



INNOVATION



INSURANCE AGENTS URGED TO BE MORE CREATIVE PG 3

ECONOMY



EX-BRITISH PREMIER SUPPORTS Z'BAR'S BLUE ECONOMY PG 5

LANDS



TIMELY ISSUANCE OF TITLE DEEDS STRESSED PG 6

GOVERNANCE



MINISTER THREATENS TO ACTION SLUGGISH OFFICIALS PG 7

BUSINESS Chefs with Compassion reaches a milestone 2 million in S.Africa



Three minutes of movement every half hour may counteract dangers of sitting

Kenyan judge declares that being housewife comes to full-time job

Is your cough Covid-related? Stellenbosch University researchers explain

Mobile vaccinations a crowd-puller for elders



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (R) has an audience at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday with seven newly appointed Tanzanian ambassadors and high commissioners to Ethiopia, India, Rwanda, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey who went to bid him farewell. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Reporter

THE national mobile Covid-19 vaccination campaign started yesterday in various regions across the country with elders and those with special needs turning up for the jab.

By yesterday afternoon there were 2,400 elders who were vaccinated in Kigoma Region, regional authorities said.

Regional medical officer, Simon Chacha said his office is now using elders' councils to educate villagers and pass messages on the importance of getting the jab.

"We are getting a good response after we started using their associations and elders' councils to provide education on the importance of coronavirus vaccines," he said

Kigoma district elders' council secretary Erasto Rugazama underlined the need for continued education as some of the residents are insufficiently aware of the vaccines' importance in



We are getting a good response after we started using their associations and elders' councils to provide education on the importance of coronavirus vaccines

protecting them against the disease.

In Shinyanga Region elders have hailed the initiative, saying it has facilitated their ability to get vaccinated because they can easily be vaccinated at nearby health centres.

Regional medical officer Dr Yudas Ndugile said that up to 10,000 people have been vaccinated by end of September in the region.

At the end of August, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said that 304,603 people had been vaccinated, 201,467 being men (66.1percent of the total) and 103,127 women (33.9 percent) of those who turned out for the jab.

A national mobile vaccination was decided last month to boost slack turnout of people to health centres conducting inoculation against the debilitating virus, despite that at the start of the rollout, thousands of Tanzanians from various regions registered for

TURN TO Page2

US blasts Ethiopia's expulsion of UN staff

WASHINGTON, D.C

The White House on Thursday condemned, "in the strongest possible terms," Ethiopia's decision to expel senior UN officials at a time of looming humanitarian crisis and warned of sanctions.

Press Secretary Jen Psaki called Ethiopia's move an "unprecedented action to expel the leadership of all of the United Nations organizations involved in ongoing humanitarian operations."

The United States "will not hesitate" to impose sanctions against "those who obstruct humanitarian assistance," she warned.

The expulsions have ratcheted up worries over the humanitarian response in Tigray, which has been mired in conflict since November.

The seven UN officials, including the local heads of the UN children's agency UNICEF and its humanitarian coordination office, have been declared "persona non grata" for "meddling in the internal affairs of

TURN TO Page2



9 770856 542009 >

VP outlines key tasks for new ambassadors

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr. Philip Mpango has tasked newly appointed ambassadors to different countries to use their diplomatic skills to enhance

economic diplomacy for the country to achieve its strategic development goals.

He gave the remarks at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma during a meeting with the assigned diplomats before

they depart to their respective countries. They are those appointed to represent Tanzania in Rwanda, Sweden, Turkey, South Korea, Switzerland, India and Ethiopia.

Dr Mpango urged the am-

bassadors to prioritize national interests and agenda when executing their duties, work diligently and adhere to professionalism to further cement bilateral relations between Tanzania and foreign countries.

TURN TO Page2



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa cuts the ribbon to launch Jamii Assaliheen Mosque at Ikwiriri in Rufiji District yesterday. Others are Coast regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge (L), Istiqama Muslim Community of Tanzania chairman Sheikh Seif Ally Seif (2nd-L), Chief Sheikh Abubakar bin Zubeir bin Ally (R), and Istiqama board of trustees chairman Sheikh Badar bin Sood. Photo: PMO

Magistrate set for Sabaya judgment in two weeks

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

THE Arusha Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday adjourned ruling on Criminal Case No. 105 of 2021 facing former Hai District Commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (34) and two others, citing incomplete preparations.



We are yet to complete the required preparations; ruling for the criminal case has been pushed to October 15th, 2021 here at the Arusha Registry

Other accused persons in the case are Silvester Nyegu (26) and Daniel Mbura (38), who faced three counts of robbery using firearms.

Senior Resident Magistrate, Amalia Mushi said that judgement adjournment followed incomplete preparations, and that the ruling has been set for Friday October 15.

"We are yet to complete the required preparations; ruling for the criminal case has been pushed to October 15th, 2021 here at the Arusha Registry," she stated.

Security was tightened at the court as Sabaya and his co-accused persons arrived at the court

TURN TO Page2

VP outlines key tasks for new ambassadors

FROM PAGE 1

"Priority should be directed to strengthening economic diplomacy. We need to enhance existing bilateral relationships for mutual benefit," the VP underlined.

The newly appointed ambassadors need to emulate all the good things such as knowledge and skills in their stations of work and share them with Tanzanian experts, he said, elaborating that most foreign countries are technologically advanced, thus they could help Tanzania achieve its growth objectives and the industrialization agenda, he stated.

There are a number of opportunities in the countries they are going to work, thus the need to facilitate tapping of those opportunities by Tanzanian entrepreneurs, he said, noting that pulling more foreign investors to the country was vital. "Having a good number of investors would spur our economic growth and improve the welfare of our people," he stressed.

Dr Mpango was concerned that there are many countries that are more advanced in the tourism sector, hence the importance for envoys to promote tourist attractions to help attract more visitors.

"Strengthening business ties is of great importance. We need you to find markets for local industrial goods and agricultural products," he affirmed.

Speaking for the new envoys, Lt Gen Yakub Hassan Mohamed,

the new ambassador to Turkey, assured the VP that all these directives would be worked on accordingly.

"Tanzania will be well represented in foreign countries. We will work on the given agenda for the benefit of Tanzania and its people," the top military officer underlined, until recently the chief of staff in the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF).

The meeting was also attended by Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk - the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, and the permanent secretary, Ambassador Joseph Sokoine.

Speaking after swearing in the new ambassadors in August, President Samia Suluhu Hassan asked them to prepare to pursue economic diplomacy, as the nation has huge expectations on the newly assigned diplomats.

As the country strives to implement economic diplomacy, the envoys should apply their skills and experience in pursuing Tanzania's interests abroad, she urged.

"I want to remind you that the country is highly dependent on you, especially on implementing economic diplomacy and exploring opportunities that will be beneficial to our country," the president had stated.

Such opportunities including trade, tourism and employment in international and multinational bodies, she added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (2nd-R, foreground) attends prayers at Mazizini's Masjid Jamiu Zinjibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

US blasts Ethiopia's expulsion of UN staff

FROM PAGE 1

the country," Ethiopia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Earlier in September, US President Joe Biden signed an executive order allowing for sanctions against the warring parties in northern

Ethiopia if they fail to commit to a negotiated settlement.

The order authorizes the Treasury Department to sanction the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), among other parties.

AGENCIES

Mobile vaccinations a crowd-puller for elders

FROM PAGE 1

the Covid-19 vaccine following the official launch.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was joined by the prime minister, the chief justice and top religious leaders in taking the jab, sought to reassure people on the efficacy and safety of the vaccines.

The Head of State told Tanzanians that the vaccines are safe and she

would not take any risk, in a bid to assure the public of the safety of the vaccines.

Tanzania received the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine from the United States, as ties started to warm up again following the changed focus of the sixth phase government.

A chunk of the 1.2m doses has already been spent on front line and at-risk groups such as healthcare

providers, the elderly, people with underlying conditions and later-journalists. In June, Tanzania also joined the global COVAX scheme for sharing vaccines with poorer nations, culminating in the delivery of its first batch of 1.2m doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

During the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam, Health minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima promised to roll

out a comprehensive public education campaign to counter vaccine misinformation.

Top government spokesperson Gerson Msigwa said Tanzania is set to receive two million doses of Sinopharm vaccines from China, expected to arrive in the country as the number of vaccinated people reaches 0.4m from the million doses initially received.



Prisons officers escort embattled former Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (foreground, in sun glasses) and two other accused persons to the Arusha Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the scheduled judgment of Criminal Case No. 105 of 2021, which was however adjourned. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Malawi's ex-deputy speaker shoots himself dead in parliament

LILONGWE

Clement Chiwaya, who was 50, killed himself inside the parliament building, where he had gone to discuss vehicle benefits entitled to him when he left office in 2019.

A former deputy speaker in Malawi on Thursday shot himself in the head inside the parliament, where he had gone for a meeting, par-

liament said.

Clement Chiwaya, 50, killed himself inside the parliament building, where he had gone to discuss vehicle benefits entitled to him when he left office in 2019.

Police spokesperson James Kadadzera confirmed the incident but refused to give details until he had received a full report from investigators.

Parliament "regrets to

inform the public that the former deputy speaker... committed suicide at the parliament building," it said in a statement.

It said the incident was linked to "frustration with the implementation of his conditions of service."

Chiwaya bought his official vehicle at the end of his five-year term in 2019, as provided for in his contract.

But he had tried to get

parliament to pay for damages incurred in an accident that happened six months later.

He took the case to court. The legal process is still pending.

The statement from parliament appeared to suggest that Chiwaya, who moved in a wheelchair, had sneaked a gun into the high-security building.

"Having been a person

with a disability, the (security) scanner alerts were deemed to be from the wheelchair," it said.

A source at parliament told AFP that Chiwaya shot himself in the head inside the office of the clerk of parliament, Fiona Kalembera.

Before he became deputy speaker, he served as a member of parliament from 2004.

AGENCIES

Magistrate set for Sabaya judgment in two weeks

FROM PAGE 1

at around 9:45 a.m. aboard a Toyota (T233 CXX). They were escorted by a number of prison wardens.

Large crowds of people thronged the court from early hours in the morning while police officers surrounded the area housing the court chamber.

However, a good number of people who arrived at the court were barred from entering the court premises for various reasons, including improper dressing.

State attorneys Felix Kwetukia, Tersila Gervas and Ofmed Mtenga arrived at the court at 3:45 while defence lawyers had arrived 20 minutes earlier, led by Moses Mahuna, Duncan Oola and Silvester Kahunduka.

In the first count, the accused are alleged to have committed robbery using firearms on February 9 this year at the Bondeni area in Arusha City. They allegedly robbed Mohamed Saad, a shop owner, of 2.7m/- and used a firearm to scare those present at the shop.

In the second count also involving armed robbery, it was claimed in court that the three accused, in Bondeni area of the city, robbed Bakari Msangi of 390,000/- and handcuffed him, beat him up and used a gun to scare him.

In the third count, also involving armed robbery, it was claimed in court that Sabaya and co-accused on February 9 this year at Bondeni area, stole a Techno mobile phone and 35,000/- belonging to Ramadhani Rashid after which they beat him up and scared him with a gun.

Earlier, during cross examination by state attorney Baraka Mgaya, defence witness Bakari Msangi claimed in court that the three

counts of robbery facing the accused were fictitious.

He told the court that before his arrest he used to live at Shamsi area in the city in a rented house with three other tenants.

The witness claimed that he never lived at Bomangombe Town in Hai District as alleged in the charge sheet.

For his part, state attorney Felix Kwetukia asked the witness which person he recognised at the identification parade.

The witness told the court that Bakari Msangi, the sixth state witness, touched the shoulder telling the court that he identified the police officer from an identification parade at Arusha central police station.

The witness claimed that when he arrived at the police station on February 16, he found the statement had already been recorded and given to the police on the robbery incident.

He claimed that he was taken to court on robbery charges that happened on February 9 at the shop owned by Mohamed Saad along Bondeni Street.

For his part, accused Mbura told the court that from July 17 to August 24 he has appeared in court over robbery charges which he was not aware of.

He confessed in court that the ninth prosecution witness, Insp. Evarest Mwamengo identified him by touching his shoulder, noting that he was the one who managed the identification parade at the police station.

He claimed that on February 9 he never left home and was never at the area of the robbery incident at Mohamed Saad's shop.

Religious bodies role crucial - PM

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday said the government recognises, respects and appreciates the significant contribution made by religious institutions in building a God-fearing and obedient society.

He however called on religious institutions to refrain from using houses of worship as political platforms and instead continue to work closely with the government in building respectful, loving and peaceful people in the country.

Majaliwa made the call when launching the Jamiu Assaliheen mosque built by the Istiaqama community in Ikwiriri ward, Rufiji District in Coast Region. The mosque has capacity to accommodate 500 people having also four rooms of madrasa for provision of religious education.

He said the government will continue to work with all religious institutions to ensure that various social and spiritual projects that benefit Tanzanians are well implemented.

"We are all witnesses here to the great contribution made by the religious institutions in our society. Religious institutions in the country have

been actively involved in the provision of social services especially education, water, health as well as helping needy people such as orphans and widows as well as providing spiritual services," he said.

He commended the Istiaqama community for the great job which they are doing in the country such as strengthening unity between Muslims and believers of other religions.

"I would also like to commend you for your hard work in building a good spiritual and moral foundation for our youth who are our future leaders. It is clear that no nation in the world can succeed without having strong spiritual and moral foundations," he asserted.

Sheikh Badar bin Sood, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Istiaqama Community commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the great work she has been doing to promote unity, peace, solidarity and development in all aspects and for all Tanzanians.

Tanzania's chief Mufti Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir reminded Muslims and Tanzanians in general to go and get Covid-19 shots so as to improve their bodies' immune systems.



Nabil Hajlaoui, the French Ambassador to Tanzania, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the New Africa-France Summit scheduled to take place in Montpellier, France, on October 8. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Insurance agents called upon to be more enterprising, boost their productivity

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has urged insurance agents to work hard and be more creative so as to support the achievement of the goals highlighted in the country's Financial Sector Development Master Plan 2020-2030.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the official opening of the two-day workshop for insurance agents, Commissioner of the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), Dr Mussa Juma said agents in the country must put more weight in the sector as the market is stable and untapped.

Mussa said the government alone cannot achieve the goal of expanding insurance coverage to all people, so agents have a big role to play adding that transformation in the industry can

only happen if the insurance industry pivots itself on innovation and synergy.

Themed "Capacity Building to Agents for Better Insurance Performance", the workshop brought together over 160 members from the Insurance Agents Association Tanzania to among others, train and chart effective ways to boost the insurance industry, expanding its services to reach more people.

He said that the master plan has set ambitious goals for the insurance sub sector within a decade to reach 50 per cent population coverage of the adult population.

He said that insurance is key to the country's financial inclusion agenda considering the fact that the bulk of growth of the financial sector in the coming decade is hinged on insurance.

"The master plan also seeks to ensure that 10

percent of beneficiaries of retirement plans use annuity products by 2030; ten new demand driven insurance products developed; 90 per cent of the population have health insurance by 2030 and 20 percent of the adult population have life savings products.

He further said the plan also works to ensure 80 percent of the population is aware of insurance matters by 2025; 10 percent total insurance premium contributed by agriculture insurance by 2030 and eight affordable insurance distribution channels developed by 2030.

"The government is currently working on strategies to address various challenges facing the insurance industry including issues of tax and levies," he added.

Daudi Sayi, chairperson of the agents association commended the government for tak-

ing various measures to support the growth of the industry but called on it to further work on some challenges that are still affecting the sector.

"Among the challenges that urge the government to work on is to eliminate the Fixed Deposit Rate (FDR) for life insurance agents because it bar majority of young people from engaging in the industry business due to expenses of the FDR," he said


Sayi said having regular seminars and training will update the agents with essential information and skills that are of great help in their business.

The chairman however reminded insurance agents to develop themselves, seek for soft skills training so as to improve their understanding and working efficiency.

CORRECTION OF THE AUCTIONING DATE FOR THE SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This is to notify the Public and all prospective buyers that the date for Auction will be on 9th October, 2021 and not on 9th September, 2021 as published on the Guardian newspaper on 1st October, 2021

We apologize for any inconveniences caused



WWF Tanzania Country Office
Plot 252, Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni
P.O. Box 63117
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Tel: 255 22 2700077
Fax: 255 22 2775535
tzrep@wwf.tz.org
www.wwf.tz.org

TENDER INVITATION

ICT EQUIPMENT & WILDLIFE RANGER FIELD EQUIPMENT

WWF Tanzania County Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: i) conserving the world's biological diversity; ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and iii) promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

WWF is helping to create better conditions for the Wildlife Management Areas and the Community Rangers who protect them by providing the support, skills and equipment they need. WWF will support the Community Rangers with field equipment like binoculars, tents, camping mattress, first aid kits, boots and water bottles. WWF will also support the WMA management by purchasing computers.

Eligibility and Qualification Requirements

- Possession of a registration professional certificate or licence related to tender requesting from relevant authorities;
- The bidder must attach a minimum of three or more similar related assignments undertaken in the past 2 years
- The bidder must have positive reputation for good business practice and professionalism;
- Current physical location of the bidder mentioning region and district where is registered and operating, which may be inspected for verification;

WWF Tanzania now invites applications from eligible registered local suppliers to supply equipment and other supplies as per Lots # 1-2 listed below

Tender Lot #	Tender Description	Delivery Place
Lot #1	Supply of IT equipment Supply of laptops, desktops, printers and cameras	WWF Dar es Salaam
Lot #2	Supply of Wildlife Ranger Combats, Tents, Tarpaulin, and Equipment	WWF Masasi
LOT #3	Deep freezers – quantity 18units • Capacity - 450L - 500L • Voltage - 220V - 250V • 5 Days Temperature Maintenance & Fast Freezing	WWF Dar es salaam (Marine Department)
LOT 4	• FOUR-stroke outboard boat engine (40 HP) – quantity 03 units • Life jackets - high quality & durable – 30 units	

Bidder may access full advert with all the detailed specifications for LOTS 1 & 2 through WWF website at this https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/

Please note that, each of the batches # 1-4 above are independent, only electronic applications/bids properly filled, should be send through procurement email at procurement@wwf.tz.org so as to reach us by or **before 1000hrs local time, Friday 15th October, 2021.**

Please, address your application to:
Secretary,
Procurement Committee,
WWF Tanzania,
Plot # 252 Mikocheni, Kiko St. Off Mwai Kibaki Rd.
Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Web: www.wwf.or.tz

Late applications, portion of applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance *(please, remember that, only electronic applications will be accepted)*

Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines.
WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted

Only successful applicant shall be contacted.

www.nbc.co.tz

TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

- National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for procurement of various services during financial year 2021/2022. It is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payments under various contracts.
- Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
 - Point of Sale (POS) Management systems and Key Injection.
 - Privileged Access Management System.
 - Security Information and Event Management.
 - Internal Fraud Monitoring Tool.
 - Device and Session Monitoring Solution.
 - Supplier Distributor Finance
- Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from our website www.nbc.co.tz and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
- All Proposals should be sent in one original document with a copy properly filled in, and enclosed in a sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6th FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
- Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Friday, 22nd October 2021 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at the reception of Head Office building, ground Floor along Sokoine Drive/Azikiwe Street

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**

216487201





World Education Inc senior official Grace Muro (L) briefs President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the firm's pavilion shortly before addressing the NGOs' annual general meeting in Dodoma city on Thursday. The pavilion constituted part of an exhibition held on the sidelines of the meeting. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Tunduru district administrative secretary Augustino Maneni (C) cuts ribbon yesterday to launch a Vodacom shop in the district. He is with Brigita Stephen (R), the firm's executive head of department for the Dar es Salaam and Coast zone, and business partner Emmanuel Makaki. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



This is graphic evidence of the damage earlier this week's rains did to a section of a road under construction to tarmac level in Dar es Salaam's Mabibo suburb, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



Construction of a building in progress at a newly established nursery school at Gomora in Musanja village, Musoma District, earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Zawadi Mkweru contributes to debate at a meeting on 'Leadership and gender issues on social media' held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. It was organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



Installation of water pipes between Dar es Salaam's Goba and Madale suburbs well under way, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Lushoto district commissioner Kalisti Lazaro (L, in glasses) follows up the implementation of the ongoing Covid-19 vaccinations at the district's hospital earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla



Lucy Lugome (L), councillor for Kisukuru in Dar es Salaam, speaks on the implementation of the CCM manifesto at a meeting of the party's ward executive council earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Muhidini Msamba



Students of Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College (TUDARCO), Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) and the University of Dar es Salaam's School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC-UDSM) who have been on two-month attachment at The Guardian Limited newspapers - The Guardian and Nipashe - share a light moment with The Guardian's managing editor, Wallace Mauggo (seated). They paid him a courtesy call in the newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday to bid farewell after the scheduled completion of the stint. Photo: John Badi

Bunda Municipal Council suspends 11 employees over graft allegations

By Guardian Correspondent, Bunda

BUNDA municipal council has suspended 11 staff of the local government entity for graft allegations including failure to oversee revenue collection and misuse of funds.

Speaking to journalists, the chairman for Bunda municipal council Charles Manumbu said the workers were suspended via a declaration reached at a meeting which took place at Kibara town located at Mwibara constituency.

He said there was a serious misappropriation of funds at the municipal council especially on various development projects and that they have been suspended to pave way for an investigation by a commission to be formed by the council.

"This was known after the council's finance committee toured the project and expressed dissatisfaction with the way the projects were implemented," he said.

He gave an example of some of the issues which are being queried including how 400m/- meant for construction of a school at Kitare ward, 500m/- for construction of three wards at the district hospital as well as 1bn/- for construction

of an administration block was spent.

He named those suspended with their titles in brackets as Stephen Ochien'g, Clevanc Bulemo and Sundry Godfrey (livestock and fisheries department), Leonald Richard, Kaleja Buyagu, Bilomo Mwigembe (education department) as well as Emmanel Mboje, Laurent Marashi and Annastazia Mathias both from the works department.

Others from the finance department are Sange Ruge and Hussein Kichwabuta.



This was known after the council's finance committee toured the project and expressed dissatisfaction with the way the projects were implemented

Blair expresses commitment to supporting Zanzibar economy

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair has expressed commitment to support Zanzibar in the areas of blue economy sectors including tourism, oil and gas, ports and fisheries.

This will be fulfilled through

the Tony Blair Institute For Global Change.

Blair made the commitment at the Zanzibar State House this week when he met and held talks with President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

The former prime minister said that he was pleased and satisfied with the work done

by the Zanzibar government under the leadership of President Mwinyi and was all ready to partner with it in improving systems and building strong institutions.

According to him, under the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, he will strengthen efforts and support the gov-

ernment in bringing development to its people. On his part, President Mwinyi commended the former British PM for visiting the State House for the second time assuring him of full support from the government. He said the institute would play a role in assisting the government in chang-

ing systems and ensuring that policies and programmes are well implemented, economic empowerment as well as capacity building for government officials.

"Apart from investing in the blue economy sectors, the institute's experts will also assist the government in social sec-

tors including education, water, roads, electricity and employment for communities," he added.

The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to making globalisation work for the many.

It offers new thinking and

new approaches to address some of the most intractable problems that leaders wrestle with today. The institute works to provide policy and strategy advice in support of a vision of globalisation designed to improve the well-being of the people, economically, politically and socially.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) gifts Dr Hafez Ghanem, the World Bank's Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, a souvenir painting of Mount Kilimanjaro in Dodoma city yesterday. The WB executive had just completed an official visit to Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Covid-19 jobs: Angola makes it compulsory for 18+ group

By Arnaldo Vieira

THE Angolan government on Thursday decreed that all citizens aged 18 years and above including pregnant women must be inoculated against Covid-19 before October 14.

After this deadline, access to public services, restaurants, meetings, activities in closed spaces, teaching establishments, shows, cinemas, games rooms, as well as to sports activities will be subjected to submission of a Covid-19 vaccination certificate or a negative test according to the Minister of State and head of the Presidency.

Adão de Almeida, who told journalists in a press conference, also announced some measures to prevent the pandemic spread.

The measures with effect between October 1st and 31st include the closure of the beaches in the country and the access ban on bathing areas and public swimming pools.

A fortnight ago, beaches and swimming pools were reopened in Angola after two years of closure.

On Thursday Angola recorded 664 Covid-19 new cases, the highest number since the start of the pandemic.

So far, the country, which is under the pandemic third wave, has recorded 57,247 Covid-19 cases, 1,548 deaths, 47,950 recoveries and 7,749 cases still active.

PCCB in Dodoma recovers funds, equipment totalling 47.8m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma Region has recovered funds and equipment totalling 47.8m/- which were embezzled by some unfaithful public leaders during implementation of various projects.

Among them, are equipment worth 41.8m/- stolen from a hospital construction project site.

Addressing a press conference yester-

day, head of PCCB in Dodoma Sosthenes Kibwengo said the total collected public funds and equipment came after investigation done in 17 projects in education, health and agriculture.

"In efforts meant to ensure that public funds are appropriately spent, PCCB in collaboration with the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) has continued to invest efforts in monitoring implementation of roads

and water projects so as to curb corrupt practices and identifying corruption loopholes," he said.

He said in August this year, TARURA signed 43 roads projects worth 10.2bn/- with various contractors that will be implemented in the 2021/22 financial year.

"RUWASA has distributed 35,232 meter length water pipes in all districts in the region for the implementation of the Payment by Results (PbR) scheme. The installation of the water pipes is expected to

cost 1.95m/-," Kibwengo explained.

He further said during the last quarter, a total of 120 information were received by the bureau of which 76 reports were on corruption while 6 reports were transferred to other departments.

"The bureau completed investigations for 10 cases, opened nine trials in court where six of them got ruling where the State side won three cases losing three others," he added.

Kibwengo said that in this quarter (Oc-

tober-December), PCCB will work closely with young people to educate and capacitate them with corruption fighting skills for them also to be able to disseminate the information to the public on the impacts of corruption.

"Our role is to ensure that the society remains safe from corrupt practices. We are implementing several programmes to ensure that we reach people, listen to their challenges and come up with solutions," he said.



Priscilla Tayari (L), an entrepreneur with Zanzibar's Kibibi Products, pictured yesterday briefing Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwynyi (R) on items made by the group. This was at an exhibition for women entrepreneurs organised in marking the CCM women's wing (UWT) week and held at Amali Miembeni Centre grounds. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Mabula asks land officials in Dodoma to ensure timely issuance of title deeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development Deputy Minister Dr Angeline Mabula has called on officials in the lands sector in Dodoma Region local councils to work harder to ensure they issue land title deeds to owners.

Dr Mabula made the statement recently during her meeting with senior officials and executives in the lands sector from Kondoa, Chemba, Bahi and Chamwino district councils. The deputy minister also inspected various projects in the districts whereas she directed officials to properly supervise them.

She ordered the Dodoma district council to make sure it prepares and offer at least 100 title deeds each month. She said there are some district councils in the country that prepares and offer over 300 title deeds to land owners every month.

"You cannot put in place strategies to prepare and offer 120 title deeds per year; this is unacceptable. You have a good number of staff in the department, but only a few people are provided with the documents annually," said the deputy minister noting the number of title deeds issued by authorities in Dodoma district is too small and discouraging people from applying for the document.

She also directed the district councils within Dodoma to make sure they educate the residents on the importance of securing title deeds. She gave them until October 2021 to ensure all the villagers are reached with the education.

Dr Mabula directed the regions' assistant land commissioner, Thadei Kabonge to supervise the exercise and ensure all those who have applied for title deeds are given the documents on time.

Meanwhile, Kabonge assured the deputy minister that all the given directives would be worked on, urging staff in the lands department to avoid creating land disputes. He said most of the disputes in the district are caused by duplication, negligence and delayed issuance of title deeds. Human resources officer in the office of the land commissioner in Dodoma Region, Swaumu Muganyizi called upon staff in the land department to work diligently and avoid engaging in bribes in issuance of title deeds to land owners.

Speaking in Mara, February this year, Dr Mabula tasked district land officers to fully participate in the preparation of title deeds in order to increase the pace of title deeds issuance in various areas.

She said many districts have various experts in the sector including those in urban planning, surveyors and land valuers who studied in land colleges.

If officials in the land sector perform their duties by working together and observe targets in title deeds preparation, the ministry would increase its share of collection of much needed government revenue, she affirmed.

Over 80,000 adolescent girls benefit from behaviour change training in war on HIV

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

ABOUT 84,000 adolescent girls aged 17 to 24 have benefited from behaviour change education for economic recovery as part of the fight against new HIV/AIDS infections, thanks to the initiative made by FHI 360—an international non-profit organization working to improve the health and well-being of people in the United States and around the world.

They benefited through a five-year Epidemic Control (EpiC) project, funded by the US President's Emergency Response Plan (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International De-

velopment (USAID) focused on achieving and advancing HIV/AIDS control in Tanzania.

FHI 360 girls and young women officer, Agnes Junga revealed this recently when she visited some of the 30 girls who continue to gain knowledge at St. Paul's College and Francis Vocation Training Center (SFS VTC) located in Mwakata ward, Msalala Council. Those teenagers were equipped with different skills that free them from risky behaviours. Out of that number (84,000), 56,000 are economically empowered with 13,000 of them starting their own businesses and making a living.

"In this college, we have 30 teenage

girls and young women studying various professions including electronics, automotive, computer, tailoring and salon, the aim of this project is to protect them from new HIV/AIDS infections," said Junga.

He added: "We provide this education to adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 9 and 24, who live in a high-risk environment and have sex at an early age so that they can afford the cost of living.

For his part, the training coordinator from the college Charles Maganga commended FHI 360 for recognizing the importance of valuing girls and sending them to college to receive training

that will help them in their future lives.

He said, with the knowledge that they provide the girls will be able to work anywhere in the private sector or the government.

One of the project's beneficiaries, Ester Obadia, said she and 29 colleagues were selected to join the college through the FHI 360 girls' groups and hope to use the training for self-employment and income generation.

Another beneficiary, Mary Edward described the training as an eye-opener as such initiative helps them to be independent and avoid indulging in temptations that could put them in a dangerous sexual environment.

S. Sudan flooding sees twenty dead

JUBA

AT least twenty people have died in South Sudan's Warrap State as a result of continuous devastating floods, a senior State official has confirmed.

In a mobile phone interview yesterday, Victor Wek Gogrial West County Commissioner said those killed were mainly children and women.

"These deaths were recorded since the rains started in July. And the biggest cause of those deaths is drowning. As you all know Gogrial is swampy and it's always worsening by rains.

"As speak to you now, at least 17,500 people have been displaced, according to the assessment carried out by State Relief and Rehabilitation Commission" Wek narrated.

"What is needed urgently now are sheltering materials to aid flood victims immediately, then food and non-food items would play a greater role in helping those that might starve and they are the majority" Wek stressed.

Last month, the United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said at least 380,000 people from six states in South Sudan were displaced by flash floods and numerous waves of inter-communal clashes.

Last year, torrential rains and flash floods displaced thousands of people and destroyed several homes across South Sudan. The most affected areas were in Jonglei, Pibor, Upper Nile, Unity, Western, and Eastern Equatorial states.



Dar es Salaam Regional Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro shows journalists yesterday what he said was a consignment of items impounded during a police crackdown on criminals. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Thirty buses in Shinyanga banned from operations over technical faults

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

POLICE traffic division in Shinyanga Region has banned 30 passenger buses to stop operations after being found with various technical faults that risks passengers lives.

Speaking with journalists at Kahama bus station in Shinyanga traffic officer, Malege Kilakala said apart from carrying out inspec-

tions they also offer education on best driving practices.

He said after inspections, 30 buses were fined for various traffic offenses and five of them were blocked from continuing with their journey after they were found with serious traffic offenses, putting lives of passengers at risk.

Kilakala said the five buses have been

found with offenses such as worn out tires, loose breaks which were dangerous to transport passengers.

"The inspection of the buses at the bus stop has revealed that there are many buses which do not qualify to be on the road," he said.

He said the operation is aimed at ensuring the safety of travellers as well as punish those who violate traffic rules and regulations.

He however, called upon bus owners to ensure their buses are in good condition to ensure travellers are safe.

The government announced in 2019 to bring a new law which will bring a total overhaul to the Road Safety Act and give the National Road Safety Council autonomous powers from being an advisory body to a full operational agency mandated to take actions

to all matters related to road safety including suing motorists who violate rules.

Among other changes that the law will bring include making the council a leading agency in road safety issues, establishment of mandatory vehicle inspection exercise, indicate the permanent sources of funds for the council and establish hefty fines and strict laws against reckless driving.



Artisanal miner Aman Mfikwa of Chikoa in Dodoma Region pictured earlier this week using the traditional low-tech way of extracting gold from ore, while wearing protective equipment to minimize the harm the use of mercury can cause. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Rwanda seeks to reduce deaths from NCDs by a third

By Jade Natacha

THE Rwandan government has launched a five-year strategy aimed at reducing, by a third, premature mortality caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The strategy, which runs until 2025, was launched by the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) during an event to mark the "World Heart Day" on September 29.

It comes at the time figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that NCDs remain the leading cause of death and disability globally. It accounts for more than 70 per cent of deaths worldwide.

Close to 85 per cent of these deaths, WHO says, occur in low and middle-income countries. And within this, 82 per cent of these deaths are due to four primary NCDs: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

In Rwanda, NCDs accounted for 44 per cent of total deaths with cardiovascular diseases and injuries sharing the highest mortality rate of 14 per cent each closely followed by cancers 13 per cent, chronic respiratory diseases 3 per cent, diabetes 2 per cent, and other NCDs 13 per cent, according to RBC.

The key risk factors include excessive alcohol consumption, an unhealthy diet with too much salt, sugar, and trans-fat/saturated fat, followed by tobacco use and lack of physical activity.

In order to implement the strategy, the country will need Rwf358.15 billion over the next five years.

The money is meant to raise awareness and community engagement for behavioural change, prevention, and control of NCD risk factors, and providing quality services at all levels of health care.

Dr Daniel Ngamiye, the Minister of Health, highlighted the importance of investing in disease prevention.

"Investing now in prevention will lead to savings in the future, money that would otherwise have to be spent on treating Rwandans in advanced stages of cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease," the minister said in a press release. "The health sector alone cannot overcome it, but it requires a Multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs in the country."

Dr Sabin Nsanzimana, the Director-General of RBC, emphasised; "This strategic plan is truly Multisectoral, calling upon actors across government, private entities, civil society organisations and the public at large, all to play their role."

According to Dr Francois Uwinkindi, the NCD Manager at RBC, integrating NCD services into the existing primary health care system will be critical for the successful implementation of the strategy.

Key components of the response to NCDs include early detection, screening, and treatment of NCDs, as well as palliative care.

Modern beekeeping to save Kilombero Nature Forest Reserve from invasion

By Guardian Reporter, Kilombero

LIVING with HIV/Aids is not the end of the world. This is what is happening to people living with HIV/Aids (PLWHA) in Idete ward from Kilombero District, Morogoro Region.

In their group—KIWAIVIKAI, people living with HIV/Aids are engaging in beekeeping as part of their income-generating activities, which in turn will help to spearhead conservation of Kilombero Nature Forest Reserve (KNFR).

Group chairman David Mkumba described beekeeping as a key in transforming

people's livelihoods. "In the past PLHA were being discriminated in the society, because we've no financial muscles. But, now things are different as we've something to contribute to the community," Mkumba said.

He lauded the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) for empowering them with skills and knowledge on how best to get into beekeeping venture.

"We've been getting subsidies from EAMCEF and so far we've been given 6.6m/- and professional advises from different experts on apiculture,"

he said.

Mkumba said the grant was directed to training on modern beekeeping and the purchase of modern hives where members of the group now have more than seventy hives that have been producing honey for sale and others to use as nutrition to improve their health.

Through beekeeping project, Mkumba said the 27 members of the group have earned an income that some of them have been able to buy farms and engage in agriculture but have also set up a local poultry project under the group.

"We have been harvesting

at least 300 kilos of honey per season and the market is well stocked as our produce usually is bought here in the village without even taking it to the market," said Modestus Mwambaluka, KIWAIVIKAI secretary, adding that the demand for honey was also high.

According to members of the group, the involvement in projects aimed at conserving the forest environment has given them great hope that the community still appreciates their contribution and recognizes that living with HIV is not a reason for exclusion and stigma.

Explaining the purpose of the grant, Rose Boniface, EAMCEF Northern Region Project Officer, said the fund recognizes that people from special groups, including the disabled and those living with HIV, are also important to be involved in conserving the environment and resources found within the Eastern Arc Mountains like other community members but also to reduce the burden of entering the reserve to harvest resources for their daily needs.

Kilimanjaro District aquaculture officer, John Mlulu said the group has become a

role model after being trained on modern beekeeping and pastoralism.

"These people have been a catalyst for other people who have moved into beekeeping after seeing the benefits they receive, a situation that has continued to enhance the KNFR environment which was previously destroyed by community members in search of timber for charcoal and hunting of small animals for meat," he said.

Beekeeping using modern hives has also reduced fires that were frequently occurring within the Kilomb-

ero nature reserve which was caused by natural honey extraction method using wild-fires, the park's chief conservation officer Elibariki Akyoo said it has helped reduce the amount of time spent on fire fighting and conservationists to carry out other conservation activities as the environment continues to improve.

"Even the pace of human encroachment on forest resources and biodiversity is now greatly reduced as more and more community members are now focusing on modern beekeeping," said Akyoo.

Mchengerwa threatens to take action against sluggish officials

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Mohamed Mchengerwa has directed executives in his office to monitor and take actions against human resource managers at public institutions who are yet to promote qualified public servants as per directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Mchengerwa made the directive on Thursday when officiating a meeting for chief executives of government agencies held in the country's capital—Dodoma. The conference was aimed at promoting accountability amongst the senior leaders.

The minister ordered that human resource managers who have not completed procedures for promotion of qualified servants at their specific agencies and institutions should be punished accordingly.

"Negligence should not be entertained at workplaces; managers who have failed to implement the President's directive should be held accountable," said Mchengerwa noting they must be demoted and relocated to other institutions.

Mchengerwa said that his office has been receiving complaints from a number of civil servants who have all the required qualifications, but

have not been promoted to top positions. He said officials at his office have been working day and night to ensure everything goes as planned.

He said the government is committed to improving workers' welfare in the future and that after President Samia Suluhu Hassan authorised promotions of public servants, the ministry has set aside money to pay the new salaries and arrears.

"The government values the contribution of public servants and cares about them. President Samia ordered for their promotion because she knows their contribution in solving challenges facing people," he stated.

Tanzania Public Service College (TPSC) principal and chief executive officer, Dr Emmanuel Shindika promised to work on all the given directives. He assured the minister that all the chief executive officers attending the meeting would execute their duties accordingly and per recommended speed and standards of the sixth phase government.

Speaking at Mwanza's Kirumba stadium where International Labour Day was nationally celebrated on May 1st this year, the president said the government will promote between 85,000 and 91,000 workers this financial year, a measure that would see it paying at least 449bn/-.



National Assembly information officer Zuhura Mtatifikolo briefs pupils on parliamentary issues during a sensitisation visit to Kihonda Maghorofani Primary School in Morogoro municipality on Thursday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

AU starts preparations for 3rd mid-year coordination meeting

By Guardian Reporter

THE virtual 42nd ordinary session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) has kicked off, ahead of the 3rd mid-year coordination meeting between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms scheduled for October 16th 2021.

The conference is themed; "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want."

The Chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC), Moussa Faki Mahamat, reiterated that the institutional reforms of the AU are taking place within the framework of justice and equity among all member states and in accordance with the rules of the

Union. "This will be for the renewal of staff according to professional skills and qualifications, but also according to justice and equity among all the member states, in accordance with our regulations and our basic principles. These principles are the cement of our unity within the same organisation where no member state will feel left out," he said.

The AUC chairperson noted that the PRC will discuss key issues, among them report of the sub-committee on budget that includes the 2022 budget of the Union; partnerships and the need to develop a strategy for all partnerships, operationalisation of the Africa CDC which is an urgent and vital issue with regard to health and security and the mid-term evaluation of the

theme of the year 2021.

He also expressed appreciation for the good collaboration which exists between the PRC and the AU Commission.

"This cooperation is enhanced by the common will to place the institutional reforms on a solid basis that will lead to the attainment of the strategic objectives enshrined in Agenda 2063," underlined Faki reiter-

ating the full availability of the commission to work tirelessly with the PRC.

Jean Léon Ngandu Ilunga, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives' Committee, commended the efforts made by the Bureau of the AU Assembly, the

Commission and the Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC) for their tireless efforts in the response against the COVID-19 pandemic and the role played in acquisition of the vaccines.

The official opening ceremony of the 42nd ordinary session of the PRC virtual meeting, was attended by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, the AU Commis-

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

SGR tendering needs no revisiting, for cohesion

DESPITE affirmations to the contrary, there is apparently some controversy in awarding contract to bidders for constructing the third and fourth stretches of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project.

The third lot links Makutupora with Tabora and finally there is Tabora to Mwanza and then to Isaka, which are now the subject of highly placed bidding procedure tugs of war on the basis of recent affirmations at high levels of ministerial or regulatory authorities. It is an issue going well beyond procurement formulas.

Mwita Waitara, the deputy minister for Works and Transport told this newspaper in an exclusive interview at midweek that everything was going on well in relation to the tendering process, asserting that the ministry hadn't so far received any complaints from bidders.

This appears reassuring but it has a catch to it - those who want new bidding to be enterprised have not complained on that expectation, definitely. It is the railways corporation that apparently raised complaints, but diplomatically bidders are contented.

While not expected to list out bidders wishing to enter into the project at present, concerns were being raised early in the week over proposals by the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) against advice from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), wishing to use the single source procurement method for the tender now being floated.

The ministerial view for a fair tendering process which thus discounts single procurement as unfair raises issues, as to whether a multiplicity of contractors is good for the project. The issue can't be sorted out by looking at bidding and merits of competition but elsewhere.

A preliminary issue that would have to be resolved is whether there are in-

stances where open bidding is key to fairness, and instances where single procurement is best. Without prejudice, that question can be improved to ask (as TRC might precisely be doing) whether the country's interest lies in having the same contractor finish the job, or it makes no difference is the government gets others to complete the work.

At that point one starts having suspicions, as any re-start of contract will cost money, and worse, dispersed responsibility for work done implies higher insurance costs, or intractable dispute solving if hitches arise.

The deputy minister privileges commercial and accounting terms like 'single source procurement method' favoured by TRC and 'the use of competitive tendering in obtaining contractors of lots 3 and 4 of the railway.' Those terms appear neutral and he seems to believe that the ministry chooses what 'method' should be used, and indeed this is left to professionals, thus PPRA appears best suited to make a decision.

This view used to be an item of faith until the fifth phase presidency, when other sections of the public - not just investigative reporters or activists - realised that professional formulas hide a lot, and at times blatantly ignore what is in the national interest. That is true of this issue.

When the deputy minister says that the "broad interest of Tanzanians, whose interests will be protected through..." competitive tendering, the meaning there has to do with a breadth of Tanzanians, not of necessity Tanzania as such, which ought to mean the government, and finally the Treasury.

Nor must we incline to the position by PPRA Acting Director General Mary Swai that the issue be left in the hands of the two entities and be discussed by confidentiality. Not exactly; the national interest ought to prevail.

International Day of Older Persons: Theme increasingly relevant to the public agenda

ACTIVISTS around the world mark the International Day of Older Persons on October 1 each year, following a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990 picking the date for the celebration, observed for the first time on October 1, 1991. The key issue in marking the UN day is raising awareness about issues affecting elderly people like relative disabilities, and at times not being assured of basic needs, and dignified surroundings. Essentially the day is devoted to appreciating the contributions that older people make to society, which focuses on the present, aided by past efforts.

Some countries had already set out days for respecting the contribution of elders, like a National Grandparents Day in the United States, Double Ninth Festival in China which picks out those close to clicking a century in life, and Respect for the Aged Day in Japan, whose themes converge in fashioning programmes and themes in the UN day. It has not been altogether easy to focus on what do so on that day and what is expected to be achieved, but each year's activities make a modest contribution to the theme.

A series of themes have been selected since around 1998, where on that year as well as the year 2000 the theme selected was 'Towards A Society for All Ages.' In 2004 'Older persons in an intergenerational society' was discussed around the world, and in 2005 activists tried to grapple with 'Ageing in the new millennium.' In 2006 the theme was 'Improving the Quality of Life for Older Persons: Advancing UN Global Strategies,' evidently having in mind the Millennium Development Goals pursued up to 2015.

In 2007 there was a more com-

plex discussion on 'Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of Ageing,' and in 2008 the discussed zeroed on the 'Rights of Older Persons,' while the 2009 theme was 'Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons: Towards a Society for All Ages,' reiterating what now appears to be a guiding thread to observing the UN day.

The event in 2010 was devoted to examining 'Older persons and the achievement of the MDGs,' while in 2011 the focus zeroed again on 'The Growing Opportunities & Challenges of Global Ageing.' It was an issue of whether there are common issues shaping up globally on the matter, or sharp divergence tied to cultural diversity.

Much the same content is noticed in the 2012 theme, on 'Longevity: Shaping the Future,' as especially in advanced countries with low birth rates. 'The 2013 theme, 'The future we want: what older persons are saying' was based on listening, and in 2014, on action, with 'Leaving No One Behind: Promoting a Society for All,' ages. In 2015 activists focused on 'Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment' furthered by the 2016 theme, 'Take A Stand Against Ageism,' in habitual denial of jobs, etc.

The 2017 theme, 'Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society,' was even clearer and in 2018 it was 'Celebrating Older Human Rights champions,' a not so familiar issue. The 2019 theme, 'The Journey to Age Equality' intimated at removing biases to look at abilities, and in 2020 'Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing,' cautioned on presumption of infection, worried about impact on longevity,

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Private sector needs to respond to president's support

By Special Correspondent

THE private sector is seen as the main engine of growth for Zimbabwe's economy and the Government has under the Second Republic been moving flat out to give the sector the institutional and other backing that it requires, as President Emmerson Mnangagwa noted earlier this week.

One sector, agriculture, has perhaps seen the heaviest backing. Our farmers, outside a few State-owned estates, are legally and in practice self-employed business people, although woefully under-capitalised, so the direct Government backing has been in that crucial area of inputs on credit so that they can produce.

In mining, the major companies have been seeing the legalities of their mining claims being sorted out, the mining licences issued and fairly close co-operation to establish fair and equitable systems for ensuring that a mining operation has adequate reserves to ensure viability for decades. Claims are only lost when not used.

Industry has been resuscitated and is now expanding with older companies expanding and newcomers entering production.

But President Mnangagwa brought up an important factor that we sometimes forget when he urged companies to not only establish local brands, but do get these brands recognised regionally and internationally.

Our exports are dominated by primary products, cash crops from our farmers and minerals from our miners without a lot of serious export-

ing by industrialists.

To a very large extent our industrial growth has been driven by two factors: producing the Zimbabwean market share as a subsidiary of a major global company, or at least producing this share under licence, and pure import substitution.

This tends to mean that the regionally and internationally recognised brands, the products of the licensed or subsidiary operations, cannot be exported and the pure local brands are not exported.

One problem, of course, is that for a long time local manufacturers had problems obtaining enough raw materials for their local markets, let alone for export.

This is being fixed and the President noted that far more needed to be done to be processing local raw materials, choosing businesses that could largely rely on what our farmers and miners produced and being willing to work with these primary producers to establish a market for existing and new raw materials.

Such products would be the ideal export goods, with a lot of value added and jobs created before the containers cross the frontiers.

Simply importing raw materials, processing them and then sending them back is not a business that can be ignored, but is not one that is likely to create our future giants.

In fact, the next take off point for the economy is to start boosting exports of manufactured

products using Zimbabwean raw materials.

The plans for the tobacco industry, for example, see an ever rising percentage of the left being made into cigarettes in Zimbabwe, even though things like paper and filters will have to be imported, and cartons of cigarettes being exported rather than containers of leaf.

Even in mining there is a lot of pressure on the sector to start doing all initial processing in Zimbabwe and at least export ingots of metal, and coke rather than coal.

But there is also hope that in some areas we will be able to move to the next stage. For example the two investors in new steel plants are keener on exporting sheets of steel, rods of steel, than just ingots of steel.

Considering that some quite small countries have become major exporters of manufactured goods despite having little or nothing in the way of suitable raw materials, it should be possible for a resource rich country like Zimbabwe, despite its size, to do the same.

Of course one reason why those resource-poor countries were able to move rapidly into manufacturing was because they had invested heavily into education and thus were able to couple skilled people and first class business people into their manufacturing sector.

But Zimbabwe has also been creating the skilled manpower, largely at Government expense, and so it seems the time has

come for us to push forward.

The President, perhaps because he was opening a restaurant in an imaginative venture to empower and employ orphans who have had a bad break in their childhood years, brought up the need for a similar attitude in our tourism and hospitality sectors.

Zimbabwe is now getting a much better press and as Covid-19 retreats it is likely we will see a resurgence in these sectors.

While there will always be room for large five-star hotels serving international cuisine, a lot of people travel not just to see the world, but also to experience the world.

So the President's stress on exceptionally well-cooked examples of local cuisine using local foods was timely.

Traditional menus have tended to be ignored, yet there is now encouragement to not only restore them, but extend them.

This resumption of tourism also opens many other opportunities. Many people want local, although decent, accommodation, preferably with a restaurant with a good chef who can show them the cuisine of the country.

The opportunities seem obvious, and tourism and hospitality industries can also have a breath as well as a depth.

Now that we are finally going for self-sustaining private-sector growth, it seems that more and more of our people should be talking up the Government's invitation to open and grow businesses.

Nigeria: 61 years of nationhood

By Manzoor Qadir

NIGERIA has not made it good as a nation. It should make better use of its potential

Whatever may be the misgivings of some citizens either over the amalgamation of the country in 1914 or the distortion of our federal system by the military, Nigeria has come a long way as a nation. As we therefore mark the 61st anniversary today, the task before critical stakeholders at all levels is to mobilise and give practical expressions to the forces of integration. Emphasis should be placed on being Nigerian while those who claim to speak for the various religious, ethnic, and regional groups should do so with every sense of responsibility.

With over 250 ethnic groups, two dominant religions that historically view each other with suspicion, social and political classes that engender disaffection and disillusionment, and a political leadership

that appears doomed to mediocrity at all levels, we concede that there are serious challenges. But so are opportunities. To start with, our diversity should be a veritable tool for intellectual and cultural strength - two indispensable prerequisites for societal development and growth.

Even the enemies of Nigeria do not deny its social and economic potential, despite the generations of waste and abuse it has so far experienced. Home to about one out of every four black persons on earth, its abundance of human resources has never been in doubt. But there is a structural challenge that holds us back.

After surviving a three-year civil war and many other security and political challenges, Nigeria is yet to put its house in order. The glaring failings are embedded in the ever-increasing questions on its nationhood through threats of secession from various groups.

It is unfortunate that after 61 years

the country is yet to 'melt' the union into one as loyalty to primordial interest, even at the level of national leadership, still wins the day. We can see that in the debate about the 2023 general election on where the president should come from, rather than in what he or she can deliver to the people.

To worsen matters, the economy has been in doldrums for decades, occasioned by lamentably slow growth and persistent high unemployment. This has brought hardship on a scale unimaginable. The widespread economic suffering can be measured easily: the once wealthy country has become a basket case, harbouring more than 100 million people living below the poverty line, and unable to provide basic services. The impact of all this on the ordinary Nigerian has been dreadful.

As we have argued on different occasions, the nation should be freed from stifling centralism which

has aided conflict-ridden competition for power and resources. The potential for strengthening the structural design for good governance and human development in Nigeria is a sound idea that should be subjected to a national conversation. But for such a conversation to be meaningful, the present fallacies and prejudices must be dealt with. The two largest religions in the country - Christianity and Islam - both originated from the Middle East and were only transmitted here. They should not continue to be used as divisive instruments. As for ethnicity, the nations that are linguistically homogeneous are very few. But those who imagine and propose the dissolution of the nation along ethnic or regional lines as a solution to what ails us are not correct.

There is no guarantee that acrimony and differences would disappear in the unlikely event of cultural homogeneity.

The hell of pointless bureaucracy: My hostile trip into driving licence renewal purgatory

By Toby Shapshak

THE only thing that really works at the Sandton Licensing and Testing Department is the queues. In an attempt to get a new driving licence for myself and register my new car, I discovered the joys of dealing with what can only be described as institutionalised dysfunction.

After Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula trumpeted the "request-a-slot" initiative, I duly requested a slot and was sent a date and time for 21 September. Armed with all the paperwork and three credit cards - clearly in an effort to stop corruption - all I needed to do was submit my driving licence application, register some fingerprints and pay.

The first part of the process was easy. It took 15 minutes to queue, sit in front of a complex machine, which encased a laptop, fingerprint reader, eye-test goggles and a camera. The man who assisted me was helpful - we laughed when he told me the machines kept breaking down - and off I went to pay.

And entered the wasteful bureaucracy where hostile civil servants treat their customers with not only disdain but an almost constant cold-shoulder attitude whenever you asked any kind of (pressing) question. This is keeping the country's economic heartland from functioning properly.

I started with the cashier queue. I entered a room where all the chairs were occupied by grumpy-looking civilians, and was pointed to a man in a green mask, standing against a room divider. By way of gestures, like the hand signals of prisoners who are forbidden to speak, I worked out I should stand next to the man who would be my companion for the next hour of purgatory.

I am no religious scholar, but I know enough of the classics, especially the depictions of Hell in Dante's *Inferno*, and this was living proof of the hell of pointless bureaucracy. One of author Franz Kafka's most famous books was about a man accused of a crime and never told what the crime was while going through a trial.

This was my first queue crime - and I was involved in a few more bizarre and pointless encounters with other petty tyrants behind counters - whose only power was to force people to sit and wait. The wait for the cashier was because the "system is down" - a phrase I heard four times and which clearly contributed to my long wait. I had always thought that the Department of Home Affairs was the nadir of this bureaucratic purgatory, but the traffic department is a close competitor.

To spend some time inside any of the labyrinths of the South African civil service is to experience the ultimate in passive-aggressive behaviour. When I moved to the separate building for car licensing, I stood in a queue to get inside, then was told to sit in one of the waiting areas. After 40 minutes, I went up to the coun-



ter - where the woman was screaming "next" - and asked her if I could transfer the car. No, I was in the wrong queue. Go to counter 13.

As befits the superstition about that number, the civil servant - who was wearing a white Chiefs football shirt and had cool tattoos - was the most painful of the petty tyrants. I went up and asked the other people in the block of chairs if they didn't mind me just asking what the procedure was. Chiefs fan was passive aggression incarnate.

I made the mistake of saying that I had been waiting for "an hour", which included the time that I stood outside. Chiefs fan looked at my ticket and argued that it was only "half an hour". No amount of remorsefulness on my part could help. Perhaps I shouldn't have pointed out that it was 40 minutes and not an hour.

I kept asking him: "Please can you tell me what the correct procedure is?" He ranted about sitting in the queue in the block of chairs in front of me. Ironically, when I returned with the manager after

another 10 minutes of trying to explain the problem, those people were instructed that they were sitting on the wrong chairs. I was actually the only person in the queue for counter 13. Not that it mattered.

The manager took me to counter 14, where the lady behind the massive slab of glass couldn't move any slower. She also spoke in a whisper, despite my numerous requests for her to speak up so that I could hear her through the glass and her face mask. Eventually, I asked her if there was a problem. "Yes," she replied, "I didn't say sorry" to Chiefs fan. I kid you not.

I could go on (and on and on and on) about the mindless obsession with making people stay in their queue - expect these agents to seemingly do as they please - but everybody knows this pain.

I have spent enough time, throughout my life, in this warren of retribution to understand the psyche of these civil servants. They exude passive aggression, wait for the slightest slight (in my case calling 40 minutes an hour) and then their slow

retribution starts.

They are trapped in eight hours at work, therefore they will condemn their customers (the people who pay their salaries) to the same purgatory.

But the queues were seemingly only for citizens who followed the rules and clearly not for the many so-called agents who performed this mundane task for others.

I watched the way innumerable people walked straight to the front of any queue, coming backwards and forwards with armfuls of papers. While sitting there, I started asking what their numbers were and how long they had stood in the queue. None of these guys were like us covering citizens, afraid of falling foul of a vindictive petty tyrant. The queue rules didn't apply to them.

Mbalula likes to claim this request-a-slot and online payment option (if only I could pay online) has solved the massive backlog of expired driving licences in Gauteng. Only on Planet ANC could anyone believe that. On the ground, the years of ANC incompetence are highly visible. The fancy

machines used for updating your licence were "always breaking" and the contract had ended for those. I wonder whose ANC NEC family member got the contract?

It's certainly these IT problems that are holding up the system, but it is just as clear that the misguided focus on pedestrian nonsense is more important to the people who work at the traffic department than the actual job they are supposed to do. Come on Mr Fix, as Mbalula likes to call himself, here is a real problem you can fix. Sit in the Sandton testing station for an hour and watch how broken and corrupt it is. But be careful that you don't offend the queue police.

While encouraged by the number of those who have vaccinated, Cabinet has appealed to those who have yet to get their COVID-19 jab, to do so during the upcoming Vooma Vaccination Weekend.

At its meeting on Wednesday, Cabinet said it is encouraged by the millions of people in South Africa who have chosen to vaccinate against COVID-19, with over 17 million vaccine doses administered to date.

Cabinet thanked the religious formations as well as the sports and arts fraternity for embarking on vaccination campaigns to encourage the uptake of vaccines.

"The more people get vaccinated, the sooner the country will relax the current Adjusted Alert Level 2 restrictions. This will inevitably result in the full opening of the economy to be able to grow and create much-needed jobs," Cabinet said in a statement.

"Cabinet reiterates the call that to reduce new infections, we all have to continue wearing a mask in public, washing hands with soap and water or using a 70% alcohol-based sanitiser and maintaining a safe social distance continues to reinforce the country's approach in reducing new infections."

Cabinet has also urged unvaccinated South Africans and people

End of World Bank's 'Doing Business Report' marks landmark victory for people and planet

BY ANDY CURRIER

THE September 16, 2021 announcement from the World Bank that it had discontinued publication of the Doing Business Report (DBR) marked a major victory for people and planet.

Since 2002, the DBR has scored and ranked countries on the "ease of doing business," i.e. on regulatory changes and reforms that make them more attractive to private investors. These "reforms" have included lowering corporate taxes, slashing environmental safeguards, social and labor standards, cutting administrative procedures, and removing restrictions to trade and business.

Cancellation of the DBR comes after data irregularities were found in the 2018 and 2020 reports. Audits revealed serious ethical concerns of data manipulation - shattering trust in the rankings. An explosive external review delivered to the Bank's Board of Executive Directors exposed how senior Bank officials applied pressure to manipulate data in order to improve rankings for select countries.

Notably, the independent report exposed how then-Bank CEO (and current IMF Managing Director) Kristalina Georgieva applied "pressure" to "make specific changes to China's data points in an effort to increase its ranking for the 2018 DBR," at a time the country was expected

to increase its financial contribution to the Bank's capital. Then-World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim was also indirectly implicated in the effort to increase China's ranking.

Simeon Jankov, one of the founders of the DBR and a senior Bank official was also incriminated in altering Saudi Arabia's data to boost the country's ranking, in an effort to reward the country for the "important role it played in the Bank community."

Saudi Arabia had previously implemented a series of Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) projects - paid advisory services provided by the Bank, some of which focus on improving economic indicators scored on the DBR. Elevating Saudi

Arabia to first place in the Top Improvers list was done to "demonstrate the effectiveness of the Bank's efforts and validate the amount of money Saudi Arabia had spent on RAS projects relating to the Doing Business Report."

While shocking, these revelations are not the first charges of data manipulation brought against the Bank's flagship publication. In 2018, the World Bank's then-Chief Economist, Paul Romer exposed how DBR scores for Chile were skewed and politically manipulated to disfavor Michelle Bachelet's progressive government.

While Romer admitted "business conditions did not get worse in Chile" under Bachelet, the country's DBR rank fell from 25th to 57th while she was in power. The Bank denied Romer's allegations and he subsequently resigned.

The blatant evidence of manipulation of the rankings is a slap in the face of the poorest countries that deregulated their economies to gain favor with the Bank. Consumed by climbing the rankings, policy makers around the world prioritized reforms that would improve their score instead of pursuing policies that would benefit people or the environment.

Even before the extent of the data manipulation came to light and destroyed any credibility of the DBR, the rankings were built on a flawed premise that rewarded countries for reducing their labor standards, destroying the environment, and providing easy access for corporate pillaging and land grabs.

For instance, the DBR ranked Sierra Leone, as one of "the top 15 economies that improved their business regulatory environment the most" after the country implemented policy changes that fast-tracked land leases, attracting foreign investors eager to develop large-scale oil palm and sugar cane plantations that deprived local communities of the land essential to their livelihoods.

Similarly, the DBR ranked Liberia as a "top ten global reformer" in 2010 after it prioritized lowering tax rates for corporations, provided guarantees to investors "against unfair expropriation," and "ensur[ed] the ability of investors to repatriate capital and profits," among other pro-corporate reforms. These policy changes resulted in giant palm oil and rubber producers acquiring more than 1.5 million acres of land - once again at the expense of community livelihoods.

Sustained Civil Society Mobilisation Driving Force in Ending DBR

The Bank and IMF's structural adjustments programs (SAPs) implemented in the 1980s and 1990s, impoverished millions in developing countries after imposing the withdrawal of state intervention and sweeping liberalization of

economies as conditions to receive loans. The same year sustained mobilization from civil society finally ended SAPs, the Bank created the DBR to repackage and push the same neoliberal doctrine.

Over the past 18 years, the DBR has been met with strong resistance from the global labor movement and groups advocating for more equitable development policies in the Global South. Since 2014, the 280-organization strong Our Land Our Business campaign - comprised of NGOs, unions, farmers, and consumer groups from over 80 countries - has called for the end of the rankings.

For over seven years, Our Land Our Business has waged a steadfast advocacy campaign, including letters, petitions, and mass protests around the world. Coordinating the campaign, the Oakland Institute has produced dozens of reports and advocacy materials providing in-depth analysis and monitoring the impact of the DBR for people around the world.

Pressure on the Bank to end the DBR grew in March 2021 when the Rights Not Rankings Campaign - comprised of over 360 civil society organizations, academics and trade unions - called on the Bank to end the program given that the "underlying premises of the Doing Business Report are not supported by evidence and contradict the objectives of a just recovery," from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While a landmark victory, these campaigns remain vigilant as the World Bank continues to leverage its influence and pressure countries to prioritize reforms that benefit corporate interests over true development. The scandal that derailed the DBR reveals ingrained institutional flaws in the World Bank and the biased, pro-corporate ideology and development pathway it continues to promote.

Next, the Bank should end the Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) Program. Created in the image of the DBR, the EBA rewards countries for implementing reforms in the agriculture sector that benefit agribusiness over the small farmers who actually feed the world. The revelations that have ended the DBR undeniably discredit the EBA and add to the Program's crisis of legitimacy.

The Our Land Our Business Campaign will continue its unwavering advocacy until the EBA joins the DBR in the dustbin of history.

Despite the work ahead, the end of the DBR should be widely celebrated as it marks the end of a tool wielded on the behalf of global capital interests for nearly two decades. Its demise was long overdue and clears the way for policies that serve people and the planet first.

The writer is Research Associate at the Oakland Institute in San Francisco, US.



US faces anger, disappointment at ongoing major UN conferences

GENEVA

WHILE evacuating from Afghanistan, the United States still killed civilians including children. Amazing that the U.S. has the cheek to talk about human rights," said a Geneva-based diplomat who wanted to remain anonymous.

In New York, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who was there for the week of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), told reporters that he did not intend to meet U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, accusing Washington of betrayal. Anger and disappointment over the United States from a number of other countries, even its allies, have been widely observed at the two ongoing major UN conferences -- the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva and the 76th session of the UNGA in New York. In the eyes of many representatives, the United States is no longer a "decent power," but a disgraceful one, as it violates human rights, breaches international norms, and betrays allies' trust.

SHAMEFUL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS

The four-week UN human rights session is being held at a time when Afghanistan is experiencing dramatic changes after the United States pulled out. On Sept. 14, the second day of the UNHRC session, a joint statement by China and a group of like-minded countries

pointed out that the U.S.-led military intervention in Afghanistan is the root cause of the humanitarian disaster in the war-torn country. By April 2020, at least 47,000 Afghan civilians had been killed in the two-decade-long war and more than 10 million Afghan people were displaced, said the joint statement.

Another joint statement issued on the same day voiced concerns about the general human rights deterioration in the United States. It accused Washington of disregarding the right to life and right to health of its people, saying that the country possesses the most advanced medical equipment and technologies, but has seen the largest COVID-19 caseload and the highest death toll worldwide. Systemic racism and racial discrimination have long existed in the United States as well. Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, Muslims and other minority groups continue to suffer discrimination and harm, said the second statement.

As one of the world's richest countries, the United States is "the only developed country where millions of people are still starving, and nearly one seventh of its population is struggling with poverty," it added. Jiang Duan, minister of the Chinese Mission to the UN office in Geneva, told the Council on Sept. 17 that nearly 100,000 people are trafficked to the United States from abroad for forced labor every year, and at least 500,000 people are subjected to contemporary forms



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken

of slavery in the country. "A large number of children are trapped working in the agricultural sector, and many of them started to work from the age of eight," the diplomat noted. Meanwhile, "roughly 240,000 to 325,000 women and children in the United States are victims of sexual slavery." Indeed, the United States' self-imposed image of "human rights champion" is deteriorating.

LOW POLITICAL TRICKS

In the latest joint statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence and a number of other NGOs, concerns about the unilateral coercive measures (UCMs), frequently taken by the United States, were presented at the UNHRC session. "Sanctions can create severe suffering for individuals who have neither perpetrated crimes nor otherwise bear any responsibility. When sanctions target an entire country, it is the most vulnerable people in that

country who are likely to be harmed the worst," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said at a panel discussing the issue of UCMs.

Alena Douhan, UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of UCMs on the enjoyment of human rights, told the Council that the overwhelming majority of unilateral measures applied today were illegal under international law. Speaking virtually during the session, a diplomat from Venezuela criticized the United States for continuing to promote its failed policy of seeking changes in sovereign governments, at the expense of the peoples. During the ongoing session, China, as a victim of the United States' lies and rumors, also stood out.

The United States, trying to reap benefits from spreading disinformation about China, has crossed the rudimentary moral line in bashing others, the Chinese Mission at Geneva said in a statement. To serve its own political interests, Washington has been using the human rights issue as a political tool and trying to create division and turbulence around the world, the statement said, noting that it is an old U.S. trick all too familiar to others. In the statement, China urged the United States to act as a "decent power" and invest its resources in improving the welfare and human rights of its own people, rather than violating the human rights of people in other countries and playing low political tricks.

INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE

During the two UN meetings, a number of countries have spoken out against what the United States has done and has been doing to the rest of the world. In his speech to the high-level general debate at the UNGA on Sept. 23, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel underlined the importance of multilateralism and condemned U.S. foreign policy.

He said via a pre-recorded video that the United States is promoting a "dangerous international schism ... through the pernicious use and abuse of economic coercive measures."

The Cuban president also criticized Washington for pressuring countries to speak and act against those it

has identified as adversaries, overthrowing legitimate governments, and breaking trade agreements, saying that the U.S. behavior "is associated with ideological and cultural intolerance." In his speech at the UNGA on Sept. 21, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi called for an end to U.S. sanctions upon his country, saying that those sanctions are a new method of war with other nations in the world, and a crime against humanity, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a pre-recorded message to the 76th session of the UNGA, Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry said that he and many others were shocked by the U.S. treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers at the border between Mexico and the United States, referring to a recent video showing U.S. border patrol agents chasing Haitian migrants on horseback.

Similarly, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi stressed that the summary and mass expulsions of individuals at the U.S. border are "inconsistent with international norms and may constitute refoulement."

Recently, even some U.S. allies voiced complaints against the superpower. Referring to the nuclear submarine deal among the United States, Britain and Australia, French Foreign Minister Le Drian warned of a "crisis of trust" between allies. "It's about talking to one another, not hiding from one another, in particular on matters of importance. Why was all that missing, why was all that hidden?" he asked. **Xinhua**

HONG KONG

INFRASTRUCTURE and advancements in technology will play a key role in Asia's recovery, as the region prepares for the gradual reopening of an economy that was devastated by the pandemic, according to analysts and officials who participated in a regional economic forum on Sept 30.

Participants in the Asia Economic and Entrepreneurship Summit also encouraged Asian economies to ratify free trade agreements - like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership - as they will help sustain growth in the post-pandemic era.

Analysts and officials have likewise encouraged a more inclusive and climate-friendly development path - aligned with the socio-economic targets set under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Treaty.

The AEES is an annual regional economic forum organized by the Kuala Lumpur-based think tank KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, the Pacific Basin Economic Council and China Daily.

In his welcome speech, KSI President Michael Yeoh said that Asia needs "innovation, investment and infrastructure" for economic rebound and sustained growth.

At the same time, he said economic recovery "also requires inclusive and sustainable development, and a much stronger com-

Infrastructure developments FTAs key to Asia's recovery

mitment" to UN SDGs. Asian governments also need to address some of the key challenges posed by environmental degradation, as well as climate change, added Yeoh.

Jayant Menon, visiting senior fellow at ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, said that in planning for post-pandemic growth, governments in the region need to shift their focus from the short term to a more long-term agenda. He noted that the spike in unemployment, poverty and inequality "will not go away anytime".

He said resolving these issues should be prioritized and in order to do so, Asian economies "need to push back on the rise in the anti-globalization force".

"And one such pushback is to start thinking about how we can open borders safely. (Borders have) been closed for too long in Asia," he said.

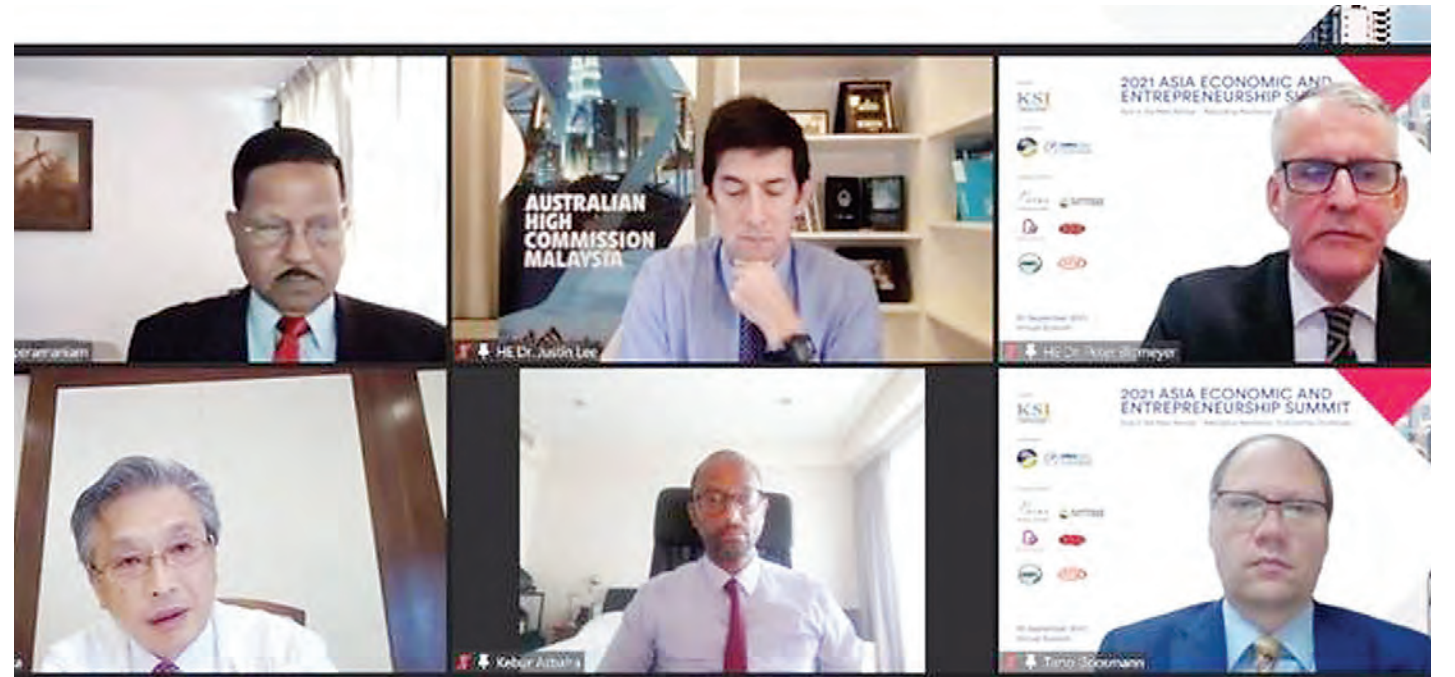
"The lack of progress with the SDGs leading up to this pandemic has made its impact even worse. This is a vicious circle that we need to break somehow," Menon said.

Fadillah Yusof, Malaysia's Senior Minister of Works, said in his opening keynote address that access to "reliable, quality, efficient and affordable infrastructure services" is critical in reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, supporting social development and building resilient communities.

He said in Malaysia, infrastructure development is one of the main drivers of economic growth and the construction sector is set to move in tandem with UN SDGs.

Guo Wanda, executive vice president of Shenzhen-based China Development Institute, said that digital economy has become very important for China's economic growth. He also cited the fast growth in high-tech manufacturing and the manufacturing of electric vehicles as well as China's move towards a carbon-neutral economy.

Andrew Weir, chairman of PBEC, compared the rise of the digital economy to the industrial revolution and how it changed - and will continue to change -



Representatives of foreign countries stationed in Malaysia address the 2021 Asia Economic and Entrepreneurship Summit on Sept 30, 2021. (Top row left to right) Moderator Datuk M. Suppermaniam, former Malaysian Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation; Dr. Justin Lee, High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia; Dr. Peter Blomeyer, Ambassador of Germany to Malaysia. (Bottom row left to right) Hiroshi Oka, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia; Mr Kebur Azbaha, Head of Prosperity and Economics Team, High Commission of the United Kingdom in Malaysia; and Mr Timo Goosmann, Head of Section-Political, Press and Information, Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia. (PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY)

the operations of companies and governments around the world.

Manu Bhaskaran, chief executive officer of Singapore-based think-tank Centennial Asia Advisors, said "the multiple revolutions in technology are ... going to be immensely constructive for world economic growth". Apart from digital technology and other IT-related areas such as Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things, he also cited the break-

throughs in renewable energy, fintech and biomedical areas.

Justin Lee, High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia, cited the importance of free trade agreements such as RCEP and CPTPP. He said an "open and inclusive" Asia-Pacific region needs an "open and rules-based" regional and global trading system.

"Free trade drives economic growth, improves living standards and creates

the conditions for peaceful coexistence. Trade also develops cooperation, builds trust and encourages respect between trading parties, and to support that free trade, trade rules are critical," he said.

Lee said Australia supports RCEP and CPTPP, noting that the country is now moving to ratify RCEP and commended Japan, China and Singapore for ratifying the world's largest free trade pact.

Agencies

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xingyang city in China's Henan Province.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Fifteen African countries hit 10 pct COVID-19 vaccination goal

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

FIFTEEN African countries—nearly a third of the continent's 54 nations—have fully vaccinated 10% of their people against COVID-19.

The global goal of fully vaccinating 10% of every country's population by 30 September was set in May by the World Health Assembly, the world's highest health policy-setting body. Almost 90 per cent of high income-countries have met this target.

Seychelles and Mauritius have fully vaccinated over 60 per cent of their populations, Morocco 48 per cent and Tunisia, Comoros and Cape Verde over 20 per cent. Most of the African countries that have met the goal have relatively small populations and 40 per cent are small island developing states.

All these countries have enjoyed sufficient supplies of vaccines, and many could access doses from separate sources in addition to those delivered through the COVAX Facility, the global platform to ensure equitable access to vaccines. Half of the 52 African countries that have received COVID-19 vaccines have fully vaccinated just 2 per cent or less of their populations.

"The latest data shows modest

gains but there is still a long way to go to reach the WHO target of fully vaccinating 40 per cent of the population by the end of the year. Shipments are increasing but opaque delivery plans are still the number one nuisance that hold Africa back," said Dr Richard Mihigo, Immunisation and Vaccines Development Programme Coordinator for the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Africa.

Nine African countries, including South Africa, Morocco and Tunisia, had reached the 10 per cent goal at the beginning of September and another six managed to sprint ahead to reach the target this month due to rising vaccine deliveries.

Twenty-three million COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Africa in September, a ten-fold increase from June. Yet just 60 million Africans have been fully vaccinated so far and 2 per cent of the more than 6 billion vaccines given globally have been administered on the continent.

COVAX is working with donors to identify the countries that can currently absorb large volumes of vaccines and send them their way and plans to strengthen its support for countries that do not have other sources of vaccines.



WHO has assisted 19 African countries in conducting intra-action reviews, which analyse their vaccination campaigns and offer recommendations to improve them. The reviews show that uncertainty around deliveries has been a major impediment for many countries.

By deploying a team of international experts, WHO is providing targeted support to a select group of countries to identify and resolve bottlenecks in their COVID-19 vaccine rollouts, including working

with local authorities and partners to identify and address the root causes of challenges to administering vaccines. WHO is also working to share crucial lessons and best practices among African countries to help them accelerate their vaccine rollouts.

COVID-19 case numbers in Africa dropped by 35 per cent to just over 74 000 in the week to 26 September. Almost 1800 deaths were reported across 34 African countries in the same period. The Delta variant has been found in 39 African

countries. The Alpha variant has been detected in 45 countries and the Beta in 40.

"Despite the declining case numbers we must all remain vigilant and continue to adhere to the proven public health and safety measures that we know save lives, such as wearing a mask, washing our hands regularly and physical distancing, especially while vaccination rates remain low," said Dr Mihigo.

Dr Mihigo spoke during a virtual press conference today facilitated by APO Group. He was joined by

Dr Pamela Smith-Lawrence, Acting Director, Health Services, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Botswana, and Mrs Fortunata Bhembe, Deputy Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Eswatini.

Also on hand to answer questions were Dr Fiona Braka, Team Lead, Emergency Operations, WHO Regional Office for Africa, and Dr Thierno Balde, Regional COVID-19 Deputy Incident Manager, WHO Regional Office for Africa.

Stakeholders call for 'brain fund' investment in knowledge and institutional capacity to fuel growth after Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS have called for a knowledge and capacity development fund to harness the continent's intellectual capital and bolster economic growth prospects.

At a virtual webinar organized by the African Development Bank's African Development Institute delegates said a knowledge and capacity de-

velopment fund would hasten Africa's transition from its dependence on export revenues derived from natural assets such as oil, gas and cash crops.

These assets are shipped to other parts of the world with little value addition, delegates observed.

The webinar, themed Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Inclusive Development in post-Covid-19 Africa,

drew over 545 experts from 58 countries across the globe.

African countries must stop relying on exporting natural materials such as oil, gas and cash crops with little value addition, and focus on investing in the "knowledge economy," other panelists in another session said.

A knowledge economy built on intellectual property represents a virtually limitless

source of growth and wealth creation for Africa, participants agreed, noting that intellectual property drives 48% of the US economy. Africans must take the lead in building their countries' domestic knowledge resources, delegates agreed.

Delegates also called on development partners to rethink the structure, nature and scale of the funding and development aid they provide. Diversi-

fying and coordinating the donor pool is critical to securing the needed funding at scale, as is empowering recipient countries to define their development and priorities.

African governments should honour commitments to invest at least 1% of GDP on research for development and to scale public-private sector partnerships in the knowledge economy. Currently, only three coun-

tries are close to fulfilling that commitment.

Leveraging sovereign wealth funds, crowdfunding from domestic and international philanthropists, the floating of knowledge bonds, and securitization of remittances to establish a fund for institutional capacity development were also among the solutions discussed.

The African Development Institute organized the global

policy dialogue with its G-CoP partners, including the African Capacity Building Foundation; the Association of African Universities; the African Economic Research Consortium; the African Research Universities Alliance; the Science Granting Councils Initiative, and other African think tanks, universities and research organizations in Africa and globally.

Food loss and waste major reasons for global hunger, malnutrition, reports FAO

GENEVA

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is calling for action to stem food loss and waste, which it says are a major cause of hunger and malnutrition around the world.

FAO experts say countries currently are producing enough food to feed the nearly eight billion people who populate the world. Yet more than 800 million are going hungry.

Another two billion people, they say, are suffering from nutrition deficiencies, which can cause serious health problems.

The deputy director of the FAO's food and nutrition division, Nancy Aburto, says millions of children suffer stunting and wasting, which are deadly forms of undernutrition, and one in three adults are overweight or obese.

That, she says, is another form of undernutrition caused by inadequate vitamins, minerals and unhealthy diets.

"The high cost of healthy diets has put healthy diets out



of reach for billions of people around the world, in every region around the

world including Europe," said Aburto. "And this trend has been seen to

get worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without healthy diets, we can

never address the problems of hunger and malnutrition."

A 2019 FAO study found an estimated 14 percent of food produced globally spoils or is ruined from post-harvest to the point of sale. Another study by the U.N. Environment Program this year shows an estimated 17 percent of food that is available to consumers is wasted.

The United Nations says around one third of all food or 1.3 billion tons of food produced globally ends up rotting in retail market or consumer trash bins. U.N. economists value the loss at around \$1 trillion a year.

Aburto warns the U.N. will never reach its sustainable development goal of zero hunger by 2030 if food loss and waste continues unchecked. She says the ongoing problem also undermines the sustainability of global food systems for the future.

"Food loss and waste account for approximately 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions," said Aburto. "While food is lost or wasted, all of the resources that went into producing that, including water, land, energy, labor, and capital all go to waste. Reducing food loss and waste can lead to greater availability and accessibility of healthy diets and reduce hunger and malnutrition but this is not guaranteed."

FAO has declared this Wednesday to be International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Food Waste.

Aburto says reducing food loss and waste would lead to healthier, more nutritious diets, decrease world hunger, and result in environmental benefits.

Report reveals major benefits of action on infectious diseases in Africa amid COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA can save thousands of lives and millions of dollars every year by prioritizing investment in infectious diseases, other than COVID-19, that affect a large number of children under five across the continent, according to a new report.

The advent of COVID-19 has already disrupted the vaccine administration cycle for many infectious diseases. Many more people could die of other causes while COVID-19 could indirectly result in an increasing burden of other health challenges.

The key findings of the report on 'Going Beyond the Big Three: Assessing the economic impact of infectious diseases in Africa' by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Pfizer Inc. were presented at a policy roundta-

ble yesterday. The report assesses the economic impact of diarrheal diseases and lower respiratory tract infections, which receive little attention due to the disproportionately large focus of public investment on the 'Big Three' infectious diseases (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS).

Findings indicate that the cost of action on diarrheal diseases and lower respiratory tract infections is much lower than the cost of inaction, with multiple immediate and long-term benefits at the individual, societal and economic levels.

The report presents a "strong economic argument" for African member States to continue to invest in other infectious diseases. It reveals that preventing child mortality from both diseases generates an eight-fold return on investment in future decades, yet costs only 0.03

per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) per year between 2022-2030. The benefits include a reduced burden on household income, fewer hospital visits and higher productivity due to low morbidity and mortality.

"A compelling case for investment"

Opening the roundtable, ECA's Director for Regional Integration and Trade Division, Mr. Stephen Karingi said: "With the world's attention on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, action on these two deadly diseases is likely to get further deprioritized. Our report provides a compelling case for continued and even greater investment in tackling these diseases, which affect many Africans."

Benefits are clear, he added, providing up to 90 per cent coverage for diarrheal diseases

generates at least \$4 for every dollar spent. Mr. Karingi continued: "The investment required to obtain these benefits is a small fraction of the GDP, which will also save the lives of many children."

Delivering her welcome remarks; Ms. Caroline Roan, President of the Pfizer Foundation, said: "Infectious diseases create shockwaves beyond the health sector, which the world is experiencing today, but there is hope. The global move toward universal health coverage provides an important opportunity for governments to incorporate infectious diseases programmes within their health agendas. But to be successful, governments must be thoughtful about how to allocate resources: invest in healthcare now to recoup the substantial benefits in the future."



Newsrooms need to think more like tech giants

By Jacob Granger

IF news companies want to survive and thrive, they must focus on what people really need from them and create products that go beyond journalistic content.

"This is an audience transformation, not a digital transformation," says Louise Story, a media strategist with experience at the intersection of editorial and product.

Speaking at an interactive digital growth summit on Monday (Sept 27), she highlighted the need for news companies to re-evaluate their priorities when it comes to digital transformation.

She said that instead of thinking about how to help themselves, they need to start thinking about what audiences truly value. After all, the next decade promises a greater shift towards audiences seeking personalised content.

Part of the recalibration is also to accept that news companies of today are also technology companies, so they need to start thinking like the latter.

Story left The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) this summer, having spent three years there as chief news strategist, chief product officer and chief technology officer.

Before that, she had spent 11 years with The New York Times (NYT) in various editorial and strategist roles, significantly co-authoring an innovation report in 2013, and another audience growth report in 2015, focusing on how to build out its digital offering. Both news firms enjoy a thriving subscriptions business these days.

During her stints with WSJ and NYT, the common thread between the two was a news product culture centred around creating the most useful experience for the reader. That way, they have fewer reasons to unsubscribe.

Back in 2013 when she worked on NYT's innovation report, a lot

of the initial thinking was around how to find audiences and bring them to the website.

A shift in mindset came when a colleague reminded her that many great innovations are the result of a newcomer tackling an overlooked industry issue: "Netflix did not kill Blockbuster. It was the late fees and inconveniences," she recalls.

As the media think about what stops audiences from engaging with them, they often point to misinformation, bad actors and click-bait. The media industry's fault is that communication largely goes one way.

"What's hurting the news industry - and what will continue to hurt the news industry - is not listening to audiences," explains Story, adding that the solution is to look inward to the data and to interpret what they mean.

She advises news organisations to look at how data can inform the beats they cover, and create communities with their audience which involve them in the main product: their journalism. This needs to be assessed at regular meetings to make sure that the company is on track. But that goes against the grain of newsroom culture.

The reality of culture change

The biggest challenge here is for top editors to relinquish some control of what is in the news agenda. They are not the "tastemakers" any longer but a bridge between the public and the newsroom. Top editors now are charged with "deciphering and combining" what audiences are interested in along with what their news reporters are pursuing.

It is also important, in this rapidly advancing digital media landscape, that editors have an interdisciplinary team feeding into their decisions all the time.



"You really cannot do what you need to do externally without looking at internal culture," says Story.

At WSJ, something which stood to her was that staff members used different language for the very same subject. Readers, for example, can be members, audiences, customers or users, depending on which department you were talking to.

The objective here is to get different teams moving in the same direction with a shared, explicit goal in mind. Changing conflicting priorities into consistent goals requires that every department be represented at key meetings, language and terminology to be consistent, and all data to be visible across the company. Why? Because audiences only see one product. They do not look at an article and differentiate between the quality of the graphics and the simplicity of the sign-up process. It all needs to be one positive experience, so teams need the same priorities.

Show and tell meetings

A practical way to do this is in once-a-week, half-hour meetings where all teams are present. The idea here is to make sure that all teams feel recognised for the work they put in. Story said, though, that a key problem that can arise is some teams getting more credit than others.

At these meetings, editorial teams can present their best stories and explain how they landed them. En-

gineering departments can show off a cool product they are working on. You get the picture: celebrate everyone's progress.

"This started a dialogue among our teams that created more understanding and interest in each other's work and it's worth the time," says Story.

Empower individuals

Tech companies also work very quickly and have a lot of autonomy to make decisions without running everything past their bosses. To do this, you need transparency: teams must understand what the goals are, how they are measured and why the company is heading in that direction.

By taking ownership of an issue, individuals are able to make better decisions and feel confident. Story gave the example of a colleague who was working on improving page load times who previously thought the only reason for doing this was to improve the experience for their subscribers.

When he learned that this is also to encourage new readers to take up subscriptions, and understood how this played into company goals, it led to decisions that would have never been a priority otherwise.

Reclaiming utility value

Printed newspapers used to feature a lot of "utility value" coverage like weather or local events. The in-

ternet has forced news outlets to prioritise high-value content and so a lot of the utility coverage has taken a back seat.

That does not have to be the case. For example, CalMatters, a non-profit organisation based in California, has put out two trackers on its homepage, one on the legislators representing local citizens and one on coronavirus figures.

This is a good example of utility that gives news coverage added value. But news publishers will often try similar tools and trackers, promote them for a few days but then stop and lose them in the depths of the website.

The lesson is to think closely about evergreen value content and when it can be used to meet user needs. This is because if your outlet does not do it, others will.

Take for instance Huge Ma, a software engineer who designed Turbo Vax, a bot that finds available appointments for Covid-19 vaccinations, with just US\$50 in less than two weeks.

"A news company could have done this," explains Story, adding: "We need to think not just about the stories we can write but, as different events happen which affect people's lives, how can we provide a tool that helps them act on the news?"

She accepts that there are moral and ethical boundaries about the services news organisations can provide.

But Story meanwhile also predicts that in the next ten years, there will be a great conversation about what is - and is not - considered the role of the news publisher.

News products give scope to provide other ways to serve user needs beyond giving access to their journalism.

journalism-co-

uk

THE LAW & YOU

'Justice delayed is justice denied' in legal context

By Telesphor Magobe

Article 13(6)(b) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states that "no person charged with a criminal offence shall be treated as guilty of the offence until proved guilty of that offence".

This means that it is a constitutional right in Tanzania for any person to be presumed innocent until that person is proved guilty of a criminal offence by a competent court.

When a person is in police custody, pending arraignment and indictment or is in remand prison pending trial, his or her curtailment of personal liberty, although it is considered undesirable, is not punishment, but is meant to ensure he or she ap-

pears in court without failure when the court wants him or her to do so on a specific date and time.

Subject to certain statutory restrictions [Section 148(4)&(5) of the Criminal Procedure Act], all offences (except murder, treason, terrorism, armed robbery, defilement, illicit trafficking in drugs or possession of illicit drugs, terrorism, money laundering or trafficking in persons) are generally bailable.

According to Subsection 4, no police officer or court shall, after a person is arrested and while he or she is awaiting trial or appeal, admit that person to bail if the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) certifies in writing that it is likely that the safety or interests of the Re-

public would be prejudiced.

We may have heard of stories of some people who have been incarcerated in remand prison for eight or 10 years and investigation is not yet finalised after which the DPP, by virtue of Section 19(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1985 as amended until 2019, before verdict or judgment, enters a nolle prosequi - that is on behalf of the Republic the DPP declares he has no intention of continuing with the case. What follows is the accused to be at once released. However, the discharge does not operate as a bar to any subsequent proceedings against him or her if new evidence is obtained.

According to our laws, the person discharged in this way cannot successfully

sue and be compensated for what he or she might have lost during all those years in remand prison unless his or her case is a result of malicious incarceration. Even so, he or she is the one who has to prove that there was malicious incarceration.

You might have heard of this famous legal maxim, which says, "Justice delayed is justice denied", which simply means that, where legal redress or relief to an aggrieved party is available, but is unjustifiably delayed, it is the same as having no remedy at all.

Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations attributes the origin of the maxim to British statesman and politician William Ewart Gladstone (December 29, 1809 - May 19, 1898), who is said

to have mentioned it during a House of Commons debate on March 16, 1868. However, some sources say it was mentioned even earlier than that, for instance, in Pirkei Avot: "Our Rabbis taught: ...The sword comes into the world, because of justice delayed and justice denied..."

Magna Carta of 1215, Clause 40 states: "To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice."

In 1617, Lord Chancellor of England Francis Bacon is quoted to have said "Swift justice is the sweetest" and another 17th century version is attributed to William Penn, who is quoted to have said "to delay justice is injustice"

Martin Luther King Jr (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968) in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, while advocating le-

gal means for social change, put it in this form: "Justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Just imagine a case being investigated from day one to 10 years and investigation is not completed! Does this do justice to the person being incarcerated and then be released and he or she cannot successfully be compensated? Isn't this one of the instances of justice delayed is justice denied?

In my opinion, as also many well-wishers think, the Criminal Procedure Act should be amended so that people charged with criminal offences stay in remand prison pending trial for a shorter time after which they could be released and perhaps be rearrested if there is any new developments and incrimi-

nating evidence that they committed the criminal offences they are charged with.

This will be doing justice and indeed it will be putting into practice the presumption of innocence provided for in Article 13(6)(b) of the Constitution. Being incarcerated for 10 years amounts to condemning in practice those who have not been found guilty of committing the criminal offences for lack of incriminating evidence.

The day's legal maxim: "It is vain to prove that, which when proved, is not relevant."

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One Radio One



Dr Erik Naslund, a professor at the Karolinska Institutet.

EXERCISING

Three minutes of movement every half hour may counteract dangers of sitting

STOCKHOLM

We've always known there's a price to pay for our mostly sedentary lifestyles. And while that still holds true, a new study has found that three minutes of movement every half an hour may lessen the damage caused by continuous sitting.

The practical albeit small study was led by researchers at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. The team recruited 16 middle-aged men and women in Stockholm with sedentary jobs and a history of obesity.

Half of the volunteers were asked to continue their daily routines while the other half were asked to download an app that alerted them to be active for merely 180 seconds every 30 minutes. This included marching, squatting, climbing stairs or other physical activities.

After tracking metabolic health for three weeks, researchers found that the test results differed slightly. While the group that continued their daily routine displayed the same ongoing problems, the active volunteers showed lower fasting blood sugar levels in the morning and their blood sugar also stabilised

during the day.

However, the study notes that bi-hourly three-minute breaks are the minimum amount of movement needed for good health. According to the study, those who rose more regularly and were more active improved the most.

The New York Times reported that Dr Erik Naslund, a professor at the Karolinska Institutet, offered two pieces of advice for those "over-sitting." The first was to download an app or set an alarm to remind you to rise every half hour and be active, even if just for a few minutes. "Going to the bathroom or getting a coffee" also count, Naslund said.

The other piece of advice was to keep moving outside of work hours. "In general, it is important to introduce more physical activity into our lives," he said. "Walk stairs rather than take the elevator. Get off one bus stop earlier on the way home. There are so many minor changes we can make that are beneficial for metabolic health." Over the years, several studies have pointed out the dangers of sitting too long, which include increased risk of chronic health problems such as diabetes and heart disease.

ANGELS

Chefs with Compassion reaches a milestone 2 million in S.Africa

GAUTENG

Chefs with Compassion (CWC) has reached a new milestone, feeding two million people across South Africa since opening their doors in May 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Celebrating its two million meals milestone, the volunteer rescue feeding organisation has now teamed up with software company, SYSPRO, in a partnership which aims to reduce unnecessary food waste and alleviate hunger.

CWC is a non-profit organisation with 35 chefs and cooks that voluntarily provide their services to rescue food, cook, and feed hungry people in different provinces. The organisation said there were "millions of people around the world" who go hungry, while around 30% of the world's food is being "wasted."

"In SA alone, 10.3 million tons of food get wasted. There is no single solution that would end hunger within South Africa or across the globe. A challenge like this requires a collaborative effort," said Marion Tanzer, the organisation's general manager.

She added that the organisation had so far provided over 2.1 million meals across the whole of South Africa and aimed to continue as long as the need and the supply of nutritious rescued food remained.

Currently, CWC produced



Members of Chefs with Compassion at work.

over 18 000 meals per week, which required large amounts of fresh produce and ingredients. Through a network of volunteers and food donors, CWC had so far rescued 731 tons of food surplus that would otherwise have gone to waste.

"This food rescue effort not only reduces the amount of food wasted, significantly reducing the impact on the environment through harmful methane gases, but lays the foundation for the organisation's operations," Tanzer added.

Once the products and ingredients are collected, community cooks, caterers and chefs across the country prepare cook and

distribute nutritious meals to the thousands of South Africans in need. Today, 32 kitchens and 30 beneficiary organisations are part of CWC's network. Within South Africa, every day 600 000 children and 20 million adults go hungry. To meet this need, CWC aims to ramp up its operations from 18 500 meals to 100 000 meals a week.

"While this is nowhere near solving the hunger problem within South Africa, every meal produced will have a positive impact on the lives of food vulnerable people, and takes CWC one step closer to their goal," the organisation said. Gauteng chef, Busisiwe Twala told News24 she was very

"grateful" that she could be part of the organisation.

"Every day brings about new experiences. To be able to contribute to the millions of people that are being fed by our organisation is such a great feeling. Most nights when I go to bed, I cannot wait to get up the next morning to be able to cook for those hungry stomachs again," she said.

According to Twala, one of the heart-warming moments was when she heads out to communities to hand out food. "When people see me pulling up in my vehicle, the kids especially come running down the street happily dancing and chanting 'we are going to get nice food'; that warms my heart," Twala added.

Meanwhile, SYSPRO said it was incredibly "disheartening" to see tons of food wasted each year, while thousands of South Africans were going hungry. Mark Wilson, SYSPRO Africa CEO, said the company chose to partner with the organisation to address South Africa's hunger crisis.

"I am proud to say that, together with our employees, customers and partners, we are making a real-world impact. A child fed today will make a difference in a healthier tomorrow," added Wilson. "Through the use of technology, food donations, logistics and beneficiaries will be connected in a seamless platform that facilitates accurate mapping and reporting," he said.

ACTIVISM

Kenyan judge declares that being housewife comes to full-time job

NAIROBI

A Kenyan high court judge has declared that being a housewife is a full-time job, and it should therefore attract some form of compensation.

While presiding over a matrimonial dispute, Teresia Matheka, who is a Kenyan High Court Judge, said that it is unfair for courts to deny the contribution that housewives provide to the financial progress of the household.

Though the exact details pertaining to the financial remuneration have not been officially finalised, the High Court ruled on 24 September 2021 that a housewife should be paid a salary every month. The complainant in the respective judiciary matter was a divorced housewife who sought to have the family property sold and the reparations split equally between herself and her ex-husband.

"It is easy for the spouse working away from home and sending money to lay claim to the whole property purchased and developed with that money by the spouse staying at home and taking care of the children and the



Kenyan High Court judge Teresia Matheka.

family. That spouse will be heard to say that the other one was not employed so they contributed nothing," said Judge Matheka.

Judge Matheka maintained that the services provided by a housewife should be considered work, as those tasks would otherwise be outsourced and paid for and stated that it would be unfair to constitute only monetary contributions to the

household as valuable.

In passing judgement on the matter, Judge Matheka ruled that the property be sold and the money shared equally, or that one spouse should buy out the other party by paying half the value of the property to the entitled party. Listen as Dr Bosch and Parent24 editor Elizabeth Mamacos chat about being working moms.

"Pregnancy is equivalent to working"

In addition to considering the value of the services rendered by a housewife, Judge Matheka urged her counterparts to consider the nine months of pregnancy when presiding over matrimonial matters, as she believes that pregnancy is equivalent to working, given that surrogates are hired and paid to bear children.

On a Kenyan radio station, Kiss FM, presenter Kamene Goro weighed in on the matter on her morning show, stating that Kenyan housewives deserve no less than 400 000 Kenyan shillings as monthly compensation.

To drive her point home, Kamene shared that her previous marriage was a "tiresome experience", saying: "It's like a full-time job." "Raising children is a full-time job that families pay a person to do. Cooking and cleaning as well. Hence, for a woman in employment who has to balance childbearing and rearing this contribution must be considered," said Judge Matheka.

THE AFTERMATH

Is your cough Covid-related? Stellenbosch University researchers explain

JOHANNESBURG

Is your cough a sign of a bad cold? Or could it be Covid? All respiratory illnesses have similar symptoms and may include a cough, but it can be hard to tell what exactly is going on.

Thanks to the work of four researchers from Stellenbosch University, there may be a way to figure this out. Using a machine learning-based Covid cough classifier, the team focused on ways to make it easier for people to distinguish between a Covid-positive and Covid-negative cough.

To do this, they incorporated data from a national and global dataset that spans six continents. The two datasets, Coswara and Sarcos (SARS Covid-19 South Africa), con-

sist of coughing sounds recorded by participants, using their smartphones, either during or after their acute phase of Covid-19 infection.

The researchers then cut out the silences between coughs in the recordings, which allowed them to more accurately classify the different coughs. So how do Covid coughs differ from non-Covid coughs?

"Our analysis of the recordings shows that Covid-19 positive coughs are 15% to 20% shorter than non-Covid coughs," co-author of the study, Dr Madhurananda Pahar, a post-doctoral research fellow at the Digital Signal Processing Lab, Stellenbosch University, said in a news release.

This type of cough audio classification is also non-contact, cost-effective and

easy to utilise, making it a potentially useful means of Covid screening, added Pahar. Implementing this type of screening may also reduce the workload in testing centres. Very importantly, a major benefit of using this tool would be to limit virus transmission, as people who have a cough suggestive of Covid would be advised to self-isolate at an early stage.

The team is currently building a smartphone app that may, in future, be used as a Covid classifier. But the researchers stressed that the technology being developed shouldn't be seen as an official form of testing, nor will it replace testing at accredited testing sites. Professor Thomas Niesler from the university's Digital Signal Process-

ing Lab in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering told Health24 that their research is a pilot study that provides a strong indication that cough can be used as an indicator for Covid. "However, it needs to be validated on a much larger dataset (we are in need of more recordings from South African participants)," he said.

"Collecting and compiling the data is time-consuming and also not within our current research budget, which enabled the pilot," added Niesler. Any medical test must be subjected to stringent validation and accreditation, he said, and this would still have to be done before it becomes ethical and legal to release an app that claims to diagnose Covid.

Despite this, the results are promising and

indicate that Covid screening, based on the automatic classification of coughing sounds, is certainly viable, the researchers said. Their findings were published in the journal Computers in Biology and Medicine.

Apart from Niesler and Pahar, the two other researchers who formed part of the study are Dr Marisa Klopper and Professor Robin Warren, who are affiliated with the SAMRC (South African Medical Research Council), Centre for Tuberculosis Research, DST-NRF (Department of Science and Technology-National Research Foundation) and the Centre of Excellence for Biomedical Tuberculosis Research in Stellenbosch University's Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics.

PROMOTION

French alcohol firms entice new drinkers in Kenya

NAIROBI

The rules for drinking wines and spirits were once pretty simple. Drink what you know. But in this time where consumers are trading up to more expensive and uncommon brands, do not assume you know what your favourite tipples tastes like.

It is this desire to enjoy food and drink that is opening new opportunities for wine and spirits investors from France, seeking a bigger share of the Kenyan market. Nineteen French wine and spirits producers and merchants from the main wine regions of France: Bordeaux, Champagne, Cognac, Rhone Valley, Loire Valley, Languedoc-Roussillon, among others were in Nairobi on Monday to showcase and give Kenyans a taste of over 200 wines and spirits, and scout for partnerships.

Ludovic Prevost, the regional director of Business France, East Africa said the Kenyan market is evolving from consuming basic to high-quality wines, making it ripe for French investors. "A Kenyan consumer is knowledgeable and keen on enjoying cultured products. For example, it's now very common to find groups of people, women, sharing a bottle of wine in a restaurant," he said at the event held at the French Embassy residence in Nairobi. Wine and spirits consumption is growing fast, thanks to the wealthy and middle-class searching for high-quality alcohol. Their preference now varies by country and region.

A de Fussigny Cognac from the Cognac region in France, a small rustic town with acres and acres of vineyards and known for the best wines and spirits, was one of the drinks that investors aim to bring to Kenya. The cognac has a luxurious taste and is packaged in bold designs, far from the conservative brands in Kenya.

It is the waves of familiar and unfamiliar aromas and flavours that rush into your senses that is whetting the palate of Kenyan drinkers, looking for alcohol from smaller, traditional distilleries, with a history dating back to 1800s.

"The main idea is to work with a traditional product but blend it with modernity and innovation," said Laura More, the export and marketing manager of A de Fussigny Cognac. Her first time in the country, Ms Moore is scouting for partners. The house is looking to bring in the A de Fussigny VS, the A de Fussigny Supérieur and the A de Fussigny XO cognacs and brandies and vodkas.

From the Bordeaux region was Jeremy Gordon of Jeremy Gordon Grand Crus. The first-generation winemaker, who says he only sells wines he likes, brought with his chest Grand Crus classes and premium brands, and an exclusive selection of Châteaux. He was holding the Monsieur de Bordeaux Red 2016 that will carry Kenyans in a whirlwind of wine and fun.

"A 100 per cent Merlot, it's easy to drink.



Champagne Charles Ellner sales manager Stephane Dubois serves a guest during the Tasting France event at the French Embassy residence on September 20, 2021.

Sweet, fruity, and fresh. Simply elegant," Mr Gordon said. Some of the investors are targeting sophisticated consumers. One such French brand is the Icard Châteaux & Vignobles whose Smiley brand was created primarily to target non-European Union markets like Kenya and especially millennials.

The brand's products are surprisingly easy to read and understand for the new consumers, something that caught the attention of Maureen Kanyi of Oaks and Corks, an online wines and spirits business based in Nairobi.

"I've seen some fun labels, which have moved away from the traditional ways of labelling that consumers may not pronounce nor remember. It's a step in the right direction," she says. Present was also Les Terrasses de l'arago. The winery with vineyards in both the Roussillon and Champagne region distributes some of their wines in China, which is a growing wine market in both production and consumption, and in Kinshasa, DR Congo.

Thoma Magin, the co-founder of the winery says Africa is a promising market and they are looking forward to making a mark

in Kenya as they have in Kinshasa. Their wine portfolio included the red wines, L'Heritage des Terrasses 2015 – fruity with a nice peppery taste at the end – and the Chateaufort du Pape 2019 – teeming with colour and body, fruity yet fresh.

"The Chateaufort du Pape 2019 is a lovely wine," said Ivan West, a director at Solovino, a wine importing business based in Kenya. He was at the wine and spirits event to find new wine for his Kenyan clients.

"I'm impressed by the wide variety of high-quality wines presented here. It's simply outstanding," he said, observing that with around 200 wines to taste from, he would need at least three to four hours to taste as many as possible.

Mr West noted that such events are goldmines in assisting importers find new wines that local wine lovers will enjoy and continue to appreciate as their palates grow. And to cater for the also growing champagne market was Stephane Dubois, the sales manager of Champagne's Charles Ellner. The family has been crafting champagnes with great personalities since 1905 in the Champagne region.

Of the varieties he displayed, he shares with BDLife the highlights of this vintage wine: the Charles Ellner Seduction Mill 2007 – Brut, 70 per cent Chardonnay partially aged in old oaks barrels and 30 per cent Pinot Noir.

Against the light, the colour is rich, not forgetting the fine, delicate bubbles. A swirl will leave your nose teeming with scents of dried nuts and vanilla, while in your mouth, it is a beautiful mix of oak, fruit and citrusy at the end.

Biggest wine exporters

Wine shops, large-scale retailers, and e-commerce platforms, coupled with the ease of paying through mobile money, have helped bring the spirits and wines to customers' glasses. "Wine is accessible in Kenya thanks to such opportunities and will go a long way in ensuring Kenyans are enjoying a taste of France over lunches and dinners. I hope that this and other similar upcoming events will open the door for local wine enthusiasts to discover and savour these delights from France," Mr Prevost said.

According to a 2020 report by Wine East Africa, Kenya has a potential market of 7.2 million litres of wine that can bring in Sh8.6 billion in revenue.

This presents an interesting opportunity for both local and foreign wine producers. Last year, the largest wine exporters to the country were South Africa at \$10.5 million, France at \$1.3 million and Chile and Italy at \$1.05 million, according to the Annual International Trade Statistics.

Kenyans have found a new thirst for wines and spirits, and this upward trajectory is rooted in several factors. Among them is the emergence of the increasingly sophisticated middle-class, the perception of wine consumption as a status symbol. Kenyan producers such as Leleshwa Wines from the Rift Valley Winery and Yatta Wines from The Trade Kenya Wine Agencies have a small share of the market.

Noting such impending potential, global wineries are jostling to get their foot in the door. Business France organised the Nairobi event christened 'Tasting France', a professional tasting of the finest wines and spirits produced in France. It brought together importers, distributors, restaurants, and retailers, seeking partnerships opportunities for import and distribution of wines and spirits.

EMPOWERMENT

Visa expanding its She's Next initiative in sub-Saharan Africa

LAGOS

As the rate of women entrepreneurs across sub-Saharan Africa continues to rise, Visa is expanding its global She's Next initiative to empower women entrepreneurs on the continent, bringing practical insights and valuable tools needed to grow and advance their businesses.

The initiative comprises a series of programs giving women entrepreneurs access to insights via research and engagement with small businesses, private and public sector communities, and educational resources. She's Next, empowered by Visa, will also bring networking opportunities in partnership with She Leads Africa; a community of over 700,000 women entrepreneurs, and lastly financial support and solutions to enable digital capability.

To coincide with the launch, Visa has unveiled new research titled Understanding Women Owned SMEs, which explores the role of technologies including digital payments in enabling the business success of female entrepreneurs in South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria. The research highlights the top business challenges experienced by women entrepreneurs in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria, the impact of Covid-19 on these businesses and how digital payments have accelerated business growth in over 80% of the businesses surveyed.

"According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest percentage of women entrepreneurs in the world, with 26% starting and managing a business on the continent in the last year. We aim to encourage and enable even more participation of women in driving the economy, through our She's Next initiative," says Aida Diarra, senior vice president and head of sub-Saharan Africa at Visa.

"Our research shows that female-led businesses face unique challenges throughout their entrepreneurial journey, and we are committed to helping these business owners across Africa to identify opportunities for growth."

The World Bank sites Africa as home to 8 of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world, a market ripe with opportunity and enabled by woman-owned businesses. Key findings from the Visa survey include: Top business challenges: Lack of technological infrastructure, economic fluctuations and a regulatory environment were highlighted as the top business challenges for women entrepreneurs in South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya; Covid-19's impact on businesses: 7 out of 10 women-owned SMEs in SSA claim the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on their business revenue; Digital payments accelerate business growth: The impact of introducing digital payments for businesses is positive, but the study shows room for improvement in adoption.



Aida Diarra, senior vice president and head of sub-Saharan Africa at Visa.

INTERVENTION

Rwanda seeks to reduce deaths from NCDs by a third



Rwanda Biomedical Centre's director-general, Dr Sabin Nsanzimana.

KIGALI

The government has launched a five-year strategy aimed at reducing, by a third, premature mortality caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The strategy, which runs until 2025, was launched by the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) during an event to mark the "World Heart Day" on September 29. It comes at the time figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that NCDs remain the leading cause of death and disability globally. It accounts for more than 70 per cent of deaths worldwide.

Close to 85 per cent of these deaths, WHO says, occur in low and middle-income countries. And within this, 82 per cent of these deaths are due to four primary NCDs: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

In Rwanda, NCDs accounted for 44 per cent of total deaths

with cardiovascular diseases and injuries sharing the highest mortality rate of 14 per cent each closely followed by cancers 13 per cent, chronic respiratory diseases 3 per cent, diabetes 2 per cent, and other NCDs 13 per cent, according to RBC.

The key risk factors include harmful use of alcohol, an unhealthy diet with too much salt, sugar, and trans-fat/saturated fat, followed by tobacco use and lack of physical activity. In order to implement the strategy, the country will need Rwf358.15 billion over the next five years.

The money is meant to raise awareness and community engagement for behavioural change, prevention, and control of NCD risk factors, and providing quality services at all levels of health care. Dr. Daniel Ngamiye, the Minister of Health, highlighted the importance of investing in disease prevention.

"Investing now in prevention will lead to savings in the future, money that

would otherwise have to be spent on treating Rwandans in advanced stages of cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease," the minister said in a press release. "The health sector alone cannot overcome it but it requires a multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs in the country."

Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, the Director-General of RBC, emphasised; "This strategic plan is truly multisectoral, calling upon actors across government, private entities, civil society organisations and the population at large, to all play their role."

According to Dr. Francois Uwinkindi, the NCD Manager at RBC, integrating NCD services into the existing primary health care system will be critical for the successful implementation of the strategy. Key components of the response to NCDs include early detection, screening, and treatment of NCDs, as well as palliative care.

WORLD

Biden signs govt funding bill to avert shutdown

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Thursday signed a short-term funding bill after Congress passed the measure, averting a partial government shutdown that was set to begin midnight.

Earlier in the day, the Senate and House of Representatives swiftly cleared the bill, which will keep the government funded through Dec 3.

The Senate voted 65-35 to pass the bill, and the House vote was 254-175, with a few Republicans voting with Democrats.

The last-minute stopgap bill would extend funding at current levels for most federal agencies and programs. It would also provide emergency funding to help Americans still reeling from natural disasters, such as Hurricane Ida, and help re-settle Afghan refugees.

The Congressional approval of the bill came after days of partisan fights over a debt limit provision, as Democrats had intended to incorporate a suspension of the debt limit into the short-term government spending bill, a move opposed by Republicans.

Republican lawmakers argued that Democrats should solve the debt ceiling crisis on their own, since they control both chambers of Congress and the White House, while complaining about a lack of bipartisanship in crafting the president's \$3.5-trillion spending plan, a sweeping social spending bill that forms the core of Biden's domestic agenda.

Senate Republicans previously said that they would support a "clean" stopgap funding bill to avert a government shutdown, pressuring the Democrats to remove the debt limit provision. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Wednesday evening that an agreement had been



US President Joe Biden

reached.

With the stopgap funding bill approved and shutdown temporarily avoided, Democrats will need to act quickly in the coming days on the debt limit, as Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently warned that lawmakers have until Oct 18 to raise or suspend the debt limit before the United States is expected to default on the national debt.

Yellen noted that Congress

should not wait until the last minute to raise the debt limit as estimates regarding how long the remaining extraordinary measures and cash may last can "unpredictably shift forward."

Meanwhile, Democrats are facing hurdles from Republicans as well as members of their own party as they try to pass the 3.5-trillion-dollar spending package.

Xinhua

Erdogan says discussed warplane, sub cooperation with Putin

BY BLOOMBERG

TURKEY and Russia discussed expanding defense cooperation from missiles to ships, warplanes and submarines, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, defying threatened US sanctions.

Erdogan's comments on potentially tighter defense ties with Russia could alarm Turkey's NATO allies, already anxious over Ankara's purchase of Russia's S-400 missile defense system, and follows Erdogan's complaint last week that relations with the US remain strained.

The Turkish leader, who met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi on Wednesday, said they discussed in detail how to move ahead on S-400 cooperation. Turkey and Russia have been discussing technology transfers and local production ahead of a potential Turkish acquisition of a second S-400 system.

They "talked about continu-

ing military-technical cooperation, including expanding S-400 cooperation and other areas, producing some components in Turkey," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday, using the official Russian expression for arms sales.

Russia, which built Turkey's first nuclear plant on the Mediterranean coast, will also evaluate Ankara's offer to jointly construct two more, Erdogan said.

"Our agenda mainly focused on how we can further develop Turkey-Russia relations, the joint steps we can take from the defense industry to political and military issues, and the investments we can make together," the Turkish leader said, according to Turkish media reports.

"We also had the opportunity to discuss what kind of steps we will take on jet engines, warplanes," ships and submarines, he added, expressing dissatisfaction with a joint sub-



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Sochi on Wednesday.

marine construction project with Germany.

Russian defense analyst Ruslan Pukhov doesn't discount that the two leaders are growing closer, but he thinks Erdogan may be exaggerating achievements to try to win concessions from Western allies.

"There is a lot of substance in

what they say about arms deals and defense industry cooperation," Pukhov said. "But Erdogan also exaggerates to make all preliminary agreements sound greater than they are. He plays a game inside Turkey and he also blackmails the West for some concessions."

While in New York last week, Erdogan told CBS TV that he

intends to press ahead with the S-400 program. On the eve of Erdogan's meeting with Putin, US senators warned Turkey that additional Russian missile purchases would trigger new sanctions. Turkey has so far refused to comply with a US request to jettison the first S-400 battery it acquired in 2019.

The US has already imposed penalties on Turkey's defense industry over the initial missile purchase, saying the Russian system could be used to gather intelligence on Lockheed Martin Corp's F-35 stealth jet. It previously suspended Turkish defense contractors from the international program to help build the F-35.

Erdogan and Putin discussed "the opportunity to cooperate in aviation, given that Americans excluded Turkey from their program," Peskov said during a conference call. He declined to say whether any concrete deals on warplanes or missile systems were discussed.

Agencies

France's Sarkozy gets 1-year jail term for illegal campaign funding

PARIS

FORMER French president Nicolas Sarkozy was handed a one-year prison sentence by a Paris court on Thursday after being found guilty of illegal campaign financing over his failed 2012 re-election bid.

Sarkozy, 66, is unlikely to go to jail. He is expected to appeal the sentence, a move that will in effect suspend it, and the judge said he could serve the sentence at home with an electronic tag.

It was the second conviction this year for Sarkozy, who led France from 2007 to 2012 and retains influence among conservatives despite falling from grace over his legal problems.

His conservative party, the

prosecutors said, spent nearly double the 22.5 million euros (currently \$19.2 million) allowed under electoral law on extravagant campaign rallies and then hired a friendly public relations agency to hide the cost.

Sarkozy has denied wrongdoing. He said he was not involved in the logistics of his campaign for a second term as president or in how money was spent during the election run-up.

"Can you imagine me going into a meeting to discuss the cost of flags?" he told the court in June. "I had too much to do." "From the moment I was told things were in order, I had no reason to give it more thought."



But the court said Sarkozy was made aware of the overspending, that he did not act on it, and that it was not necessary for him to approve each individual spending to be responsible.

Second conviction

Several others who face charges were found guilty of fraud over the campaign financing and sentenced to up to 3-1/2 years in jail and hefty fines.

Agencies

Xi calls on world to pursue innovation-driven development

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday sent a video message to the China Pavilion of Expo 2020 Dubai.

Noting that Expo 2020 Dubai is the first world expo held in the Middle East, Xi said that under the theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future," countries have an opportunity to share their philosophies and success of economic and social development and enhance dialogue and cooperation, which shows the significant importance of the expo.

"Where should the future of humanity be headed? China's answer is to call on the people of all countries to work together, respond to the call of the times, strengthen global governance, pursue innovation-driven development, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind," Xi said.

Wishing the expo a "full success", Xi said China is ready to enhance exchange and cooperation with other countries to seize the opportunities for innovation-driven development and actively promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The Expo 2020 Dubai as well as the China Pavilion opened Friday in the United Arab Emirates. Themed "Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind - Innovation & Opportunity," the China Pavilion showcases the country's achievements in areas such as space exploration, information technology, modern transportation, artificial intelligence and smart living.

Xinhua

South African president eases COVID-19 curbs to lowest level

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has eased restrictions aimed at combating the coronavirus pandemic to the country's lowest alert level, the second such loosening this month as the country looks to open up its economy ahead of the summer holiday season.

In a televised address, Ramaphosa announced the country would move down one level in a five-tier system of restrictions, where five is the highest, to an 'adjusted level 1' as South Africa emerges from its third wave dominated by the Delta variant of the virus.

In addition to relaxing a curfew, now in place from midnight to 4 am, Ramaphosa announced that the maximum number of people permitted to gather outdoors will increase to 2,000 from 500, while the maximum number of people allowed at funerals could double to 100.

However, with local government elections set for Nov 1, Ramaphosa urged people to get vaccinated to help prevent a resurgence of infections, as vaccine hesitancy crimped an inoculation program that has struggled to get out of the starting blocks.

"Campaign activities pose the greatest risk to a surge in new infections," he said, adding that should South Africa reach its target of vaccinating 70 percent of its adult population by December, an estimated 20,000 lives could be saved.

Thus far around 8.6 million people, or more than one-fifth of all adults, have been fully vaccinated, he said.

WHO: Most African nations missed vaccine milestone

KINSHASA

ABOUT 70 percent of African nations missed a target of vaccinating one out of every 10 people against COVID-19 by today, the World Health Organization said.

The delivery of shots needs to double in order for the continent to meet the next target of inoculating 40 percent of the population by year-end, Richard Mihigo, program area manager for immunization and vaccine development at the WHO's Africa office, said on a conference call on Thursday.

Half of the 52 African countries that have vaccination programs have inoculated less than 2 percent of their population, he said.

"While vaccine deliveries have increased almost 10-fold since June, we need the total number of vaccine deliveries received to date to more than double by the end of the year if we are to reach the next target," Mihigo said.

US CDC

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urged pregnant people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, saying the benefits of vaccination outweigh any potential risks.

The agency had already recommended vaccination, but Wednesday it issued an "urgent health advisory" and cited low levels of immunization among pregnant populations. Only 31 percent of pregnant people have been vaccinated, with lower rates among Hispanic and Black people.

CHINA'S State Council Information Office published a white paper titled "China's Epic Journey from Poverty to Prosperity" on Sept. 28, intending to document China's journey to moderate prosperity in all respects, introduce the country's approaches to and actions in achieving the goal, and share with the rest of the world its unique experience in the construction of modernization.

"Achieving moderate prosperity fulfills a long-cherished dream of the Chinese nation," said the white paper.

China issues white paper to share experience in building moderately prosperous society in all respects

Since the Opium War (1840-1842), China had suffered greater ravages than ever before, the white paper said. "However, the indomitable Chinese people never lost heart - they continued to fight tenaciously for their dream of a happy life," it added.

"Over the past hundred years, led by the CPC, generations of the Chinese people have persevered, progressively step by step from a subsistence standard of living to piecemeal prosperity, then to moderate prosper-

ity throughout the country," said the document.

China's experience in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects has fully proven that the country considers all-round development essential to moderate prosperity, in pursuing which the country emphasizes balanced, coordinated and sustainable progress in various fields, according to the white paper.

The moderately prosperous society in all respects that China has built is a soci-

ety in which all people share the fruits of development, a society where no individual, region or ethnic group is left behind, and a society that promotes the well-rounded development of all, pointed out the white paper. "Each of these is essential for achieving common prosperity, a major goal of socialism," it said.

China has achieved moderate prosperity in all respects through the consistent hard work and wisdom of the Chinese people, according to the white paper.

"The CPC has united and led the Chinese people in rebuilding the country from scratch through self-reliance and hard work, achieving the moderate prosperity to which they have aspired for thousands of years," the white paper said, stressing that the epic deeds of the CPC and the Chinese people will go down in history.

"China cannot develop in isolation from the rest of the world, nor can the world achieve prosperity without China. The country always considers its own growth in

the context of the common development of all humanity and binds the interests of its people to the common interests of all peoples across the world," the document said.

The country will continue its efforts to safeguard world peace, contribute to global prosperity, uphold the international order, and provide public goods for the whole world, according to the white paper.

"In achieving moderate prosperity for the Chinese people, China has contributed to its own development

and delivered benefits to the rest of the world. This has created positive momentum for world peace and common development, and contributed China's strength to building a global community of shared future and a better world," it said.

In the future, China will continue to embrace and interact with the rest of the world, adopt a more open and inclusive mindset, and contribute even more to building a global community of shared future and a better world, the white paper noted.

People's Daily

China's State Council holds National Day reception

BEIJING

China's State Council on Thursday held a reception at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The reception, held a day ahead of the National Day, was attended by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and state leaders Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan, as well as nearly 500 guests from home and abroad.

Premier Li Keqiang addressed the reception, while Vice Premier Han Zheng presided over it.

This year marks the centenary of the CPC. Under the leadership of the CPC, China has achieved outstanding development over the past 72 years that has attracted the world's attention, particularly completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and embarking on the new quest to fully build a modern socialist country, Li said.

Noting that this year is the first year in China's 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), Li stated that China, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, has coordinated epidemic response with social and economic development, and has effectively responded to the complex and grave international environment, as well as multiple other

challenges from COVID-19 and severe floods.

China's economic performance has enjoyed sustained recovery and growth and people's living standards have kept improving, Li said.

"On our way ahead, we still face many difficulties and challenges, and the journey remains long toward realizing the second centenary goal," Li said, stressing that development is the foundation and key to overcoming all challenges.

To foster a new development paradigm and promote high-quality development, efforts should be made to implement regular epidemic prevention and anchor reasonable expectations, with focuses on scientific and technological innovation, expanding domestic demand and rural vitalization, Li noted.

He said reform and opening-up is China's fundamental state policy, which also serves as the key source of momentum for China's future development. He underlined the need to deepen reform across the board and achieve more significant progress on reforms in key areas and sectors.

Li stressed the commitment to reforms oriented toward the socialist market economy and higher-level opening-up on an institutional basis, and called for efforts to create a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment.

A raft of measures should be taken to create more jobs, promote



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addresses a reception held by the State Council to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. XINHUA

equal opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship and innovation and increase urban and rural personal incomes, Li said.

Li urged efforts to fully and faith-

fully implement the principles of "one country, two systems," "the people of Hong Kong governing Hong Kong," "the people of Macao governing Macao," and a high degree

of autonomy for both regions.

Calling for actions to safeguard sovereignty, security and the development interests of the country, and measures to promote common development and progress of Hong Kong, Macao and the mainland, Li highlighted the need to continuously improve people's wellbeing and ensure long-term stability and prosperity.

He stressed adherence to the overall principles and policies on work related to Taiwan and upholding the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, while promoting the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations and advancing national reunification for the benefit of people across the Taiwan Straits.

Li also urged moves to firmly oppose and deter any "Taiwan independence" separatist activities and external interference, calling on people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to make joint efforts to achieve national rejuvenation.

China will step up exchanges and cooperation with other countries to jointly tackle global challenges and promote the recovery and growth of the world economy, Li vowed.

Li closed his speech by calling for rallying more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core and unremitting efforts to build China into a great modern socialist country and realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. Xinhua

US males' life expectancy drops by 2.2 years largely due to COVID-19 - research

LONDON

THE COVID-19 pandemic has caused U.S. males' life expectancy at birth in 2020 to drop by 2.2 years from the 2019 level, the largest among the 29 countries involved in a paper published Sunday by the Oxford University.

As many as 27 countries analyzed saw life expectancy losses, with losses of longer than one year in 11 countries for males and 8 for females, it found. For western European countries, "the last time such large magnitudes of declines in life expectancy at birth were observed in a single year was during WWII," said Jose Manuel Aburto, a co-lead author.

The research was led by scientists at Oxford's Leverhulme Center for Demographic Science and explores COVID-19's impacts on life expectancy in most European countries, Chile and the United States.

In the United States, increases in mortality at working-age (under 60) contributed most to the life expectancy decline, while in most European countries, the above-60 group contributed most, the research said, adding that despite having a younger population, the United States also has "higher co-morbidities in these age groups."

Xinhua

International experts denounce US for human rights violations in Afghanistan

AN international seminar themed "Human Rights Violations Caused by U.S. Military Intervention of Afghanistan" was held on Sept. 25. It was joined by some 40 experts, scholars, media representatives and diplomats from China, France, Nepal, the Netherlands, Japan, Pakistan and other countries.

They held discussions on a series of issues such as the human rights violations in the course of the U.S. military actions in Afghanistan, the humanitarian crisis caused by U.S. military withdrawal, and the Afghan refugee crisis caused by U.S.

Both Chinese and foreign attendees to the event said the U.S. should be condemned by the international society for its human rights violations in Afghanistan.

The seminar, an online side event for the 48th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, was sponsored by the China Society for Human Rights Studies and the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, and organized by the Human Rights Institute at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law (SWUPL).

Yogeshwar Romkhami, former senior superintendent of Nepal Police and chief leader of the People's Party, Nepal, said the arbitrary airstrikes launched by the U.S. have displaced or even killed massive refugees in Afghanistan, and the corruption of the U.S. military also poisoned the country. He holds that the U.S. shall be responsible for the consequences it created.

The human rights violations committed by the U.S. in Afghanistan are beyond imag-

ination, said Wang Nan, an academic consultant for the Institute of Silk Road Strategy Studies, Shanghai International Studies University. These violations, which were cruel and lasted long, impacted a wide range of areas in Afghanistan and created both direct and indirect consequences, Wang explained, adding that they had led to stagnant economy and social turbulence in Afghanistan.

Zhang Yonghe, executive dean of the Human Rights Institute at the SWUPL, believes that the U.S. human rights violations in Afghanistan were just another example of Washington habitually infringing upon human rights in other countries. Guided by the so-called "America first" and hegemonic thinking, these actions completely deviated from the fundamental approaches in human rights and trampled on the norms of international law and human conscience, Zhang said.

"The international society should investigate into the crimes committed by the U.S. in Afghanistan and hold the U.S. to account, so as to give an explanation to the Afghan people and the world," said Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University.

He believes that the U.S. actions of indiscriminately slaughtering civilians in the name of counter-terrorism, hurting children, abusing captives, and allowing the expansion of terrorist groups have traumatized the international society.

Héctor Constant Rosales, the Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations in Geneva, noted that from the 1990s to the present time, the U.S. is



Fu Zitang, Vice President of the China Society for Human Rights Studies and President of the Southwest University of Political Science and Law deliver a speech at the International Seminar on Human Rights Violations Caused by U.S. Military Intervention of Afghanistan.

the most warmongering in the contemporary history of humanity. Its invasion into Afghanistan has brought serious humanitarian crisis to the Afghans. These crimes committed in Afghanistan by the armed forces of the United States and its NATO allies must be thoroughly and impartially investigated in an exemplary manner, and the perpetrators brought to justice and ordered to compensate the victims with adequate reparations. The Afghan people deserve peace, he said.

Cheng Xizhong, a senior research fellow of the Charhar Institute, said wars and military operations waged by the U.S. in the name of anti-terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001 have claimed over 800,000 lives and displaced more than 38 million people. The country is the world's biggest human-rights violator, and the biggest challenge threatening human progress and peaceful

development, he added.

Peter Peverelli, professor of Cross Cultural Human Rights Center at Vrije University Amsterdam, said the bellicosity of the U.S. have brought huge disasters to the world, and the American-style democracy and human rights are nothing but a farce self-directed and performed by the U.S.

Fu Zitang, Vice President of the China Society for Human Rights Studies and President of SWUPL, said the war waged by the U.S. in Afghanistan severely violated the human rights of the Afghan people, and posed grave threats to the human rights of people in neighboring countries.

He criticized the U.S. for imposing its own concepts of democracy, freedom and human rights on Afghanistan against the will of the Afghan people, adding that such hegemonic and interventionist acts can only result in failure.

People's Daily

Pacquiao makes Philippines presidential run official

MANILA

NEWLY retired boxing icon Manny Pacquiao was the first to file his candidacy to be the next president of the Philippines at the start of registration for thousands of political posts in what is expected to be a hotly contested election in May next year.

The week-long registrations, usually a festive event with big crowds, will be more sober this year with restrictions in place to fight one of Asia's deadliest COVID-19 epidemics.

Pacquiao, who was joined by his wife and running mate, house deputy speaker Lito Atienza, submitted his certificate of candidacy to the poll body without fanfare, before saying a few words to the media about his plans should he get elected.

"My priority is to resolve the pandemic so we can drive the economy to recovery," said Pacquiao, who was wearing a maroon polo shirt and a white face mask with his and the Philippine flag's image.

On his way to the registration building, Pacquiao was greeted by dozens of supporters waiting by the roadside and waving banners that read "Fight, Pacman."

Pacquiao said he was unperturbed by the results of an opinion poll showing him in fourth spot among preferred presidential contenders, saying: "The voices of the poor have not been heard."

One of the greatest boxers of all time and the only man to hold world titles in eight different divisions, Pacquiao retired from boxing in September to run for the presidency. He is a two-



Retired Filipino boxing star and senator Manny Pacquiao shows his certificate of candidacy for next year's presidential elections shortly after filing before the Commission on Elections at the Soffitel Harbor Garden Tent in Manila, the Philippines yesterday. AP

term congressman and currently senator.

The registration process should put an end to months of speculation over who will vie to succeed firebrand President Rodrigo Duterte, 76, who under the constitution cannot seek re-election and will contest the vice presidency race instead.

Aside from Pacquiao, two other contenders have declared their intention to run for president. Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagosa, a former actor, and Senator Panfilo Lacson, an ex police chief, were expected to file their certificates in the following days.

But the spotlight will be on Sara Duterte-Carpio, the president's daughter, despite her ruling out running for the office next year.

Duterte-Carpio, 43, replaced her father as Davao City mayor when he became president, and she remains by far the most popular presidential prospect, according to successive opinion polls this year.

Analysts say it is crucial her father's successor is

a loyalist, to insulate him from potential legal action at home or by the International Criminal Court, over the thousands of state killings in his war on drugs since 2016.

Critics say his interest in the vice presidency is also a self-preservation move. Duterte says his motivation is public service, not power.

Vice-president, Leni Robredo, who leads the opposition, is also being urged by supporters to run for the top post.

"In the coming days, please pray with me so that our decision will be what is best for our country," she said.

More than 60 million Filipinos will vote in May 2022 for a new president, vice-president, and more than 18,000 lawmakers and local government officials.

Candidates have until Oct 8 to register, but withdrawals and substitutions are allowed until Nov 15, leaving scope for last-minute changes of heart, like the 11th hour entry of Duterte for the 2016 election, which he won by a huge margin.

Agencies

UN chief calls for international support to consolidate peace, promote reforms in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for international support to consolidate peace and promote reforms in Sudan.

Sudan has reached important milestones. Despite the challenges, democratic governance and peace-making efforts have advanced, he told a high-level side event on Sudan.

The Juba Peace Agreement, signed almost a year ago, paves the way for ending Sudan's long-

standing and devastating conflicts.

As part of the nationally owned peace process, important work is under way to implement the agreement and to reach a deal with non-signatory armed movements.

Sudan has also undertaken ambitious economic reforms, culminating in the decision point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative.

This will allow a mea-

sure of relief from Sudan's unsustainable debt burden and free up much-needed resources from the international financial institutions, he said.

The international community must do everything possible to help advance these and other efforts, said Guterres.

Last June, the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan was created to provide a new basis for the world

body's support.

Today, the mission, the UN Country Team, and the entire UN family remain fully committed to the success of Sudan's political transition, socio-economic recovery and the achievement of sustainable peace and inclusive development, he said.

Looking ahead, vital institutions such as the transitional legislative council will be crucial. The drafting of a constitution and

setting the path for elections represent significant opportunities for further progress.

Women's inclusion and meaningful participation will benefit the future of all Sudanese, he said. Sudan continues to confront complex security challenges. The attempted coup last week is a reminder of persistent threats.

It underscores the importance of undertaking all efforts to protect civil-

ians, strengthen human rights, and provide safety and security for all, he said. More than 13 million people in Sudan need humanitarian assistance, he noted.

The transitional government's commitment to extend critical assistance efficiently and equitably is commendable.

Greater investment will be essential to help people transition to more sustainable livelihoods, expand-

ing basic services and social protection. And, for that, the support of the international community is essential, he said.

He encouraged Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was attending the high-level side event, to stay the course and continue working with partners in steering Sudan on a successful road ahead. He also encouraged the international community to do its part and support Hamdok and the Sudanese people every step of the way.

Xinhua

Tanzania's soccer clubs yet to focus on players' insurance

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN 2012, former president of the world soccer governing body, FIFA, Sepp Blatter, kept the pressure on all players to get health insurance when they play all international matches.

Blatter then told members of the Union of European Football Associations that football associations around the world would sign the agreement by May that year.

The players, who have been told they will benefit from the deal, are all those who have played for national teams and clubs in matches that are recognized by FIFA.

It will be recalled that incidents of players' injuries on the pitch occur frequently and in the same year that FIFA emphasized health insurance.

Fabrice Muamba, a former England's Bolton Wanderers' footballer was undergoing heart treatment in London after fainting on the pitch serving his team against Tottenham Hotspurs.

Club doctor, Jonathan Tobin, was quoted as saying that Muamba was 'out of breath' for 78 minutes when he was taken to hospital and his recovery was miraculous.

It was the doctors' efforts that saved Muamba, he was sure of the treatment.

Many athletes in Tanzania country face similar incidents in football roles.

Some are being treated and recovering, but others are going through the challenge of getting treatment due to a lack of funds and health insurance that would have helped them during that period.

Many clubs in Tanzania do not have a system in place to provide health insurance to their players and some have openly admitted to it, which makes it difficult for players to access medical treatment.

Although the rules of the Mainland Premier League in one of its components are for clubs to see to it their players access health insurance,



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's defender, Kelvin Kijiri (L), negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania FC's fullback, Juma Ramadhan, as the two squads locked horns in this season's Premier League match in Arusha on September 27. PHOTO: KMC FC

many footballers say they do not have access to such services in their employment.

"If there is a club that does not implement it, action should be taken and held accountable," Almas Kasongo, Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer, notes.

A large percentage of clubs, especially Premier League clubs, do not provide such services to players and this does not seem to be put into focus.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, players from different clubs say they have never received health insurance throughout their careers.

"In the contract, it is written the club should give me health insurance, but I have never received it once," one of Yanga's players points out.

"If you are injured while on team responsibilities, then that is when the club will take care of you and not otherwise," the footballer states.

Another Biashara United player says the contract he signed with the club has a medical clause but he has not received his health insurance.

A Kinondoni Municipal Council FC player says there is a health insurance clause in the club's footballers' contracts, but they have never been offered the service even though they are being treated once they sustain injuries at work.

"Health insurance for our team is there in the contracts, but it is on the paperwork because in reality we are not given, although when we are injured in team respon-

sibilities they treat us until we recover completely," he says.

Although the service is a fundamental right of these players and they have the potential to sue clubs, if the outfits go against it, many players say they are failing to take action for fear of ruining their future.

"It simply came to our notice then. The club must provide health insurance to its players," Kasongo discloses.

He says the TPLB is merely supervising football outfits, but all clubs should attach themselves to players' contracts and medical insurance documents.

"I don't know the implication, but basically if the club doesn't implement that then action should be taken," Kasongo states.

He says the player, who is the employee, is the person who should take action against his employer.

The TPLB official points out: "He can sue the side in either court or Tanzania Football Federation, it depends on the context in which the matter is based on, because if the club does not provide health insurance and when a player enters into a contract, then that is a mistake."

He reveals: "The player has the right to be insured and to question if the club does not comply, as health insurance should be provided for in principle, so it is the players' responsibility to claim it and not wait until they are injured."

Yanga is one of the clubs that do not have a system for providing health insurance to its players.

Former Yanga Secretary-General, Haji Mfikir-

wa, admits to their club not having the service for the players, although he insists that it recognizes the importance of providing the service to the players.

"We are about to start giving it away. We have held talks with health insurance people who have a system in place to provide opportunities for athletes," Mfikirwa notes.

"So our club will also get into the process of changing the club's management and when it is completed our players will start joining the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) system."

Mtibwa Sugar's Chief Executive Officer, Swabri Aoubakar, says the players are treated the same way other company employees do, so everyone who is recruited by the side must have health insurance.

"The players are also employees of the company so they must have insurance, they are employees just like the rest of the institution's," Aoubakar notes, meaning that even players are given insurance.

Polisi Tanzania Information Officer, Hassan Juma, says from this season every employee of the team will have health insurance and this is due to the lessons they have got from a predicament that has befallen their player, Gerald Mdamu, who broke his legs in a car accident the team was involved in.

"That is, even a kit manager will have insurance. The issue of Mdamu has taught us a lot, so this season everyone who is part of Polisi Tanzania will have insurance," Juma notes.

Biashara United Secretary-General, Haji Mte-

wa, says this season's insurance for players and the technical bench is a must for them.

Director-General of NHIF, Bernard Konga, says a footballer having health insurance is just as important as anyone else.

Konga says health insurance is important for everyone, although clubs that do not provide health insurance are lacking awareness.

"NHIF has created a mechanism for athletes to get health insurance through their clubs, but I have not seen teams become aware of it," Konga points out.

The director says this season they have talked to the TFF and the National Sports Council (NSC) for the clubs to have such an arrangement, so it is the sides' and footballers' decision to get insurance.

"It may not happen later that you are sick and you have not been able to get treatment and then you start either blaming or remembering to seek insurance which we cannot give you at that time."

"So it is the responsibility of the players to see the importance of health insurance, given health is their capital," he says.

The NHIF strategy comes six years after it entered into a one-year agreement with TFF to provide health insurance to players and technical bench officials for 16 Mainland Premier League clubs this season.

Former TFF secretary-general, Celestine Mwezigwa, says the arrangement will assist Premier League clubs in the treatment of players and technical benches and eliminate long-standing grievances on medical treatment which is a matter of principle even though clubs have failed to meet that requirement.

Tanzania Soccer Players Union (Sputanza)'s Chairman, Mussa Kisoki, says this season they will not allow a player to be licensed to play without health insurance.

"We will not be joking about this, we have talked to TFF to finalize this, seeing to it every player with health insurance will be licensed," Kisoki adds.



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC information officer, Christina Mwangala. PHOTO: KMC FC

KMC FC out to beat Polisi Tanzania in Premier League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM's Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is eager to post its first win in 2021/22 Mainland Premier League as the team comes up against Coastal Union at CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga today.

The KMC FC conceded a 2-0 loss to Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania in the first top-flight duel at Black Rhino Stadium in Arusha on September 29.

The newly signed attacker, Vitalis Mayanga, scored a brace to give Polisi Tanzania an impressive start.

Christina Mwangala, KMC FC Information Officer, revealed the outfit is focusing on the second round of the Premier League, with the side locking horns with Coastal Union in Tanga.

The official pointed out the clash, to be played at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium, is of great importance to her

side achieve its target, posting three points, after experiencing a disappointing start to the season.

She stated: "We have lost our first game against Polisi Tanzania, we are preparing for our second game against Coastal Union which will take place away in Tanga."

"Our main goal is to fight to get three points from the tie, which we still believe will be tough," Christina noted.

"Last Wednesday we planned to win against Polisi Tanzania but luck was not on our side, the technical bench has learned from the mistakes made by our players, so the attention is directed at Coastal Union."

Coastal Union will also need to look for three points in the match after forcing a 1-1 draw against Azam FC in the first match.

Coach: Azam FC still Premier League trophy's strong contender

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Renatha Msungu

MAINLAND Premier League's side, Azam FC, says it has what it takes to clinch this season's top-flight top honour.

Vivier Bahati, the squad's assistant coach, insisted his side is capable of emerging as champions this season, noting the club had prepared well for this season.

"We are capable of winning this season's Premier League, we had good pre-season preparations and I'm sure we are ready for the league," he said.

The Burundian tactician said he is drawing his courage from the team's performance

showcased in this season's CAF Confederation Cup's first preliminary round.

Much as Azam FC recruited the best players, it started the league on a bad note, settling for a 1-1 draw with Coastal Union of Tanga.

Tomorrow the team will face Polisi Tanzania in Karatu. Polisi Tanzania started the league on a high, commanding a 2-0 victory over KMC FC.

Left fullback, Hance Masoud, scored for Coastal Union a minute before the match had ended to cancel out Azam FC lead and force the duel into a draw.

The Coastal Union's equalizer has had Azam FC prolonging a string of



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

less impressive results in the side's ties that are taking place at Mkwakwani Stadium.

The Dar es Salaam outfit has therefore failed to beat Coastal Union at the stadium for the fourth season.

Azam FC was seemingly cruising to victory and bring the squad's misery to an end as a defender, Daniel Amoah, netted for the squad in the 49th minute, the tie's 90 minutes, however, came to a close with Azam FC poor

record still intact.

The Azam FC tactician noted: "We ought to accept results, football is played in an open space, therefore everyone has seen what has happened."

"Coastal Union were

really good as they were in pursuit of an equalizer, and they ultimately got it."

"We have nothing else to say than accepting the results, we have to strengthen the squad in readiness for the coming

fixture," Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zacharia, revealed.

In the four fixtures that Azam FC has taken part in at the stadium, once Coastal Union returned to the top-flight in the 2018/19 season, Azam FC has posted a draw in two outings and conceded a loss in as many games.

In the 2018/19 season, Azam FC ended registering a 1-1 draw with Coastal Union, the former went on to endure a 1-0 defeat to the latter in the following season.

Azam FC suffered a 2-1 loss to Coastal Union in the 2020/21 season and, on September 27, the former was held to the 1-1 draw by the latter.

This has further turned out to be the first time Azam FC failed to come out victorious in the first league fixture after four seasons.

Azam FC was previously held to draw in the first league clash on August 20, 2016, notching a 1-1 draw with African Lyon in 2016/17.

In the following season, Azam FC cruised to a 1-0 win over Ndanda FC, Azam FC's 2018/19 season's opening clash ended with the side posting a 2-0 win over Mbeya City FC.

Azam FC notched a 1-0 win over KMC FC in the 2019/20 season, Azam FC edged Polisi Tanzania by the same scoreline in the 2020/21 season.



FIFA tries to garner support in face of opposition to biennial World Cup plans

LONDON

FIFA on Thursday held a summit with over 200 national football federations as it seeks to gather support for plans to stage the World Cup every two years despite muscular opposition from Europe.

Officially the summit, which was held online, was to discuss the international calendar for both men's and women's football beyond 2024 and world football's governing body insists all scenarios remain open.

However, in recent weeks FIFA has been actively pushing the idea of a biennial World Cup, rather than staging the competition every four years.

The idea has been floated before, by former FIFA president Sepp Blatter in 1999, and it was refloated earlier this year by Arsene Wenger in the ex-Arsenal manager's current role as FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development.

It is an incendiary topic given all the various interests at stake, between clubs and national teams, domestic leagues and international competitions.

On Thursday, France coach Didier Deschamps said a World Cup every two years would "trivialise" the tournament.

The powerhouses of European football such as Germany and England have been openly hostile to the proposal and criticism has also come from representatives of domestic leagues the world over, from players and from supporters.

Wenger has suggested holding a major international tournament every year, alternating between World Cups and continental events like the European Championship and the Copa America.

Space would be created, he claims, by staging all qualifying matches in October, or October and March, rather than spacing them out across the year.

- The 'legends' -

Each national federation has one vote in the FIFA Congress, regardless of its size, and the perspective of increased revenues created by more regular World Cups could be enough to seduce many in Africa, Asia or Oceania.

However FIFA and its president Gianni Infantino are not solely relying on them. They recently summoned a host of former players and coaches, so-called "legends" who are paid as ambassadors, to Doha to promote the project, including former Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

FIFA this month released the results of an online feasibility study involving 15,000 football fans. It claimed 55 percent were in favour of more frequent World Cups than the current four-year cycle.

But the battle lines are being drawn, and the opposition to FIFA's plans is being led by UEFA and Conmebol, the confederations of European and South American football, alongside representatives of leagues around the world and leading European clubs.

- The opposition -

They have all hit out at the lack of consultation, given the extent to which a World Cup every two years would disrupt their own calendars while forcing clubs to release players for international duty even more often than is already the case.

Concerns have been raised about the physical and mental health of players, with global players' union FIFPro pointing out the "natural physiological limits" of footballers.

The European Club Association (ECA) described the plans as "destructive".

Those who oppose the idea are convinced that holding the World Cup every two years would dilute its value.

Numerous supporters' associations across the globe have also underlined the difficulty of following a major international competition every year.

After Thursday's meeting, FIFA said a comprehensive report on the game's future complexion would be published in November with "a global summit to be staged before the end of the year".

The ECA has accused FIFA of being in "direct and unilateral breach of certain obligations", referring to an agreement, the so-called memorandum of understanding, that is currently in place until 2024 and includes "joint approval" on the international calendar.

The 247 clubs represented by the ECA have another potential ace up their sleeves too: They are the employers of many of the players involved in major international tournaments and could simply refuse to release them.

Luis Suarez interview: Atletico Madrid's star talks LaLiga, 'hurts' over Barcelona collapse

By Rodrigo Faez and Alex Kirkland

IT'S been 12 months since Luis Suarez left Barcelona for Atletico Madrid. Forced out as part of an attempted team rebuild after six seasons filled with success and trophies, Barcelona's third-highest scorer in team history left Camp Nou an angry man on a mission: to show that at 33, he could still perform at the highest level.

Diego Simeone's tough, streetwise Atletico proved the perfect match. Suarez's 21 league goals fired them to the 2020-21 LaLiga title, and his final-day tears, after scoring the goal that clinched the league in Valladolid, were one of the defining images of the campaign. Barca finished a distant third, seven points back.

This year, with Suarez's close friend and confidant Lionel Messi out as well, Barca have lurched from one crisis to another, with Wednesday's 3-0 Champions League defeat at Benfica feeling like a new low. Coach Ronald Koeman -- blamed in part by Suarez for the manner and timing of his rancorous departure -- is on the brink.

Suarez, meanwhile, is flying after a slow start to the season, scoring twice in a 2-1 comeback LaLiga win at Getafe last week and then dispatching an added-time penalty to beat AC Milan 2-1 at San Siro in the Champions League. The forward and his former club will come face to face on Saturday when Atletico host Barca in LaLiga in the biggest game of the season so far.

Looking happy and relaxed at Atletico's training ground on the outskirts of Madrid, Suarez spoke to ESPN's Rodrigo Faez on Thursday about the game, Atletico's season so far, and his complex feelings about Barcelona, Koeman and Messi.

ESPN: Luis, you've got an important game this weekend. How is the team? You're doing well.

Suarez: Atletico vs. Barcelona is always a very difficult game. The team that plays best over the 90 minutes will take the win -- you can't let yourself get distracted for even a minute. After the result [against AC Milan] the other day, the team's morale is really good; we have a lot of confidence. But we saw the previous week after we turned around the game against Getafe, then we lost again against Alaves. We'll have to try not to make the same mistake again.

***What have you learned from this start to the season? What do you have to improve?**

We have to be aware of how important and difficult the first few minutes are. If you don't start with authority and conviction, putting pressure on the opponent in the opening minutes, they set the tone for the game. That's where you



Luis Suarez has four goals in nine games so far this season and is loving things at Atletico Madrid after a tumultuous, painful exit from Barcelona. (Agencies)

become strong and confident. The first minutes are so important.

***Some people might say that opponents have to finish you off early, because if they don't, you'll get them in the last few minutes ...**

[Laughing] We shouldn't have to wait until the last few minutes! But anyway, we're used to it. At Atletico, that's the motto: Don't stop believing until the end. It depends on the circumstances of the game, but we the players and the coach have to try to correct that; we shouldn't have to suffer so much. But also it's the reality -- that's why you have to value winning the league last year. It isn't easy -- you have to fight to the end. Football is so difficult nowadays, and LaLiga even more.

***But it tastes even better when you do it like that.**

It tastes better when you win! In the moment it's nonstop suffering, but obviously if you win, it tastes much better.

***At Atleti, you're a leader in the team, you're involved a lot on the pitch. You're happy. Everyone can see that.**

Yes, I'm happy, I'm enjoying it a lot. To have the confidence of teammates, the staff, the fans -- they trust in your potential and what you can bring, whether you're physically right or not, they believe in you and that makes you feel happy and important. The importance you feel when you take on a role in the team, that's important too.

***You know Barca better than anyone and**

you go into Saturday's game above them in the table. (Atletico are fourth with 14 points from seven games, while Barcelona are sixth with 12 points from six.) Looking at how Barca are doing, what could be the key to the game?

We'll have to be careful. Despite the form they're in, their morale isn't good -- a lot of things have been talked about in recent weeks. They won [vs. Levante] at the weekend, there was some euphoria and then they lost again [on Wednesday, to Benfica] and that hurts, but the team has to have character. They have to fight to turn the situation around, and I think the players have their pride in that sense and we'll have to be very careful. We'll try to take advantage of the moment they're in now and we'll have to be careful.

They're going through some difficult moments, but you can't get carried away, either.

***Seeing how they treated you, and Leo [Messi], but especially with you and Koeman, are you even more**

keen to win?

I'm a player who owes, and loves, this profession. I dedicate myself 100% or 150% to the shirt I'm wearing at the time. I fought for a lot of years for Barcelona with pride -- I even became a fan of the club -- but now I fight for Atletico Madrid, which opened its doors to me after the way I left Barcelona, and I'll fight for them until I can't anymore, because I feel happy. I love my job. I don't care which opponent I have in front of me.

***Does it still hurt you the way Koeman treated you?**

I said it at the time: It was the way they did it. I gave a lot to the club, and I don't think I deserved to be treated that way.

They should sit down with me, one-to-one, and explain everything. Then don't tell me that if the termination of my contract isn't done by Wednesday, that you'll count on me against Villarreal. Either one thing or the other. They sent me to pitch 3 or pitch 4 to train alone.

Of course, these are things you don't forget.

But I shouldn't think only about that, but rather about doing my job well, showing that I can keep fighting for important things. Everything I did last year with Atletico is there, and now I'll keep showing it in important moments.

***Do you go into Saturday's game as favourites?**

No, I don't think so; there aren't any favourites. The other day, we lost against the team (Alaves) who were bottom of the table. We were the favourites. Games like ones against Getafe or Alaves? They're games that give you the league [title]. They're important, when it's an uphill struggle. But in games against your big rivals, you show your level and you prove yourself. [The big games] say something about the team and the players individually.

In these games, you have to perform.

***Do you and Antoine Griezmann, who have been there, look at what's happening at Barca over the past two weeks, and you see what it was before, two years ago? Did you already see things that could have led them to be in this situation, but maybe not as bad as it's actually been?**

Let's see ... We're both aware that at Barcelona, you're at a really big team, that we didn't show our level the year that we lost (8-2) against Bayern -- yes, we're aware and very self-critical as players. We're the ones responsible. It's one thing to lose; how you lose is another thing. Yes, you have to be self-critical. But then you have to value it -- it isn't easy to go to Barcelona and keep yourself at the level that I did, for example. Anyone can go to Barcelona, but the thing is to maintain your level with the demands at that club. I have to be proud of that.

Seeing what's happening at the club hurts. It hurts as the fan that I am, because I have a lot of affection for the club. It gave everything to me; it trusted in me in a difficult moment in my career. It hurts for my friends there, the friendships, the people that work inside the club on a daily basis. It hurts, yes it does.

***You came to Atletico, you're an important player, you won the league, and this**

season you're scoring goals ... is Atletico an oasis of happiness for you right now?

For me and for my family too, yes. Seeing their happiness when they see me on the pitch. It's hard to be in a bad mood because there's a spectacular atmosphere within the team, in training. It's all positive, there's nothing bad. That's what makes you feel loved in a family. Then you try to perform at your best and show people that we're happy, and live with that pressure of winning, and not getting bored of winning.

I have as many trophies as you can have individually, but I don't get bored. I like winning and I like the challenge of keeping winning.

***That winning mentality to stay there, season after season? We see it on the pitch.**

It's put me there. Since I was a kid, it was so hard for me to get to the highest level, to keep believing and fighting until the end. It made me like that. When things go badly, I'm even more keen to do things well. I've always been like that.

***How many goals will you score on Saturday?**

On Saturday? The team picking up a win is enough! If I have the chance to score, great, but if the team wins, I'll be very happy.

***Is it strange to play against Barca without Messi being there given the relationship you have?**

Yes -- right now, yes. Last year was strange for me, going back to Camp Nou and him being there, because of what we've talked about. Now it will be strange not facing him in a Barcelona shirt. But things happen for a reason and today he's in Paris and I'm at Atletico, and a year ago we were together in Barcelona.

***You're exactly the same. You go to Atletico and win the league; Messi goes and wins the Copa America, his goal [against Manchester City] the other day ...**

I'm happy as a friend, as the fan of football I am. I love seeing him happy and enjoying himself, scoring goals. It's a difficult time because changes are difficult, and obviously it's hard at first, but seeing him smile and enjoy himself like he did the other day, as a friend, I love it.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Luis Suarez interview: Atletico Madrid's star talks LaLiga, 'hurts' over Barcelona collapse

PAGE 19

Yanga eyes Premier League summit, Azam FC targets first victory



Yanga's winger, Farid Mussa (L), dribbles past Kagera Sugar defender as the two sides faced off in 2021/22 Mainland Premier League's fixture in Kagera on Wednesday. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Mainland Tanzania Premier League continues today with three fixtures on the card across the country.

In Dar es Salaam, record league champions, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, could move top of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League with all three points at home to Geita Gold FC.

The match is set to kick off at 7 pm at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Coach Nassredine Nabi's men head into the game in high confidence after beating age-old rivals, Simba SC, to clinch the Community Shield last week.

Yanga thereafter posted a

1-0 win over Kagera Sugar in their opening league game of the season on Wednesday.

On the other side, Geita Gold FC, newcomers to the league, started their campaign with a 2-0 defeat to Namungo FC in Lindi on Monday and will be looking to respond with a positive

result.

Ahead of the game, Geita Gold FC assistant coach, Fred Felix, said they are ready for the challenge in their second consecutive away game.

Felix pointed out: "Yanga is a very good team and we are anticipating a very tough game against a very

confident side and so we have planned properly for this important match"

Geita Gold FC captain, Geoffrey Julius, added: "We are going for our second game having lost the first. It is just the start of the season but we must do well in these games."

"We understand we have

to fight to get good results. Yanga is a big team with quality players but we are well prepared to face them."

In Karatu, Azam FC will be looking for their first win of the season when they face Polisi Tanzania at the Black Rhino Academy Stadium.

Azam FC will look to put the frustration they felt at failing to beat Coastal Union in Tanga on Monday.

Idris Mbombo, Iddi Selemani, and Ayub Lyanga will be vital for Azam FC, nicknamed 'Ice Cream Boys', while the hosts, Polisi Tanzania, will rely on Vitalis Mayanga and Adam Omar for inspiration.

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and Polisi Tanzania have met in eight league matches since 2018/19.

Azam FC claimed six wins while the remaining two matches ended in a draw.

In Tanga, hosts Coastal Union and KMC FC will go head-to-head in an encounter at Mkwakwani Stadium.

Coastal Union showed good signs in their opening league encounter where they held Azam FC to a 1-1 draw.

KMC FC comes off a humiliating 2-0 defeat to Polisi Tanzania in their first game.

The previous six league meetings between Coastal Union and KMC FC have ended in one win for each and draw in four matches.

Tanzania's U-19 cricketers stun Namibia U-19 side in ICC U-19 World Cup Qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's national U-19 cricket squad has grabbed its second victory in this year's Africa Region Qualifiers for ICC U-19 World Cup, commanding a 48-run victory over the Namibia U-19 team in Kigali yesterday.

After earning the opportunity to start batting, Tanzania's U-19 cricketers posted 200 runs, dropping eight wickets in 50 overs.

Skipper Dhrumit Mehta and fellow top-order members displayed solid showing at the crease and their batting showing was instrumental in the squad's ability to amass the total.

The gifted Mehta was the top run-getter as he ended with impressive 69 runs which included six fours.

Opener Gokul Das's early dismissal could hardly frustrate the side's plan to end with a bigger total, the opener notched seven runs in his brief spell.

Abdulrahman Akida, slotted in at number four, and the other opener Abdallah Jabiri, sought to prove their worth and ended with 56 runs and 32 runs respectively.

The squad's other top-order cricketer, Karim Kiseto, was one run short of a two-digit figure at a time the rest of the team's batsmen did all they could to see to it they end with a bigger total.

Jack Parker had the most wickets when Namibia was fielding, posting three wickets, giving away nine runs in four overs.

Efforts by the Namibia U-19 side to mount a successful chase ended in



Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Hassan Abbas (R), pictured with national U-19 cricket team's coach, Kassim Nassor (2nd R), and the squad's skipper, Dhrumit Mehta (2nd L), shortly after the official had bid the squad farewell. The national U-19 cricketers are representing Tanzania in this year's Africa Region Qualifiers for ICC U-19 World Cup in Rwanda. Looking on are the ministry's Director of Sports, Yusuf Singo (L), and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman, Premji Pindoria (Back, L). PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

vain as the squad notched 152 runs in 37.3 overs.

Top-order cricketer, Jan Balt, and opener, Ryan Moffett, had a good game at the crease, they could nevertheless not bail their team out.

Balt was the top run-getter in the unsuccessful chase, posting 53 runs. Moffett ended with 35 runs.

Tanzania U-19 cricketers' bowling onslaught, which was led by Laksh Bakrania, dashed the Namibia U-19 team's

hopes, with Bakrania ending with an impressive five-wicket haul in 9.3 overs.

Bakrania was ably assisted by Karim Mnyankindi that ended with two wickets in seven overs.

Tanzania U-19 cricketers started their campaign impressively, posting a four-wicket win over Rwanda.

The tournament has brought together U-19 squads from five countries seeking qualification for the 2022 U-19 men's Cricket World Cup which will

take place in West Indies.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently announced the rescheduled qualification pathway to the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022 in the West Indies, where 34 teams will compete for five World Cup spots.

The 14th edition of the event, which takes place in the West Indies in early 2022, will involve Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, and Zimbabwe under their top 11 finish in the 2020 edition.

The remaining five spots will be determined by regional qualification. Qualification for the 2022 edition of the U-19 men's Cricket World Cup was delayed by a year due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The 34 spots will be decided by seven regional events starting in June 2021. Due to the depth in strength in the Africa and Asia regions, a two-division qualification pathway will take place.

Teams from the other three regions, Americas, East-Asia Pacific, and Europe will have a one-division qualifying process, with the winner of each regional Qualifier claiming one of the five coveted ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022 places.

Tanzania U-19 cricketers have joined Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda, and hosts, Rwanda, in the Africa Qualifiers in September.

The top team from the September event will secure their spot in the West Indies showpiece.

Cyclists set for 'Twende Butiama' race

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

OVER 120 cyclists from Dar es Salaam will make a road trip to Butiama in Mara in memory of the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

Nyerere passed away in London on October 14, 1999, and Tanzania has, since then, been organizing activities in memory of him in October every year.

The race, known as 'Twende Butiama', is one of the activities that have been put in place for the commemoration.

The cycling race has been held annually carrying various messages of condolence to the former Tanzania President's family that was buried at his home in Butiama.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Gabriel Landa, who leads a committee that coordinates the race, said the events aim at appreciating the late Father of the Nation's efforts.

Landa noted: "We want to join fellow Tanzanians in commemorating the death of the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere."

He revealed: "We will start the race at Msasani in Dar es Salaam on Sunday and end at Mwitongo, Butiama on October 14," he said.

He said the convoy would travel 1,448 kilometers in 11 days and would pass through 10 regions and 20 districts.

Landa said every year they have been carrying a message for the benefit of the community and remembering the leader's contribution to the struggle for freedom for Africans and maintaining peace and solidarity.

He said they have been encouraging Tanzanians to take care of the environment, participate fully in local tourism and

According to him, this year they have a mission to donate desks and have successfully collected 115 desks which will be donated to Mwiwara Primary School, Butiama A Primary School, and Butiama B Primary School located in Mara.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

