songwe District.

Speaking to this paper at the weekend, some of the herders said their livestock were being attacked by various diseases and pests due to unavailability of cattle dips in their

areas.

Jangson Mwtotela, one of the herders said some of them have been using traditional methods to dip their livestock by spraying them with chemicals, a method he said needed great care to avoid harm to the animals.

"Here we have many livestock but our problem is lack of dips in the vicinity, we are appealing for the government's assistance in constructing dip tanks for our

livestock," he said.

Mbozyo Shila, another herder said due to the great need for dips, they were ready to contribute towards the costs of the construction.

In the meeting at the weekend by farmers and livestock keepers was called to discuss farming draft proposals for the coming five years, Saisi Mandito, Mbeya Regional Administrative Officer said the region was home to more than 3.3 million livestock



AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
benki kwa maendeleo yako

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

UNDER REGULATION 9(6) OF THE CAPITAL MARKETS AND SECURITIES (SUBSTANTIAL ACQUISITIONS, TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS) REGULATIONS, 2006

(Incorporated in the United Republic of Tanzania under Companies Act 2002 as a Public Limited Company with Certificate of Incorporation No 22797) (Banking License No: CBA 00055)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC. [APPROVED BY THE CAPITAL MARKETS AND SECURITIES AUTHORITY (CMSA)]

THIS IS A CONDITIONAL VOLUNTARY OFFER ON AN ALL OR NOTHING BASIS TO ACQUIRE A SINGLE BLOCK OF 16,808,412 ORDINARY SHARES OF AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "TARGET COMPANY") TO A STRATEGIC INVESTOR (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "ACQUIRER") PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS 9(5), 9(6), 11(3), 15(4), 15(5) AND THE FOURTH SCHEDULE OF THE CAPITAL MARKETS AND SECURITIES (SUBSTANTIAL ACQUISITIONS, TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS) REGULATIONS, 2006 (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "OFFER"), PROVIDED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE OFFER DOES NOT RESULT IN BREACH OF THE TARGET COMPANY'S LICENSING CONDITIONS.

TRANSACTION DETAILS:

- Acquirer:** A Strategic Equity Investor.
- Size:** This Offer is made by the Acquirer for the acquisition of 16,808,412 ordinary shares of the Target Company with a nominal value of Tanzania Shillings (TZS) 1,000.00 each, representing 75% of the issued share capital of the Target Company.
- Price:** TZS 1,417 per ordinary share.
- Mode of Payment:** Cash.
- Target Company's Share Capital:** The issued and fully paid up share capital of the Target Company is currently TZS 10,984,531,000 comprised of 10,984,531 ordinary shares with a par value of TZS 1,000.00 each. The Target Company hereby and on completion of this transaction will issue an additional 11,426,798 primary ordinary shares bringing the total number of issued shares to 22,441,329.
- Salient Features of the Offer:** The terms of the proposed transaction are set out below;
 - The Acquirer wishes to acquire a single block of 16,808,412 ordinary shares in the Target Company in the following manner;
 - A total of 11,426,798 ordinary shares acquired directly by the Target Company; and
 - A total of 5,381,614 ordinary shares issued from various shareholders of the Target Company.
 - The purchase shall only be completed if all the ordinary shares referred to in 6(a) above are sold in a single block.
- Consideration:** TZS 24,725,174,052 only.
- Firm Arrangement of Financial Resources:**
 - The Acquirer has arranged all necessary funds to implement the Offer.
 - The Acquirer has confirmed the source and availability of funds for the proposed transaction.
 - The Acquirer has deposited cash to be injected to the Target Company in an Escrow account maintained at a commercial bank in Tanzania.
- Objects and Purpose of the Acquisition:** To recapitalize the Target Company in order to comply with Bank of Tanzania (BOT) Capital Adequacy requirement, subject to the provisions of the Capital Markets and Securities Act.
- Time:**
 - The Capital Markets and Securities Authority has approved the transaction contemplated herein.
 - The Acquirer and the Target Company's respective Boards of Directors will conclude the proposed transfer as soon as possible following publication of this Public Announcement.
 - The date of first publication of this Public Announcement, 24th November 2020.
 - Date by which payments would be made for ordinary shares in respect of which the Offer has been accepted is: on the settlement set on 18th December 2020 subject to fulfillment of the necessary implementation procedures.
- Statutory Approvals:** The Target Company operates in the banking industry. The status of relevant regulatory approvals is as follows:
 - CMSA has approved the proposed transaction.
 - BOT has issued its no objection to the proposed transaction.
 - Fair Competition Commission (FCC) has expressed no objection to the proposed transaction.
 - The parties undertake to register the transfer of ordinary shares at the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), in accordance with the Companies Act No. 12 of 2002.
- Types of Transaction:** CMSA has approved the proposed transaction to be executed as agreed between the parties.
- Competitive Bid:** This is not a competitive bid.

By order of the Board.

Company Secretary
AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC
24th November 2020

'Many households in Mufindi district do not have access to improved toilets'

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Mufindi

AT least 12,421 (21 percent) households in Mufindi District Council, Iringa Region do not have improved toilets the situation which calls for more coordinated efforts to enable the residents access improved latrines to fight epidemic diseases.

However, some 41,205 households (equivalent to 79 per cent) have improved latrines.

It was revealed yesterday during the week-long celebration of the national sanitation campaign held at Kitelewasi primary school in Mbalamaziwa Ward, Mufindi District Council, Iringa Region. Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri William said that in order to address the challenge of epidemics, the council is implementing a sanitation campaign to encourage the community to build and use better toilets as well as improved toilets and water systems in institutions including clinics and schools.

Mufindi District Council is among all councils in the country that are implementing the national sanitation campaign aimed at ensuring every household has improved toilet.

Jamhuri said that in the council there are a total of 41,205 households that have improved toilets and 12,421 households with unimproved toilets.

The council in collaboration with development partners had been able to conduct internal audit of 42 villages and out of which 17 villages had achieved high standard of sanitation.

The council in collaboration with stakeholders had also been able to improve water and sanitation infrastructure in primary and secondary schools, where a total of 38 primary schools and seven secondary schools had built better toilets and installed water infrastructure in accordance with school, water, sanitation and health (swash)

guidelines (1:25 boys and 1:20 girls).

The District Commissioner urged the people to continue building better toilets and use them in parallel to the availability of hand-washing with soap facilities outside the toilets as well as waste management.

For his part, Mufindi District health officer Innocent Komba said that the sanitation campaign in the council had been implemented since 2012 through various stakeholders including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the elderly and children, Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) in Tanzania, World Bank (WB) and People Development Forum (PDF).

He said the council has a total of 65 government health care facilities (59 clinics and 06 health centers), added that the council in collaboration with stakeholders has been able to improve toilet and water infrastructures in accordance with WASH guidelines with waste incinerators.

Komba said that the challenges of implementing the sanitation campaign are compounded by the fact that a number of school institutions and health care facilities do not have access to quality toilet facilities according to Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH).

Another challenge is the lack of ward-level environmental health professionals in management as well as the limited placement of some community-level leaders in the management of WASH activities.

Komba said that in strategies to address these challenges, the council is continuing with efforts to allocate budgets for the improvement of toilet facilities in the institution.

Mufindi District Council has a total of five (05) divisions, 27 wards and 121 villages, has a total of 59,152 households and 246,090 residents (male 116,499 and female 129,591) according to the 2012 national census.



Students of Dar es Salaam's St Anne Marie Academy and their headteacher, Gladius Ndyetabula (C), in celebratory mood at the weekend after it was announced that their school had emerged eighth nationally and first in Dar es Salaam Region in the Standard Seven examinations for the sixth year running. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

Kyela District in Mbeya Region has assured its residents to improve water infrastructure to ease water supply at affordable rates and as protection against waterborne diseases including cholera.

The remarks were given here at the weekend by Claudia Kitta, Kyela District Commissioner during her visit at various water sources in the district, many of which are located in Busokelo District.

She said the government has provided Kyela District Council adequate funds for the construction and refurbishing of many water projects some of which had been completed while others

Kyela vows to boost water infrastructure

were in various advanced stages of completion.

Kitta said for implemented projects to be of any benefit to the people and last longer, every person should participate in the protection of water sources by stopping cutting trees near them.

He called on water consumers communities in the district to make

sure they pay for their water bills the money which will be used for refurbishing the infrastructure and purchase of essential equipment.

A cross section of residents thanked the government for the projects, saying at the moment water supply services had increased as compared in the past.

Joseph Mwakifuna, Ipinda resident

said earlier they used to get water from wells whose safety was not guaranteed for their health, but as for now they are getting clean piped water.

Last year the former Minister for Water Prof. Makame Mbarawa made an inspection tour of water projects in Kyela District during which he inaugurated the Kapapa group water project costing more than 3.5bn/-.



Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) executive director Nicodemus Mukama rings the bell in Dar es Salaam yesterday to signal the listing of the shares of the youth-led agricultural firm Jenga Afya Tokomeza Umaskini (JATU) on the Dar es Salaam Stock of Exchange (DSE). Others are DSE CEO Moremi Marwa (R), JATU Tanzania director Peter Isare (2nd-R) and board chairman Zaipuna Yonah. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Region plans to increase fertilizer distribution to farmers from 88,909.9 tonnes this year to 115,582.87 tonnes in the next five years in order to increase agricultural production.

Said Madito, Region's Assistant Administrative Secretary told a meeting of farmers and livestock keepers that in addition to the increase of fertilizer for distribution to farmers, they also plan to increase the distribution of quality seeds of various crops from 72,176.3 tonnes to 79,393.93 tonnes in the same period, saying farm inputs would be available at affordable price.

The meeting was called to discuss

Mbeya Region set to increase fertiliser distribution in next five years - official

farming draft proposals for the coming five years.

Madito said they also plan to increase distribution of various pesticides to help farmers tackle crops destructive pests and diseases.

"Our aim is to assist farmers in the production of their crops, but also we shall ensure our extension officers in collaboration with other village officials work hard to mobilise farmers

to adopt modern farming practices," added Madito.

He ensured the availability of fertilizer in the region, the regional government will mobilise stakeholders to establish a fertilizer factory in the region by 2025.

Farming stakeholders who participated in the meeting urged the government to look for reliable markets for farmers' crops.

One of them, Bakari Juma, who is the manager of Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU) said many farmers become disillusioned by increasing production due to lack of reliable markets for their crops.

Mariam Mtunguja, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary said in the enhancement to the strategic plan they should abide by the 2020 CCM election manifesto.

CMSA lauds youth-led firm for listing on DSE

By Correspondent James Kandoya

The Capital Market and Security Authority (CMSA) Executive Director Nicodemus Mukama has commended the youth-led agro company - Jenga Afya Tokomeza Umaskini (JATU) for listing its shares on the Dar es Salaam Stock of Exchange (DSE).

The firm connects farmers and enables them to modernize and after the harvesting the company buys all the produce and later prepares the products that are sold to JATU members through online.

Speaking at the official listing event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Mukama described JATU as the 28th out of 27 local companies registered with the DSE, which reported to be making profits.

He said that the company had up-to-date created 10,650 employment opportunities across the country, noting that the firm was an outcome of the 'Capital Markets Universities and higher learning institutions challenge', aimed at inculcating culture of investing at the DSE.

Mukama added that the company up to date has 17,678 hectares, processing industries with a capacity of process 8,670 tonnes, supermarkets and a good technology benefited 76,999 users.

"JATU operations resonate with government efforts to ensure that the society embarks on commercial agriculture to increase individual and nation revenue," he said.

He insisted that the government has put more emphasis on improving the main sectors of economy such as commercial farming agriculture, livestock, fisheries, industries, minerals and tourism.

In order to achieve that goal therefore it was necessary for business

startups and emerging companies to utilize opportunities obtained in the stock exchange markets to increase capital investments.

He said it involves selling of shares, corporate bonds and units of collective investments scheme to increase capital investment.

JATU Executive Director PETER Isare said the company has opened the door for other people to buy shares adding that the economy will grow.

"Within JATU, members grow cash and food crops under the umbrella of the company, there are no market challenges" he insisted.

DSE Executive Director Moremi Marwa said JATU shares have over 2,164,349 shares all worth over 1.82bn/- adding that it increased 1200 new shareholders and 5300 agencies.

"I call on the public to utilise opportunities available by buying more shares from the DSE to increase their capital investment," he said.



JATU operations resonate with government efforts to ensure that the society embarks on commercial agriculture to increase individual and nation revenue

Dr Mwinyi calls up on ministers to work on campaign promises

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has called on newly appointed ministers to work on campaign promises by improving revenue collections, service delivery, stamping out corruption and accountability.

He made the call over the weekend ministers took oath of office at the Zanzibar's State House grounds. Dr Mwinyi wanted to see value for money in projects and tenders, non-discrimination and effective communication.

President Mwinyi also added cleanliness, telling the ministers he had

"I'm not been impressed by the levels of tidiness in places of work for the few areas I have visited," the Isles' President said, adding: "The work has started, get in your offices and work hard. I will be there to listen and address challenges you will be facing."

He stressed: "It's my hope that I will not be forced to reshuffle the cabinet within a short period but I will not hesitate to do so if you will not give me what I expect. My words could be tough, but let's start getting used to them."

"I'm speaking this to avoid future blames that I didn't say this from the very beginning. There are many problems. However, they can be solved," Dr Mwinyi noted, telling those following the televised ceremony understood the expectations of government.

He said the experiences of the young and the old in team should be useful. "Those with outstanding experiences should benefit us with their understanding and new faces should provide us with the new working approaches," said the President.

"I will be visiting ministries where you will be given individual instructions after these general guidelines. Citizens have great expectations of the government, likewise you have been appointed after similar trust, therefore, don't let me down."

Dr Mwinyi said ministers should be aware of their ministries and institutions obligations under them. He said they should pay personal visits to know achievements and problems facing the ministries and related institutions. He said oversight will be key, including coming up with workable budget guidelines that aim to deliver the ruling party's manifesto.

Dr Mwinyi who has prioritised economic growth, told the ministers to feel free to work closely with the private sector and seek views from all stakeholders.

The team was told to acquaint quickly with ongoing projects, with a view to satisfy themselves with quality, tender procedures, payments made to contractors and their timeframes.

"I was disappointed to see a health facility at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital remain dormant for lack of a basin for doctor's use while the contractor had been paid and handed over the project," Dr Mwinyi observed.

He pointed out that a custom bonded warehouse at the Malindi Port was delayed by three months, leading to congestion of cargo at the port that affected free movement of goods yet the contractor had been paid fully.

The President said he had asked for a report on a fisheries project that promised one million fingerlings annually but was currently barely surviving. "I would like to get an in-depth report about the project including the amount of money used and why the project had reached that level."

He said the ministers' subordinates should be kept on their toes to deliver on respective jobs and duties. He said they should ensure justice is dispensed to all Zanzibaris without discrimination and that no complaint should be ignored.

The President said special attention should be given to the land sector that carries the outcry of most citizens. He said the lands ministry should immediately investigate reports that open spaces and other public land was grabbed shortly before the elections. He said the ministry was one of those requiring urgent reforms.

Dr Mwinyi warned that corruption or embezzlement of public funds would not be tolerated. "There are still endless seminars, unnecessary travels and misuse of fuel. "I will soon appoint permanent secretaries so that together you can ensure this wastage is eliminated."

He noted that some ministries do not collect or remit revenue due despite having that function. He said that it will be unforgivable for ministers to preside over theft of budgetary funds and failure of project funds reaching and benefiting those targeted.

"A minister who will fails to work on corruption, embezzlement of public funds and theft will be deemed unfit to serve in my cabinet. Fortunately, the contract we have signed here today has no timeframe; your stay solely depends on your performance."

"I had to be clear on this; there is no need to hide. I promised citizens that I will have zero tolerance on these issues; therefore, I will start with you my appointees," he told them.



Pangani district administrative secretary Mwalimu Hassani Nyange makes remarks at the weekend at a ceremony at which villages that have excelled in the fight against gender-based violence were feted. The event was organised by a local CSO. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Casmiri

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has destroyed consignment of cosmetics with toxic ingredients valued at more than 125m/- after impromptu inspection carried out in unregistered godowns in Arusha Region over the weekend.

According to TBS's head of public relations unit, Roida Andusamile, the banned cosmetics were found in godowns dubbed Kimario Cosmetics by TBS officials in Arusha and confiscated according to Standards Acts No.2 of 2009 with its 2019 amendments.

The owner of a godown identified as Pamphil Kimario has paid 3.5m/- fees for destroying the consignment (more than one tonne) which might cause health problems once used by consumers, she said.

She said yesterday that some Tanzanians have been using the toxic cosmetics which contain mercury and hydroquinone

Cosmetics worth 125m/- destroyed in Arusha city

ingredients for skin change or whitening disregard its effects.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 2020 report, cosmetics which contain mercury if used for a long time cause kidney, lung, skin, eye, nerve and food digestive systems diseases.

While the cosmetics with hydroquinone ingredients causes skin cancer diseases

Finance Act no 8 of 2019 mandated TBS to manage registration of food, cosmetics, food and cosmetics godowns, cafes and hotels which was earlier carried by the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) Implementation of the said finance act

started in July 2019, hence compelled sellers, manufacturers of cosmetics to register their products and godowns.

The bureau recently destroyed various cosmetics and food unfit for human use which was confiscated during inspection carried out in different places in Arusha and neighboring regions between January to November 2020.

She said TBS would continue with inspection countrywide while insisting manufacturers and cosmetics sellers adhere to registration procedures in order to avoid disturbances.

Cosmetics traders asked to have the list of allowed products which is available on the bureau's website.



Efforts to remove sand from Dar es Salaam's near-choked Tegeta River and expedite the flow of water under the strategic Goba Bridge under way along Madale Road at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Call made to youth to find digital solutions in effort to accelerate development in both rural and urban areas

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

INNOVATORS in the country have been urged to develop a relevant digital solutions which will help close the digital divide and enhance the new economy in both rural and urban communities.

It is believed there has been a rapid growth of digital innovations across the economy but majority ends on the product or prototypes levels, failing to break even to become independent companies.

The observation was made by the director of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at the University of Dodoma Dr Goodiel Moshi during the Dodoma Sparks 2020 conference that brought together tech developers, innovators, start-ups, academicians and non-governmental organization that innovators must now consider developing the solution which is relevant to the public.

The event was organised by Capital Space, Dodoma based innovation and entrepreneurship space aim to empower the community in areas of technology, entrepreneurship, innovation and skills development.

"While there is increasing internet penetration in many parts of the country, people have not received the technological solutions that need the desired goals," he said, adding that social media is taking lead because it connect members of the community.

The expert says the government had worked positively setting up infrastructures but the question is on how many people have access and effectively use the infrastructure.

Statistics from the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) shows there over 70 per cent of mobile penetration today in which internet penetration is above 40 per cent.

The national bureau of statistics (NBS) also estimates that over 65 per cent of the population in Tanzania is

youth and by 2025 the population is projected to reach 68 million people. "this is entirely a market in which developers must crack their brain to ensure that the technology they develop responses to each and every individual's needs," added Adam Mbyalu of the Sahara Sparks.

According to Mbyalu adaptation of technology should help improve the wellbeing of individuals and therefore it should not be considered only through its contribution to the national gross domestic product-GDP.

Apparently, he said some technologies such as mobile money transfers have helped the majority especially those in the villages.

He observed that Tanzania telecom operators and the banking industry have been pioneering digital technologies that break-even, while other start-ups failing to graduate into fully independent companies.

Joseph Manirakisa Director at the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) called for the government and policymakers to consider enacting start-up legislation that will help coordinate, and supervise the establishment and development of start-ups in the country.

Manirakisa said some countries have so far adopted such laws. In Tanzania, however, the association of start-ups is pushing but needs support from all players. He observed that formal employments cannot accommodate all graduates and that it is through start-ups that fresh ideas can be developed into companies and therefore create more jobs.

Capital Space Founder and CEO, Abdallah Mbwana noted that the aim of the organization is to help have a vibrant community providing innovative solutions for sustainable community prosperity.

He added that the mission is to enhance innovation by embracing technology, entrepreneurship and skills development.

Forum calls for more aflatoxin prevention and control education

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

RURAL Women Farmers' Forum (RWFF) has urged the government to put in place and implement more agricultural interventions including educating farmers on proper use of pesticides to fight aflatoxins.

The Forum has termed poor awareness on proper application of pesticides as among major setbacks affecting performance of farmers thus leading to high and other toxic contaminants in crops.

Speaking at a special round table meeting held here, RWFF president Amina Senge said small scale

farmers have been distanced from most vital agricultural services, a situation which demoralizes their development efforts.

The gathering, held under support of Action Aid Tanzania, was tailored to give the farmers a professional platform to inject their inputs for the drafting of the 2021/22-2025/26 Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP II).

She noted that rural women play a critical role in agriculture, food security and managing land and natural resources, so their needs should also be prioritised.

The smallholder farmers also decried over a growing spate of soil infertility in the country due to uses of industrial fertilizers.

Senge further challenged the government to capacitate extension officers with knowledge and skills to make natural fertilizer in order to enable the farmers to reduce applications of industrial fertilizers which they said contribute to erode soil infertility.

"In rural areas there is a growing spate of infertility due to improper and excessive uses of industrial fertilizers, so it is better to promote the use of organic fertilizers," she said.

According to her, most of the farmers were also subjected to numerous effects of climatic changes, including drought and floods, leading to crop failure.

To cheat the challenges, they

appealed to the parent ministry to see possibilities to penetrate crop insurance services to rural farmers.

"During periods of natural disasters, farmers in rural areas experience great loss, leaving them haplessly and with no assured recovery," she lamented.

Post-harvest loss and bush fire were among other cases raised by the farmers during the forum.

Established in 2017, Rural Women Farmers Forum (RWFF), currently operates in a total of 28 districts and 820 villages from across the country, with the major focus to capacitate women, especially those employed in the agriculture sector, with awareness to enable them take part in key social economic engagements.

Africa must wage endless war on sickle cell anaemia

AFRICA has struggled for many years with sickle cell disease, particularly sickle cell anaemia. In 2006, Africa reported more than 200,000 people having sickle cell anaemia. Furthermore, this disease dominates the illnesses in Africa, affecting up to 2 per cent of children in some regions.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic condition that affects the shape of red blood cells, leading to many health complications. While the disease is manageable, some developing countries struggle to maintain the illness. For example, sickle cell disease in Africa contributes to an abnormally high rate of mortality. However, with new scientific discoveries, gene therapy may be able to change that.

Sickle cell disease tampers with the body's ability to transport oxygen through the blood due to the red blood cells sickling. The molecule hemoglobin causes the red blood cells to stray from their circular shape and deform. The resulting crescent-shaped blood cells can clog vessels and cause a lack of blood to organs. Moreover, if organs don't get enough blood carrying oxygen, they will fail.

In addition to a lack of oxygen moving through the blood, anemia can occur when sickle cell disease causes red blood cells to die too early. SCD has different categories, one of the most common being sickle cell anemia. Anemia is a condition in which the body has less red blood cells than necessary, producing shortness of breath and fatigue.

Sickle cell disease is not always fatal, but it can be depending on the country. Africa has struggled for many years with the disease, particularly sickle cell anemia.

In 2006, Africa reported more than 200,000 people having sickle cell anemia. Furthermore, this disease dominates the illnesses in Africa, affecting up to 2% of children in some regions.

In Nigeria, sickle cell anemia is an inherited disease, affecting newborns 150,000 times each year. Besides having

more occurrences than other countries, the death rate is also higher for sickle cell disease cases in Africa.

One of the most common infections in Africa is malaria. An unexpected result of inheriting one of the abnormal sickle cell genes is that the carrier will be safer from malaria due to some form of protection the gene offers.

This seemingly endless war with sickle cell disease in Africa has a newfound solution: gene therapy. Gene therapy can operate in two different ways. A medic can insert a healthy gene inside of the patient or alter a faulty gene. The gene therapy would be working to fix the HBB gene. The HBB gene can have a mutation leading to an error in the instructions, making hemoglobin production faulty, which would lead to sickle cell anemia.

There are two known methods for correcting sickle cell anemia with gene therapy. In the first method, a professional would insert a healthy HBB gene into a removed hematopoietic stem cell. The hematopoietic stem cells should produce proper red blood cells in the bone marrow once inserted back into the patient. The second method would be to increase the production of fetal hemoglobin by altering the gene in the DNA to stop the misshaping of the cells.

There have already been some trials run, and the experiments include tests to make sure it is safe for a new HBB gene to replace a damaged gene. Scientists have also run tests in which stem cells take in a gene that works comparably to fetal hemoglobin, but instead, produces therapeutic hemoglobin with hopes that it will stop the sickling.

SCD can cause many health complications and has a stronghold in Africa. Malaria and poverty only increase the troubles that sickle cell disease causes. However, due to gene therapy trials, a cure for SCD is now in sight. Gene therapy can alter genes and replace old ones to stop the body from sickling the cells. Today, due to gene therapy there is finally hope for eradicating sickle cell disease in Africa.

We need experts to develop our own regulatory systems regarding GMOs

GENETIC engineering, also called genetic modification or genetic manipulation, is the direct manipulation of an organism's genes using biotechnology. It is a set of technologies used to change the genetic makeup of cells, including the transfer of genes within and across species boundaries to produce improved or novel organisms. New DNA is obtained by either isolating and copying the genetic material of interest using recombinant DNA methods or by artificially synthesising the DNA. A construct is usually created and used to insert this DNA into the host organism.

The first recombinant DNA molecule was made by Paul Berg in 1972 by combining DNA from the monkey virus SV40 with the lambda virus. As well as inserting genes, the process can be used to remove, or 'knock out', genes. The new DNA can be inserted randomly, or targeted to a specific part of the genome.

An organism that is generated through genetic engineering is considered to be genetically modified (GM) and the resulting entity is a genetically modified organism (GMO). The first GMO was a bacterium generated by Herbert Boyer and Stanley Cohen in 1973. Rudolf Jaenisch created the first GM animal when he inserted foreign DNA into a mouse in 1974. The first company to focus on genetic engineering, Genentech, was founded in 1976 and started the production of human proteins. Genetically engineered human insulin was produced in 1978 and insulin-producing bacteria were commercialised in 1982. Genetically modified food has been sold since 1994.

Genetic engineering has been applied in numerous fields including research, medicine, industrial biotechnology and agriculture. In research GMOs are used to study gene function and expression through loss of function, gain of function, tracking and expression experiments.

By knocking out genes responsible for certain conditions it is possible to create animal model organisms of human diseases. As well as producing hormones, vaccines and other drugs, genetic engineering has the potential to cure genetic diseases through gene therapy.

The rise of commercialised genetically modified crops has provided economic benefit to farmers in many different countries, but has also been the source of most of the controversy surrounding the technology. Although there is a scientific consensus that currently available food derived from GM crops poses no greater risk to human health than conventional food, GM food safety is a leading concern with critics. Individual countries have developed their own regulatory systems regarding GMOs, with the most marked differences occurring between the US and Europe.

Tanzania has been challenged to train its own experts on Genetic Engineering (GE) technology if it has to successfully conduct trials on genetically modified crops. Yes indeed, we need to train our own experts if we want to conduct researches and let our farmers use the GE technology. With trained experts we can produce seeds, impart knowledge to the community and supply seeds to farmers instead of depending on the giant producers from abroad.

Tanzanian experts specialised on biotechnology ought to conduct inspection on imported seeds to see if they are GM seeds or not, especially for maize and cotton crops because its seeds are currently modified in other countries including United States and South Africa.

Products in the supermarket that have been produced using GM technology should be labeled to allow people who are interested to GM crops to choose them. Genetically modified crops are plants used in agriculture, the DNA of which has been modified using genetic engineering techniques.

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How UK aid budget cut will hollow out a world reeling from COVID-19



By Ian Goldin

THE pandemic has caused the worst development disaster in our lifetimes. Here's why Britain should increase - not slash - foreign aid and relieve debt crippling poor countries.

Britain is planning to slash billions from its overseas aid budget next year. There could not be a worse time to cut the UK aid budget from 0.7 per cent to 0.5 per cent of national income.

In practice this would mean cutting it by a third as the British economy is expected to contract by 11 per cent in 2020 and aid is calculated as a share of national income.

The pandemic has caused the worst development disaster in our lifetimes, as trade, tourism, migrant remittances, investment and spending has collapsed, and along with it jobs and incomes, and only a massive increase in aid will stop a dramatic reversal in poverty and derailing of the universally agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

Already, the World Bank has estimated that over 100 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty this year, with poor people in poor countries worst affected.

The UK has had a proud record of being among the most effective donors, specifically targeting those in need as well as providing critical support to the achievement of global programmes, such as malaria eradication and the provision of affordable vaccinations.

At a time when aid has never been

more needed cutting aid would be a devastating blow to the many who depend on it. It also would end Britain's longstanding international leadership on aid and undermine its ability to build coalitions of donors to address critical challenges.

British ideas and financial leverage have contributed to many of the most successful development breakthroughs of recent decades, including on infectious diseases, malaria, girls' education and poverty reduction.

At a time when the world is watching to see how Britain rises to the challenge of Brexit, and whether it will be able to contribute to resolving critical global challenges, it will be a sign of collapse in our moral commitment and operational ability, making a mockery of the Prime Minister's claim that Brexit would allow for a resurgent Global Britain.

A cut in aid which is accompanied by the already promised equivalent rise in military spending would cement the view that we are reverting to an overreliance on hard power, further undermining our global standing among countries who care more about the humanitarian assistance and development support provided by Britain.

This cut would undermine the historic opportunity for UK leadership provided in 2021 by the G7 Presidency and the COP26 Climate Summit.

In the wake of the Covid-19 these could provide an opportunity to reset and reenergise global cooperation

to create a more sustainable and inclusive world. This is essential to prevent future pandemics and address the other critical shared challenges, including those arising from climate change and from rising protectionism and nationalism, which particularly threaten poor people and poor countries.

The argument that money is needed at home does not stand. Over \$12 trillion has been found by the rich countries for themselves, of which less than 1% is being allocated to development needs. In the UK borrowing is approaching £300 billion this year, which at record low interest rates makes sense. Even the IMF recommends more borrowing rather than austerity for the rich countries.

It would be a sorry reflection of the British government's priorities if it makes the poorest of the world pay the price of an ideological decision to not raise further debt, or raise taxes on the rich, especially when they have seen unprecedented windfall gains from soaring stock markets, while it has found the funds to provide the biggest boost to the military since the Cold War.

Poor countries do not have any options as they are unable to borrow at anything near the scale of what is required to support their citizens without incurring an economic crisis.

Nor can they raise taxes on their moribund economies to raise the revenues they urgently require. They depend on reductions in their debt

payments to free up finance to fund urgently required domestic needs, as well as for the international distribution of vaccines, all of which requires more aid.

Far from withdrawing, this is a time to step up the commitment to development. Britain should work with others, as it has in the past, to develop a multilateral debt reduction package to reduce the crippling debt which faces poor countries, as it should in overcoming vaccine nationalism and supporting the urgent humanitarian needs of developing countries.

Well directed aid is the difference between life and death for poor people. At a time where we have shown greater solidarity within our countries, we need to show more support for poor countries, not less.

The proposed £5bn cut in aid would have ripples which go well beyond the current time. It would demonstrate that despite the statements and manifesto commitments the Government is prepared to sacrifice its support for poor people in poor countries on the altar of austerity.

What is introduced as a temporary cut would become a permanent stain on the government, undermining its credibility, humanity and leadership at home and internationally.

Ian Goldin is Professor of Globalization and Development at Oxford University and co-author of Terra Incognita: 100 Maps to Survive the Next 100 Years and Development.

Four things to know about how fragile states like South Sudan are coping with COVID-19

By Amina Lahreche and Niko Alfred Hobdari

ON November 11, 2020, the International Monetary Fund granted the Republic of South Sudan a \$52 million emergency disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility to help its economy weather the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first time this new and still fragile country has received financial support from the IMF.

Here are four things to know:

Fragility has many shapes and forms. South Sudan is emerging from a prolonged civil conflict with a very high human cost. More than half of the South Sudanese population requires urgent food assistance, about 40 percent of the population is internally displaced or live as refugees in neighboring countries. More than 80 percent live below the poverty line. Recently, floods and locusts have further worsened living conditions for millions of South Sudanese. The country has massive development needs, from building basic infrastructure, to developing education and health services, to building institutions. These are difficult challenges for a country that has very limited access to affordable financing.

The COVID-19 crisis is more than a health crisis. People in South Sudan have suffered illness and death from the pandemic, although the toll is difficult to fully assess, given limited testing capacity. Beyond the impact on health, South Sudan has also been hit hard by the sharp decline in oil prices during the pandemic. Proceeds from oil exports account for 97 percent of exports and a large share of budget revenue, further compressing the already limited space for fiscal policy action. The exchange rate is depreciating, contributing to higher inflation. Financial support from the IMF is providing much needed breathing room and reducing the economic and social cost of adjusting the economy toward a sustainable path.

A recent push for economic reforms. South Sudan would benefit from diversifying its economy away from oil. Accomplishing this will require large investments in infrastructure, human development, and stronger institutions. Donor support is largely focused on humanitarian operations. Attracting more financing for development requires additional reforms. More effective institutions for public financial management are a high priority, and the authorities have embarked on this reform in line with their commitments under the 2018 peace agreement. The authorities are also charting a fiscal course that maintains debt sustainability, fosters economic growth, and provides for peace-building and social spending. These steps, together with commitments to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of IMF resources, helped unlock the first IMF funding for the country.

IMF help has multiple components: funding from the newly approved Rapid Credit Facility, capacity development, and policy advice. The Rapid Credit Facility provides emergency financing to deal with the most acute challenges of the crisis. At the same time, the IMF is providing technical assistance to help with modernizing the institutions necessary for public financial management, focusing first on budget planning, cash management, and the establishment of a treasury single account. In South Sudan as in other countries, to avoid overwhelming stretched capacities, reforms need to be incremental, prioritized, and focused.

South Sudan officially known as the Republic of South Sudan, is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. The country gained its independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011, making it the newest country with widespread recognition. Its capital and largest city is Juba.

South Sudan is bordered by Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest and the Central African Republic to the west. It includes the vast swamp region of the Sudd, formed by



South Sudanese families displaced after Nile River flooding. The effects of the pandemic have added to the country's massive development needs caused by conflict, floods, locusts and other events

the White Nile and known locally as the Bahr al Jabal, meaning "Mountain Sea". Sudan was occupied by Egypt under the Muhammad Ali dynasty and was governed as an Anglo-Egyptian condominium until Sudanese independence in 1956. Following the First Sudanese Civil War, the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region was formed in 1972 and lasted until 1983. A second Sudanese civil war soon broke out, ending in 2005 with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Later that year, southern autonomy was restored when an Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan was formed. South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011, following 98.83 per cent support for independence in a January 2011 referendum.

South Sudan has a population of 12 million, mostly of the Nilotic peoples. Christianity is the majority religion. In September 2017 the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict said that half of South Sudan's inhabitants are under 18 years old. It is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. In July 2012, South Sudan signed the Geneva Conventions. South Sudan has suffered ethnic violence and has been in a civil war since 2013. As of 2018, South Sudan ranks third lowest in the latest UN World Happiness Report, and has the highest score on the American Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index (formerly the Failed States Index).

The Nilotic people of South Sudan—the Acholi, Anyuak, Bari, Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Kaligi (Arabic Feroghe), and others—first entered South Sudan sometime before the 10th century coinciding with the fall of medieval nubia. During the period from the 15th to the 19th centuries, tribal migrations, largely from the area of Bahr el Ghazal, brought the Anyuak, Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk to their modern locations of both Bahr El Ghazal and Upper Nile Regions, while the Acholi and Bari settled in Equatoria. The Azande, Muntu, Avukaya and Baka, who entered South Sudan in the 16th century, established the region's largest state of Equatoria Region.

The Dinka are the largest, Nuer the second largest, the Azande the third-largest and the Bari are the fourth-largest ethnic group in the country. They are found in the Maridi, Yambio, and Tombura districts in the tropical rainforest belt of Western Equatoria, the Adio of Azande client in Yei, Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal. In the 18th century, the Avungara sib rose to power over the rest of Azande society and this domination continued into the 20th century. Geographical barriers, including the swamplands along the White

Nile and the British preference for sending Christian missionaries to the southern regions, including its Closed District Ordinance of 1922 (see History of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan), helped to prevent the spread of Islam to the southerners, thus enabling them to retain their social and cultural heritage, as well as their political and religious institutions. The major reasons include the long history of British policy preference toward developing the Arab north and its ignoring the Black south. After Sudan's first independent elections in 1958, the continued ignoring of the south by Khartoum (lack of schools, roads, bridges) led to uprisings, revolt, and the longest civil war on the continent. As of 2012, peoples include Acholi, Anyuak, Azande, Baka, Balanda Bviri, Bari, Boya, Didinga, Dinka, Jiye, Kaligi, Kuku, Lotuka, Mundari, Murie, Nilotic, Nuer, Shilluk, Toposa and Zande.

Slavery had been an institution of Sudanese life throughout history. The slave trade in the south intensified in the 19th century, and continued after the British had suppressed slavery in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Annual Sudanese slave raids into non-Muslim territories resulted in the capture of countless thousands of southern Sudanese, and the destruction of the region's stability and economy.

The Azande have had good relations with the neighbours, namely the Moru, Muntu, Pöjulu, Avukaya, Baka and the small groups in Bahr el Ghazal, due to the expansionist policy of their king Gbudwe, in the 18th century. In the 19th century, the Azande fought the French, the Belgians and the Mahdists to maintain their independence. Egypt, under the rule of Khedive Ismail Pasha, first attempted to control the region in the 1870s, establishing the province of Equatoria in the southern portion. Egypt's first governor was Samuel Baker, commissioned in 1869, followed by Charles George Gordon in 1874 and by Emin Pasha in 1878.

The Mahdist Revolt of the 1880s destabilized the nascent province, and Equatoria ceased to exist as an Egyptian outpost in 1889. Important settlements in Equatoria included Lado, Gondokoro, Dufile and Wadelai. European colonial maneuverings in the region came to a head in 1898, when the Fashoda Incident occurred at present-day Kodok; Britain and France almost went to war over the region. In 1947, British hopes to join South Sudan with Uganda, as well as leaving Western Equatoria as part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were dashed by the Rajaf Conference to unify North and South Sudan.

South Sudan has an estimated population of 8 million,[41] but, given the lack of a census in several decades, this estimate may be severely distorted. The economy is predominantly rural and relies chiefly on subsistence farming. Around 2005, the economy began a transition from this rural dominance, and urban areas within South Sudan have seen extensive development.

The region has been negatively affected by two civil wars since Sudanese independence: from 1955 to 1972, the Sudanese government fought the Anyanya rebel army (Anyanya-Nya is a term in the Madi language which means "snake venom") during the First Sudanese Civil War, followed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) in the Second Sudanese Civil War for over 20 years. As a result, the country suffered serious neglect, a lack of infrastructural development, and major destruction and displacement. More than 2.5 million people have been killed and millions more have become refugees both within and outside the country.

Independence (2011)

Between 9 and 15 January 2011, a referendum was held to determine whether South Sudan should become an independent country and separate from Sudan. 98.83 per cent of the population voted for independence. South Sudan formally became independent from Sudan on 9 July, although certain disputes still remained, including the division of oil

revenues, as 75 per cent of all the former Sudan's oil reserves are in South Sudan. The region of Abyei still remains disputed and a separate referendum will be held in Abyei on whether they want to join Sudan or South Sudan. The South Kordofan conflict broke out in June 2011 between the Army of Sudan and the SPLA over the Nuba Mountains.

On 9 July 2011 South Sudan became the 54th independent country in Africa and since 14 July 2011, South Sudan is the 193rd member of the United Nations. On 27 July 2011 South Sudan became the 54th country to join the African Union.

South Sudan was at war with at least seven armed groups in 9 of its 10 states, with tens of thousands displaced.[49] The fighters accuse the government of plotting to stay in power indefinitely, not fairly representing and supporting all tribal groups while neglecting development in rural areas. Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) also operates in a wide area that includes South Sudan.

Inter-ethnic warfare that in some cases predates the war of independence is widespread. In December 2011, tribal clashes in Jonglei intensified between the Nuer White Army of the Lou Nuer and the Murle. The White Army warned it would wipe out the Murle and would also fight South Sudanese and UN forces sent to the area around Pibor.

In March 2012, South Sudanese forces seized the Heglig oil fields in lands claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan in the province of South Kordofan after conflict with Sudanese forces in the South Sudanese state of Unity. South Sudan withdrew on 20 March, and the Sudanese Army entered Heglig two days later.

Civil war (2013–present)

In December 2013, a political power struggle broke out between President Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar, as the president accused Machar and ten others of attempting a coup d'état. Fighting broke out, igniting the South Sudanese Civil War. Ugandan troops were deployed to fight alongside South Sudanese government forces against the rebels. The United Nations has peacekeepers in the country as part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Numerous ceasefires were mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and SPLM - in opposition and were subsequently broken.

A peace agreement was signed in Ethiopia under threat of United Nations sanctions for both sides in August 2015. Machar returned to Juba in 2016 and was appointed vice president. Following a second breakout of violence in Juba, Machar was replaced as vice-president and he fled the country as the conflict erupted again. Rebel in-fighting has become a major part of the conflict. Rivalry among Dinka factions led by the President and Malong Awan have also led to fighting. In August 2018, another power sharing agreement came into effect.

About 400,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the war, including notable atrocities such as the 2014 Bentiu massacre. Although both men have supporters from across South Sudan's ethnic divides, subsequent fighting has been communal, with rebels targeting members of Kiir's Dinka ethnic group and government soldiers attacking Nuers. More than 4 million people have been displaced, with about 1.8 million of those internally displaced, and about 2.5 million having fled to neighboring countries, especially Uganda and Sudan.

Politics

South Sudan's presidential guard on Independence Day, 2011

The now-defunct Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly ratified a transitional constitution shortly before independence on 9 July 2011. The constitution was signed by the

The constitution establishes a presidential system of gov-

ernment headed by a president who is head of state, head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. It also establishes the National Legislature comprising two houses: a directly elected assembly, the National Legislative Assembly, and a second chamber of representatives of the states, the Council of States.

John Garang, the founder of the SPLA/M, was the first president of the autonomous government until his death on 30 July 2005. Salva Kiir Mayardit, his deputy, was sworn in as First Vice President of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan on 11 August 2005. Riek Machar replaced him as Vice-President of the Government. Legislative power is vested in the government and the bicameral National Legislature. The constitution also provides for an independent judiciary, the highest organ being the Supreme Court.

National capital project

The capital of South Sudan is located at Juba, which is also the state capital of Central Equatoria and the county seat of the eponymous Juba County, and is the country's largest city. However, due to Juba's poor infrastructure and massive urban growth, as well as its lack of centrality within South Sudan, the South Sudanese Government adopted a resolution in February 2011 to study the creation of a new planned city to serve as the seat of government. It is planned that the capital city will be changed to the more centrally located Ramciel.

This proposal is functionally similar to construction projects in Abuja, Nigeria; Brasília, Brazil; and Canberra, Australia; among other modern-era planned national capitals. It is unclear how the government will fund the project.

In September 2011, a spokesman for the government said the country's political leaders had accepted a proposal to build a new capital at Ramciel, a place in Lakes state near the borders with Central Equatoria and Jonglei. Ramciel is considered to be the geographical center of the country, and the late pro-independence leader John Garang allegedly had plans to relocate the capital there before his death in 2005. The proposal was supported by the Lakes state government and at least one Ramciel tribal chief. The design, planning, and construction of the city will likely take as many as five years, government ministers said, and the move of national institutions to the new capital will be implemented in stages.

States

Prior to 2015, South Sudan was divided into 10 states, which also correspond to three historical regions: Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, and Greater Upper Nile.

Reducing poverty through agriculture

AN initiative by an agric firm, known as Home Garden will enhance food production and food security and boost employment in Nigeria, writes Eromosele Abiodun

With the unemployment rate in Nigeria getting out of control, the federal government is focusing attention on agriculture to reverse the trend and also ensure food security. Agriculture was neglected in the past despite its ability to contribute to Nigeria's gross domestic products (GDP). As a result of lack of investment in agriculture and insecurity in most parts of the north, many families have had to rely on aid from donors to survive.

Recently, a report by the World Poverty Clock showed that Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world. According to the report, 50 per cent of Nigerians are now living in extreme poverty which means living on less than \$1.25 per day.

At this rate, experts believe the 2030 target for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations General Assembly and adopted by Nigeria will remain unachieved.

This, they warn, has an implication for all of us as it is hard to feel safe in the midst of overwhelming poverty. "Chances are that, if the level of poverty in Nigeria continues to rise, it is bound to implode one day," submits an expert, who does not want his name in print.

Speaking recently on the need for concerted effort to achieve the UN goals, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, said, "We do not have a plan B because there is no planet B". Basically we must find a way to solve the problems plaguing the world. One of such problem is Goal 1 of the SDGs which is to end poverty in all its forms and another is Goal No. 2 Zero Hunger."

Meanwhile, experts believe multiple strategies are required to address the issue of food production and food security.

The choice of feasible approaches, they said, hinges on the existing social, political, and economic conditions and resources available to design and implement the intervention.

Taking the lead in this regard is a company who has devoted considerable effort to devise strategies to drive food production and food security.

Known as SENCE Agric, the organisation has developed a novel idea that will ensure that every family in Nigeria participates in the agriculture revolution by owning a garden.

"We are particularly passionate about these 2 goals as it resonates deeply with us and we see it in the people we meet on a regular basis. Our problem solving attitude was what gave birth to the 'Home Garden' idea. We believe that one way to positively impact the goals sustainably is through the development of home gardens. With a home garden, families can grow their own food providing them with nutritious meals and reducing the amounts spent on food and where possible, sell the excess to generate additional income. With time, home gardeners can venture into prop-

er farming, if they wish, using the skills they have developed over the years, thereby creating employment for themselves.

"Home gardens are also a time-tested local strategy that is widely adopted and practiced in various circumstances by local communities with limited resources and institutional support," the company said in a statement.

It added that the SENCE Agric home garden initiative seeks to: "Make it 'cool' to own a home garden, so that more people will embrace the idea, encourage people and communities to start a home garden and teach farming techniques that can enable them maximise space and grow food in what little space they have.

"We provide training and support for persons who already own a home garden, assist successful home gardeners with access to markets, organise community outreach programmes, where the opportunities and benefits will be discussed, provide technical support for people who wish to embrace the concept of a home garden and ensure sustainability through training on various aspects of running a home garden, including financial management and Food Safety."

Home Garden Journey

"To begin our home garden journey, we started by organising a home garden competition which is about promoting the habit of "Growing What You Eat". The competition is meant to showcase the people who through their home gardens are feeding themselves or the community. We emphasised that, it isn't about how big or small their garden is but what they have been able to do with the space they have. The winners get cash and other consolation prizes

"We've had the competition three times, the first in April 2019 and the fourth edition will run by December 2020. The competition is bi-annual, but can increase when we get more sponsors to donate cash, inputs, tools, etc. From the competitions so far, we have gotten several requests and enquiries about home garden. After much deliberations and discussions, we came up with the idea of creating a home garden club where people of different status irrespective of social class or education can discuss, share ideas and knowledge. The SENCE Agric home garden kicked off in July 2020," it explained.

It added that the SENCE Agric Garden club aim to; promote eating healthy on a budget, saving money, the easy way and help people know what is in the food that they eat.

"We also collaborating with other enthusiasts to improve their skills, learning about plants and growing techniques and sharing resources. Everyone, who had interest or questions as regards home gardening formed members of the club. The club through its activities will promote home gardens provide tips and support to members, promote sustainable gardening practices.

"Share healthy recipes, as members you have access to the following benefits, access to garden inputs, garden set-up at discounted rates, once a year get -togethers, competitions, access to markets for excess products, garden



support and advisory services and home garden events," the company said.

It added that following the successful set-up of the home garden club, an outreach programme was initiated and a pioneer community was chosen which was the ILAJE FISH SELLER COMMUNITY in Bariga area of Lagos state.

They added, "The community was chosen based on proximity, their lack of land space for growing and the fact that there is high poverty rate there, which might account to lack of proper or balanced nutrition.

"The outreach took place on the 17th of October, 2020. The community was thought on how to grow in plastics bowls and buckets. We made them understand the relevance of growing their own food and what they stand to gain by doing so. Gifts were presented to the children. They expressed their joy and were thankful we chose their community to kick start the project. They asked us to visit more often, which we promised to."

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, commonly referred to as Nigeria is a federal republic in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the south-east, and Benin in the west. Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The federation comprises 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja is located. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country.

Nigeria has been home to a number of ancient and indigenous kingdoms and states over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and took its present territorial shape with the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914. The British set up administrative and legal structures while practising indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960. It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It thereafter alternated between democratically elected civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2011 presidential election considered the first to be reasonably free and fair.

Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy. With 186 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has the third-largest youth population in the world, after India and China, with more than 90 million of its population under age 18. The country is viewed as a multinational state as it is inhabited by 250 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 250 different languages and are identified with a wide variety

of cultures. The official language is English. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern part of the country, and Muslims, who live mostly in the north. A minority of the population practice religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to the Igbo and Yoruba ethnicities.

As of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. The 2013 debt-to-GDP ratio was 11 percent. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; it has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power. However, it currently has a "low" Human Development Index, ranking 152nd in the world. Nigeria is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe's next "BRIC-like" economies. It is also listed among the "Next Eleven" economies set to become among the biggest in the world. Nigeria is a founding member of the African Union and a member of many other international organizations, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and OPEC.

The name Nigeria was taken from the Niger River running through the country. This name was coined in the late 19th century by British journalist Flora Shaw, who later married Lord Lugard, a British colonial administrator. The origin of the name Niger, which originally applied only to the middle reaches of the Niger River, is uncertain. The word is likely an alteration of the Tuareg name *egerew n-igerewen* used by inhabitants along the middle reaches of the river around Timbuktu prior to 19th-century European colonialism.

The Nok civilisation of Northern Nigeria flourished between 500 BC and AD 200, producing life-sized terracotta figures that are some of the earliest known sculptures in Sub-Saharan Africa. Further north, the cities Kano and Katsina have a recorded history dating to around 999 AD. Hausa kingdoms and the Kanem-Bornu Empire prospered as trade posts between North and West Africa.

The Kingdom of Nri of the Igbo people consolidated in the 10th century and continued until it lost its sovereignty to the British in 1911. Nri was ruled by the Eze Nri, and the city of Nri is considered to be the foundation of Igbo culture. Nri and Aguleri, where the Igbo creation myth originates, are in the territory of the Umeuri clan. Members of the clan trace their lineages back to the patriarchal king-figure Eri. In West Africa, the oldest bronzes made using the lost-wax process were from Igbo-Ukwu, a city under Nri influence.

The slave trade was engaged in by European state and non-state actors such as Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal and private companies, as well as various African states and non-state actors. With rising anti-slavery sentiment at home and changing economic realities, Great Britain outlawed the international slave trade in 1807.

Following the Napoleonic Wars, Great Britain established the West Africa Squadron in an attempt to halt the international traffic in slaves. It stopped ships of other nations that were leaving the African coast with slaves; the seized slaves were taken to Freetown, a colony in West Africa originally established for the resettlement of freed slaves from Britain. Britain intervened in the Lagos Kingship power struggle by bombarding Lagos in 1851, deposing the slave trade friendly Oba Kosoko, helping to install the amenable Oba Akitoye, and signing the Treaty between Great Britain and Lagos on 1 January 1852. Britain annexed Lagos as a Crown Colony in August 1861 with the Lagos Treaty of Cession. British missionaries expanded their operations and travelled further inland. In 1864, Samuel Ajayi Crowther became the first African bishop of the Anglican Church.

In 1885, British claims to a West African sphere of influence received recognition from other European nations at the Berlin Conference. The following year, it chartered the Royal Niger Company under the leadership of Sir George Taubman Goldie. In 1900 the company's territory came under the control of the British government, which moved to consolidate its hold over the area of modern Nigeria

On 1 January 1901, Nigeria became a British protectorate, and part of the British Empire, the foremost world power at the time. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the independent kingdoms of what would become Nigeria fought a number of conflicts against the British Empire's efforts to expand its territory. By war, the British conquered Benin in 1897, and, in the Anglo-Aro War (1901-1902), defeated other

opponents. The restraint or conquest of these states opened up the Niger area to British rule.

In 1914, the British formally united the Niger area as the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. Administratively, Nigeria remained divided into the Northern and Southern Protectorates and Lagos Colony. Inhabitants of the southern region sustained more interaction, economic and cultural, with the British and other Europeans owing to the coastal economy.

Christian missions established Western educational institutions in the Protectorates. Under Britain's policy of indirect rule and validation of Islamic tradition, the Crown did not encourage the operation of Christian missions in the northern, Islamic part of the country. Some children of the southern elite went to Great Britain to pursue higher education. By independence in 1960, regional differences in modern educational access were marked. The legacy, though less pronounced, continues to the present day. Imbalances between North and South were expressed in Nigeria's political life as well. For instance, northern Nigeria did not outlaw slavery until 1936 whilst in other parts of Nigeria slavery was abolished soon after colonialism.

Following World War II, in response to the growth of Nigerian nationalism and demands for independence, successive constitutions legislated by the British government moved Nigeria toward self-government on a representative and increasingly federal basis. By the middle of the 20th century, a great wave for independence was sweeping across Africa. Nigeria achieved independence in 1960.

Independent Federation and First Republic (1960-1966)

The Federation of Nigeria gained independence from the United Kingdom on 1 October 1960, while retaining the British monarch, Elizabeth II, as nominal head of state and Queen of Nigeria. Nigeria's government was a coalition of conservative parties: the Nigerian People's Congress (NPC), a party dominated by Northerners and those of the Islamic faith, and the Igbo and Christian-dominated National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) led by Nnamdi Azikiwe. Azikiwe replaced the colonial governor-general in November 1960. The opposition comprised the comparatively liberal Action Group (AG), which was largely dominated by the Yoruba and led by Obafemi Awolowo. The cultural and political differences between Nigeria's dominant ethnic groups - the Hausa (Northerners), Igbo (Easterners) and Yoruba (Westerners) - were sharp.

An imbalance was created in the polity by the result of the 1961 plebiscite. Southern Cameroons opted to join the Republic of Cameroon while Northern Cameroons chose to remain in Nigeria. The northern part of the country was now far larger than the southern part. In 1963, the nation established a Federal Republic, with Azikiwe as its first president. When elections were held in 1965, the Nigerian National Democratic Party came to power in Nigeria's Western Region.



Unlock tourism potential in southern circuit, forum advises govt

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Tunduru

TANZANIA Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) has advised the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism that after launching the Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy (2020-2024), the Ministry should direct much of its resources and projects to Unlock tourism potentials in the Southern Circuit.

TNRF Executive Director Zakharia Faustine said that some projects are normally directed in the Northern circuit where tourism activities have already developed, advising that it was high time, such projects were directed in the Southern circuit to unlock some hidden potentials.

He said if the general public in the Southern Circuit understand and benefit from tourism, they

will gradually change their mindset and develop a sense of ownership, a situation which will help to minimize the human-wildlife conflicts in the region.

He also called on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to invite and work together with potential stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy to address the human-wildlife conflicts for more positive results.

TNRF advice comes amid increasing human-wildlife conflicts in the Southern regions such as Tunduru district where the villagers of Majimaji, Hulia and Misyaje, among others are complaining wildlife invasion into their farms particularly the Elephants.

They claim that groups of hundreds of Elephants are currently invading and destroying their cash and food crops in their villages.

"I understand that the strategy

suggests sustainable measures to be used to mitigate the conflicts between human and wildlife, I advice that the Ministry to work closely with other stakeholders to implement this and direct projects in the southern circuit to unlock its tourism potentials," he said.

Earlier on, Wildlife Management Authorities (WMA) from the Northern circuit said the outhern Circuit stand a better chance of becoming a tourism centre in Tanzania following the government's initiatives to open up Air ways and roads infrastructures and networks.

They said the village, district and regional leaders in the southern regions should now start providing mass education on wildlife protection and conservation to address the problem of human-wildlife conflicts.

Speaking at different village meetings convened in by WWF

Tanzania in collaboration with TNRF in Tunduru district, WMA leaders from the Northern circuit said as a growing problem in the Southern regions, the leaders and other stakeholders should start examining sources of human-wildlife conflict, indicators of human-wildlife conflict and mitigation measures to reduce the human-wildlife conflict.

Sharing experience on how the Northern Circuit has managed to minimize human-wildlife conflict, the Executive Secretary for Enduimet WMA in Longido, Arusha Peter Millanga said that first of all the leaders and the villagers should regard wildlife as a tourism opportunity and not an enemy.

"When you develop negative perception about wildlife, you will never change and benefit. But I can tell you that in our Northern circuit, we are managed. We are

now making a lot of money out of tourism projects," he said.

He suggested that the leaders should work closely with the villagers living along Mwalimu Nyerere National Park and the Selous game reserve as a whole to create crop protection teams, and game scouts.

"I would also suggest that there should be beekeeping training programs to empower the local villagers to have alternative source of income to conserve the environment," he said.

Yusufu Manyanda from Ikona WMA, Serengeti, said that as a result of tourism activities, for the past three years, Ikona WMA has raised between 2.5bn/- and 3.5bn/- of which half of it has been reinvested into the community on different development projects.

Commenting on mitigation measures, he said the villagers

should not wait until the Elephant invade their crops. It is better to set up observation point in hilly areas where the youth or game scouts can easily observe the wildlife from far away and return them before they enter the farms.

"Observation point has helped much to put in place mitigation measures before the wildlife such as Elephants enter village farms. I advice the village also to opt similar measures," he said.

Ramadhan Ismail from Burunge WMA in Babati, Manyara region recommended that there should be exchange programs between Tunduru villagers and WMA in the Northern circuit.

He advised the villagers to adhere to laws and regulations of the country by not taking harmful actions into their own hands.

"Wildlife is here to stay with us. They are governed by laws and

regulations of this country. It is better to observe these laws and learn from Northern regions on how to address this problem of human-wildlife conflicts.

"We should not kill these elephants instead we must learn to live with them harmoniously as we are doing in the Northern regions. Today, the government is opening tourism in the Southern regions by constructing roads and setting up other basic social services. It is better we support these government initiatives because very soon these wildlife will have very high returns," he said.

Earlier on the villagers from Majimaji, Hulia and Misyaje said that they were been disturbed by the wildlife especially the Elephants and now they are tired, while others threatened to kill them.

Parents struggling to pay school fees amid impact of COVID-19

By Getrude Mbagi

WHEN Tanzania schools resumed classes from end of June to mid-July this year after a three-month closure due to Coronavirus outbreak, many parents experienced a number of challenges including salary cut, job termination and drop of regular income due to the pandemic.

Boniface Kelvin of Mbuyuni area in Tegeta Ward on the outskirts of the Dar es Salaam is one of the parents who were hardly hit by the COVID-19 shock waves.

As it was to many people, Kelvin could not predict what will be the repercussion of the virus.

But, things for Kelvin started turning sour soon after his employer cut his salary by 40 percent to mitigate the COVID-19 impacts, taking into accounts that he was working at one of the Dar es Salaam-based tourist hotels, in which the business was badly hit by the pandemic in Tanzania and the rest of the world.

Even as he was trying to scrutinise on how to manage his spending, his children's school fees in private schools were 2m/- each child, making a total of 6m/- per year.

In March this year, Tanzania had executed a nation-wide three-month school shutdown or closure from April after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Tanzania.

However after three months of a forced, prolonged school holiday, the government reopened universities, colleges and later schools with effect from June 30, a move which was received positively and negatively by some people especially parents.

"I don't know how to explain, this disease has ruined every plan and the timetable for this year, I have three children in school. I have to pay about 6m/- to fund their education, but as I speak, things have become upside down, I don't know what to do," he says.

According to him, a few weeks after the pandemic entered the county in March this year, the hotel's owner had announced a 40 percent pay cut from all employees' monthly salaries until further notice.

Kelvin said that, the company (Hotel) claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic had hit the firm's plans and thus affecting its business development and that's why its management had taken immediate measures to rescue it from total shutting down.

"From there, I started experiencing the second side of the coin, life became so hard, by that time, the children were still spending their COVID-19 holiday, but soon after they resumed studies, things became harder," he says.

"I had a few amounts in my savings which were not even enough to please the school management to receive my children, the shock was over me," he narrates.

"I struggled here and there and managed to get cash which enabled my children to at least go to school smoothly."

"Apart from my job, I had my clothing shop to earn extra income, but I didn't earn a lot from it as business became hard as well. As I speak, I am thinking of taking my children to another school which is cheaper," he says.

Kelvin is now arranging to take his children to the new school next year, as he thinks to be able to afford the expenses. COVID-19 pandemic had brought shock not only to parents, but the children themselves.

"They are currently studying under pressure to cover what they missed during the three-month holiday," he said.

Mary Wisa, a widow and mother of two and a resident of Kinyezezi area, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam also says that she is afraid that her children's education development will not go well due to challenges she is facing, a situation which



has also affected financing for her children's education.

Mary, an entrepreneur who owns a wholesale women-wear, cites COVID-19 as a "demon" which came to destroy people's development plans.

"Before the outbreak of Covid-19, my business was doing very well, I was earning a good profit each day, this made me capable of taking care of my children and their school expenses too," she says.

"I was importing quality women clothes and shoes from the UK and China but Covid-19 has ruined all my plans," she adds.

Mary says that she has been paying 4.5m/- per year to finance her children's education but she has decided to transfer the children to affordable schools effectively from January, next year.

"My first daughter is 10 (standard five) and the second is 7 standard two. Since the schools reopened in June, my children have experienced difficult environment of learning which they have never experienced in their life, I was unable to pay the required expenses on time something which affect their attention and learning as they have to come back home multiple times reminding me to pay the fees for them to be free and confident in class," she adds.

Both parents, Kelvin and Mary are facing an unprecedented situation that represents hundreds of thousands of parents across Tanzania with their children in private schools.

A number of parents who spoke to this paper also say they were

"I'm thinking of transferring my children out from private schools to public schools since I can no longer afford to pay fees and other expenses, taking into consideration that I have lost my job due to Covid-19 pandemic outbreak that had affected my income," Grace Malulu, a Dar es Salaam resident.

A section of Private School owners in the city also acknowledges that COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the education landscape in the country, affecting schools, parents and children.

"It is true that the COVID-19 pandemic could derail and shrink development of private schools in Tanzania with financially-stressed parents likely to seek more affordable alternatives like government schools for their children," Grace recounts.

She notes that COVID-19 had a very serious impact on the private schools.

In short term, due to stress on parents and school finances, with some parents shifting their children to more affordable schools,

mostly the government schools.

One of the private school owners in Dar es Salaam who preferred anonymity says that a father whose two children are studying in his school had failed to send back to school his children after resumption of classes in July due to his worsening economic situation.

"He had requested me to keep all of them in the school's records, so that they can rejoin their current classes next year. I had nothing to tell him. I realized pressuring parents to pay is not a solution at this time. I have already reduced my teaching staff from 23 to 14 to cut costs," the school owner says.

When asked if it was possible to reduce the expenses, the owner said that it was difficult because most of the schools are also grappling to survive, so reducing the school fees could affect their development.

Recent reports show that parents in low and middle-income countries will struggle to maintain the considerable resources they devote to their children's education. The livelihoods of many families have already been affected by the pandemic and are likely to be for some time to come. The pandemic is expected to push 40 to 60 million more children into extreme poverty. Income shocks are likely to lead to many children

dropping out of school or not returning when schools reopen.

The education sector has rebuilt after natural disasters and delivered education during conflicts or in refugee settings; it is also increasingly adapting to climate change. However, COVID-19 is a global health emergency of unprecedented scale, presenting unique challenges that many countries were unprepared to address. Tanzania has ratified the most important regional and international treaties protecting the right to education so as to promote access to education to every child. The National Strategy on Inclusive Education (2007-2017) was also one of the actions planned by the government stating that all children, youths and adults in Tanzania have equitable and accessible quality education in inclusive settings.

The Law of the Child Act prohibits discrimination against children. The National Education Act states that no one may be denied education for the reason only of his race, religion or political or ideological beliefs.

By Guardian Reporter

Bank inaugurates insurance product

STANBIC Bank Tanzania continues to make dreams real for its customers through its tailored and innovative solutions.

The bank has launched banca insurance services dubbed "Bima Bomba" which aims to provide its customers, with insurance policies for protecting

and securing their assets and investment from potential risk.

Speaking on the new product, the bank's head of personal and business banking, Brian Ndadzungira said: "As a customer-centric bank, we understand

that an accident or damage can affect you or your assets financially and physically. This is why as part of our bancassurance we have rolled out this solution to encourage Tanzanians to safeguard their assets and start

considering insurance as a basic need." He further welcomed all Tanzanians to secure their assets with Stanbic bank.

"Our clients now have the opportunity to access insurance services in all our branches. The

launch of Bima Bomba complements our mission that aims to empower the financial success of our customers through a full suite of accessible, simple and easy to use products," Ndadzungira noted.

According to the 2018 annual performance report by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), the insurance market grew by 8.6 per cent; therefore, the bank also aims to continue propelling the indus-

try and increase its contribution to the national GDP.

"We believe that our financial advisory expertise and knowledge of local markets helps us provide premier insurance solutions tailored to our customers. These elements will empower them to grow and protect their investments," Ndadzungira said

Astra-Oxford vaccine prevents 70% of COVID-19 cases

By Bloomberg

A COVID-19 vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca Plc prevented a majority of people from getting the disease in a large trial, another promising development in the quest to end the pandemic, and the rollout could begin next month.

The vaccine stopped an average of 70 percent of participants from falling ill, an early analysis of the data show. The effectiveness rose to 90 percent for one of two regimens, using half a dose followed by a full one later, close to the high bar set by Pfizer Inc and Moderna Inc.

Astra and Oxford officials said they're preparing to submit the findings to regulators and don't expect the different outcomes in the study to affect the process. The US could potentially take longer to sign off because a clinical trial in that country will need more time before it delivers results.

"Our goal was to make sure we can have a vaccine that is accessible everywhere," Andrew Pollard, who is leading the Astra-Oxford trials, said Monday at a press briefing. "I think we have actually managed to do that."

The results, based on trials in the UK and Brazil, were reviewed after 131 participants contracted COVID-19. The full two doses showed an efficacy of 62 percent. Among those who received the vaccine, there were no severe cases and no participants were hospitalized. The group is planning to submit the data for peer review in the next 24 hours.

Astra shares dropped as much as 2.2 percent in London, though they've risen about 30 percent since mid-March. Moderna and Pfizer shares surged when they reported their results.

The larger US Astra trial, which could be key for approval there, has injected about 10,500 people with both doses. Mene Pangalos, Astra's head of biopharma research, told reporters the team is planning to talk to the US Food and Drug Administration immediately and hopes to have another arm administering the half dose-full dose regimen starting within weeks.

"That scenario is possible," that other regulators could move before the US, he said. "We need to share the data with the FDA, which we will do very quickly, and then we will work out what the most appropriate steps are."

Despite the apparently lower efficacy than shots from Pfizer and Moderna, which each prevented about 95 percent of cases, the British vaccine has some advantages. Their shot can be kept at refrigerator temperatures, while those from Pfizer and Moderna, based on novel messenger RNA technology,



An illustration picture shows vials with COVID-19 Vaccine stickers attached and syringes with the logo of British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. AFP

require freezing for longer-term storage and transport. That would make Astra's easier to deploy globally, particularly in lower- and middle-income countries. It also comes at a lower cost.

The Astra-Oxford team cautioned against comparing the efficacy levels of the vaccines too closely at this stage. Pam Cheng, who runs Astra's global operations and is overseeing the manufacturing of the vaccine, said the half dose-full dose regimen shouldn't affect global production or supplies of the shot, other than to potentially increase the number of doses available.

Vaccine Race

AstraZeneca expects to have more than 300 million doses ready to ship globally by the end of the first quarter of next year, with about 100 to 200 million doses being produced monthly. For the UK, the company expects to have up to 4 million doses ready by year-end, and 40 million by the end of the first quarter.

The differing results of the two regimens may leave questions about the best way to give the AstraZeneca shot. Analysts at Barclays Plc had put consensus expectations for what would be deemed a success from AstraZeneca at 70 percent to 90 percent, following conversations with investors in Europe and the US.

AstraZeneca said it will immediately prepare to submit data to authorities around the world that have a framework in place for early approval. The company said it will seek an emergency use listing from the World Health Organization for an accelerated pathway to vaccine availability in low-income countries.

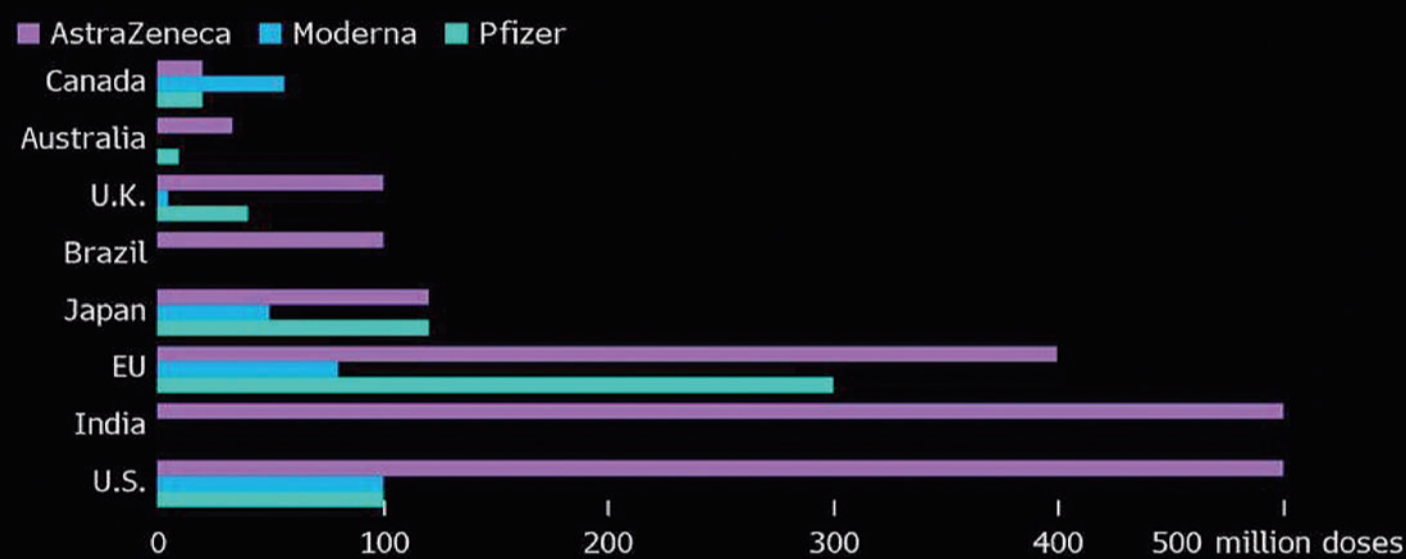
Vaccine developers will not know how long any protection lasts for a number of months as they monitor antibody levels to see how quickly they fade. UK and European Union regulators are conducting accelerated reviews of the results from both Astra and Pfizer, which has applied for an emergency use authorization in the US.

Astra and Oxford have been among the fastest-moving vaccine developers. After years spent working on a vaccine against COVID's relation Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Oxford's scientists had an advantage that allowed them to move quickly to create a shot.

"I have little doubt that this vaccine is going to have a big impact globally," Astra's Pangalos said.

Agencies

Vaccine Race Countries hedge their bets by reserving various shot candidates



Source: Duke Global Health Innovation Center, Bloomberg data
NOTE: Some orders are for "up to" stated doses; Chart excludes Indonesia, Chile, Egypt, Argentina, Ecuador, Switzerland, Costa Rica.

Bloomberg

SCO to safeguard security, stability, build community of security for all

By He Yin

CHINESE President Xi Jinping put forward a major initiative for safeguarding security and stability and building a community of security for all when addressing the 20th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via video link on Nov. 10.

"Security and stability are the number one precondition for a country's development, and thus concern the core interests of all countries. We need to act on the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, address all forms of threats and challenges effectively, and foster a sound security environment in our region," Xi said.

While the international situation remains intricate and complex, the COVID-19 pandemic is adding complexity to international and regional security.

To join hands to tackle risks and challenges and promote security, stability and prosperity is a challenging task for the SCO.

Xi's remarks have diversified the SCO's security cooperation, charting the way forward for the organization. It is generally believed that China's stance is of great importance and has far-reaching influence.

The common pursuit of cooperation and development encapsulates the founding principle of the SCO.

Over the years, guided by the vision of common security and a shared future, the SCO members have carried out practical and highly efficient cooperation on the security front, ensured the overall security and stability of the region and made important contributions to world peace and development.

In today's world, rising non-traditional security threats and the hotspot issues in the traditional security field are inter-

woven, becoming major factors affecting world peace and stability.

What's worth more attention is that international terrorist organizations and separatists, religious extremists and terrorists in the region are growing worrisome again, and some forces from outside the region have interfered in the internal affairs of countries in the region with various excuses.

This year's summit adopted and issued the "Moscow Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO Member States" and a series of statements on joint response efforts against the novel coronavirus infection, in connection with the 75th anniversary of victory in World War II, on cooperation in international information security, on cooperation in the digital economy, on countering the spread of terrorist, separatist and extremist ideology, including online, and on countering the drug threat. All this demonstrated the organization's firm determination to safeguard security and stability.

China's proposal of building a community of security for all is a significant move to build a closer SCO community with a shared future.

At the SCO summit in Qingdao in 2018, Xi called on countries to work closely to build an SCO community with a shared future, move toward a new type of international relations, and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

At last year's summit in Bishkek, Xi called for making the SCO an example of common security.

These important propositions China has put forward are in line with the Shanghai Spirit, a creative vision initiated and followed through by the SCO that champions mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development. While providing broad horizons for regional countries to uphold security,

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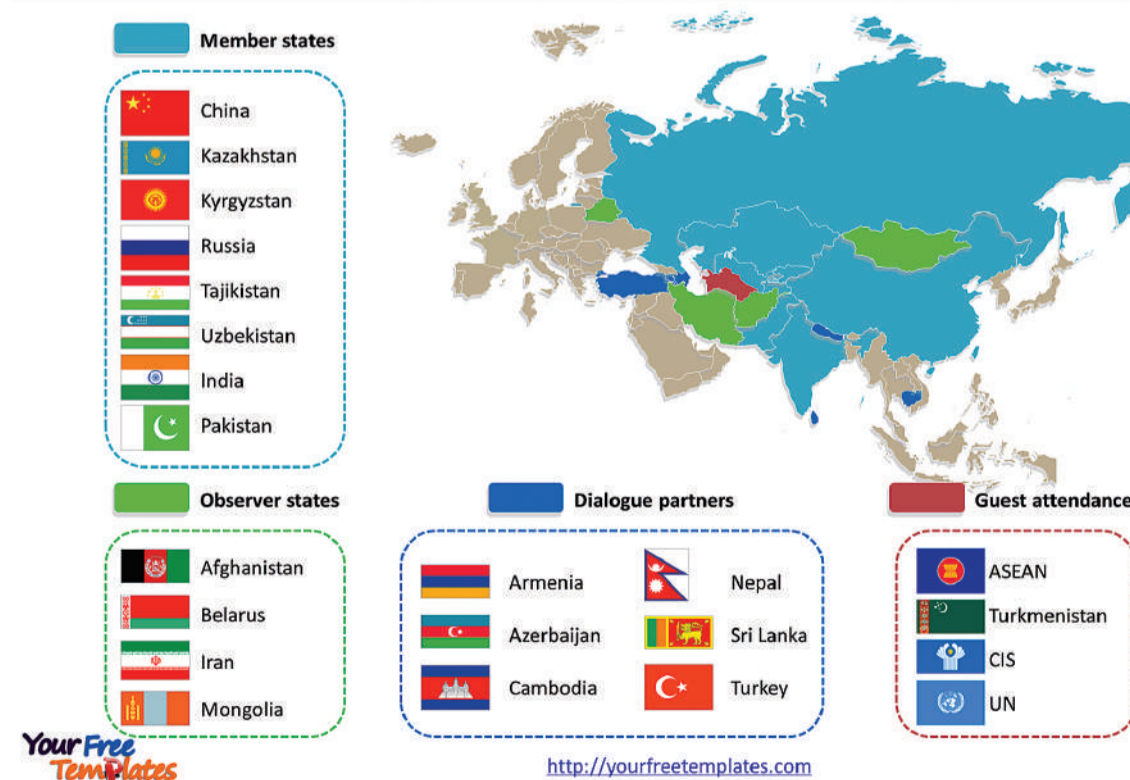
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these propositions have been well received by these countries.

The outcome document of this year's SCO summit emphasized that the member states will respect for the civilizational diversity and peoples' independent choice of the path of their political and socio-economic development, equitable partnership of states in the interests of ensuring equal, joint, indivisible, comprehensive and stable security, progressive growth and prosperity in the SCO space. That underlined the SCO members' high recognition of China's propositions.

To safeguard political security and social stability of the SCO member states and cement their political foundation featuring solidarity and mutual trust is an important part of building a community of security for all.

Member states



consultation.

The security situation may change as time and circumstances change, and so should security cooperation.

China has called on the SCO member states to forestall terrorist, separatist and extremist attempts to exploit the pandemic for disruption, curb the proliferation of drugs, crack down on Internet-based propagation of extremist ideology, and deepen SCO members' law-enforcement cooperation. It is important for the SCO members to uphold bio-security, data security and outer-space security, and engage in active communication and dialogue in this field.

The SCO countries also need to make good use of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to help the country realize peace and reconstruction.

China also welcomes the participation of all parties in the Global Initiative on Data Security it has launched, which demonstrates the country's responsibilities as a major country to shape a peaceful, secure, open, cooperative and orderly cyberspace.

These proposals were warmly received by all sides. Russian President Vladimir Putin fully agreed with China's proposals, saying that Russia supports the Global Initiative on Data Security.

Nothing is more beneficial than stability, and nothing is more detrimental than chaos. Security and stability are what people long for, and the pursuit of cooperation for mutual benefit represents a surging trend.

For the SCO, joining hands to build a community of security for all is conducive to continuously deepening solidarity and cooperation, and maintaining the hard-won overall situation of regional stability. By doing so, the SCO will surely provide a reliable security guarantee for common development in the region and make important contributions to safeguarding world peace and stability.

People's Daily



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TPSF chair dares young women entrepreneurs to digitise

By Francis Kajubi

YOUNG women entrepreneurs have been challenged to exploit the global market place by offering their products and services on digital platforms which can be seen by many consumers.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation's Chairperson, Angelina Ngalula said in Dar es Salaam last week by offering their businesses online, the women entrepreneurs will also grow rapidly because of getting a reliable global market.

Addressing young women entrepreneurs who gathered in the commercial capital during a forum to mark the end of the global entrepreneurship week, Ngalula said times and seasons to applying traditional or manual business models

are over because smart businesses are currently done online.

"As we come to an end of the global entrepreneurship week I would like to call upon female entrepreneurs to embrace technology in the businesses in order to realize rapid growth because ordinary SMEs hardly stand a chance to win country wide, regional or even the global market competitions compared to start-ups which mostly rely on social media," he argued.

According to her as a woman entrepreneur and leader with many years of experience, the TPSF chief said she is happy to see efforts being taken by development partners and the government in boosting and bringing equity among entrepreneurs.

"Personal I stand as an



Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairperson Angelina Ngalula.

example of assertiveness and ability within a woman to bring about economic development. Despite in-

equalities in opportunities and basic needs such as education and financial services, women have still

been at the forefront of socio-economic development of this country," she noted.

She defended her sentiments by referring to International Labor Organization's latest report which highlighted that more than 53.4 percent of women are employed in small and medium size enterprises especially in agriculture despite the inequality challenges they face.

The GEW is celebrated in line with highlighting women's empowerment through education and policy issues in recognition of women entrepreneurs who are committed and successful.

"Women are also not far behind in the investment and production sector. Despite the many successes seen, there are still many challenges that women go through, for example, access to education, financial and health services," she argued.

The global event was organized by Tanzania Startup Asso-

ciation (TSA) in collaboration with Global Entrepreneurship Network Tanzania.

In remarks made at the same event, TSA's CEO, Zahoro Muhaji said the global entrepreneurship week is celebrated annually from 16th to 22nd of November in 165 countries including Tanzania.

Muhaji noted that in line with the week's celebrations, the association organized events across the country to embrace entrepreneurs by mobilizing them through workshops, training session and debate to gain knowledge and new skills.

"Though the targeted group is women entrepreneurs, we also had some activities featuring youths in general. TSA is has so far registered 152 female owned businesses across the country that it works with currently," he said adding that President John Magufuli's campaign promise to create eight million jobs, will largely come from entrepreneurs.

Tangold chief excited by Buckreef plant support for more expansion

By Smart Money Reporter

ABILITY of Buckreef Gold plant to increase production to 40 tons per hour from the current five tons of gold has been welcomed by Tanzania Gold Corporation's Executive Chairman, James Sinclair.

In a statement last week, Sinclair said currently the plant which started commercial production in June this year and has been operating for seven days a week with 12 hour shifts per day, has produced a total of 427.9 oz of gold.

"The exceptional performance of the test plant has laid a firm technical foundation and has helped to de-risk our plans to build a much larger plant," he said in the statement while adding, "We have every expectation that we will be produc-

ing in the range of 15,000 to 20,000 oz. of gold production per year with the new plant and after start up we could be in a position to consider an expansion of this plant."

The Buckreef Gold Mine which is jointly owned by Tangold and State Mining Corporation is based in Geita Region, had by October this year managed to produce 250,810 tons of waste and topsoil removed and stockpiled; 21,900 tons of ore mined; 10,040 tons ore crushed - wet; 9,078 tons ore milled - dry; 137 total days operated while plant availability has ranged from 73.1 to 94.6 percent.

The plant has also managed an average recovery at a steady at 82 percent with the 5tph oxide test plant being a substantial success on several levels. First, operation of

the plant to date proves the viability of the Buckreef Gold Project to produce gold and therefore provides a considerable de-risking of the mine building efforts.

"Critically, we have now become a gold producer. The financing arrangements we have previously announced will help to ensure the rapid expansion of production such that we can expect to reach our goal of becoming cash flow positive," the Tangold chief noted.

Additionally, the plant has been used to train and develop a crew that will be ready to operate the larger 40tph plant when it comes online. Start-up and operation of the test plant has provided months of experience in: understanding the oxide deposit; areas of mining and earth moving; stock-



Tanzania Gold Corporation executive chairman James Sinclair.

pile management; grade blending control; equipment and materials procurement; local content regulations; and security.

The company has initiated con-

struction of a large tailings facility to accommodate the targeted expansion of the oxide plant. As work advances rapidly with the oxide operation, Tanzanian Gold

continues to advance the sulphide mine final feasibility study, which is targeted to produce 150,000 oz. to 175,000 oz. of gold per year.

Kenya seeks \$2.3bn loan from IMF to aid economic recovery

NAIROBI

KENYA is seeking a loan of as much as \$2.3 billion from the International Monetary Fund under the lender's extended fund facility.

Talks on a possible 3 1/2-year loan program are expected to conclude early next year, with Kenya eyeing an initial disbursement of about \$725 million in the fiscal year that runs through June, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said in an interview.

Among objectives of the loan is "continuous support of Kenya's Covid-19 response," Yatani said. "We are also looking at areas of reduced debt vulnerabilities through a revenue-driven fiscal consolidation."

Yatani wants to raise and conserve funds as part of a plan to support sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest economy after the pandemic hit public revenue and further clouded plans for fiscal consolidation.

World Bank loan

Funding constraints have forced the government to scale back on some projects under President Uhuru Kenyatta's so-called Big Four agenda to boost housing, manufacturing, health care and farming, according to Yatani. The National Treasury expects economic expansion this year will be under 1%, compared with growth of 5.4% in 2019. Separately, the government is holding talks with the World Bank for a development policy operation, or DPO, loan of about \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion.

"We hope toward the end of the financial year, around May, June to even access part of the disbursement" from the World Bank, Yatani said. "It will all depend on a number of factors including our ability to manage within the fiscal framework."

Kenya is also still weighing the pros and cons of partici-



Kenyan Treasury Cabinet Secretary, Ukur Yatani.

pating in the Group of 20 leading economies' Debt Service Suspension Initiative. It's aimed at allowing low-income countries to concentrate resources on fighting the pandemic. Kenya has been hesitant to participate on the grounds that pausing payments could potentially hurt it given the nation's debt mix.

G-20 debt initiative

"We have not yet made any formal application to join this arrangement," Yatani said. "We

are still studying the effect it's going to have on the economy. We are going to make this decision in the course of time based on our own domestic situation."

If Kenya goes ahead with the G-20 deal, it may conserve about 70 billion shillings (\$640 million) to 75 billion shillings, according to Yatani. "We have no intention at the moment to renegotiate any debt," Yatani said when asked about possibly reviewing terms of external debt under a longer term arrangement. "We are looking at other alternatives. We are cutting on the number of expenditures to fit within the fiscal framework."

The IMF in May approved \$739 million for Kenya under the rapid credit facility to help the nation deal with the virus fallout. In the same month, Kenya received \$1 billion from the World Bank, which followed the lender's approval of a \$750 million package for the country last year.

State companies The IMF's new program will also help address weaknesses in state-owned enterprises that were exacerbated by the virus shock.

The government is doing a financial evaluation of as many as nine state companies, including Kenya Airways Plc, Kenya Power and Kenya Electricity Generating Co. The state may provide "extraordinary support in line with the fiscal framework that we have, including injecting resources," Yatani said. The study will include debt evaluation and governance of the companies, he said.

Global pact to drive renewable energy adoption

PARIS

THE International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) last week signed a co-operation agreement to join efforts aimed at increasing the adoption and deployment of wind and renewable energy worldwide.

This agreement was signed by IRENA director-general Francesco La Camera and GWEC CEO Ben Backwell, on the occasion of the Race to Zero Dialogues, a programme to accelerate progress by governments, industry and other key stakeholders to meet the Paris Agreement, convened by the High-Level Champions for Global Climate Action.

As shown in IRENA's Global Renewables Outlook report, a Paris-compliant future by 2050 requires transformative changes to policy, behaviour and international co-operation, says the organisation.

It notes renewable technologies such as onshore and offshore wind, as well as energy-efficiency measures can deliver more than 90% of the emission reductions needed, while providing net employment and economic gains in the process.

IRENA and GWEC recognise that rapid decarbonisation will require a variety of policy shifts and investments, including intensifying renewable energy commitments, resolving market and regulatory barriers, improving access to finance and expanding the pipeline of bankable projects.

They point out that around a third of

all new renewable power capacity added in 2019 was from wind power, and IRENA data suggests wind - together with solar - will dominate future capacity growth.

"Wind energy is a cornerstone of the global energy transformation and with evolving technologies and a strengthening economic case, it will continue to support the world's low-carbon growth agenda through to mid-century," says La Camera.

"By blending the knowledge, capabilities and convening power of our two organisations, we can jointly work to address policy and investment barriers and create an enabling environment for wind energy."

Backwell adds: "On behalf of the global wind industry, we look forward to strengthening our partnership and work with IRENA through the Climate Investment Platform and other important initiatives." He notes it is more important than ever that intergovernmental institutions work collaboratively with industry in pursuit of shared sustainable development goals.

"There is no question that we must urgently take action to reduce carbon emissions and act collectively to slow the impacts of climate change; accelerating the development of renewable energy is one of the most effective ways to achieve these objectives," Backwell says. "Wind energy, as a scalable, clean and affordable technology, will be critical to supporting countries, companies and other parties on the road to net-zero and a green recovery."

Vodacom Plc allocates 3bn/- to reward customers to mark 20yrs of operations



Vodacom director of commercial business, Linda Riwa (L) and her M-Commerce peer, Epimack Mbeteni, unveil one of the Renault Kwid cars to be won by customers while launching 'Shangwe shangwena' campaign in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of Vodacom.

By Smart Money Reporter

FIVE Renault Kwid brand new cars, 1m/- cash prize are among presents worth 3bn/- which Vodacom Tanzania Plc will give to its loyal customers as it marks two decades of operations in Tanzania. Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week during the launch of 'Shangwe shangwena' campaign, Vodacom Director of Commercial Business Unit, Linda Riwa said the telco has accomplished a lot during the two decades in driving digitization in the domestic market.

"Our vision of leading Tanzania into the digital age and changing lives through technology is becoming a reality thanks to all the groundbreaking innovative products and services that the company has introduced over the years," Riwa said.

She noted that as part of the celebrations, Vodacom has lined up a myriad of cash and

materials prizes which include smartphones to reward its over 15 million customers for embracing a digital lifestyle and using M-Pesa during the end of year festive season.

"We continue to drive digitization that's why we are rewarding all our customers who make digital payments or purchase airtime, data using our M-Pesa application or My Vodacom application free minutes, SMS and data," she added.

"Through investment in data, offering of applications, innovations such as M-Pesa, savings products, solutions for enterprises both large and small scale enterprises through 'Lipa kwa simu,' M-Pawa and Songesha loans, Vodacom has transitioned from just a telecommunications company to playing the role of an economic enabler in the society," the Vodacom Director of Commercial Business Unit bragged.

Speaking at the same event, Vodacom's Director for M-Commerce, Epimack Mbeteni thanked the company's loyal customers saying their support has made the telco a dominant force in the market.

"Customers stand a chance to win whenever they transact on M-Pesa by doing some or all of the following transactions: person to person transfer, merchant payments, bank to M-Pesa trans-

fers, utility payments such as Luku, Dawasco etc including purchase of bundles, talking time, smartphones and phone accessories," Mbeteni said. He urged customers to continue using a variety of digital services that the telco offers in order to increase chances of winning amazing prizes during the end of year festive season.

Vodacom Tanzania Plc is the country's largest and only listed telco at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. The company is a subsidiary of Vodacom Group registered in South Africa, which is in turn owned by Vodacom Group Plc of United Kingdom.

Telco's new Wete shop in Pemba targets to serve 100 clients daily



Zantel's first customer at its relocated Wete Four Ways shop in Pemba, Edward Kabuyu (L), is attended to by soon after it opened to the public this week. Photo courtesy of Zantel.

By Smart Money Reporter

A NEW Zantel shop in Wete District of Pemba Island in Zanzibar will ease communication challenges facing the majority of the people in the area.

Zantel's Head of Marketing and Mobile Financial Services, Sakyi Opoku said in its quest to ensure reliable communication services to everyone, the telecommunications company decided to move its shop from Wete Sokoni Four Ways in the same district.

Opoku said the shop will act as the main outlet in Wete supported by a call

center having the state-of-the-art features like digital number system that ensure timely provision of services.

"The shop is in line with the company's strategy of expanding and bringing our services closer to customers and ensuring easy accessibility of products and services," he said while noting that the shop is expected to serve more than 100 customers daily by providing a full range of Zantel services including Sim Card registration and sim swap, Ezypesa services as well as 4G enabled devices including Smarta phones.

"The shop's strategic central location makes it easily accessible to residents and visitors and is one of its kind to make sure that every cus-

tomers access services easily and on real time," Opoku added.

The shop is designed to make all the visitors get the best experience through its modern queuing system that gives customers numbers instead of spending much time on the line waiting for service.

Zantel's Ezypesa mobile money platform was among the first service in the country to offer both conventional and mobile Islamic banking services in partnership with People's Bank of Zanzibar in Zanzibar. Zantel is the leading wholesale bandwidth capacity player in the market and manages two fibre optic EASSy and SEAS undersea cables with landing points at Zantel Park in Dar es Salaam.

How local farmers' cooperative has won international markets' interest

KIGALI

VALERIA Mukarugerero, a 50-year old member of a pineapple production cooperative "Tuzamurane" tells of struggles in her line of work before she joined a cooperative. "I used to harvest a lot of pineapples from my plantation, but the post-harvest losses were significantly high which saw us make little profit after every season," narrates the mother of five.

The problem she encountered was common to most of the pineapple farmers in Kirehe District leading a section of farmers in the region to come together in 2005 to find a market for their produce. "As we shared the same problem, we all agreed to sit down and find a lasting solution that would benefit for all farmers, and our community at large", she added.

Coming together, they decided to start a cooperative of pineapple farmers, dubbed "Tuzamurane." The cooperative would buy pineapples from farmers and supply them to different factories and markets. As they were collecting their produce as one entity, it became easy to negotiate with entities and business that need pineapples as a raw material to manufacture juices, as well as different products.

That is how they managed to secure a contract with Inyange industries. The cooperative is also the main supplier to a large section of Kigali community markets such as Nyabugogo market, Kimisagara and Kimironko market.

After securing the tender from one of the biggest industries and markets, Tuzamurane members did not stop by there. In 2014, they sought a way to export their sliced pineapple fruits to the international market.

In this regard, they sought organic certification from ACOCERT, an international accrediting body that is based in France, and started exporting sliced pineapple products to France. Members of the cooperative say that they export about two tons of sliced pineapple fruits each month to France.

Jean Damascene Hakuzimana, the President of the cooperative said the initiative which was created out of the citizen's initiative has improved the standards of living of the cooperative's members as well as the community at large. "Recently, we have had disasters in our districts. We refunded them to repair their destroyed belongings and made sure they are not vulnerable to disasters," he said.

The President added that the cooperative has grown to 141 members with revenue of about Rwf30 million per month that is shared among the cooperative members who also benefit from selling their produce to the cooperative.

"It means they earn twice. We first buy pineapples from them for export and production, and when we get profits we share with members," he said. The improved standards of living are also testified by Valeria Mukarugerero, a pineapple farmer who was previously not in position to afford school fees for her children, but is now a landlady owning a five-room rental house.

The cooperative has also created employment opportunities for 26 people including farmers, food scientists, and others. Emmanuel Mugabo, the Production Manager in the cooperative says that the developments were also supported by the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and International Fund for Agricultural Development's project to reduce the post-harvest losses through its designed project PASP (Post harvest and agribusiness support project).



A Rwandan pineapples farmers at work.

Ethiopia's telecom auction plan falters ahead of crucial meeting

JOHANNESBURG

ETHIOPIA'S protracted privatisation process faces sticking issues as the government and prospective investors prepare to meet this week, with an escalating armed conflict starting to add to concerns.

MTN Group, Africa's largest carrier by subscribers, sees the investment case weakening due to uncertainty over whether international tower companies would participate and a mobile money licence be included, CEO Ralph Mupita said this week, adding that the group remains interested.

Rival Vodacom Group said it's monitoring the conflict between the government and the Tigray region before making its final decision, having earlier said it would bid in a consortium with Vodafone Group and Kenya's Safaricom.

The remarks indicate a more cautious approach from companies that have long expressed an interest in expanding in Ethiopia, even before Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed proposed ending state-owned Ethio Telecom's monopoly in mid-2018. Africa's second most populous country with more than 100 million people is seen as one of the final frontiers for international operators, and French group Orange is another to have thrown its hat into the ring.

"The potential remains, the question is really to what extent operators will be willing to acquiesce to the more onerous requirements of the state," said Chiti Mbizule, a telecoms analyst at Fitch Solutions. "Political instability in the country also continues to pose a major risk not only to the pace of the reforms but also the attractiveness of the market."

On track

Ethiopia's government says the plan is on track. A public consultation with interested bidders is going ahead this week, according to Eyob Tekalign, the minister responsible for privatisation. The state wants to answer all questions investors might have before issuing a document outlining what it expects from companies in terms of cash and technical capacity, he said. The question of mobile money has been raised by the operators as it's now a key part of most African telecoms business models.

"There is nothing of concern at all," Eyob said in response to questions about whether the Tigray war is having an impact. The sale of two new licences and a minority stake in Ethio Telecom had been set for early this year, but a combination of the Covid-19 pandemic, postponed national elections and a painstaking bureaucratic process have pushed the process back to February 2021.

Terms of the auction and the regulatory framework haven't yet been formally communicated to bidders. Safaricom, which would have a 51% share of the Vodacom consortium, said earlier this month it would submit an offer only after that happened. Orange declined to comment.

Tanga Cement chief says cement prices not increased since June

FOLLOWING the recent retail price hikes on cement in the market, one of the major manufacturers of the product, Tanga Cement Plc's Managing Director Reinhardt Swart (pictured) explains what might have triggered the rise. He was interviewed by Smart Money Reporter, excerpts:

Can you tell our readers the performance of Tanga Cement Plc in the last two years or so?

Tanga Cement, as you may recall, increased clinker production since December 2015, for which we commissioned a second kiln with rated capacity of 1.2 million metric tons of clinker per annum. We have been able to run at approximately 80 percent of that capacity since then.

Our run time gets planned and decided based on customers demand and sales projections. So, we typically have experience in Tanzania that sales have seasons very similar like your normal seasons - and, typically, first quarter is a low sales season which is relative. Then, the sales increase up to the middle of the third quarter and, in the middle of the fourth quarter the sales season peaks: roughly what farmers call the 'harvesting season.' It is usually the highest demand time nationally - not only for Tanga Cement Plc, but for the whole market.

Why should the kilns shut down during peak season?

As far as the performance is concerned, once we have the sales planned and agreed upon, we match the sales plan with cement production. Now, our cement plant has two kilns, two cement mills, two raw mills, coals mills - all of which need lots of maintenance because it manufactures cement by heating up the limestone after it has been crushed to 2,250 degrees.

The only way we can maintain the kiln is when it is shut down. Unfortunately, however, some people see such planned maintenance activity as a suspension of production. This has never happened at Tanga Cement. We have only been shutting down the plant for maintenance purposes, or when there is a major breakdown.

It is like driving a car from Tanga to Dar es Salaam - and stopping on the way to have a flat tyre fixed! You'll not keep driving, but will stop and change the tyre to get going again. Also, a plant shutdown is like having to stop and refuel your car on the way. You do not suspend the journey; you just have a brief stop to fix/change the tyre, or refuel the car.

So, for Tanga Cement, the performance is measured by making those shutdowns as planned. We do not plan for breakdowns; but these do happen. We do plan for shutdowns, though. We plan - and perform according to the plan. We strive towards 'living the plan,' which is based on the facts that I have explained.

What were the causes for the recent sudden rise of retail cement prices in the market?

I think we should start by looking at



the retail price of cement. We sell cement using two methods. One: we sell the product directly to the retailer, and deliver the quantity of cement as per the retailer's order. The other method is: we sell cement by what we call 'extricate' method - and the retailer, distributor or project implementer comes and loads the cement at our plant based on the 'extricate' price.

None of our prices - neither the extricate prices for our retailers, nor our prices for direct supplies customers - have been increased since June. All that is part of the normal cycle of the economy, and we base our prices on cycle. So, from the extricate point of view, we have not increased our sale prices since last June. So, if you ask why there has been a retail price increase of cement, we have to start speculating on that. But, I cannot go into details, analysing the situation. But, I can tell you from the supply point of view that we have not increased our cement prices since June.

If and when we plan to increase our prices, we usually let our customers know about it beforehand - and we only raise prices based upon increased costs of production inputs such as fuel costs, labour costs, dollar-based maintenance costs so that we can continue to produce high-quality cement.

How would the rising cement prices impact the construction industry in the country?

First of all, we will have to analyse the numbers and there are authorities to do this analysis in Tanzania. I have read various books and reports in the past in an effort to understand the sales and price trend worldwide - as, in running a cement company, one has to find out what other business operators in other parts of the world do in similar situations.

So, to answer your question, we have to look at specific projects as, unfortunately, there is no single answer. But, I can tell you from my perspective that there is enough cement in Tanzania to enable the construction industry to tick on healthily. Tanzania cannot run out of cement overnight - and we call upon all Tanzanians to understand that.

How did the Covid-19 pandemic affect cement production and the construction industry in the country in general?

From our perspective, Covid-19 had a low impact - if at all. I

would like to qualify that the low impact I refer to was, if I look into production. For example, we need engineers who have to fly into Tanzania from overseas to calibrate certain production elements, or to carry out specific maintenance whose expertise is not available in the country. We do have engineers flying in from Germany or South Africa, but who could not do so during the Covid-19 emergency as a result of lockdowns and closure of airspaces in certain parts of the world.

If I look at the demand for our cement, Covid-19 has not had a significant impact on our sales. This time of the year - roughly from mid-October to mid-December - we always have huge demand for our product. But, I can tell you that if the cement plant breaks down during that period, we would have a problem to meet all the customers' demand. Again, we have to understand the whole context round the cement price: I assure you that we have not increased our cement price in recent times, and have never suspended cement production.

What is Tanga Cement doing to address the current shortage of cement supplies in the domestic market?

Tanga Cement has recently optimized loading time again in the packing time just to see that we cannot get a bit more out of the existing plant. We are just tweaking the engines to see if maybe we cannot get more mileage out of the plant.

As one of the biggest cement producers in the region, when do you project cement prices to stabilize?

The company has not increased its cement prices yet. From my point of view as a cement manufacturer, our cement prices are very stable. But if you ask me when will the end-consumer feel the fluctuation prices, I have to say it is a very difficult question for me to answer because we are making the least profit margin in the whole value chain. I wish I could answer that question, because it would help me to plan better.

There are speculations that some distributors are exporting the cement intended for the domestic market?

It's true that some local distributors export cement to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). But the speculation that more cement is exported than what is intended for local consumption is totally incorrect. We, for example, may export only three percent of our cement production mainly to Rwanda and eastern DRC. But let me tell you that it's very small portion that is officially exported. If I look into other players, I don't think anybody could export cement to Kenya. Uganda is just too far to ship cement over there. So, the export market for our cement would be Rwanda and DRC. We let the distributors to ship their cement to Rwanda and DRC.

NB: Part II of the interview will appear in Property Watch on Friday.

Chinese handset makers seek to capitalise on Huawei's woes

BEIJING

CHINESE handset rivals of Huawei Technologies including Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo are making aggressive moves to seize market share from their giant rival, after stepped-up US sanctions hobbled Huawei's supply chains, industry insiders say.

Last week Huawei said it has sold its budget Honor subbrand for an undisclosed figure in a bid to safeguard the latter's supply chain from US action, which has made it difficult to source essential components.

All the same, Huawei's Chinese rivals smell blood in the mid-to-high-end phone market. In August, a Huawei executive said the company will not be able to produce its flagship processors that power its high-end smartphones.

"What we can see now, whether from Xiaomi, Oppo or Vivo, is that they're raising their forecasts for next year," said Derek Wang, an executive in charge of production at handset maker Realme, which shares a supply chain with Oppo. "They believe the sanctions against Huawei will more or less hurt it in the international market, and they may want to take a share of the market from Huawei."

Founded in 2018, Realme is on course to double its smartphone shipments to 50 million this year, Wang said. It has built a base with low-priced offerings in Southeast Asia and India, and is looking to target Europe and China next year with a push into the high-end market, regardless of Huawei's situation, Wang said.

Choked

In August, the US commerce department further choked Huawei's access to US technology essential to its handset business, on the grounds that Huawei poses a security threat - a charge Huawei denies. Huawei briefly overtook Samsung as the world's biggest handset maker in the first half of this year, before shipments fell 23% to 51.7 million units in the third quarter, according to research firm Canalis.

Huawei still commanded 41.2% of the market in the third quarter, followed by Vivo with 18.4%, Oppo with 16.8% and Xiaomi with 12.6%, Canalis said. Apple has a lower share in China with 6.2%, but is attracting strong demand for its 5G iPhone 12, Canalis said.

Industry watchers have confirmed a ramping up of orders from vendors. Xiaomi has been most bullish, placing enough orders for up to 100 million phones between the fourth quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021, up 50% on projections before the August restrictions according to consultancy Isaiah Research.

Oppo and Vivo's production forecasts had also risen by around 8% each since August, with orders for up to 90 million and 70 million handsets respectively, Isaiah Research's data showed. Conversely, Huawei orders fell 55% to up 42 million handsets in that time. All four companies declined to comment on the numbers.

Five industry sources on the supply chain side confirmed they had a surge in orders from the three companies. Some analysts believe the firms might be too optimistic about their targets, but Realme's Wang said stockpiling of components has also been driven by disruption to production caused by Covid-19 lockdowns earlier in the year and because Huawei's move to boost its inventories impacted rivals' supply chains.

The rush to secure supplies has reverberated across the electronics chain, said Paul Weedman, a supply chain project manager. "Prices have been rocketing recently," he said, noting that it has become much harder to source LCD screens even for tablets.

Analysts said Huawei's sale of Honor may partly fend off competitors' intrusion into the budget end of the market, provided Honor is able to resume sourcing US technology. "We still expect clear year-on-year growth from Huawei and Honor's smartphone rivals in 2021, but likely at a lower ratio than their earliest expectation," said Flora Tang, an analyst with research firm Counterpoint.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



A Vivo smartphone

As new debt crisis looms, Africa needs more than world is offering

ADDISABABA

AFRICAN countries face another debt crisis and will need more long-term help than the latest G20 debt plan offers them to ward off trouble ahead and keep much-needed investments coming in, according to policymakers, analysts and investors. Around 40% of sub-Saharan African countries were in or at risk of debt distress even before this year, while Zambia became the continent's first pandemic-era default last Friday.

The United States, China and other G20 countries have offered the world's poorest countries - many of which are in Africa - relief until at least mid-2021 and sketched out rules for rescheduling government debt to help fend off the risk of default in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. But these plans to provide near-term breathing space might not go far enough.

"In 2021 a robust liquidity and structural response, recovery and reset toolbox must be developed in partnership between emerging markets, the private sector and the G20," warned Vera Songwe, executive secretary at the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Songwe is pushing for measures to unlock \$500 billion to help avoid leaving lasting scars due to prolonged funding gaps in the poorest economies.

The debt ratios of sub-Saharan African countries

had already risen sharply before Covid-19, just over a decade after the International Monetary Fund and World Bank launched the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative that slashed the debt burdens of some 30 low-income countries on the continent.

Fast forward to the year of the pandemic and sub-Saharan Africa is on track for a record 3% economic contraction this year, while debt-to-GDP ratios have doubled over the last decade to 57%, the IMF found. "We are definitely already in a debt crisis, there is no question about that," said Bryan Carter, head of global emerging markets debt at HSBC, referring to poor countries around the globe.

"I worry about 2021. I worry about a deal in which many countries which will once again have to finance themselves in a slow or even recessionary economic environment where a vaccine is not yet globally available. For many countries, that is one year too many to finance themselves."

Cancellations, suspensions, lower borrowing costs

Some countries will need help with their debt stock, not just with payments. Politicians such as Ethiopia's prime minister and Ghana's finance minister as well as campaign groups have pushed for outright debt cancellations, on top of widespread calls for a longer suspension



Vera Songwe, executive secretary at the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

of servicing and repayment for the continent's poorest countries.

Others such as UNECA and some private investors have also suggested the strength of development banks could be leveraged through loans and guarantees to bring down borrowing costs for countries under the most pressure.

"There are definitely some countries, like Zambia and Angola or Ghana, that are in pretty fragile spots right now," said S&P Global Ratings

sovereign group managing director Roberto Sifon-Arevalo, adding that the proposed plans did not tackle structural problems. "You need something much more profound and deeper and holistic than this particular approach." African countries make up half of the 73 countries eligible for the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Much has changed since the HIPC initiative when money was mainly owed to wealthy countries and multilateral institutions. Now, a plethora of creditors makes help more complicated. China plays a key role: Its government, banks and companies lent some \$143 billion to Africa from 2000 to 2017, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"About 10 African countries have a debt problem with China," said Eric Olander, co-founder of The China-Africa Project, adding that Chinese lending was concentrated in a small number of countries. "Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Angola, Zambia - they all have very serious debt issues."

A third of the \$305 billion of public debt service payments due in 2021 by DSSI-eligible sub-Saharan African nations is owed to official Chinese creditors while a further 10% is linked to the China Development Bank, the Institute of International Finance calculated. China signing up to the G20 framework was widely welcomed, although many have criticised a lack of transparency in its lending.

"If you look at China, the loans are mostly shrouded in secrecy," said Nalucha Nganga Ziba, Zambia country director for anti-poverty charity ActionAid.

But shifting payments under the G20 deal from the near- to the medium-term could simply be pushing the problem down the road. For example, Scope Ratings calculates that Angola taking part in the DSSI could push up its debt-servicing requirements from 2022 to 2024 by more than 1% of GDP per year. A bump in Eurobond payments following a debt sale bonanza that saw the African hard-currency debt markets surpass the \$100 billion mark in 2019 could add to the pressure.

With dollar-bond yields hovering close to double digits, governments such as Angola, Ghana and Mozambique would struggle to tap markets at the moment. Indeed, no sub-Saharan African government has sold Eurobonds since Gabon and Ghana in February, before Covid-19 hit.

Nevertheless, access to capital markets will be needed to refinance but also to help plug an external financing gap which the IMF estimates at as much as \$410 billion over the next three years. "The potential battle is really going to be between countries wanting to grow, and investors saying we need to talk about fiscal consolidation straightaway," said Andrew Macfarlane, EM credit strategist at BofA.

WORLD

Biden 'moving forward' with key picks, Trump adamant

WILMINGTON

US Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is moving forward on his campaign pledge to restore the United States as a leader on the global stage and lean on experts, tapping veteran diplomats for key posts even as President Donald Trump continues to refuse to concede.

Biden will name Antony Blinken as secretary of state and Linda Thomas-Greenfield as ambassador to the United Nations, bringing deep foreign-policy backgrounds to the nascent administration while providing a sharp contrast with Trump, who distrusted such experience and embraced an "America First" policy that strained longstanding US relationships.

Blinken could be named as early as Tuesday, according to sources close to Biden, while Axios first reported Thomas-Greenfield's impending nomination.

Blinken's appointment made another longtime Biden aide and foreign policy veteran, Jake Sullivan, the top candidate to be US national security adviser, a source said.

During the campaign, Biden severely

criticized Trump's go-it-alone foreign policy and pledged to recommit to NATO and other global pacts, while promising to tap experts to fight the COVID crisis and other problems at home. He has promised to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization and potentially the Iran nuclear deal.

"America First has made America alone," Biden said in a town-hall meeting in October.

Blinken is a longtime Biden confidant who served as No 2 at the State Department and as deputy national security adviser in former president Barack Obama's administration, in which Biden served as vice-president.

Thomas-Greenfield, a Black woman who served as the assistant secretary of state for Africa under Obama, was intended to restore morale and help fulfill Biden's pledge to choose a diverse cabinet, Axios reported.

Sullivan served as Biden's national security adviser during the Obama administration and also as deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Ron Klain, Biden's choice as White House chief of staff, told ABC's "This



US President-elect Joe Biden

Week" that the first Biden cabinet picks would come on Tuesday.

Biden said last week he had chosen a Treasury secretary, and would announce the winner near Thanksgiving, which falls on Nov 26. Former Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen is said to be the top candidate.

A spokesman for Biden's transition team declined to comment.

Klain again urged that the Trump administration - specifically a federal agency called the General Services Administration (GSA) - formally recognize Biden's victory in order to unlock resources for the transition process.

Biden was projected to have won the presidential election on Nov 3 and is expected to take office on Jan 20.

"A record number of Americans rejected the Trump presidency, and since then Donald Trump's been rejecting democracy," Klain told "This Week."

Since Biden declared victory, the Republican president has launched a barrage of lawsuits and

mounted a pressure campaign to try to prevent state officials from certifying their vote totals, suffering another emphatic legal setback on Saturday in Pennsylvania.

Biden was projected to have received 6 million more votes nationwide than Trump and prevailed 306-232 in the state-by-state Electoral College system that determines the election's victor.

Scaled-down inauguration plans

Klain said there would be "scaled-down versions of the existing traditions" for Biden's inauguration. Inauguration ceremonies and related events typically draw huge crowds to Washington. COVID-19 cases and deaths are surging in many parts of the country amid a pandemic that has killed more than 256,000 people in the United States.

"We know people want to celebrate. There is something here to celebrate," Klain said. "We just want to try to find a way to do it as safely as possible."

Critics of Trump, including Democrats and some Republicans, have accused him of trying to undermine faith in the American electoral system and delegitimize Biden's victory by promoting false claims of widespread voter fraud.

"Fight hard Republicans," Trump wrote on Twitter on Sunday morning as he pressed his unsubstantiated narrative of voter fraud before playing golf in Virginia for a second day in a row.

Attempts to thwart certification of vote tallies have failed thus far in courts in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan and Arizona. US District Judge Matthew Brann, in dismissing the Pennsylvania lawsuit on Saturday, compared the Trump team's arguments claiming voter fraud to a "Frankenstein's Monster" that was "haphazardly stitched together" using meritless legal arguments and speculative accusations.

Trump's campaign issued a statement on Sunday distancing itself from Sidney Powell, a lawyer who made baseless allegations of a vast vote-rigging conspiracy at a campaign news conference on Thursday.

Agencies

China's solutions to global challenges, says state councillor

CHINESE State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday said that Chinese President Xi Jinping was able to bring Chinese wisdom and vision in the search for solutions to global challenges including COVID-19, economic recovery, and growth opportunity as Xi participated in a series of key diplomatic events.



From November 17 to 22, Xi attended the 12th BRICS summit, the 27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting and the 15th Group of 20 (G20) summit through video links in Beijing.

Jointly fighting COVID-19

Xi made a comprehensive and systematic explanation of China's ideas and proposals for the global COVID-19 fight, Wang said.

Among the ideas and proposals were a people-centered development approach, solidarity and cooperation in fighting COVID-19, as well as support to the key leading role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the fight, Wang said.

Xi reaffirmed that China will continue to actively support and participate in international cooperation on COVID-19 vaccines, materialize the COVAX facility backed by the WHO, share China's vaccines with other countries, particularly developing countries, and work to make vaccines a global public good accessible and affordable to people around the world, Wang said.

President Xi's proposals and initiatives injected momentum in international cooperation on the COVID-19 fight, and boosted humanity's confidence in triumphing over the pandemic, Wang said.

Economic recovery

Xi has put forward a package of solutions to facilitate global economic recovery, featuring openness, innovation, inclusiveness and green development, Wang said.

Wang said Xi also expounded on China's principled propositions on global economic governance at the G20 summit, highlighting the importance of the guiding principles, rules and mechanisms, as well as the digital economy.

Xi's speeches will play an important role in guiding changes to the global economic governance for now and the future, Wang said.

At the BRICS summit, Xi's speech boosted the confidence of emerging markets and developing countries in jointly addressing risks and challenges and injected more certainty and positive energy to a world filled with uncertainty.

At the APEC event, Xi said China welcomes the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and will give positive consideration to the idea of joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

This important announcement once again demonstrated China's firm determination to further open up and was widely welcomed by the international community, Wang said.

New paradigm, new opportunity

Wang spoke of Xi's in-depth elaboration on China's new development paradigm of "dual circulation," where the domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

Xi took the chance at the multilateral events to explain key issues related to this strategic decision, including the reason why China has to foster such a paradigm and what it means to the world, as well as policies and measures to open the country wider and willingness to share its development opportunities.

What Xi shared and offered demonstrated China's image as a country which has effectively coordinated COVID-19 control with economic and social development, been constantly improving its governance capacity and moving toward a brighter future, said Wang.

CGTN

Polls close for presidential, legislative elections in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU

POLLS for combined presidential and general elections in Burkina Faso have closed as scheduled at 6 p.m. local time on Sunday, and provisional results are expected yesterday.

Incumbent president Roch Marc Christian Kabore, seeking a second term of office, has faced 12 other candidates, while 10,652 candidates were vying for 127 parliament seats.

As polling stations closed, Newton Ahmed Barry, chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission, said voter turnout has been satisfactory. In total, 6,490,144 voters were registered inside and outside Burkina Faso to cast their ballots in about 21,000 polling stations that opened at 6 a.m. on Sunday.

Xinhua

Treaty on Open Skies to lose viability after US walkout, Kremlin says

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin regrets the United States' walkout from the Treaty on Open Skies, because without the American side participating in it the document loses viability, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"With the United States' pull-out the treaty will lose viability, of course," Peskov (pictured) said.

"We regret this. We believe that the treaty is an important means of building up mutual trust and keeping weapons under control," Peskov said about the US decision.

He recalled that the Russian side "from the very outset, when the US declared the intention of quitting that agreement, warned that this step would have negative consequences." Washington on Sunday officially confirmed that the United



States was no longer a participant in the Treaty on Open Skies. The statement concerning the withdrawal from the treaty was issued by the Department of State.

The incumbent US president, Donald Trump, on May 21 declared the United States' intention to leave the Treaty on Open Skies, which allows its signatories to make flights over any territories of each other to monitor military activity. The American side alleged that Russia had violated the agreement. Moscow dismissed these charges, saying that it remained

committed to the treaty all along, and put forward its own counter-claims. The Democratic Party's Joseph Biden, who according to US media forecasts, emerged the winner in the US presidential election, described Trump's decision regarding the Open Skies Treaty as a shortsighted step. He warned that it would breed West-Russia tensions and increase conflict risks.

Agencies

Ethiopia says Tigray capital encircled after surrender ultimatum

ADDIS ABABA/NAIROBI

ETHIOPIAN federal forces were encircling the Tigray region's capital from around 50 km (31 miles) yesterday, the government said, after giving the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) a 72-hour surrender ultimatum.

"The beginning of the end is within reach," said government spokesman Redwan Hussein of the nearly three-week offensive that has destabilized both Ethiopia and the wider Horn of Africa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has told the TPLF, which had been ruling the mountainous northern zone of 5 million people, to lay down arms by Wednesday or face a final assault on Mekelle.

TPLF leader Debretsion Gebremichael told Reuters that threat was a cover for government forces to regroup after what he described as defeats on three fronts.

Reuters could not verify the latest statements.

Claims by all sides are hard to verify because phone and internet communication has been down.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, have been killed in fighting and air strikes that erupted on Nov. 4, sending about 40,000 refugees into neighbouring Sudan. The conflict has spread beyond Tigray, with the TPLF firing rockets into both neighbouring Amhara region and across the border to Eritrea.

Redwan told Reuters by text that federal forces were ringing Mekelle at a distance of about 50 km (30 miles). Tigrayan forces fired rockets on Monday at Bahir Dar, the capital of neighbouring Amhara region whose authorities are supporting the federal offensive, he also said.

"So far, I didn't hear of any casualties," said a hotel receptionist in the lakeside city where residents reported a pre-dawn rocket attack. "I guess now we are accustomed to it and there wasn't much panic."

ANCIENT AXUM

TPLF troops had also destroyed the airport at the ancient town of Axum, a popular tourist draw and UNESCO World Heritage site which lies northwest of Mekelle, Redwan said.



Ethiopian refugees who fled fighting in Tigray province, walk at the Um Rakuba camp in Sudan's eastern Gedaref province, on Saturday. AFP

Axum's history and ruins, including fourth century obelisks when the Axumite Empire was at its height, gives Ethiopia its claim to be one of the world's oldest centers of Christianity. Legend says it was once home to the Queen of Sheba and Ethiopians believe a church there houses the Ark of the Covenant.

The TPLF says Abiy has "invaded" their region to dominate them and is inflicting "merciless" damage on

Tigrayans.

"We are people of principle and are ready to die in defence of our right to administer our region," TPLF leader Debretsion added in a text message to Reuters. Debretsion was a signals and intelligence officer for the TPLF during their war against the Communist Derg dictatorship in the 1980s and later earned a degree in electronic engineering from Addis Ababa University.

Agencies

CIIE signals strong purchasing power of China

THE bustling crowds in the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), the venue of the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) held between Nov. 5 and 10, were a sign of the strong vitality of the Chinese market.

Beijing Hopewell International Trading Co., Ltd., a meat trader, inked contracts of over \$50 million with Spanish pork producers and Argentine beef producers. Around \$200 million of deals were expected to be signed by the company during the 3rd CIIE, accounting for 20 percent of its annual purchase volume, said Yang Yong, manag-

ing director of the company.

The booth of Evergrande Agri-husbandry Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the Chinese Fortune Global 500 enterprise Evergrande Group, attracted flocks of visitors on the first day of the 3rd CIIE. It was the third time for the company to join the CIIE. The products imported by the company from around the world received high attention.

Apart from Chinese enterprises, their foreign counterparts also made good use of the opportunity and showcased their latest products and technologies.

BSH Household Appliances

Co., Ltd. launched a new Bosch range hood. The product is equipped with an innovative ventilation technology of the company that is able to exhaust kitchen smoke in an effective manner. Smoke can be turned into fresh air after being filtered under the product's internal cycling mode.

China was one of the most important markets of the BSH Household Appliances Co., Ltd., and the company was quite confident about this market, said Alexander G.C. Dony, president of Greater China BSH Home Appliances Group. He noted that the Chinese consumers had a very

high acceptance for innovative products, calling them trend setters.

He told People's Daily that it was a great choice for his company to debut the high-end range hood on the important platform of CIIE in China.

METRO China showcased imported beef, mutton, seafood, wines, coffee and deserts from over 20 countries and regions. It not only attracted buyers in the venue, but also massive consumers outside of it through livestream.

Metro witnessed the rapid and high-quality development of the Chinese economy in the past 20

years, and was lucky to be growing with the country together, said Claude Sarrailh, president of Metro China. As China continues to advance its economic upgrading and transformation and improves business environment, the company is looking forward to the country's future development and hopes to continue taking a ride on the fast train of the country's development, he said.

The opening of the CIIE as scheduled is not only a demand of China, but also the expectation from the world. Many enterprises told People's Daily that they would keep joining in the



A Finnish company displays a full-size yacht at the 3rd China International Import Expo. (File photo)

event the next year.

As China's economic development picks up more quality and becomes increasingly opener,

the Chinese market is pursuing win-win cooperation with the world for shared benefits.

People's Daily

Xi calls for building poverty-free world

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has underlined the importance of development in tackling poverty, vowing to build a poverty-free world featuring common development with other countries.

Speaking during the second session of the 15th Group of 20 Leaders' Summit via video link in Beijing on Sunday, Xi called for efforts to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries and to provide necessary financial support to them.

He also stressed that digital technology should play a role in providing more opportunities for vulnerable groups including small and medium-sized enterprises, women and youth to be lifted out of poverty.

On Saturday, Xi called on all members of the G20 to consider greater teamwork on vaccines, free trade, technology, the digital economy and debt reduction in tackling the impact brought by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Xi put forward a four-point proposal for bolstering the "irreplaceable role" played by the G20 in the global virus fight in a speech via video link to the first session of the summit on Saturday.

Calling for building a global firewall against COVID-19, Xi urged G20 members to bring the disease under control at home and help countries in

need, speed up action and support the World Health Organization in mobilizing and consolidating resources and distributing COVID-19 vaccines fairly and efficiently.

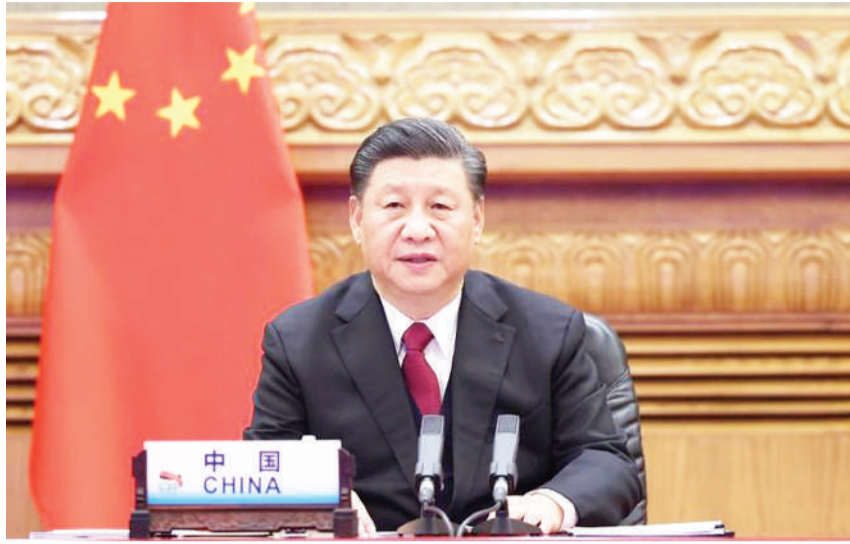
China stands ready to step up cooperation with other countries on the research, development, production and distribution of vaccines, and will honor its commitment to give assistance and support to other developing countries and work to make vaccines an accessible and affordable global public good, he said.

To ensure the smooth functioning of the global economy, Xi highlighted the need to restore the secure and smooth operation of global industrial and supply chains, reduce tariffs and barriers, and explore the liberalization of trade in key medical supplies while containing the virus.

Xi called for bolstering links and synergies between policies and standards as well as building "fast tracks" to facilitate travel.

"China has proposed a global mechanism on the mutual recognition of health certificates based on nucleic acid test results in the form of internationally accepted QR codes. We hope more countries will join this mechanism," Xi said.

Speaking on the growth of the contact-free, digital economy which has been accelerated by the pandemic, Xi said G20 members should foster



President Xi Jinping

an enabling environment for the development of the digital economy, enhance data security cooperation, strengthen digital infrastructure and level the playing field for high-tech companies from all countries.

Countries should also "address the challenges posed by the digital economy to employment, taxation and vulnerable groups, and seek to bridge the digital divide", Xi added.

On helping developing countries overcome the hardships caused by the pandemic, he said China, despite its own difficulties, has fully implemented the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative and put off debt repayments

totaling over US\$1.3 billion.

China will further suspend or relieve the debt of countries facing particular difficulties, he said, adding that the G20 members "should help women walk out of the shadow of the pandemic" and take the challenge of food security seriously.

Strengthening role

At the session, Xi also put forward four-point proposals on strengthening the leading role of the G20 in terms of upholding multilateralism, pursuing openness and inclusiveness, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and keeping pace with the times.

All parties should firmly support the United Nations' authority and status and "support the UN in more effectively building global consensus, mobilizing global resources and coordinating global actions", he said.

To perfect the governance architecture for economic globalization, countries should firmly safeguard the rules-based multilateral trading system, support reform of the World Trade Organization to boost its efficacy and authority, promote free trade, oppose unilateralism and protectionism and uphold fair competition, Xi said.

To further reform the international financial system, he called on countries to conclude the IMF's 16th General Quota Review on schedule, expand the role of Special Drawing Rights and strengthen the global financial safety net.

Xi noted that, in order to ensure the sound growth of the digital economy, China recently launched the Global Initiative on Data Security, based on which it is ready to discuss the formulation of rules on global digital governance with all parties.

Also, China supports more dialogue on artificial intelligence, and proposes a meeting on this in due course to advance the G20 AI Principles and set the course for the healthy development of AI globally, he said.

Xinhua

Moscow to congratulate winner of US election when its results are announced – Kremlin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW will send congratulations to the winner of the US presidential election when its official results are summed up and all legal issues are sorted out, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"The president-elect must be announced, the incumbent president himself must recognize the outcome of the election, and all lawsuits must be completed. Only after that the results will be officially summed up," he said. In his view, "it is obvious that this has not happened yet."

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier explained that he had not congratulated the winner of the US election yet, since all legal issues had to be ironed out. He also recalled that in 2016 many congratulated Hillary Clinton, although it turned out that Donald Trump had won the presidential race.

Commenting on Putin's remarks, the Kremlin spokesman explained that "in this case, it is a figure of speech." "Indeed, last time when Trump was elected president, all the projections by experts on the US and sociologists indicated that Hillary Clinton would win. This is what the [Russian] president meant," he said.

Peskov stressed that the Kremlin preferred to wait until the court proceedings were over. "Without that, there will be no official election results, the [Russian] president said that many times," he noted.

On November 3, American citizens headed to the polls to elect 435 representatives to the House, 35 senators out of 100 to the Senate, and the President and Vice President of the United States. Though the vote count is still underway, major US media outlets project that the Democratic contender has presumptively won the presidential election. Both Fox News and Associated Press have put Biden over the top, beyond the needed 270 vote threshold.

Agencies

By Bloomberg

Netanyahu urges no return to Iran nuclear deal

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in an apparent message to Joe Biden, said on Sunday there should be no return to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal abandoned by President Donald Trump.

Biden has said he would rejoin the accord if Tehran

first resumed strict compliance, and would work with allies "to strengthen and extend it, while more effectively pushing back against Iran's other destabilising activities".

The agreement, which world powers reached with Iran, sought to limit Teh-

ran's nuclear programme to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons in return for the easing of economic sanctions.

But the deal, abandoned by Trump in 2018, did not restrict Iran's ballistic missile programme nor its support for militia in Iraq,

Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, which Washington sees as destabilising to the Middle East.

"There must be no return to the previous nuclear agreement. We must stick to an uncompromising policy to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weap-

ons," Netanyahu said in a speech in southern Israel.

He did not mention Biden directly, but his comments were widely interpreted by Israeli media as a message to the incoming president not to bring the United States back into the agreement.

Netanyahu was a strong opponent of the 2015 accord, calling it a "very bad deal" in an address that year to the US Congress that further strained his relationship with Trump's Democratic predecessor Barack Obama.

European powers party

to the agreement, along with Russia and China, have been trying to hold the deal together despite US pressure for sweeping sanctions against Iran over breaches it declared in response to Washington's pullout.

Iran denies that its atomic programme is aimed at developing weapons.

Agencies

SCO Secretary-General calls on members to carry forward Shanghai Spirit, jointly open up bright future

VLADIMIR Norov, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), called on members of the organization to conduct extensive discussions, reach more consensus, carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, work together to deal with risks and challenges, and jointly safeguard national security and development interests of countries in the Eurasian region.

Norov made the remarks during an interview with the People's Daily ahead of the 20th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO held on Nov. 10 via video link.

In the face of the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the SCO member states backed each other up to tide over difficulties together and actively promoted international cooperation against the coronavirus, said Norov, adding that these efforts have effectively protected the lives and health of people in the Eurasian region, injected positive energy into global anti-epidemic cooperation, and made important contributions to building a community of health for mankind.

The pandemic is still raging across the world, and only through solidarity and cooperation can mankind finally overcome the virus, said Norov, who suggested the member states of the SCO give full play to their respective advantages, deepen cooperation in medical care and epidemic prevention, and jointly build a community of health within the organization.

The SCO has pioneered a new model of regional cooperation, and made major contributions to



A multimodal transport center in the China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) local economic and trade cooperation demonstration zone in Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province (File photo)

regional peace and development, showing increasing appeal and influence, according to Norov.

He noted that guided by the Shanghai Spirit, the SCO has successfully created a new path to cooperation and development for regional organizations.

In particular, the joint construction of the Belt and Road is becoming an important cooperation platform in facilitating the development and prosperity of regional countries, Norov pointed out.

He believes that the organization boasts huge potential in such aspects as economic and trade cooperation, scientific and technological exchanges, and that the meeting held on Nov. 10 served as an important opportunity for parties involved to explore new areas

for cooperation and bring regional cooperation to a new level.

In the first three quarters of this year, China's economic growth shifted from negative to positive, which fully proved the strong resilience of the Chinese economy, Norov said, adding that China's super-large-scale market and huge domestic demand will provide long-lasting and sustainable impetus for the stability and recovery of the global economy.

Norov expressed confidence in China's development prospects. China is speeding up the construction of a new development pattern whereby domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, which will facilitate the country's high-quality development and generate more opportunities for the

common development of all countries.

Norov has recently participated in the opening ceremony of the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. In today's world, peace and development remain the underlying trend of the times, and people everywhere crave even more strongly for peace, development and win-win cooperation, he stressed.

In the face of profound changes in the international environment, countries in the world need to work together to promote the building of a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation as well as a community with a shared future for mankind, Norov said.

People's Daily

UN: Ghosn's repeated arrests were 'extrajudicial abuse'

BY BLOOMBERG

CARLOS Ghosn's detention for almost 130 days in a Japanese jail was neither necessary nor reasonable and violated the former Nissan Motor Co. chairman's human rights, a UN panel concluded in a harsh critique of Tokyo prosecutors who led the case against him.

The decision to arrest Ghosn four times in a row so as to extend his detention was "fundamentally unfair," the UN Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said in a report yesterday posted on its website.

The panel said that it would refer the case to the UN's rapporteur on torture, cruel and other inhuman or degrading treatment.

"The repeated arrest of Mr. Ghosn appears to be an abuse of process intended to ensure that he remained in custody," the panel said, pointing out that on at least two occasions he was arrested for the same alleged crime, only for a different time period.

"This revolving pattern of detention was an extrajudicial abuse of process that can have no legal basis under international law."

Ghosn and former Nissan director Greg Kelly were arrested



in Tokyo on Nov. 19, 2018, and accused of underreporting the former chairman's compensation. Both have denied wrongdoing. Additional charges were filed later accusing Ghosn of using company assets improperly, which he has denied.

Ghosn made a daring escape from Japan to Lebanon hidden inside a large box aboard a private jet in late December.

It was, Ghosn argued defiantly in Beirut later, the only way for him to avoid what he called trumped-up charges of financial misdeeds concocted with the help of his former Nissan colleagues.

His arrest and removal as chairman of Nissan, Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. shook the foundations of the

automaking alliance he built and triggered management and operational turmoil.

"We welcome a courageous decision from an independent and respected authority, that undeniably establishes Mr. Ghosn's detention was arbitrary, he was denied his right to impartial justice, and his treatment was unfair and degrading," his lawyer, Francois Zimeray, said in a statement.

A representative for Nissan declined to comment. There was no answer to a call to the Tokyo Public Prosecutor's Office on Monday, a public holiday in Japan.

While Ghosn is unlikely to ever face trial or detention in Japan again, the report could be relevant for several ongoing proceedings related to the former auto executive.

G20 says it will strive for fair global access to virus vaccines

DUBAI/RIYADH

LEADERS of the 20 biggest economies vowed on Sunday to spare no effort to supply COVID-19 drugs, tests and vaccines affordably and fairly to "all people", reflecting worries that the pandemic could deepen divisions between the world's rich and poor.

The pandemic and prospects of an uneven and uncertain economic recovery were at the center of a two-day online summit under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia, which will hand the G20

presidency to Italy next month.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented impact in terms of lives lost, livelihoods and economies affected, is an unparalleled shock that has revealed vulnerabilities in our preparedness and response and underscored our common challenges," reads the final communique.

G20 nations will work to "protect lives, provide support with a special focus on the most vulnerable, and put our economies back on a path to restoring growth, and protecting and cre-

ating jobs for all", according to the communique.

On vaccines, tests and treatments, the leaders said: "We will spare no effort to ensure their affordable and equitable access for all people."

"There is a clear recognition from the G20: If we leave any country behind, we will all be behind," Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan said at the closing news conference.

The world's economy has suffered a sharp contraction this year as measures to contain the spread of the virus have curbed

transport, trade, and demand across the planet.

The meeting was held by video link, like many such gatherings this year. Saudi King Salman said in his closing remarks that the group had "adopted important policies that will achieve recovery all the way to an economy that is resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and balanced".

G20 leaders said that, while global economic activity has partially picked up thanks to the gradual reopening of some countries and sectors, the recovery was uneven and highly uncer-

tain.

They reaffirmed their commitment to use "all available policy tools as long as required" to protect lives, jobs, and incomes.

They also said climate change was a pressing challenge.

The pandemic has made governments around the world more aware of the fact that economies have to be developed sustainably and not at the expense of the environment, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

US President Donald Trump

used his final G20 summit to defend his decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord, a move that took effect on Nov 4, a day after the US presidential election. His rival, Democrat Joe Biden, has said that should he win, the United States would rejoin the pact as soon as he takes office.

Debt freeze

The G20 endorsed a plan to extend a freeze in debt service payments by the poorest countries to mid-2021 and a common approach for dealing with debt

problems beyond that, according to the communique.

The Debt Service Suspension Initiative has helped 46 countries defer US\$5.7 billion in 2020 debt service payments, short of the 73 countries that were eligible, and promised savings of around US\$12 billion.

The head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, said the G20's actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 had helped prevent massive bankruptcies and an even deeper crisis, but that there was more to do.

Agencies

SPORT



Hemed Morocco

Morocco upbeat after Namungo FC's draw with Yanga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NAMUNGO FC head coach, Hemed Morocco, has said the team is heading in the right direction after posting 1-1 draw with Yanga in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash, held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Morocco disclosed he will dwell on scoring tactics and restoring confidence among his players.

Speaking after the game, Morocco, who has taken over from Thierry Hitimana, said he was impressed with how his players performed during the encounter.

Morocco said he will dwell on scoring tactics ahead of coming VPL games and CAF Confederation Cup matches.

On Sunday, Yanga who have now recorded 25 points, were the first to score through midfielder, Carlos Fernandes, and Namungo FC equalized through Stephen Sey.

Morocco, an experienced tactician, also challenged his players to master the art of scoring goals, saying scoring goals is not the responsibility of strikers per se, but all players in the field.

He, however, said he has noted that Namungo FC had many good and skilful players who are only lacking composure and confidence.

He promised that much emphasis will be on instilling a sense of confidence in his

charges.

"The performance today was good and what pleased me most is that we played as a unit, that is what I'm looking forward to achieve, in the days I have been with Namungo FC, I have discovered that the team have good players but they only lack confidence and composure, I will work on that before our next games," he said.

The coach, however, cautioned his charges not to get complacent with the performance against Yanga, saying they will face a different team in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Meanwhile, Namungo FC information officer, Kindamba Namlia, said his team has started preparations for the CAF Confederation Cup's preliminary round's first leg against Al Rabita of South Sudan which will be played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

"After our VPL match, we have started preparations for the game against Al Rabita, which will be played at Azam Complex, I'm sure the performance and results of our game against Yanga will not affect our players as the Saturday game is a different one, we need to prepare well for it," he said.

The information officer also said they are not aware of the date that Al Rabita will arrive in Dar es Salaam for the encounter, noting they have not received any communication from the visitors.

Vandenbroeck: Simba SC should not underrate Plateau United

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC headcoach Sven Vandenbroeck, has noted his players will have to engage an extra gear when they face Nigerian side, Plateau United, in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League preliminary stage's first leg at the latter's venue at the end of this week.

Vandenbroeck issued the statement in a monitored interview, which took place after his outfit thrashed Coastal Union 7-0 in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash at Sheikh Amri Abaid Stadium in Arusha on Saturday.

The tactician was adamant that his club's focus is now on the next weekend's CAF Champions League game against the Nigerians.

"We have done for today, it was a good game especially in the first half, in the second half, because we were leading 5-0 the tempo slowed and our opponents were better organized," he noted.

"This resulted in us scoring only two goals in this half, the results are good but they should not be in our mind as the focus is now on the game against Plateau United," he said.

Simba are expected to travel to Nigeria for the first leg of the preliminary stage of the premier continental club tournament later this week and Vandenbroeck insisted that they need to prepare well before facing the Nigerian side.

He described the Saturday game against Coastal Union as good preparation which presented his side with a good image but noted Simba still need to be aware of the danger that awaits them in Nigeria.

"We need to prepare well as we will face a different opponent in the CAF Champions League, there is a risk after winning 7-0

because people become too confident but we do not need to be like that because we will face a strong opponent," he said.

The Belgian gaffer also disclosed that all of his charges are fit and motivated ahead of the trip to Nigeria. He stated that he expects the coming in of Meddie Kagere and Louis Miquissone who missed the Saturday game to further strengthen his squad.

Commenting on the 7-0 win over Coastal Union, Vandenbroeck said from the start of the game, his charges were at their best as they played with big motivation and created a good image before travelling to Nigeria.

He said his players' slowing down in the second half was logical and tactical so they could avoid picking injuries.

Hassan Dilunga was the first to score for Simba on the seventh minute of the first half when he connected a pass from skipper John Bocco.

Bocco became the second player in the 2020/21 season to net a hat-trick, he scored on the 25th, 29th and 38th minutes of the clash, the fifth goal was scored by Bernard Morrison during the added-on time of the first half.

In the second half both teams made some changes, Simba rested Bocco for Ibrahim Ajibu, Joash Onyango was brought in for Ibrahim Ame and Francis Kahata came in for Dilunga.

Coastal Union brought in Paul David for Peter Mwangosi and Issa Abusheshe was substituted for Jaffary Msumari.

The substitution paid for Simba as they on the 60th minute scored the sixth goal. Ajibusent a back pass to Clatus Chama and the Zambian international connected into Coastal Union's net.

SPORTS

Dar Black Panthers' cricketers win 2020 Kazim Nasser Div C competition's silverware



Dar Black Panthers Club's cricketers pose for picture after clinching the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division C silverware, beating Sandy's Super Strikers by two runs in the final, held in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR BLACK PANTHERS CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

DAR Black Panthers' cricketers have emerged as the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division C champions, posting a hard fought 20-over clash, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's oval, once they had the opportunity to bat first.

Gurvinder Singh was the top run getter for the outfit, with his score consisting of three fours.

The team's efforts to get off to a good start was dealt a blow after they had experienced two quick dismissals after just four overs.

Chirayush Barot, the club's skipper, could only score six runs and fellow opener Shahab Ahmad quickly followed his team mate back to the pavilion with nine runs to his name.

Ashish Chopda executed solid knocks and to some extent, boosted

his side's score, recording 18 runs, which included a boundary.

Dar Black Panthers had to contend with yet another early dismissal of key batsman Anas Mansurithat could so far score five runs.

Viraj Shukla chipped in with 14 runs as the team continued pushing for an imposing score.

Their plan to set up a challenging target for their opponents failed to materialize, as the remainder of their performers made their way back to the pavilion in quick succession.

Anil Dobani had the best bowling figure during Sandy's Super Strikers' turn with the ball, posting three wickets and giving away 16 runs in 3.3 overs.

Hariyadvan Patel and Abhishek Rathod were equally ruthless, ending their spells with two wickets apiece.

Patel gave away eight runs in three overs, ending with an economy rate of 2.67, Rathod leaked 21 runs in four overs.

Much as they were presented with a modest target of 96 runs, Sandy's Super Strikers embarrassingly lost steam in the chase and were skittled for 93 runs in 19.4 overs.

They were pegged back early on given the opening batsmen, Harsh Desai and Harit Gandhi, exit the crease in quick succession within the first over.

Top order batsman, Nanda Kumar, batting at number three, was a bit resilient, notching 18 runs which consisted of a boundary and a six.

Hariyadvan Patel and Narendra Kumar gave their all in a bid to push their squad's score, posting 17 runs and 13 runs respectively.

After yet another early dismissal of captain Anand Monani that had recorded six runs, Anil Dobani boosted the club's hope for successful chase, notching 11 runs.

Sandy's Super Strikers' hopes were almost over when low order batsmen, Anand Rajendran and Mohamed Ali, were dismissed with six balls left.

Singh and Imrankhan Pathan led a bowling onslaught by Dar Black Panthers, in which they ended their respective spells with three wickets apiece.

Pathan gave away 20 runs in four overs whilst Singh gave away 15 runs in 3.4 overs.

Sandy's Super Strikers made it to the final in thrilling fashion, beating Lions Castilla by six runs in the last four stage's match, which took place early this month.

Lions Castilla had, until the group stage games came to a climax, enjoyed the driver's seat, only to lose steam in the last four stage.

Dar Black Panthers stormed into the final with ease, notching four-wicket victory over Tamil Nadu Sports Club in the last four stage's clash, which was too played early this month.

Atif Salim, noted: "The Division C is where despite the level of cricket being low the passion of the game is always very high."

"It is always in the lower division's final we get evenly balanced contests and the players with all their limitations give their best."

He disclosed this year's competition has seen many U-15 players make their debuts in club cricket, which is a good sign for domestic cricket.

He stated: "Congratulations to Dar Black Panthers, who have been a surprise package, by winning the Division C tournaments in Pro 10 and KNML T20 in their first season with relatively unknown players in the cricket circle."

"It is indeed a remarkable feat, looking at what they have done."

Barca drift, Messi disillusioned as Koeman renovation yet to convince

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi was almost unrecognisable and so were Barcelona as a rare defeat by Atletico Madrid on Saturday cast further doubt over the direction of the Ronald Koeman project.

Atletico had not beaten Barca in the league since 2010, their 1-0 win at the Wanda Metropolitan a timely affirmation that they are contenders and arguably now favourites to win La Liga.

For Barca sitting 12th, albeit with a game or two in hand over some of those above them, the immediate blow of a third league defeat in eight games was compounded by a knee ligament injury to Gerard Pique, which leaves Koeman with only one fit central defender.

But perhaps more concerning is the sense that Koeman's Barcelona appear already to be stalling, devoid of either a clear identity or renewed enthusiasm, both of which might have been expected to follow the appointment of a new coach. "Like any coach, I am responsible," said Koeman on Saturday. "We have to improve the results. We have to improve defensively and in attack and after that I can't do anything more."

It was almost a year ago that Ernesto Valverde was sacked mid-season with the team top of the table, both a jolt reaction to stodgy performances and a delayed one after historical Champions League failure.

His replacement Quique Setien arrived with a purist approach believed to be



consistent with Barca's DNA and for a while there were signs of it, only for results to dive and another split become unavoidable.

But Koeman's first four months have brought neither the pragmatism to grind out results nor the imagination to impose a style that dominates opponents or endures through adversity.

Atletico absorbed a handful of chances late on but the onslaught never came and as Barca chased an equaliser, they grew more desperate, the lack of a plan - or at least their belief in one - becoming more and more apparent.

The result feels like a season already set to be consigned to a period of transition, even if Barcelona's starting line-up against Atletico had only two new players and just three aged younger than 25.

- Koeman in the hot seat -

Koeman may be renovating but what team in the world would not find space for the likes of Messi, Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele, Frenkie de Jong, Jordi Alba,

Pique and Marc-Andre ter Stegen?

There has certainly been a glance to the future, with the emergence of Pedri, who started against Atletico, and Sergino Dest and Francisco Trincao, who came on.

There has been a new formation too, a shift to 4-2-3-1, with De Jong as a pivot and Griezmann, and Messi, playing more central.

Yet change needs commitment and leadership, with one of Koeman's biggest problems the drift of his captain.

When Messi ran beyond Atletico's defence in the first half onto a pass from Alba, like he has done so many times before, the expectation was he would fire early past Jan Oblak, even from an acute angle.

Instead, he hesitated, looking up for a pass inside, before a tame finish rolled straight into the hands of the goalkeeper.

At full-time, Messi was among a number of senior players that could have taken responsibility for the team's post-match media duties but instead it was the 17-year-old Pedri in front of the cameras, just as Dest had spoken after the loss last month to Real Madrid.

Messi's efforts on the pitch cannot be questioned but he also looks increasingly burdened playing for Barcelona, with the enjoyment seemingly gone and the buzz lost ever since his failed attempt to leave.

"I'm fed up being the problem with everything that goes on at this club," said the frustrated 33-year-old on Wednesday, when questioned by reporters about his relationship with Griezmann, after a 15-hour flight back from Peru.

If Koeman does not inspire Messi, perhaps someone else will give a new club president in January could mean a new coach, either immediately or next summer, when Messi himself could walk away for free.

Every change will bring fresh upheaval. Koeman's transition could be the first of many.

AFP

Mwinyi promises to improve sports in Zanzibar

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ZANZIBAR President Hussein Ali Mwinyi has promised to improve sports activities in the Isles including holding discussions with sports stakeholders on how to improve the sector and bring competition and development.

The sports sector has been placed under the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports under the leadership of Tabia Maulid Mwita.

The move will surely brighten the image of the sports sector in Zanzibar by rising the spirit that had once existed some years in the past.

President Mwinyi made the statement while addressing the public at the State House after his announcement of his cabinet.

He noted: "I have addressed about this a lot during the campaigns and, as I said, I am ready to sit down with sports stakeholders to look at everything that is constructive in terms of sports so as we can discuss and highlight any constructive idea to improve sports."

"Therefore, if you have a good example from the past, we can use that and also establishment of special cups, to make the process of making sports better, I am ready," he disclosed.

"I will give the responsibility to the minister in charge so that he can watch, stay with stakeholders, and build around all the games, and those that were left behind, and bring sports to the level we had in the past."

Zanzibar has indeed got generational talents, among the talents include soccer players, midfielder

Khelfin Hamdoon who plays for Azam FC, defender Ibrahim Ame who plays for Simba Sports Club and Yanga's midfielder Feisal Salum.

Salum, who also plays for senior national football team, Taika Stars, showed an outstanding performance in the team's Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers' clash against Tunisia, which took place in Dar es Salaam last week and ended in 1-1 draw.

The midfielder scored an equalizer on the 46th minute, bringing Tanzania back on line for another AFCON qualification opportunity.

In the past years Zanzibar club, Malindi, was among the top teams in Africa that dominated Tanzania and East Africa.

Due to Malindi's outstanding performance, the club was ranked third in Africa from 1989 to 1992.

In 1994 they managed to reach the African Cup Winners Cup semi-final but they were not lucky to lift the title.

In 1995, Zanzibar Heroes wrote history after winning the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup's title when they smashed Uganda 1-0.

In 2006, Zanzibar was a provisional member of the N.F-Board (Nouvelle Fédération-Board) and participated in FIFA (Federation of International Football Independents) World Cup.

Zanzibar took second place in the tournament after losing 4-1 on penalties to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the final.

The FIFA World Cup was an alternative FIFA World Cup, held from May 29-June 3, 2006 in Germany.

Company takes 2021 Kilimanjaro Marathon to greater heights



Tigo Tanzania's Head of Marketing Services, William Mpinga (L), speaks during the launch of the 2021 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon in Dar es Salaam recently. Looking on are officials from Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Athletics Tanzania (AT) and Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tigo Kilimanjaro Half Marathon has no doubt become the talk of town at the moment and has been gaining popularity over the last six years since Tigo, one of the leading mobile companies in Tanzania took over the sponsorship of this race.

Tigo Kilimanjaro Half Marathon is held alongside Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon.

The race's numbers have become like hot cake as more participants gain interest in the race, which has received a special push from Tigo over this period.

Most of the runners who previously did the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run have now graduated to taking part in 21km race.

The 19th edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon was launched in Dar es Salaam recently with Tigo reaffirming its commitment to the 21km race that will accommodate more than 5000 runners doing it once again on the slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro in Moshi town.

Tigo Head of Marketing Services, William Mpinga, stated the Kilimanjaro Marathon has always provided them with a great platform to meet and interact with Tigo customers as they experience the beauty and fun of participating in the Half Marathon race.

"This is the sixth year running that we are sponsoring the 21km race and we are proud of the achievement so far because the race has been growing year after year forcing a real scramble for the race numbers as the entries are normally full before the set deadline," he disclosed.

According to Mpinga, this shows how most people now take sports especially athletics seriously as more people continue to train and exercise through the now popular jogging clubs all over the country.

Mpinga stated the use of Tigo Pesa has helped to ease the registration hassles

that the participants used to undergo back then where there was a lot of paper work involved hence a lot of delays up to the eve of the marathon.

"Tigo Pesa came in as a remedy to this as participants can now register faster at the comfort of their homes or offices as long as they have money in their Tigo Pesa account," he noted.

He reminded participants that registration has already opened hence Tanzania citizens and residents should continue registering themselves by dialling *149*20# and follow the instructions.

According to Mpinga, those without Tigo lines can ask their friends to register for them and the registration process will only be completed once payment has been done and a confirmation message will be sent.

"The message you receive will be used

to collect the race numbers at a venue and date that will be announced by the organizers," he stressed.

He was quick to remind participants that the organizers are keen on the numbers for safety purposes and also for them to plan for important services such as water, first aid and medals.

One of the things that have made the 21km race popular is the prizes and incentives that come along with it.

Mpinga pointed out that this year they have set aside 12.5m/- as prizes for the top 10 winners.

"In addition to the prizes, all participants who finish the 21km race will receive medals and certificates," he stated.

One of the things that most participants cherish is the memories of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, the ambiance at the stadium and along the route.

All these are captured through photos and according to Mpinga, the participants will experience the Tigo 4G+ network to share photos and videos instantly with their friends.

"This is one of the best experiences that participants enjoy a lot when their friends and relatives see them participate in the marathon and have fun," he noted.

The government has been keen in promoting sports tourism as this has become a major forex earner for the country.

It is for this reason that Tigo has also during all this period been collaborating with the organizers and the government in ensuring the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager marathon promotes tourism as well. "Tourism is not just for foreigners, even the locals get the opportunity to tour various attractions during the Kilimanjaro Marathon. The same people who come to run turn into tourists," he noted.

According to Mpinga, the Tigo staff members are all set and training hard so they can take part in the corporate challenge.

He called on co sponsors and participants to train well ready for the February 28 event that will take place at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) venue.

Other sponsors for the 2021 event include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km, Grand Malt 5km and water table sponsors Absa Tanzania, Unilever, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water.

The race's official suppliers are GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel and CMC Automobiles.

Mtibwa Sugar, Coastal Union, JKT Tanzania target VPL redemption

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) action continues today with three matches taking place in three venues in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Dodoma.

In Dodoma, JKT Tanzania will be targeting a return to winning ways when a struggling Mbeya City side make the trip to Jamhuri Stadium today afternoon.

The JKT Tanzania, an army-owned club, suffered their fifth defeat of the campaign on Saturday, slumping to a 2-0 loss to newly promoted side, Gwambina FC, to remain the only side yet to register victory at home.

That results have left them languishing in the bottom half of the table with 10 points to their name in 11 league outings.

Mbeya City FC, meanwhile, are still searching for their second three-point haul of the season after collecting just one victory from their opening 11 games.

In Arusha, Coastal Union will be desperate to claim victory when they host Ihefu FC at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium.

Coastal Union, popularly known as "Wagosi wa Kaya", have made a poor start to the season, only

winning three wins in their first 11 matches.

Coupled with a 7-0 thrashing in the hands of defending champions, Simba, on Saturday, it has certainly been a tough start to the 2020/21 campaign for Coastal Union's coach Juma Mgunda.

Mgunda could see himself under pressure with nothing less than maximum points against Ihefu FC.

Ihefu FC heads into the fixture in bottom spot and has already made a coaching change, with Zubeir Katwila replacing Maka Mwalwisi at the helm of the club's technical bench last month.

After five games in charge, Katwila is still looking for his first win. He has seen his new outfit post draw in three matches and lose two. At Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam, desperate Polisi Tanzania and Mtibwa Sugar face off with both sides targeting to return to winning ways.

The hosts have drawn their past two games including Saturday's stalemate with Ihefu FC where they squandered a spot kick, they were awarded in the second half.

Mtibwa Sugar are winless in their past three games since beating Azam FC 1-0 in Morogoro, drawing two and losing one.

Pialali in pursuit of win in international, non-title fight

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S professional Super Lightweight boxer, Idd Pialali, is eager to post victory in an international, non-title Super Lightweight fight against Philippines' Arnel Tinampay, slated to be held at the Next Door Arena, Masaki in Dar es Salaam on November 28.

The two fighters were introduced to boxing fans at the city's Kinesi Stadium last weekend.

The venue had hosted non-title bouts which involved domestic boxers.

The day's main fight pitted Deo Samwel against Francis Miyeyusho and ended with Miyeyusho posting a Technical Knockout (TKO) victory over his opponent.

Pialali stated: "I have done intensive training for him, I don't want to end up losing, I really want victory."

The boxer, based in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, has taken part in 17 bouts, notching victory in 11, losing five and the other was declared as draw.

In his 11 wins, he has registered eight Knockout (KO) wins.

Tinampay, who did not have much to say, said: "Pialali is a good boxer, but I have come to Tanzania again to show a good game, let's meet on November 28."

He jetted into Dar es Salaam on November 21 for his bout.

Speaking after his arrival, the Philippines boxer admitted that Pialali has what it takes to excel in the ring.

He was, nevertheless, adamant that he has come to the country to make sure he defeats Pialali in front of Tanzanians.

He pointed out he will not be intimidated by Pialali's prowess because he is experienced and one of the toughest boxers in the world.

His record stands 26 wins, 12 of which came through KO, 24 losses and one bout was declared as draw.

He disclosed: "I have come here for the second time, I had first fought Hassan Mwakinyo, he was the best because his fists are strong but now I want to beat Pialali in front of his fans here."

African soccer president Ahmad banned for 5 years by FIFA

GENEVA

AFRICAN soccer confederation president Ahmad Ahmad was banned for five years by FIFA yesterday for financial misconduct.

The ban was announced during the Madagascar official's campaign to be re-elected for four more years as the head of African soccer. His position also makes him a FIFA vice president.

The FIFA ethics committee found "Ahmad had breached his duty of loyalty, offered gifts and other benefits, mismanaged funds and abused his position as the CAF President."

Ahmad, a former government official in Madagascar, was also fined 200,000 Swiss francs (\$220,000).

Ahmad's first four-year term was clouded with allegations of financial wrongdoing and misconduct at the Confederation of African Football headquarters in Cairo.

He was detained by French authorities in Paris on the eve of the Women's World Cup for questioning about a CAF equipment deal with a company that appeared to have little connection with soccer.

"The investigation into Mr. Ahmad's conduct in his position as CAF President during the period from 2017 to 2019 concerned various CAF-related governance issues, including the organization and financing of an Umrah pilgrimage to Mecca, his involvement in CAF's dealings with the sports equipment company Tactical Steel and other activities," FIFA said in a statement.

An audit of CAF finances pointed to irregularities under Ahmad's leadership. The report was ordered by FIFA while it effectively took over running the organization for six months.

CAF appeared to pay about \$100,000 for 18 people, including Ahmad and the heads of some of the continent's 54 national member federations, to travel on the pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

The CAF election is scheduled for March 12 in Rabat, Morocco.

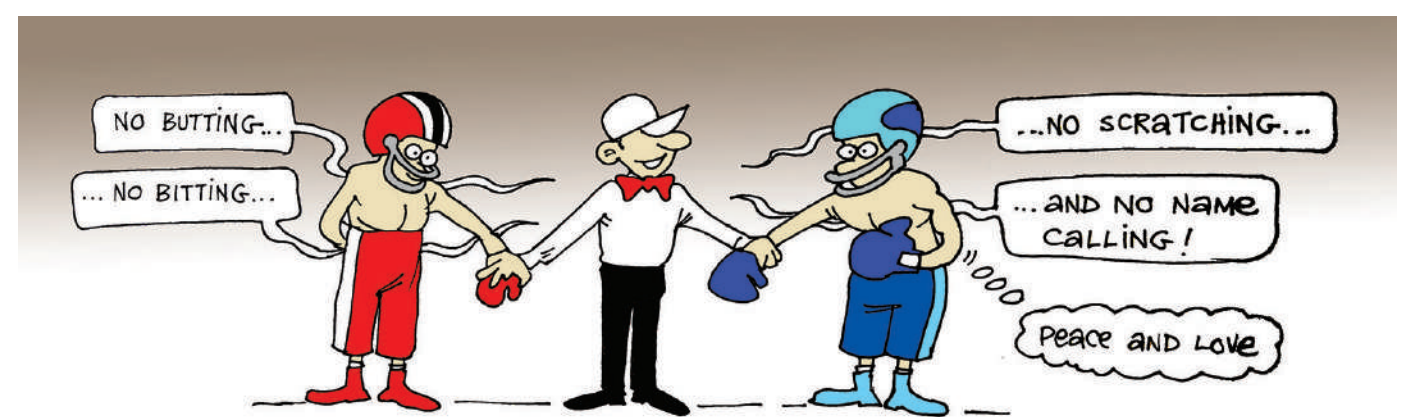
Ahmad had been supported by FIFA leaders in Zurich when he was elected in 2017, ousting FIFA senior vice president Issa Hayatou after 29 years.

(Agencies)



Ahmad Ahmad

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Arumeru DC drums up support for Arusha Football Club

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

MISSING his old days as a prominent information officer for a football club, the Arumeru District Commissioner, Jerry Muro, has made a scene at Arusha Football Club's camp, ready to boost the team.

Muro, who once served as an information officer for domestic soccer giants, Yanga, appeared at the preparatory base of the Arusha Football Club over the weekend, to boost the squad which plays in the First Division League (FDL).

"We have kick-started major campaign to ensure that AFC which is the official Arusha regional soccer team, becomes among the top squads in the country, so that it may upgrade into the Mainland Premier League next season," Muro disclosed.

He handed over 30 set of sporting track suits to the AFC players. Arusha Football Club, whose patron happens to be the Arusha Regional Commissioner, Idd Kimanta, currently plays in the Group B of the ongoing FDL.

The club is placed sixth out of 10 competing teams in the group. Last Sunday, AFC beat Transit Camp FC of Dar es Salaam 1-0 in the FDL match played at Aga Khan stadium at Ngaramtoni area of Arusha. The victory has seen the AFC collect seven points.

"AFC is a team belonging to the entire community of Arusha therefore each and every person needs to support the players," Muro stated.

"We have devised proper system through which people can contribute whatever they can to the team," he disclosed.

He expressed concern that all major cities such as Mbeya, Dar es Salaam and even the newest Dodoma have teams in the Premier League.

He disclosed: "It is a shame that a city like Arusha cannot produce a squad to play in the Mainland Premier League, this time we are going to reverse this."

Yanga's Kaze disappointed by Namungo FC draw

SPORT

Pialali in pursuit of win in international, non-title fight

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Temeke Girls crowned CRDB Taifa Cup Championship winners

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2020 Taifa Cup Basketball Championship for women's side came to an end with an early fixture between Dar es Salaam's Temeke Girls and Dodoma Queens at the Chinangali Complex in Dodoma last weekend.

The tournament, known as CRDB Taifa Cup Championship, which was organized by Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF), was financially supported by CRDB Bank.

The Temeke Girls, ultimately, emerged victorious with 46-36 victory over Dodoma Queens to be crowned champions of the tournament.

Mbeya clinched the championship's men's category trophy. The winners received trophies and 2m/- apiece in cash prize.

Temeke Girls' Neema Silomba was voted as the women category's Most Valuable Player (MVP) after showing great ability to score many points, with Jessica Ngisaise of CRDB Youth team lifting the three-pointer award after outscoring all female players in three-point shots in the competition.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hassan Abbas, graced the tournament's climax and presented silverware and cash prizes to winners.

The TBF president Phares Magesa and the federation's Technical Commissioner, Manase Zablon, too attended the tournament's climax.

Temeke Girls made it to the final after beating Isles' Unguja 66-64 in the last four stage, the duel had Upendo Adrian notching 23 points and posting two rebounds, one assist and three for the clash's winners.

Dodoma Queens booked a place in the final in an impressive fashion, commanding 81-56 victory over CRDB Youth team in the last four stage.

Evaline Mihayo helped Dodoma Queens beat their opponents, slotting in 23 points and posting nine rebounds to seal the final's spot.

The women's showdown had only three groups, Group A was made up of Ilala, Iringa, Morogoro and Coast Region while Group B brought together Temeke, Dodoma, Arusha and Singida.

The teams in Group C were Mbeya, Unguja, CRDB Youth and Tanga. Magesa thanked CRDB Bank for supporting the competition, saying: "We are all set for the finals, thanks to CRDB Bank for coming onboard to support us in accommodation, transport and other costs."

The institution, the tournament's main sponsors, awarded scholarships to 24 players for developing their talents.

Tanzania's basketball fraternity has for years been missing a lucrative sponsorship to foot costs for hosting domestic tournaments, national teams and clubs' participation in international tournaments.

Basketball was, in the past, one of the sporting events that enjoyed massive sponsorship that led to the invitation of foreign players from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda to play for money-spinning local leagues in Tanzania.

The production of highly profiled local players in the likes of USA-based Hasheem Thabeet and Abdallah Ramadhan, alias 'Dulla' who went to Seychelles to play for Cobra Club, was among key elements that made basketball second to football, as far as popularity was concerned.

But the coming of CRDB Bank to sponsor the tournament has been hailed by basketball lovers in the country, who believe the sport will get back to its feet.

The CRDB Taifa Cup Championship has been the last competition this year involving teams from various parts of Tanzania.

By Correspondent
Michael Mwebe

YANGA head coach Cedric Kaze admits he was a little disappointed not to come away with all three points as his side drew 1-1 at home to Namungo FC on Sunday.

Kaze's side, who went ahead through Carlos Fernandez 'Carlinhos' header on the 14th minute of the Vodacom Premier League clash, were pegged back by



Cedric Kaze

Stephen Kwame's equaliser for Namungo FC two minutes later.

Namungo FC could have claimed maximum points in the dying minutes of the second half when they were awarded a spot kick after Yanga's Bakari Mwamnyeto brought down the former's winger Shiza Kichuya.

Namungo FC failed to convert the spot kick as Yanga's keeper Metacha Mnata made an excellent save to keep the game level at 1-1.

The results mean Yanga, who are the only unbeaten side this season, wasted a precious chance to go top of the table with a two-point lead.

Instead they are now on 25 points, level with leaders Azam FC, who have a superior goal difference.

Kaze said: "The first thing I can say is that we are not

happy with today's results, we had the opportunity to move go top and open a gap."

"Talking about my players' performance, I have nothing to add, they made every effort to get three points today, but unfortunately it was not possible."

"In the first half we created scoring chances but we weren't defending very well. When they started the attack, we were unprepared."

"We played as if we didn't know which direction to go, where the ball was going. It allowed them to find a space to move and attack us quickly."

"Another thing I can say is that, in the first half, the team was not good technically. We missed a lot of easy passes that would have made things easier for us. We were afraid to go forward and take risks."

"Lastly, we know this is a league, we know it is like a marathon, the important thing is to learn and be ready for the Azam FC game."

Yanga's next league match will see them face Azam FC in Dar es Salaam tomorrow as the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League campaign enters round 12.

FIFA set to determine Simba SC, Shiza Kichuya's fate today

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) for the world football governing body, FIFA, is set to decide the case involving Vodacom Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, and their former player, Shiza Ramadhan 'Kichuya' who are accused of breach of contract by Egyptian Second Division League club, Pharco.

Pharco lodged a claim in front of FIFA Players' Status Committee against Simba SC and Kichuya for entering into a new contract when the player was still under contract.

The Egyptian club claimed Kichuya unilaterally terminated his employment contract without just cause.

In 2019, Simba SC sold Kichuya to Pharco who then loaned him out to another Egyptian side, ENPPI, for a half a season deal.

Early this year, Kichuya left Pharco

to play for Simba SC before he moved on to Namungo FC at the start of the 2020/21 campaign.

Simba SC obtained a provisional licence for Kichuya from FIFA Players' Status Committee and believed they were in the clear to use him in any of their official matches despite the claim from Pharco that he remained under contract and that there was a case pending in Zurich.

According to a FIFA document seen by The Guardian, the FIFA Players' Status Committee has concluded the investigation part of the case and referred the matter to the Dispute Resolution Chamber for a formal decision.

The Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) will be chaired by Omar Ongaro from Italy, with Dutch Roy Vermeer and Portuguese Jose Luis Andrade as the two members. If the DRC rules against Kichuya and Simba SC, a restriction of

four months on eligibility to play in official matches shall be imposed on the player.

The club shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods following the notification of the decision.

In December last year, South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs were punished for a similar offence over the signing of Madagascar midfielder Andriamirado Aro Hasina Andrianarimanana 'Dax' from FOSA Juniors.

Kaizer Chiefs were banned from signing new players until next year while the concerned player received a four-month ban.

Kaizer Chiefs and Dax were also jointly and severally liable for the payment of compensation of \$40,000 to FOSA Juniors.



Shiza Ramadhan

Ngorongoro Heroes clobber Djibouti in 2020 CECAFA U-20 Championship opener

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

The 2020 Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-20 Championship kicked off at the Black Rhino Academy Stadium in Karatu District, Arusha on Sunday, with hosts, Tanzania's U-20 team 'Ngorongoro Heroes' walloping Djibouti 6-1.

Ngorongoro Heroes' winger, Abdul Hamisi Suleiman, who also plays for Vodacom Premier League outfit Coastal Union, scored three goals in the game.

Djibouti went 1-0 up on the 14th minute through Abdou-rahman Kamil who scored a perfect free kick which gave Ngorongoro Heroes' keeper Zubeir Masudi no chance.

The Djibouti youngsters' build up started with Ahmed Mahmoud's shot that hit Ngorongoro Heroes' fullback, David Bryson, in the hand, and the clash's referee awarded a foul outside the penalty box that was converted in by Kamil.

Chances were increasing and kept on flowing for both teams in the first half but, until the breather, Djibouti hung on to the lone goal lead.

The second half started fast for the Ngorongoro Heroes, with winger Tepsi Evans levelling matters for them on the 51st minute after receiving a pass from skipper Kelvin John.

John proved to be a thorn in Djibouti defenders' flesh after dribbling past the squad's defenders and threaded the assist to Suleiman, who scored from a difficult angle to make it 2-1 for Ngorongoro Heroes on the 65th minute.

The Ngorongoro Heroes' skipper again displayed a wonderful game after dribbling past Djibouti's defenders before firing a shot that was saved by Djibouti goalie.

The ball came to Suleiman's feet and the youthful performer scored to put Ngorongoro Heroes 3-1 up on the 71st minute of the game.

On the 82nd minute, midfielder Khelfin Hamdoun scored a chip in goal after playing one-two with Mussa Jacob within Djibouti's 18-yard box and made it 4-1 for Ngorongoro Heroes.

Goals kept on flowing for Ngorongoro Heroes continued after Kassim Haruna fired a powerful shot out of the 18-yard box, beating Djibouti keeper to record the fifth goal for the former.

Suleiman completed his hat-trick on the 90th minute by converting a penalty, that Ngorongoro Heroes won after his teammate, Nassor Hamoud, was fouled in the penalty box and seeing the hosts lead 6-1.

Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach, Jamhuri Kiwelu, said: "When the match started, my boys looked down on their opponents, I told them not to underestimate them, we have to respect them, that's why they have also come to the competition, in the second half we pressed them and we managed to win the game."

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) previously confirmed CAF has ordered that the CECAFA U-20 Championship should be played behind closed doors as per global efforts to fight Covid-19 pandemic.

The CECAFA U-20 Championship's participating sides have been placed in three groups.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WILL YOU eat WHAT YOU WANT TO eat OR eat WHAT YOU HAVE TO eat?



TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kati Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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