



BUSINESS



SADC'S INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 2

GOVERNANCE



DR SLAA: DR MAGUFULI WAS HARDWORKING PAGE 3

HEALTH



64,000 PEOPLE CONTRACT TB EVERY YEAR PAGE 6

RESOURCES



FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL FOREST PRODUCTS PAGE 7



Nation sows seed of hope



President Samia Suluhu Hassan lays a wreath on former president Dr John Magufuli's grave at Mlimani village in Chato District, Geita Region, yesterday. More photos on Page 2, 4, 5. Photos courtesy of Maelezo

By Guardian Reporter

LEADERS of the two parts of the Union, including the heads of the pillars of the Union government and the Chief of Defence Forces yesterday expressed hope and confidence in President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, saying she has what it takes to steer Tanzania in the right direction.

Speaking during the burial proceedings of the late president John Magufuli at Mlimani village in Chato district, Geita region, the leaders pledged support whenever the president shall need their assistance.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete promised the president support should she need counsel on how to steer Tanzania in the right direction, saying he was available if the need arises to offer a helping hand.

Elderly second phase president Ali Hassan Mwinyi spoke highly of the new president, saying that she has an excellent track record in leadership, hence there is no doubt that she will deliver beyond most expectations of Tanzanians and the world at large.

"I know you, you, have the capability; you can do it," he said.

Philip Mangula, the ruling party deputy chairman (Mainland) said Samia is well placed to deliver on the promises and projects of the late Magufuli because she travelled across the country canvassing for the party's manifesto during the 2015 and 2020 election campaigns.

"There is no need to worry because the president knows exactly what she is supposed to do as she took part in all the

TURN TO PAGE 2



The former president's widow, Janeth Magufuli, lays a wreath on his grave.



The former president's children come together in laying a wreath on his grave.



Samia: JPM's work spirit will live on

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday said she will continue with the speed and work spirit of

her predecessor, the late Dr John Magufuli, and complete unfinished projects.

In an address during the burial proceedings for the former president

at his Mlimani village in Chato district, Geita region, the president assured the nation that she will not slow down but keep up the pace to deliver the Tanzania which Dr

Magufuli aspired to create.

The president assured Tanzanians not to worry about the fate of mega projects initiated under Dr

TURN TO PAGE 2



Former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi and wife, Sitti Mwinyi, lay a wreath on former president Dr John Magufuli's grave at Milimani village in Chato District, Geita Region, yesterday. Photos courtesy of Maelezo

Nation sows seed of hope

FROM PAGE 1

meetings and intense planning sessions," he declared.

The Chief of Defence Forces, General Venance Mabeyo assured the president of the army's loyalty as she takes up her role as commander in chief of the armed forces.

The CDF said that security forces were keen on protecting their new commander in chief and the nation at large.

"We congratulate you for being sworn in as president of the

United Republic of Tanzania and commander in chief of armed forces as per the constitution," he said.

"Security organs would like to assure you that the country is safe and that they will continue to protect you as president, obey you as commander in chief so that you undertake your duties as stipulated in the constitution."

Gen. Mabeyo pledged loyalty, dedication, diligence to the president, saying this allegiance was the norm and culture of the men and women in uniform to

the commander in chief, and the new president Samia will be no exception, underlining that the country and all its borders were secure.

Samia was sworn in as the sixth president of Tanzania and the second president of the fifth phase on Friday last week, making history as the first woman president in Tanzania.

After taking oath of office, people in all walks of life have been making guesses and estimations of how far the new president is likely to meet expectations

of Tanzanians, perched on a continuation of the brisk pace of action and intolerance for misconduct and negligence.

At the swearing-in ceremony at Dodoma's Jamhuri Stadium, the president acknowledged that some people have doubts "if this woman can be the president."

Well, I would like to tell them that the one standing here is the president. I repeat, the one standing here is the president of the United Republic of Tanzania who is biologically a woman," she had emphatically added.

Samia: JPM work spirit will live on

FROM PAGE 1

Magufuli, saying that all will be completed—those outlined in the CCM election manifesto as well as those started by the erstwhile president himself.

Ongoing projects include the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station, a 2,115 megawatt hydroelectric power facility at the Steigler's Gorge of the Rufiji River, along with the Standard Gauge Railway linking Tanzania and neighboring countries of Rwanda and Uganda, and with Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project is often touted as part of an East African Railways Master Plan.

The president went ahead to call upon public servants and others in all sectors to keep up the spirit of hard work inspired by late Dr Magufuli for the advancement of each one and national development at large.

"I appeal to civil servants and those working in the private sector to continue working hard the same way they did when Magufuli was in office. By doing so, we will have emulated him and build our country the way he wished," she said.

The president used her brief speech to respond to a request made earlier by the chairman of the Chato Council of Elders, Samuel Bigambo who aired a promise made by the departed leader, a veteran MP of the area before becoming president, that Chato district be elevated to a region. She directed the relevant authorities to look into the proposal and deliver a report to her.

In his speech, Bigambo said that the late Magufuli hinted during a meeting that he had plans to make the district which is currently within Geita region, a region by itself.

"I have taken it; I'll see if it (Chato) meets the laid down criteria to become a region," she said.

Speaking of Dr Magufuli earlier, former president Jakaya Kikwete said that despite speculation that he did not see eye to eye with his successor, to the contrary, they were good friends.

"He (Magufuli) served as minister under my government for 10 years. He was the only minister who regularly joked with me," he said.

"As a matter of fact, I'm the one who—as chairman of CCM—put his name at the top of five aspirants shortlisted during the nomination process to succeed me."

Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma remembered Dr Magufuli as a leader who worked hard for the welfare of ordinary Tanzanians in all spheres, including the delivery of justice.

"His plan was to end infrastructure challenges of accessing lower courts within 10 years. He permitted the judiciary to obtain \$65m as a World Bank loan for the rehabilitation and construction of lower courts all over the country, he added.



He (Magufuli) served as minister under my government for 10 years. He was the only minister who regularly joked with me

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax has challenged Russian businesses in the Moscow region to take advantage of the available investment opportunities in the region.

Existing opportunities in SADC's value chains include agro-processing, energy, pharmaceuticals, mineral beneficiation and manufacturing of various commodities for domestic and export markets.

This is at the back of the region's secure, peaceful and stable investment environment.

Dr Tax made the call recently during the Moscow-Africa 2021 conference held under the theme, "Directions and Opportunities for Industrial and Investment Cooperation", a platform initiated by the Department of Investment and Industrial Policy of Moscow to identify the directions and possibilities of industrial and investment cooperation between Russian and sub-Saharan African companies.

The teleconference, in which Dr Tax was one of the panel discussants, was the first of the Moscow-Africa annual cycle.

Dr Tax urged companies in Moscow to explore investment opportunities in industrialization, which is one of the key priority focal areas for the region.

She highlighted that in line with the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 seeks to achieve economic and technological transformation through among others, presenting opportunities for investments and partnering with the private sector, both domestic and international.

She highlighted opportunities under the SADC Free Trade Area, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) markets given the

SADC urges businesses to take advantage of region's lucrative investment opportunities

rising population and economic growth.

Deputy Head of the Department of Investment and Industrial Policy of Moscow, Anna Kuzmenko, reiterated that Africa offers great opportunities for Russian exports, taking into account the tremendous economic growth achieved by African countries over the past years.

Kuzmenko highlighted that there are indications that Africa will become the world's greatest continent in terms of free trade with an economic potential reaching \$29 trillion through development of inter-continental and intra-continental trade.

She applauded African countries for their willingness to cultivate foreign economic relations with Russia, among other countries within the globe as key in achieving meaningful political and socio-economic development.

She also underscored the potential areas of exports which Russia had already made good strides in, such as chemistry, transportation machinery building, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, optics, and information technology.



The teleconference, in which Dr Tax was one of the panel discussants, was the first of the Moscow-Africa annual cycle

Director of the Department of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, Sergey Nosov, emphasized that Russia would make a good partner to African countries as she offered high value technologies, communication, technical solutions, science and many other various industrial

equipment which will help Africa in its endeavour to industrialize.

He noted the steady development and growth of African countries at the back of its abundant natural resources and raw materials, whose exploitation calls for enhanced cooperation and partnership with international communities.

Member of the Federation

Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Science, Education and Culture, and Chairman of Afrocom, Igor Morozov, highlighted that the forum seeks to strengthen collaboration and sharing of experience, training of experts, sharing of skilled labour,

production, and technology transfer.

He emphasised that Russia was committed to working effectively with its African partners and intends to host a second Russia-Africa Summit which aims to boost economic and political relations between Africa and Russia, as well as with the Eurasian Economic Union.



Former president Jakaya Kikwete and his wife, Salma Kikwete, lay a wreath on Dr Magufuli's grave yesterday.



East African Community Defence Liaison Office chairperson Col Rafael Kiptoo (foreground) briefs journalists at the Arusha Regional Commissioner's Office on Thursday shortly after signing a condolence book to honour former president Dr John Magufuli. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

1.4bn/- to build Songea District Council roads, bridges this FY

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Songea District Council, Ruvuma Region has approved 1.396bn/-, for the implementation of bridge construction and road maintenance projects for the 2020/2021 financial year.

TARURA manager in the council Eng. John Ambrosi said the council has a network of roads 1057 kilometers long of which, paved roads are 13.77 kilometers, 250 kilometers are gravel roads and dirt roads are more than 700 kilometers.

He said in this fiscal year, TARURA implements six construction projects worth 1.396bn/-, whereby 701m/- is for Muhukuru bridge construction. "The remaining amount is for road maintenance," he said.

He said the implementation of the projects started in August 2020 and that by November 2020 a total of four out of six projects had been implemented whereby June this year all projects are expected to be completed 100 percent.

However, he said despite TARURA's efforts to improve roads, bridges, and ferries, there have been various challenges affecting infrastructure including heavy vehicles and monsoon rains that start in November to April each year.

Some residents of Songea District Council, Litowa Village,

thank TARURA for helping them repair the ferry that connects Goliama and Litowa sub-villages.

However, Christina Njovu and Egno Mwalongo said the ferry has been a nuisance to them because vehicles cannot cross and it also endangers their safety so they are asking the government to build them a permanent bridge.

Commenting on the concerns of the ferries, TARURA Manager Engineer Ambrosi said they are aware of the challenge where they have not yet received the funds to build a permanent bridge.

He said TARURA has built a 21-kilometer wooden ferry, and that they have been undergoing regular maintenance while the government seeks funding to build a permanent bridge to end the nuisance to the people.

“He said in this fiscal year, TARURA implements six construction projects worth 1.396bn/-, whereby 701m/- is for Muhukuru bridge construction. “The remaining amount is for road maintenance.”

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

Artisanal diamond miners at Maganzo village hail Magufuli's leadership style

ARTISANAL diamond miners in Maganzo village in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region have praised the late President Magufuli for his strong leadership which brought positive change in the mineral sector thus benefiting the majority.

The miners are hailing the late President for establishing mineral training centres which have in turn brought huge respect to the small-scale miners.

"President Magufuli valued his people, especially the vulnerable ones, he loved us (miners) a lot,

he spent his time to ensure that small-scale miners also benefits from the sector by setting aside special areas for us to operate," said Masanja Joseph, one of the artisanal miners at Maganzo.

They were speaking to journalists who visited the area to hear how the miners honor the late Dr Magufuli.

According to Masanja, the late President sacrificed his life for Tanzanians even since he entered into power in 2015.

"Several reforms were taken to

ensure that Tanzanians benefited heavily from the mining sector contrary to what it was in the previous years. Small-scale miners are among the foremost people he thought about, only well-off miners were benefiting from this vital sector but Dr Magufuli put that situation to an end," he said.

Another miner Ester Luhende said before the establishment of the mineral trading centres, artisanal miners ended up selling the precious stones at low prices, something that was affecting

them deeply.

Maganzo village chairman Charles Manyeye urged the newly sworn-in President Samia Suluhu Hassan to continue supervising the sector as it was for the late President Magufuli.

"We are sure that President Samia will continue valuing us (small-scale miners) and Tanzanians. The country's peace will be maintained if vulnerable people will be given a chance to flourish and live a better life," he said.

'Dr Magufuli was a hardworking man'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

TANZANIAN ambassador to Sweden Dr Willibrord Slaa said he knew the late president Dr John Magufuli dating back to 1995 as a hardworking man who never liked laziness.

Speaking at CCM Kirumba grounds in Mwanza after a ceremony to pay respects to the fallen leader, Dr Slaa said he first worked with Magufuli in parliament when he collaborated with him to construct various roads in his then constituency Karatu.

"The late Dr Magufuli was a hardworking man, very disciplined, who will fire you if you do not go the same speed which he wanted, and this was evident when appointed me to be an ambassador in Sweden," he said.

He said Dr Magufuli worked on uniting Tanzanians that was the reason he appointed several opposition politicians to hold various positions in his government.

Dr Slaa said he was appointed ambassador after resigning from the opposition saying up to now he has no political party.

He said Dr Magufuli did not look at faces or tribe but wanted someone who would deliver and was very harsh at someone who misused public funds.

According to Dr Slaa, the late president had set a special grading system for the country's representatives abroad and directed them to send their performance report after every three months to see how they were doing.

"His leadership style was special that why you would see him speaking and listening to common people during his trips which was not a small thing," he said.

He said in Sweden he is implementing the Tanzania foreign policy saying there was no need for people to get confused with his appointment.

He said he has confidence in the current president Samia Suluhu Hassan adding that he has known her for several years.



The late Dr Magufuli was a hardworking man, very disciplined, who will fire you if you do not go the same speed which he wanted, and this was evident when appointed me to be an ambassador in Sweden

'JPM issued 500m/- to complete construction of a waiting patients' building at Kahama hospital'

By Guardian Reporter, Kahama

RESIDENTS in Kahama municipal council in Shinyanga Region have expressed their sorrow following the passing of the President John Magufuli saying that they will remember him for elevating the status of urban centre from town to municipality.

Dr Magufuli upgraded the town late January, this year after being impressed by the hard work done by the district council leaders in revenue collection and other initiatives in bringing development. "I have all the reasons for raising this council into a municipality in the entire region of

Shinyanga. They have shown great efforts and devotion in contributing up to 50 percent of the region's income," the late President Magufuli said while addressing Kahama residents.

The residents said that they will also honour the late Dr Magufuli for issuing 500m/- to complete the construction of patients waiting building at the Kahama District Hospital

"On January 29, this year the late President Magufuli upgraded Kahama town to municipality status. He did this during his official tour in the Region where he laid a foundation stone for the Kahama District Referral Hospital and the Kahama Oil Mills

(KOM) factory," said Robert Mihayo, a Nyamilango resident.

Mihayo said that the late Dr Magufuli was a strong and visionary leader who always wished well for all Tanzanians.

"Dr Magufuli worked hard day and night to ensure that the country's resources are protected to benefit the majority. We are appealing for the new leadership to continue honouring and maintaining the good things he did for the country," he said.

He said: "The construction of the new building at the Kahama Referral Hospital will hugely support the provision of quality health services and cut queues of patients as well as

improve the maternal health services."

Benard Mapalala, chairman of the Nyamhanga street said apart from upgrading Kahama town, the late President Magufuli supported the construction of the district's hospital, health centres and dispensaries so as to bring health services closer to the community.

Another resident Sarah Bundala said that in the Nyasubi ward, the government under President Magufuli facilitated the construction of a big and modern health centre which has been serving thousands of residents and thus reduced congestion of patients at the Kahama District Referral Hospital.

SALAMU ZA RAMBIRAMBI

Bodi ya Wakurugenzi na Menejimenti ya Kampuni ya Rijk Zwaan Tanzania, imepokea taarifa za msiba wa aliyekuwa Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, Hayati Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli

kwa masikitiko makubwa. Tunawapa pole Watanzania, na wote walioguswa na msiba huu mzito. Rijk Zwaan Tanzania inaungana na watanzania wote katika kipindi hiki cha maombolezo.

Condolence Greetings

The Board of Directors and Management of Rijk Zwaan Tanzania has received news of passing away of the late President of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli

with great sadness. We extend our sincere condolences to the people of Tanzania and may strength pour unto you during this difficult moment.



HAYATI DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI 1959-2021



JPM's funeral Mass at Chato, with tribute in Muheza town



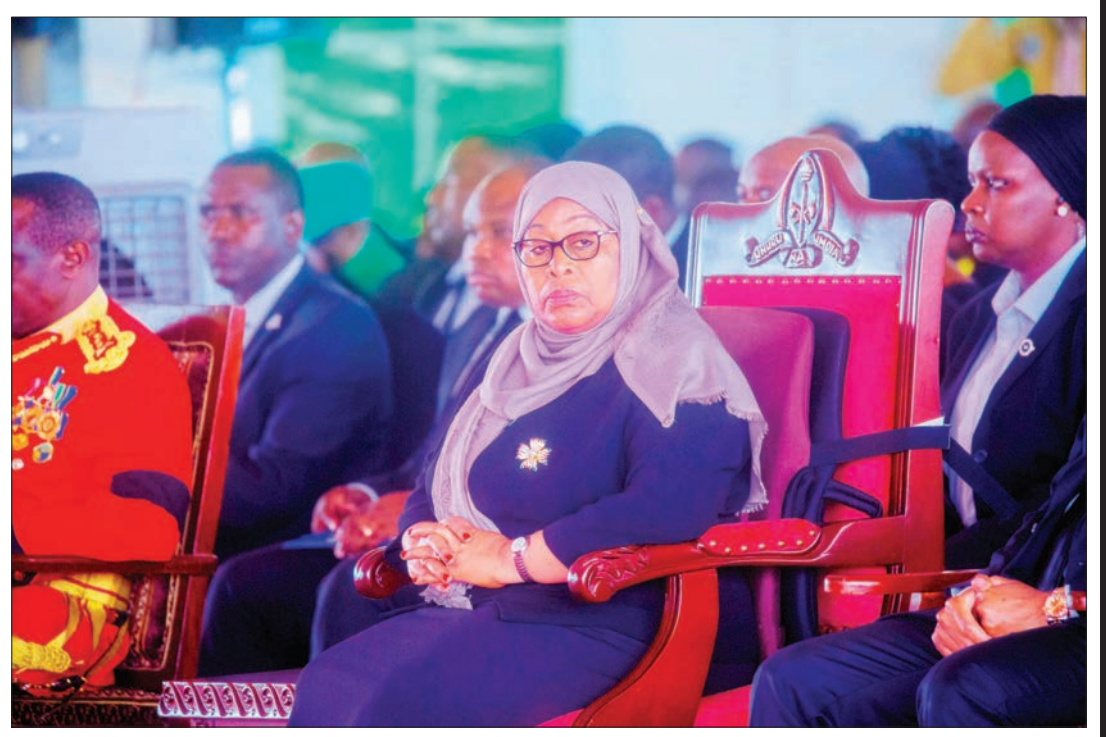
The casket bearing a body of former president Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli is carried into Chato's Magufuli Stadium in Geita Region yesterday for the funeral Mass. Photo courtesy of Maelezo



Funeral Mass in progress at Magufuli Stadium. Photo courtesy of Maelezo



The casket bearing Dr. Magufuli's body lies in the stadium during the funeral Mass. Photo courtesy of Maelezo



President Samia Suluhu Hassan follows proceedings during the funeral Mass. Photo courtesy of Maelezo



Former President Jakaya Kikwete also attended the funeral Mass. Photo courtesy of Maelezo



The funeral Mass well under way. Photo courtesy of Maelezo



Youths from Muheza District in Tanga Region sing Tanzania's National Anthem shortly before special prayers for former president Dr. Magufuli held in Muheza town yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla



Arusha residents follow yesterday's Chato funeral Mass on television outside the CCM regional office in the city. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

A high-profile final farewell for JPM at Chato



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi and his wife, Mariam Mwinyi, lay a wreath on former president Dr John Magufuli's grave at Milimani village in Chato District, Geita Region, yesterday. Photos courtesy of Maelezo



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and his wife, Mary Majaliwa, lay a wreath on the grave.



It's Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla's turn to lay a wreath on the grave.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai and his wife, Dr Fatma Mganga, lay a wreath of the grave.



Chief Secretary Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa lays a wreath on the grave.



Cabinet ministers follow proceedings at yesterday's burial ceremony at Chato.



Former prime minister Frederick Sumaye lays a wreath on the grave.



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma lays a wreath on the grave.

'64,000 people fall ill with TB every year in Tanzania'

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

OVER 64,000 people fall ill with tuberculosis (TB) every year in the country, something which calls for more investment in research and service provision so as to meet the global elimination target by 2030.

In Tanzania, respiratory diseases such as TB and Asthma have emerged second top killers in the country after malaria, according to the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

Dr Kisulila Matanga, TB coordinator in Njombe Region said this here during the training provided to journalists from various media stations.

He said that as per the government data of 2011-2017, over 300 people contract TB infections every year in Njombe Region.

He also noted that data from the Health Information Management System (HMIS) shows that communicable diseases are still the major cause of morbidity and mortality in the country. TB continued to be among the top ten cause of death and among admission aged five years and above in the country.

Dr Matanga commended the late President John Magufuli for prioritizing in improving health service provision through construction of modern infrastructures in health centres and hospitals.

"Dr Magufuli also invested most in buying more medical equipment and medicines to serve various patients including TB, we will remember him for all his efforts and sacrifice he made for Tanzanians," he said.

He said that the government has been providing free medical services to all TB patients all over the country so as to enable Tanzanians to easily access the service. "Among of the TB symptoms include a cough that lasts more than three weeks, loss of appetite and unintentional weight loss, fever, chills and night

sweats," Dr Matanga said.

However, most people infected with the bacteria that cause tuberculosis don't have symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they usually include a cough (sometimes blood-tinged), weight loss and fever.

He mentioned some of the groups which are at high risk of contracting TB as health workers, those who take excessive alcohol, miners, drug abusers and those with certain diseases (for example, diabetes, cancer, and HIV).

Labani Mtega, Traditional and Alternative medicines in Njombe said the late president Magufuli played a huge role in promoting the use of natural remedies to treat various diseases in the country.

"Even the TB patients are advised to use natural foods with proper nutrition so as to improve immunity, traditional medicines are inevitable if the country is to fight diseases and create a stronger workforce," he said.

Coordinator of HIV services in the Region, Diana Simime said the fifth phase government under President John Magufuli worked hard to ensure that the country fights TB infections through installation of modern diagnostic and treatment equipment.

According to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 released by the World Health Organization (WHO), tuberculosis (TB) remains the single most lethal infectious disease globally, surpassing HIV/AIDS, killing some 1.6 million people annually.



Among of the TB symptoms include a cough that lasts more than three weeks, loss of appetite and unintentional weight loss, fever, chills and night sweats



Kilimanjaro regional irrigation engineer Saidi Hussein has an eyewitness account of the ongoing construction of a wall around Orumwi Dam at Kishisha in Siha District on Thursday. The project is being implemented in line with one of former president Dr John Magufuli's 2020 General Election campaign pledges. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshia

Women entrepreneurs complain of shortage of farming expertise

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

WOMEN of Babati Town who were given training on entrepreneurship by Community Support Initiative Tanzania (COSITA) and engaged themselves in farming and livestock keeping have complained to agricultural and livestock experts for failing to provide them with professional expertise.

They aired their complaints here on Wednesday this week at

a meeting organised by COSITA to review the impact of the training given to them.

The women engage themselves in poultry keeping, dairy cows keeping, and vegetable farming.

Kiongozi village resident Cecilia Merichori said they opted for traditional poultry-keeping after they received entrepreneurship training from COSITA.

He said in their business they have been facing many challenges including failing to

get experts on livestock to give them training on how to control chicken diseases.

For her part, Daghaiyoy resident Johari Mohamed said apart from their decision to adopt dairy cows keeping, they have failed to get experts on livestock in their areas.

She said the situation has resulted in having poor quality bulls.

Ibrahim Omary, a Sigino village resident advised the women to

take care of their capital to avoid bankruptcy.

Babati Town Council community development officer who did not want to be named confirmed the difficulty getting livestock experts and promised to refer the issue to the Council Executive Director for a solution.

COSITA Managing Director Patrice Gwasma said if you are a trader it would be better to start by knowing the location of the markets for the products.



Simanjiro district commissioner Zephania Chaula makes remarks at special prayers for former president Dr John Magufuli held on Thursday.

Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

LUSAKA

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu declared Friday, March 26th 2021 a day of national mourning in honour of the late President of Tanzania, John Magufuli.

He said the national mourning period will be from 06:00 hour to 18:00 hours and all flags will fly at half-mast.

President Lungu stated that programmes of an entertainment nature on both radio and Television should be cancelled or postponed.

Zambian president accords late Dr Magufuli national mourning

He described the late President Magufuli as a great son of Africa whose death will forever be vividly imprinted in the hearts and minds of the Tanzanian people.

The President stated that the late leader was determined to bring about socioeconomic transformation and prosperity to

Tanzania.

President Lungu last Monday the 22nd of March joined other Heads of State from the Southern Africa Region to pay their last respects to the Late Dr Magufuli at the State Funeral held at Jamhuri Stadium in the country's capital-Dodoma.

The late Magufuli died last week on Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 and was buried yesterday, March 26th, 2021 in his hometown of Chato in Geita region, North Western Tanzania.

This is according to a statement issued to ZANIS by Secretary to the Cabinet, Simon Miti.

Govt mobilises Lindi Region to engage in beekeeping business

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

LOCAL councils in Lindi Region have been instructed to adopt beekeeping as their special agenda to make the region lead in honey production due to its being the country's second-largest region after Katavi with huge forests.

The instructions were given here early this week by the Natural Resources and Tourism minister Damas Ndumbaro before handing over a mobile sawmill valued at 110m/- to residents of 18 villages in Nachingwea and Ruangwa districts in the region.

The equipment was provided by Tanzania and Finnish governments through Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC).

The Minister said despite being home to huge forests the region does not have even a single area engaged in beekeeping including beekeeping plans aimed at increasing local councils' revenues.

He called on the region to lead in beekeeping, saying every district council should ensure in buys a beekeeping products processing plant valued at 50m/-.

Dr Ndumbaro said the plant would enable beekeepers' value honey-producing business to reach international markets.

He added that as for now beekeeping products from the country's various areas do not satisfy world demand.

In the circumstances he said, if Lindi Region could engage itself in large-scale beekeeping business from the huge forest area it has, it can produce more than 10 tonnes

of honey per year.

He said honey markets were in foreign countries whereby more than 134 tonnes is needed as of now.

He called on the region's councils to understand that they have to utilize the huge expanses of forests they have for the benefit of the villagers and the nation in general.

For his part, FORVAC national coordinator Emmanuel Msoffe directed the villagers to take care of the mobile sawmill in order to last long.

Speaking to this paper one of the villagers, Khaji Mwembe thanked the Finnish and Tanzania governments for the plant and appealed to the government to provide them training on beekeeping.



He called on the region to lead in beekeeping, saying every district council should ensure in buys a beekeeping products processing plant valued at 50m/-

500 youth from Kilwa trained on leadership and good governance

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 500 youth in Njinjo village in Kilwa District, Lindi Region have benefited from a training programme on leadership, tax systems and public expenditure tracking survey (PETS), a move which has brought positive changes in the area.

Chairman of the Kilwa Youth Development Organisation (KIYODI), Madadi Mkape said this yesterday while briefing journalists on what has been achieved at Njinjo village since the establishment of the training programme.

He said the programme has been made possible through the Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) being executed by ActionAid Tanzania in Kilwa District.

"As youth we are very happy for what has been achieved in the village because the training has opened our eyes, we have the confidence to interview village leaders on revenue and expenditure," he said.

Mkape said due to the training, 75 percent of youth are now attending various village's general meetings, something which wasn't there in the past.

"The youth are now engaging and getting involved in decision making and not just being informed about decisions after already made, this situation has created trust between villagers, village government and youth," he said.

He said that before the intervention, it was very difficult for youth to attend village general meetings.

Apart from that they can track public funds allocated by the central government to implement village projects at Njinjo village if it is used for the planned activities or not, make follow-up and monitoring on the implementation of different projects within the village."

He commended Action-Aid Kilwa for coming up with the training that has changed youth's mindset and enabled them to support the improvement of service delivery at the village level in collaboration with the village government.

Also after attending several

training sessions, Mkape is now able to train other youth on leadership, Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) and why it is very important to pay taxes to the government.

"Through the knowledge obtained from Action-Aid Kilwa, the youth have supported to improve transparency and accountability in education and water services and other key sectors," he said.

The chairman further said the organization has also been able to form a committee that comprises eleven members to supervise the construction work of two classrooms worth 18m/-

"We thank the Kilwa District Council for donating 30m/-, Vedasto Ngombale Mwiru for donating 70 bags of cement, Mangungu Ali- 75 bags of cement that in turn has help us to build two classrooms and five pit latrines at Njinjo Primary School," he added

Highlighting on leadership, he said the training is an eye-opener for the youth in Njinjo village.

"Right now youth can sit together with village leaders to discuss various development issues than it was before. While on political issues, youth in the area right now are free to contest in elections, a move which has changed the situation at Njinjo village," he noted.

Mkape added that youth participation in the election of various positions has also increased. "We have got a councillor who is a youth, six village council members and the suburb's chairmen," he said.

He also expressed thanks to Action-Aid Kilwa for donating 13m/- to Njinjo village to rehabilitate water infrastructure damaged by floods in 2020.

"In 2020, Njinjo village was among the areas that were affected by floods that hit Kilwa district causing great damage to water infrastructure, leaving thousands of people homeless and destroying hectares of crops," he said.

Action-Aid Kilwa, project coordinator, Steven Benard said the organization is happy with what has been achieved in Njinjo village.



Workers of the Moshi-based Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries Company Ltd make shoes using locally produced genuine leather, as found on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshia

'Take action against traders engaging in selling forest products without permits'

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumaro has instructed authorities in Ruangwa and Nachingwea districts to take action against traders engaging on selling forest products without permits.

The minister asserted that each trader should apply for permits from village authorities mandated to preserve forest resources.

"This is part of initiatives to preserve, protect and promote value addition in forest resources," he added.

Dr Ndumaro issued the directive recently at an event to handle a sawmill machine worth 110m/- to Ruangwa District. The machine has been donated by the government and Finland under the project for Forest and Value Chain Programme (FORVAC).

"Every municipal should make sure that woods are purchased

from villages under the project on sustainable forest harvesting. Traders are supposed to purchase forest resources at the villages to boost revenues," he added.

Dr Ndumaro said that proper management of forest products and revenues through the FORVAC project would stimulate development in the particular villages. He said the monies would be directed to improve social services such as health centers, schools, water projects and alike.

The sawmill machine imported from Norway will also reduce the loss of forest products and create jobs to nearly 250 villagers. The machine is environmental friendly as it consumes a few forest products to produce bunches of woods.

The minister directed District Commissioners to ensure proper implementation of the forest and value chain project to ensure they yield the intended results.

Dr Ndumaro said that Lindi ranks the second after Katavi with a huge forest area, hence the need for authorities to protect them for the benefit of villages as well as the nation.

FORVAC National Coordinator, Emmanuel Msofe urged villagers who will be empowered with forest management skills to properly use the machine to boost individual incomes and improve the villagers social welfare.

Msofe said the machine will help to reduce the loss of forest from 469,000ha per year which was caused by unplanned harvest of forest resources.

He said the project is implemented in three clusters including Tanga, Ruvuma and Lindi. He said the first machines were given to Ruangwa, Liwale and Nachingwea districts in Lindi Region.

"Other clusters of the project include, Nyasa, Mbinga, Tunduru,

Kilindi, Handeni, Mpwapwa and Kiteto," Njahani added.

"We will also provide a similar machine to Namumbo and Songea districts in Ruvuma Region," added Msofe.

Director of Beekeeping project, Dr Ezekiel Mwakalukwa assured the minister that all the directives will be implemented accordingly. He said they have provided training to members of the village natural resources committee who will share the knowledge to the villagers.

The FORVAC project (2018-2022) is designed to stimulate forest value chain development based on production of timber, charcoal and non-wood forest products.

The initiative is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland at a cost of 25bn/- and implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.



Arusha acting executive director Mathias Shindika (2nd-L) pictured in the city on Thursday receiving a donation of 100 bags of cement from Special Seats legislator Catherine Magige (2nd-R) in support of construction work at the newly established Unga Limited Secondary School. Photo: Correspondent Wolinde Shizza

Malecela: Complete viable projects to honour Magufuli

By Guardian Correspondent

FORMER Prime Minister John Malecela has said to embrace and continue honouring the late President John Magufuli, authorities should complete the flagship projects he initiated.

Speaking recently, Malecela said the departed leader had initiated a number of economic viable projects which needs to be completed to achieve the desired goals. The projects according to him would stimulate investments and economic growth.

Some of the mega strategic projects which the Tanzanian government has been prioritizing includes the ongoing construction of the central railway line to Standard Gauge (SGR), construction of Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (2,115 MW) in the Rufiji river basin, strengthening Air Tanzania Company Ltd and facilitating construction of Crude Oil Pipeline Project from Hoima (Uganda) to Tanga (Tanzania).

Upon completion, the SGR network will link Tanzania

with neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (2,115 MW) in the Rufiji river basin inside the Selous Game Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is being jointly built by two Egyptian companies, Arab Contractors and El Sewedy Electric Co.

The 2,115-megawatt Rufiji power project would more than double the East African country's current power generation capacity of around 1,600 megawatts.

Meanwhile, Malecela expressed optimism with the newly sworn-in President Samia Suluhu Hassan saying her leadership will prove to the world that the Tanzanian government is gender sensitive.

"President Samia is a strong leader who had successful worked with the late President Magufuli. She has the ability to lead," he said.

He called upon Tanzanians to continue embracing the late Magufuli by maintaining unity and peace for the country's development.

USAID provides four investment funds with capital to help SMEs, farmer growth in southern Africa

By Schalk Burger

THE US Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded catalytic funding to four investment vehicles to drive inclusive economic growth in Southern Africa.

As a result, US\$24-million in private sector investment will go towards supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and emerging farmers in the region.

"With these awards, USAID is supporting private investment into businesses across Southern Africa. This will help connect investors to Southern Africa's vibrant community of entrepreneurs, driving long-term investment and helping local businesses grow," says USAID Southern Africa acting mission director Rebecca Krzywda.

The four investment vehicles include SME growth financing company Creative CFO; nonprofit organisation Endeavour South Africa; revenue-based financing company Linea Capital; and smallholder farmer investment organisation ThirdWay Africa.

USAID's support of these vehicles through its INVEST initiative reflects a growing consensus that private investment is critical to inclusive, sustainable development. These efforts will complement and support current USAID policies and priorities, including the USAID Private

Sector Engagement Policy, the US Government's Africa strategy, and Prosper Africa.

"We look forward to working with our partners to build a more prosperous future for Southern Africa," Krzywda says.

Creative CFO has launched the Creative Growth Capital Fund I to provide sustainable growth financing to impact-oriented SMEs in South Africa. The fund's vision is to create a more financially inclusive world where SMEs in the Southern Africa region can grow sustainably and succeed.

USAID's funding will lower the risk to commercial investors in the fund. The Creative Growth Capital Fund I will deploy a range of flexible financial instruments including debt, equity and mezzanine structures, tailored to SMEs' specific financing needs in support of their unique growth trajectories, USAID notes in a media statement.

Further, Endeavour South Africa's Harvest II Fund will invest in high-impact entrepreneurs in the region, alongside lead investors. The fund will also provide ongoing tailored mentoring to these firms.

Over the past two years, Endeavour South Africa's portfolio of 25 firms collectively generated R2-billion in revenue and created more than 4 600 jobs. The Harvest Fund II will build on this track record and invest in an expanded portfolio of high-impact firms in the region.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 27 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Tanzanians closer together in spirit as JPM laid to rest

TANZANIANS in their millions were yesterday busy following proceedings related to the burial of former president Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (61) at his home village in Chato District, Geita Region.

It was the culmination of activities that started nine days earlier when President Samia Suluhu Hassan took to State television (on the night of March 17), as Vice President, to announce the president's passing.

From that moment onwards the country has been generally dominated by condolences and the paying of last respects, at times with people lining up in the streets to do so as the casket bearing his body was a driven by.

Unforgettable scenes of profound emotion were registered, which surprised many in the neighbourhood and even further afield.

Dr Magufuli's death marks the first time in the history of Tanzania the president has died while in office, understandably putting a strain on the relevant institutions to prepare the succession on the basis of what is provided for in the country's constitution.

The first step before proceedings leading up to the laying to rest of the departed national leader was the swearing-in of the vice president, who subsequently effectively took over as Union President.

This called for unquestioned loyalty to the Constitution from key institutions, especially the defence and security organs.

There was also something unprecedented in the setting out of a procedure for bidding farewell to the late leader by people of all walks of life in the country as well as public institutions and various community groups.

The degree of involvement was more intensive and the demonstration of affinity profound and emphatic such that the proceedings at the end of the day amounted to a rebirth of the spirit of national unity and redefinition to what the late national leader stood for.

High-level presentations underlined the degree to which people all over the country hope for a continuation of the spirit of accountability the late leader developed, especially in ensuring that public authorities will be expected to remain diligent, disciplined and patriotic.

On the whole, it can be safely said that no impediment exists on the part of continuation of the work Dr Magufuli was carrying out in pursuing the dream of a prosperous Tanzania where certain ills that had taken root in the past are eliminated.

As the adage goes, to err is human. Indeed, there will have been shortcomings in his style of governance and the strategies he devised and pursued, but the work was on the whole crowned

with success because he acted resolutely where most others were hesitant.

There was this kind of appeal in how leaders were expressing their expectations on President Samia Suluhu Hassan, while recognizing that we have a new leader and the citizenry and those holding public office have a duty of loyalty, support and assistance.

There was even a measure of national reunion at the eventual burial yesterday, as the widest possible audience could hear the voices of our past leaders, especially former presidents Jakaya Kikwete and Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

Kikwete made a strenuous effort to recall the trail of involvement and trust between himself and his successor, evidently aware of what has previously been said about the succession in 2015. It was a moment of healing so that we move forward all the more united.

As President Samia said upon taking the oath of office on the Friday of March 19, this is not the moment of pointing fingers at one another but of forging even greater unity.

Speaker after speaker similarly emphasized as much, all cognizant of the basis of what unites the country and has given it a principled axis of forging harmony.

This focuses on the need to work to realize the expectations of development, which means the empowerment and welfare of people in various parts of the country and watching over public institutions with zeal and a keen sense of justice.

Despite clear variations of sentiment given unavoidable divisions in society, the public has given exceedingly high regard and thunderous demonstration of affection for the image and performance of the late national leader. These are expectations that can't be brushed aside as memories; they are a pointer to duty.

There is also a dimension of forgiveness that has been registered during this emotional farewell period especially between groups that campaigned for deep political changes that were set aside, and to an extent this resolution has brought the two sides of the Union closer.

There is that saying about the folly of hoping to have your cake and eat it, which underscores the importance of institutions being guided along a path most likely to foster great unity among the people.

That means having one's thrust on altering the situation by letting a hundred flowers blossom. Constitutional rights of expression are essential to the image of the society we need and ought to build, while assertive leadership is crucial in solving problems putting cohesion and harmony at risk. We badly need both.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

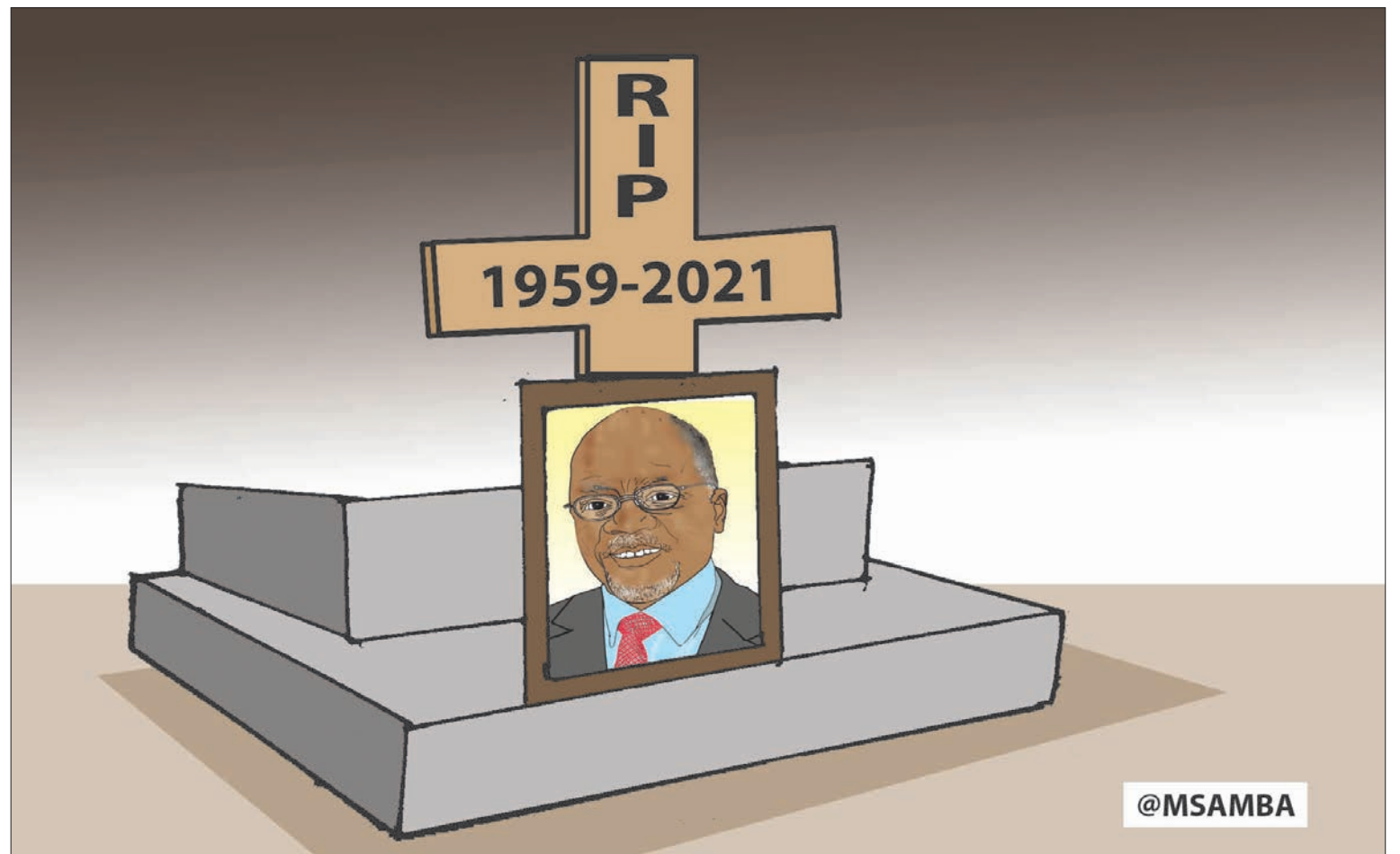
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Youth and war on racism: How to educate a generation of young anti-racist campaigners

By Tawana Kupe

TO advance the struggle against racism, we need to use all of the knowledge that we have created about racism to educate our youth to fight it and become anti-racist campaigners. In that way, we create a generation of young people able to contribute to the building of a genuinely diverse and inclusive society.

Human Rights Day on 21 March 2021 marked 61 years since the Sharpeville massacre. On that day, we remember that people were shot as they protested against the unjust pass laws that limited freedom of movement.

Although it might seem a long time ago for many of our younger students, it is within living memory for many South Africans. The Covid-19 pandemic and the various levels of lockdown may have given you some sense of what restricted movement could be like, but during that time, people's movement was curtailed by their race not by the greater good of staying at home to stay safe.

This year sees South Africa celebrate 25 years of our constitution and the Bill of Rights. Globally, South Africa is renowned for having one of the most progressive constitutions. This is especially close to our hearts at the University of Pretoria because some of our academics from the Faculty of Law and Centre for Human Rights in particular were among those who were responsible for drafting the Constitution.

It is therefore unsurprising that the University of Pretoria is committed to human rights in all its forms. This basic appreciation of the rights of everyone is enshrined in how we live THE UP WAY by being respectful to all and mindful of our diversity as people, to our practical advocacy and research that finds voices for the voiceless.

At UP we reject and condemn racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ethnic chauvinism, religious intolerance, unfair discrimination, hate speech, sexual harassment and other harassment, femicide and gender-based violence, in all its forms - and commit ourselves to the eradication of these practices.

To this end, it is the priority of our Transformation Division to create a conducive working and learning environment for students and staff.

The overarching goal of



transformation at UP, as stated in our Transformation Plan, is to foster and sustain a transformed, inclusive, and equitable university community where diversity - of race, gender, religion, sexuality, culture, socioeconomic status, disability and academic background - is welcomed; different perspectives are respectfully heard; and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Our Transformation Division is also responsible for UP's all-inclusive Anti-Discrimination Policy, which focuses on prevention, awareness and training, disciplinary procedures and support services. It applies to all UP staff and students, as well as service providers, contractors, visitors, and other third parties present at any of the UP campuses or other facilities.

Our Centre for Human Rights, Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Centre for Child Law and Centre for Sexuality, Aids and Gender are just a few of the research units at the University of Pretoria that promote and advocate human rights across a variety of sectors which have a direct impact on society. Our human rights advocacy is spread across all our nine faculties through direct engagement with communities where our students and staff use their skills for the benefit of society.

We recognise that building an inclusive, affirming and transformed university cannot be achieved merely through adopting measures such as new policies and the establishment of institutions. However important such steps are, realising the vision of a transformed university will ultimately depend on the day-to-day persistence of individuals and collaborative efforts by all of us who work at the university.

In addition, UP is the only representative from Africa in the new University Social Responsibility Network, an international group of 16 top universities. And last year the

Times Higher Education's Impact Rankings rated UP among the top 100 universities in the world for its social and economic impact in three categories, based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely:

- Quality Education,
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Our history and current contributions to the realisation of human rights for all is relevant to the global campaign for the elimination of racism. Amid the pandemic last year racism raised its ugly head across the world and came into sharp focus with the death of George Floyd in the United States, followed by many others. George Floyd died in an incident televised globally when a policeman placed his knee on his neck and ignored all his pleas that he could not breathe. Floyd's "I could not breathe" moment became a rallying cry for the ways in which racism stifles literally and snuffs out life brutally. "I cannot breathe" or "we cannot breathe" became a rallying cry of victims of racism for its elimination. Movements like Black Lives Matter, which had appeared to be subdued or waning until then, were re-energised and gained global traction. The role of the youth in the campaigns was visible.

In the UK and some European countries like Belgium it led to anti-racism campaigns targeting institutions, symbols and statues associated with slavery, colonialism and empire as symbols of a living racism. The dead weight of systemic racism still weighs down the lives of not only individuals but groups in societies across the world. It does not spare the youth. It stifles their ability to enjoy their humanity and fulfil their potential. It sets limits on achievement and constrains their contribution to the development of society.

This year's Human Rights Day theme, Youth Against Racism, has particular resonance for us in

South Africa, given we are part of an African continent where more than 60% of the population is under 35. It happens in a context where youth unemployment is high and rising. In a country with legacies of racism that have yet to be fully eliminated. Race still shapes opportunity because it stifles ability and blights futures.

Access to good schools and post-school opportunities including university still follows racial contours, although formal racial segregation ended in 1994. Not all black youth have the same opportunities as other races. Where black youth have the same opportunities, they thrive and develop to their full potential. These opportunities are increasing but the pace needs to be quickened to disrupt living legacies of the scourge.

A broken system of funding for young people who qualify for university and post-school education opportunities, burdens them and universities with debt, reinforces forms of racial exclusion through financial exclusion. It has caused waves of protest across universities in the last two weeks as it did during the #FeesMustFall protests a few years ago. We should create a system where all students who qualify for university are funded to access quality education in well-funded universities that are debt free. In that way, we expand opportunity and affirm their human rights.

To advance the struggle against racism we need to use all of the knowledge that we have created about racism to educate our youth to fight it and become anti-racist campaigners. In that way we create a generation of young people able to contribute to the building of a genuinely diverse and inclusive society.

An education in critical race studies as well as critical diversity studies must be embedded in the curriculum from an early age. It will equip the youth to wage anti-racism campaigns using a range of resources from the visual, creative and performance arts and culture, to literature and media, history and science on digital platforms. It will be empowering for youth to co-create content with some guidance from experienced anti-racist campaigners and educators. There is a greater likelihood that youth who own the message in every respect will be more determined fighters of racism. A different world without racism that affirms human rights is possible, if only we all become anti-racist.



By Special Correspondent

I have been having absolute fun listening and dancing to Bruno Mars 2010 song, "Grenade." Thanks to my daughter. Seven artists including Bruno, collaborated to write that song. A brilliant piece, with an even more instructive video. Somehow, the lyrics of the song and the imageries in the video resonated deeply the message of workplace loyalty - You can't miss the old retired homeless men in the video. With a rope tied to his piano and Bruno pulling it through town - up the hill, through traffic lights, train stations, down the slopes, etc - yet it did not end well. Trust was broken - "Easy come, easy go, that's just how you live. Take, take, take it all, but you never give. Should have known you was trouble from the first kiss... Gave you all I had and you tossed it in the trash.. To give me all your love is all I ever ask. 'Cause what you don't understand is. I'd catch a grenade for ya. Throw my hand on a blade for ya. I'd jump in front of a train for ya. You know I'd do anything for ya. I would go through all this pain. Take a bullet straight through my brain. Yes, I would die for ya, baby. But you won't do the same. No."

I agree with Bruno - Relationships should be balanced; reciprocal. Employers and employees should always think win-win. Win-win is a paradigm that always pursues shared benefits and accommodation. In Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People", the number 4 habit is "think win-win." Covey argued that other relationship paradigms like - Win; Win/Lose; Lose/Win; Lose/Lose; are dysfunctional, ineffective and ultimately counterproductive. Thinking win-win requires a level of deliberate investment and commitment, because it thrives on synergy and joint advantage.

The first step is to recognise what the status of our relationship is at a given time. We must not take

Covid-19 and keeping staff loyalty



anything for granted, operating on assumptions. It is essential we not only ask ourselves what we want, but also what the other party wants from us in a given situation, or at a given time. Keep in mind that it's acceptable to walk away, if a common agreement is not found. It is a work relationship - If the case is that you are an asset and not a liability and a mutually beneficial situation can't be reached, then both parties can "agree to disagree" and both can walk away with no hard feelings. This is a typically realistic option in any enterprise. Nevertheless, there's something noble about maintaining fidelity in a world where bonds seem to be easily broken. Fidelity means continual loyalty often evidenced by reliability, trustworthiness, and ongoing support even when a severance is unavoidable.

An age-old business model and a tested formula for success - is for a smart a

entrepreneur to surround himself with a few people, smarter and stronger than himself, but infinitely and unflinchingly loyal to him. Earning loyalty is a great leadership trait, as staff loyalty increasingly becomes difficult to earn and keep. Loyalty is expected from every employee, and it is a major ingredient for a business to succeed. In the workplace, loyalty is constantly being tested. Your people will either ensure you survive and thrive, or stagnate and die. Remember the phrase, "with friends like you, who needs enemies?" - often used to suggest that a partner, coworker, friend or ally is acting against your best interests. Staff loyalty is certainly a question for law firm leaders to appreciate and drive within their law firms, in order to thrive in today's challenging and competitive environment.

So, Mr. Lawyer Leader, do you want to pause a bit and take a breather? Take

out your stethoscope and take the pulse of the loyalty of the people around you - simply determine their heart rate by feeling and timing the rhythm of a vein. Yes, "arrête, prends le pouls" - pardon my French, but "stop, take the pulse" and read the meter correctly. Are your people with you because they are stuck with you and have no other alternative? And the minute a new suitor shows up and woos them, dangling some juicy carrot, with the right words, they are gone? How do you make your law firm to remain a dominant firm of choice, in the face of increased competition? Keeping Staff loyalty may require consistent focus and commitment to a number of best practices, strategic principles and practical tactics and insights. In developing a sustainable employee/employer working relationship, please let us consider both a long view and a wide lens on models

that engenders and strengthens loyalty, not diminish it. Loyalty can be fragile - it requires careful cultivation. Agreed, in a business relationship, there is a heightened focus on cold and unromantic factors like productivity, efficiency, performance evaluation, cost savings, service delivery, pricing, innovation, etc. - while trying to do all these, ensure to understand and deliver on a true value proposition for all stakeholders; your people primarily - Make sure that you are building enduring relationships (with your people, your clients and prospects). Loyalty is key to your success, especially that of your people.

When a marriage couple take their vows before a licensed official, priest, imam, justices of the peace, marriage registrars, etc. - I often wonder in what unique ways their loyalties would be tested. What will upend their devotion to the union? What north wind will rock the boat? This piece focuses on two core segments knotted together: The Loyalty Framework - a look at how to build firm loyalists; The Humane Framework - approaches to improve staff work experience.

To reduce unwanted turnover and prompt staff to give you their best, show them they are talents and that you are genuinely interested in developing their talent. You recruited them, right? So, you will have to invest not only in the cultivation of their capabilities, but also in the provision of the resources and infrastructure to allow them to succeed. Staff, on the other hand, should show themselves worthy of such investment of trust - produce in multiples the return on investment - be a solution provider - be more creative at responding to change and coming up with new solutions. Also, employers have a tendency of having a nearsighted view on their people. It will assist employers to stay discerning through deeper understanding of staff needs, enabling them to build a trusted partnership - based on mutual respect. It should not be a com-

petitor that makes you discover you had diamonds in the rough, after they are gone. Employers have to recognise and address the changing needs of staff over time as they grow with the organisation, provide platforms to help them get the resources they require as they grow and make the connections they need - and you will be building an army of loyalists.

One of the loyalty killers I know, is continually rewarding undeserving people - unequitable rewards. Employers will do well to take a project management approach to rewards - synchronise output to reward. Focus on your high performers. Life is not fair, it is not a circus - You cannot treat everyone the same way. Even the Holy Book says so - parable of the Talent. The worker with more talents got more, and those with less talents got less. And, the one with no talent got none. Do More For Your Best People and They Will Do More For You. Make a point of talking with your best people, to find out what they really want or need - whether it's a special deal or a small accommodation. Do not assume you know what they need. That is design thinking. If you can fulfil a unique need or want, you will be doing something especially valuable - such that when you need extra leverage with a particular employee - when you need him or her to really go the extra mile - you as an employer, will have more than enough credits to pull from. I remember chatting with a Lawyer, who told me why he would never leave his present employer. The employer had taken it upon himself to personally queue, pursue and obtain the admission of his children into a highly exclusive school that he had mentioned in passing that he had always desired his children to attend. Most high-performers leave a job, because they conclude that they will not be able to get what they need and want in that job. So they go in search of some place or someone who will make their aspirations become reality. When an employer goes out of his way to figure out what his best people really need and help them earn what they need and want, you turn the primary reason why they might leave into the primary reason why they will stay and work extra hard.

Prioritise pandemic relief, recovery: No time for debt buybacks

By Anis Chowdhury and Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Developing country governments are being wrongly advised to use their modest fiscal resources to pay down accumulated debt instead of strengthening pandemic relief and recovery. Thus, debt phobia risks deepening and extending COVID-19 recessions by prioritising buybacks.

Pandemic debt mounting

Nearly half (44%) of low-income countries were already debt-distressed or at high risk even before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020. Limited fiscal space has constrained developing countries' relief and recovery measures, making them far more modest than those of developed countries.

Nevertheless, their government debt ratios rose faster in 2020. Many developing countries have taken on more debt, typically on non-concessional terms—from private lenders and non-Paris Club members. Public debt in emerging markets has thus surged to levels not seen in over half a century.

In January-October 2020, the average debt burden of developing countries increased by 26% as tax revenues declined sharply. The IMF projects their average debt ratios will rise by 7-10% of GDP in 2021, with some terming this a "debt pandemic".

Debt burdens limit fiscal resources and the policy space needed to better address the pandemic health and economic crises in developing countries. Debt is particularly debilitating in the least developed countries, where healthcare services were modest even before the pandemic.

Last October, the United Nations warned G20 senior officials of "protracted fiscal paralysis" and the "worst global crisis since WWII" if developing countries did not get significant debt relief. For the World Bank President, the "disappointing" G20 Debt Services Suspension Initiative (DSSI) only "defers debt payments" as interest mounts, without reducing debt.

Debt buybacks?

Ostensibly to avert the "looming



debt crisis", some are calling for debt buybacks while private creditors refuse to offer any debt relief. They claim "bond buy-backs present a highly attractive solution, offering substantial debt relief at a relatively low cost".

Hence, they urge using the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) New Arrangements to Borrow plus funds from donors and multilateral institutions to buy debt at a discount. Such calls have grown with the prospect of new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of at least US\$500 bn, as the Biden administration has dropped US opposition.

Proponents do not explain why debt buybacks should now take precedence over urgently deploying fiscal resources for relief and recovery. As more countries compete for funds, driving up interest rates, buybacks should ease the credit market for others.

Successful debt buybacks?

Buyback advocates mislead-

ingly imply that the 1989 Brady bond plan and the 2012 Greek bond buybacks were both "successful". The plan wrote down some sovereign debt to commercial banks for several mainly Latin American countries, following the early 1980s' spike in US interest rates.

The US debt buyback initiative was launched by George HW Bush's Treasury Secretary, Nicholas Brady and backed with US Treasury bills after his predecessor failed to resolve the debt crises of several heavily indebted US allies.

In return for IMF support, these countries were subjected to IMF-World Bank programme conditions. These supposedly "growth promoting" policies actually resulted in many "lost years" of stagnation.

Benefits for most debtors were unclear as buybacks failed to improve market confidence in debtor countries, or their development performance. The Brady scheme was portrayed as "voluntary", although in fact, "officials used

various techniques to pressure banks into Brady deals".

Even with fewer debt-distressed countries and more similar creditors then, "country negotiations with bank creditors often dragged on for months", even a year. In fact, only the banks gained from the Brady deals which enabled them to close the chapter with minimal losses and move on.

The 2012 Greek debt buyback programme is said to be a "success" in "the sense of being orderly, reasonably quick". However, it only affected private debt as governments and central banks held over two-thirds of Greece's sovereign debt.

While treating "holdout creditors" generously, the programme did not restore Greek debt sustainability. Unsurprisingly, the "bigger winners were hedge funds, which pocketed higher profits than many had expected".

Dubious models for emulation

tory and mix of debt contracts. Hence, a 'one-size-fits-all' buyback programme will simply not work. Each country programme will require protracted negotiations, with no guarantee of reaching a settlement.

Who really benefits?

According to World Bank Chief Economist Carmen Reinhart and her co-authors, in most cases, debt buybacks have benefited recalcitrant private creditors without providing much relief to debtors "willing to exchange higher future debt for lower payments now".

"Private creditors are increasingly claiming outside shares of repayment in debt restructurings even when the official sector is senior creditor to the private sector... Official creditors may be left holding the bag for the bulk of the losses, even when they start with little of the outstanding debt, as in Greece".

Hence, they caution: "make sure new funding ends up benefiting the citizens of debtor countries affected by the pandemic rather than lining the pockets of creditors... The more official aid and soft loans can go toward helping needy citizens around the globe—and the less such assistance ends up as debt repayments to uncompromising creditors—the better".

Get priorities right

With 'collective action' complications affecting negotiations, and the greater number and variety of heavily indebted countries and creditors, equitable debt buybacks are impossible to negotiate. Worse, prioritising buybacks means rejecting former debt hawk Reinhart's current pragmatic advice to "First fight the war, then figure out how to pay for it".

The urgent priority is for fiscal resources to strengthen relief, recovery and reform measures. Prioritising debt buybacks, instead of urgently augmenting fiscal resources, may thus contribute to another "lost decade" or worse.

Debt buyback advocates seem to ignore how debtor-creditor relations have changed since the 1980s. There are now many more types of private creditors, debtors and credit or borrowing arrangements compared to the 1980s, when government debt from US and UK commercial banks was far more significant.

The US government then had much more leverage on US commercial banks as it was seen as trying to avoid bank failures and to ensure financial sector stability. With powerful lobbyists, such as the Institute of International Finance (IIF), private finance has much more bargaining power now.

Today, no single government or multilateral institution has considerable influence on the far more varied private creditors. Such lenders have already rejected the G20 DSSI and ignored IMF and World Bank calls for debt relief. Meanwhile, rating agencies threaten to downgrade the credit ratings of countries considering participation.

Many more countries face debt problems, each with its own his-

By Judith February

As former president Jacob Zuma seeks to defy the Zondo Commission - and in so doing, the Constitution - the message sent is one of impunity writ large. The ANC has become almost apologetic about the Constitution it helped craft 25 years ago.

*Don't discount our powers;
We have made a pass
At the infinite.*

Robert Frost, Kitty Hawk

A delegation of the "Top Six" within the ANC recently visited Jacob Zuma in an attempt to persuade him to appear before the Zondo Commission and fulfil his constitutional obligation. That one of the members of that delegation, Secretary-General Ace Magashule, is himself facing criminal charges shows just how far the party has strayed from its ethical centre.

The same party mobilises its members to cheer on those who face corruption charges for stealing from the poorest of the poor in the VBS Bank scandal, holds vigils at court ahead of Zuma's corruption trial appearances and turns a blind eye to men in paramilitary gear stationed outside Zuma's Nkandla homestead.

In the background the mostly unintelligible Bathabile Dlamini mobilises the ANC Women's League into action in defence of the corrupt and incompetent. A ragtag bunch of Zumarites including Carl Niehaus and Tony Yengeni (a convicted criminal) lead the charge for Zuma as they spout words like "radical economic transformation" and declare "white monopoly capital" the enemy of progress in our country. All binaries in service of a dangerous populism.

Others within the ANC like Jesse Duarte, Gwede Mantashe and Ngoako Ramatlhodi have in the past felt comfortable enough to attack the judiciary.

Aiding and abetting the corrupt faction within the ANC is the EFF, now comfortably positioned as defenders of the compromised Public Protector while their leaders themselves are implicated in the VBS scandal.

It is convenient to attack both the Constitution and the judiciary. They do so to protect their own interests and to keep the networks of State Capture in place. The re-

The rule of law is under threat in our country



percussions of Zuma's defiance of the Constitution must therefore be seen in the context of a governing party that has lost its way and an emboldened Zuma who has repeatedly shown himself capable of constitutional vandalism.

Let us make no mistake, we are at what political theorist Achille Mbembe, whose seminal work, *On the Postcolony*, continues to define much of the debate around the characteristics of post-colonial Africa, calls a "negative moment" - a culmination of the Zuma years that were marked by a lack of openness and transparency, by increased securitisation of the state, marked inequality, economic paralysis, intolerance and the abuse of democratic institutions. This is also a moment of disease and unease as South Africa's unemployment rate has reached record levels of 32.5% and inequality deepens.

A near decade of State Capture means the kitty is bare. Higher Education, Science and Technology Minister Blade Nzimande robbed Peter to pay Paul when he announced funding for universities amid student protests last week. Something will have to give in this toxic mix of impunity, want and the everyday violation of rights.

When Madiba inaugurated the first Constitutional Court he told us it would be "a court on which hinges the future of our democracy". How right he was.

He went on to say at the adoption of the final Constitution in 1996: "Constitutionalism means that no office and no institution can be higher than the law. The highest and the most humble in the land all, without exception, owe allegiance to the same document, the same principles. It does not matter whether you are black or white, male or female, young or old; whether you speak Tswana or Afrikaans; whether you are rich or poor or ride in a smart new car or walk barefoot; whether you wear a uniform or are locked up in a cell. We all have certain basic rights, and those fundamental rights are set out in the Constitution."

It has now become fashionable to blame Madiba and the Constitution for everything that has gone wrong in post-apartheid South Africa. Given the challenges South Africa faces, it is easy (and perhaps inevitable) to slip into reductionist thinking about the Constitution itself - that it is an imported liberal concept and not worth the paper it is written on. Many blame the Constitution for the lack

of transformation within our society. It is a limited argument as it ignores the politics of the day, as well as the corruption and mismanagement that often lie at the heart of our inability to ensure that basic rights are protected.

When Zuma calls the Constitution "their" document, we all know what he is trying to do when he eschews ownership of it. In a world of cheap populism and easy answers, now more than ever we need to dispel what is reductionist and ahistorical.

Former Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs is a charming storyteller. He talks of his debates on constitutionalism with his old friend, the late Kader Asmal, with humour and relish. Sachs never misses an opportunity to explain the ANC's debates on the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. In these confusing times of noisy debate about constitutionalism, his recollections are worth pondering.

Sachs describes the pre-1990s rights debates within the ANC as difficult and often fierce. It is a powerful counter-narrative to some of the current criticisms of the constitution-making process. He tells of how reason prevailed and the party, under the astute and principled leadership of OR

Tambo, supported the concept of a Bill of Rights when the moment arose. "OR" was set upon constitutionalising aspects of the struggle and, in Sachs's words, "learning from every source" and "widening the embrace" of the ANC as a movement and its thinking. Tambo's (and the ANC's) strategic position on the Bill of Rights was that it would exist to "protect everyone", black and white, rich and poor, and, in Sachs's words, that the Constitution itself was needed as protection against arbitrariness by all leaders and indeed, to be used "against ourselves". That was in 1988.

Sachs's recollection is important for its wide reach into the past.

South Africa in 2021 is in a markedly different place compared with 1988. We have the right to speak, write what we like, and more importantly, the context within which we do so has changed. The choice we made to be a constitutional democracy was not an accident, nor was it one that went without any debate and argument within the ANC and other parts of society. The commitment to fundamental rights and against the arbitrary exercise of power was deliberate. That our transition to democracy was flawed cannot be disputed. That much still needs to be done to fundamentally change the lives of those who suffer all kinds of exclusion is without doubt. Yet, the Constitution remains a transformative and progressive instrument for bringing about such change.

Undergirding the values of the Constitution is therefore the next "struggle" we face. It pits those who would destroy the state for their own narrow gain directly against those who seek to build a country where those in power are accountable and responsive to the citizenry.

In their seminal book, *How Democracies Die*, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt point out that democracies don't die overnight. They die as a result of the "erosion of democratic norms and increased polarisation in society".

Equally, the attacks on our Constitution have not happened overnight. Levitsky and Ziblatt argue that "institutions and norms are critical to preserving democracy, but they can be worn down slowly and systematically". They point us to four "warning signs".

The first is rejecting the rules of democracy, the second is discrediting one's political "opponent", the third is tolerating or encouraging violence. Finally, they seek to reduce civil rights.

These "red flags" are all present in South Africa today as those in the ANC and EFF attack the judiciary and the Constitution.

Recently we have seen unacceptable attacks on journalists by the EFF. They are not new but from the playbook of anti-democratic norms the EFF and too many within the governing ANC espouse.

This week, 277 concerned South Africans met, virtually, to start a campaign to mobilise against those who would, as ANC stalwart and co-convenor of the meeting Cheryl Carolus said, "cock a snook at our hard-won democracy". Carolus, as impassioned as always, spoke from the heart, as did fellow comrades, Reverend Frank Chikane and Barbara Masekela. In their voices was some pain, some distress at the betrayal of the promise. Many more added their voices, from business, civil society, academia, the health sector and religious groups, among others.

The meeting followed a powerful statement by the South African Council of Churches, calling Zuma's defiance of the Constitution an attempt to destabilise South Africa.

Our greatest gift to Madiba and the architects of our democracy is to do all we can to protect and defend the Constitution and deepen our understanding of the principles that underpin it. This will need to include short-term activism but also an understanding that building democracy and constitutionalism is a task for the long haul - the work of generations, as Barack Obama said in his final speech at the United Nations.

We will need to confront the challenges we face on the shop floor, in offices and in the corridors of power, especially at a time when we need to repurpose our institutions. It means being brave about defending our democracy and the guardrails the Constitution has put in place. Any constitution is, after all, only as strong as the willingness of the powerful to adhere to it and the willingness of citizens to defend and protect it.

We have reached another turning point in our country's history. As Chikane said as he ended his emotive plea to the gathering this week: "Ke nako!"

It is time for us to once more put our shoulder to the wheel and in doing so honour the previous generation who made for us "a pass at the infinite".

Judith February is a lawyer and columnist. She was a speaker at the "Defend democracy" virtual gathering this week.

May the tree of China-Gambia friendship be evergreen

By Ma Jianchun

March 17 marks the 5th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and The Gambia. Over the past 5 years, China and The Gambia have been working together in fostering strong friendship, and adding a new momentum to the building of a China-Africa community with a shared future.

Over the past 5 years, China-Gambia mutual political trust was elevated to a higher level. H.E. President Adama Barrow twice visited China and met with H.E. President Xi Jinping. The two leaders expressed firm support to each other on issues related to each other's core interests and major concerns. High-level exchanges between the two countries were frequent. The Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Ma Peihua attended President Barrow's inauguration ceremony as President Xi Jinping's special envoy. The Speaker of the Gambian National Assembly Mariam Jack-Denton visited China. Bilateral friendship groups were also established in the national legislatures of the two countries. The foreign ministers of China and The Gambia exchanged visits and established a ministerial consultation mechanism. On multilateral occasions, The



Gambia assured the Chinese side its firm commitment to the one-China policy, consolidating the political foundation for the comprehensive and healthy development of the bilateral relations of China and The Gambia.

Over the past 5 years, We have strengthened practical cooperation under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The establishment of the FOCAC in 2000 created the China-Africa friendship family with its own collective dialogue platform and practical cooperation mechanism. In September 2018, H.E. President Barrow went to China to attend the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and The Gambia officially joined the

FOCAC family. In the past three years, we have been actively implementing the important consensus of the two heads of state and the outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing Summit. For instance, the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center, built under the cooperation of the two countries, has been in operation and will be the main venue of the OIC 2022 Summit. The two sides are working closely on the highly-anticipated URR Road and Bridge project, it is getting close to completion, and it will effectively improve the transportation condition of people on both sides of The Gambia River. Recently, we have been working together to fight the COVID-19. The Chinese side

donated a large quantity of anti-epidemic supplies and helped The Gambia contain the virus. The Chinese anti-epidemic medical experts have provided medical treatment for the people of The Gambia, which has effectively safeguarded the lives and health of the people. Just as an ancient Chinese saying tells, there is not a spring that will not come. China will assist The Gambia in fighting the pandemic and recovering the economy, and take practical actions to implement the initiatives to assist Africa announced by President Xi Jinping at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19.

Over the past 5 years, we have seen essential progress in cultural exchanges. In October

2019, the Confucius Institute at the University of The Gambia was officially established, providing a new gateway for further mutual understanding between the people of China and that of The Gambia. In January 2020, the Gansu Provincial Art Troupe arrived in The Gambia to hold the "Happy Chinese New Year" cultural performance. The magnificent Chinese traditional singing and dancing art won high praise of the Gambians friends, adding new momentum to the deepening of the friendship of our two peoples. Under the framework of the FOCAC, we have provided nearly 900 capacity building opportunities to The Gambia and sent more than 140 students of Chinese government scholarship to study in China, nurturing economic builders of The Gambia and China-Gambia friendship ambassadors. Although China and The Gambia are culturally different and geographically far apart, both countries are committed to improving mutual understanding and sincere cooperation, as people-to-people exchanges are increasing.

All these achievements prove that the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and The Gambia served the fundamental interests of our two countries and our peoples, and was in line with the common will of the Chinese and The Gambian people for solidarity and cooperation. Undoubtedly, to restore diplomatic relations was a wise decision made by leaders of the two countries with historical and strategic thoughts.

Looking forward, we will see brighter future in China-Gambia cooperation under the framework

of FOCAC. By the end of this year, a new session of the FOCAC high-level meeting is expected to be held in Senegal. It will draw up a blueprint for China-Africa cooperation in the next three years. China is ready to take this opportunity to support Africa's efforts to defeat the virus and strengthen public health governance, to accelerate industrialization and build up capacity for self-generated development, to speed up African integration and embrace the trend of economic globalization, and to find political solutions to hotspot issues and maintain peace and stability on the continent.

As China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the press conference of Chinese National People's Congress, "China and Africa enjoy a profound friendship forged during the struggle for national independence and liberation. We are comrades-in-arms as well as brothers and sisters. This bond of friendship is growing ever stronger as time goes by. China and Africa are perpetual good friends and good partners with a shared future." We believe that with the further development and deepening of the relationship between China and The Gambia, we will see more cooperation achievements materializing in The Gambia, making positive contributions to the economic development and improvement of people's livelihood in The Gambia. I sincerely wish the tree of China-Gambia friendship be evergreen.

Ma Jianchun is Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Gambia

Canada, AfDB sign \$104.8 million gender lens Climate Fund for Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE government of Canada and the African Development Bank (AfDB) has launched the Canada-African Development Bank Climate Fund (CACF), a transformative special fund aimed at providing concessional loans to climate change-related projects with a strong gender-responsive component.

The fund will be capitalized through a combination of a CAD 122.9m (\$104.8m) repayable contri-

bution, aimed at providing concessional loans for both sovereign and non-sovereign operations plus a CAD 10 million grant contribution for complementary technical assistance. The African Development Bank will administer the fund.

Canada's Minister of International Development, Karina Gould, said the investment, with its strong gender footprint, recognized "the critical role that women need to play in climate action, and supports their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change."

"Climate change is one of the most

important challenges of our time... And, although we are all affected by it, we in Canada know that not everyone is affected equally...that means that vulnerable and marginalized people are bearing the brunt of this crisis."

As a concessional facility, CACF resources will be deployed in innovative low-carbon technologies, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, water management, and climate-resilience projects.

The fund will finance climate change related projects in the Afri-

can Development Bank's regional member countries, including those that demonstrate a strong gender equality focus.

The empowerment of women and girls will be an objective across all concessional financing of the CACF, aiming at direct, measurable gender equality outcomes.

"In building back Africa; climate resilience is very important... This is why I'm delighted and thrilled with the Canada-African Development Bank Climate Fund that we are launching today," AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina said.

He thanked Canada for its "tremendous" support to the Bank in terms of general capital increases, temporary callable capital, and the support that Canada has given to Africa through the Bank.

"These resources that you are making available, it's very unique, in helping us with adaptation. First, it is long-term financing. It will provide long-term capital to the private sector and to the public sector. It also provides it at affordable levels for countries...What I like most about it is that it looks at multi-sectoral use of this financing...all these things are

very important to support Africa in climate adaptation and mitigation," Adesina said.

"Canada has always been there for Africa...Canada is a great friend of Africa."

The African Development Bank's financing for climate has increased fourfold from 9% of its total portfolio in 2016, to 36% by 2019, and is on track to achieve its target of 40% of total portfolio by the end of 2021.

The Bank has committed to providing \$25bn in climate financing by 2025.

Study: Africa experienced 30 pc rise in COVID cases in second wave

By Special Correspondent

LOOSENING of public health measures probably contributed to the higher cases, the research published in the Lancet said.

Africa experienced a 30 percent rise in infections in its second wave of coronavirus last year but implemented fewer public health measures than in the first, research showed on Thursday.

Writing in The Lancet medical journal, researchers said the loosening of public health measures such as distancing and intermittent lockdowns probably contributed to higher death tolls during the second wave.

The study looked at COVID-19 case, death, recovery and test data carried out across all 55 Afri-

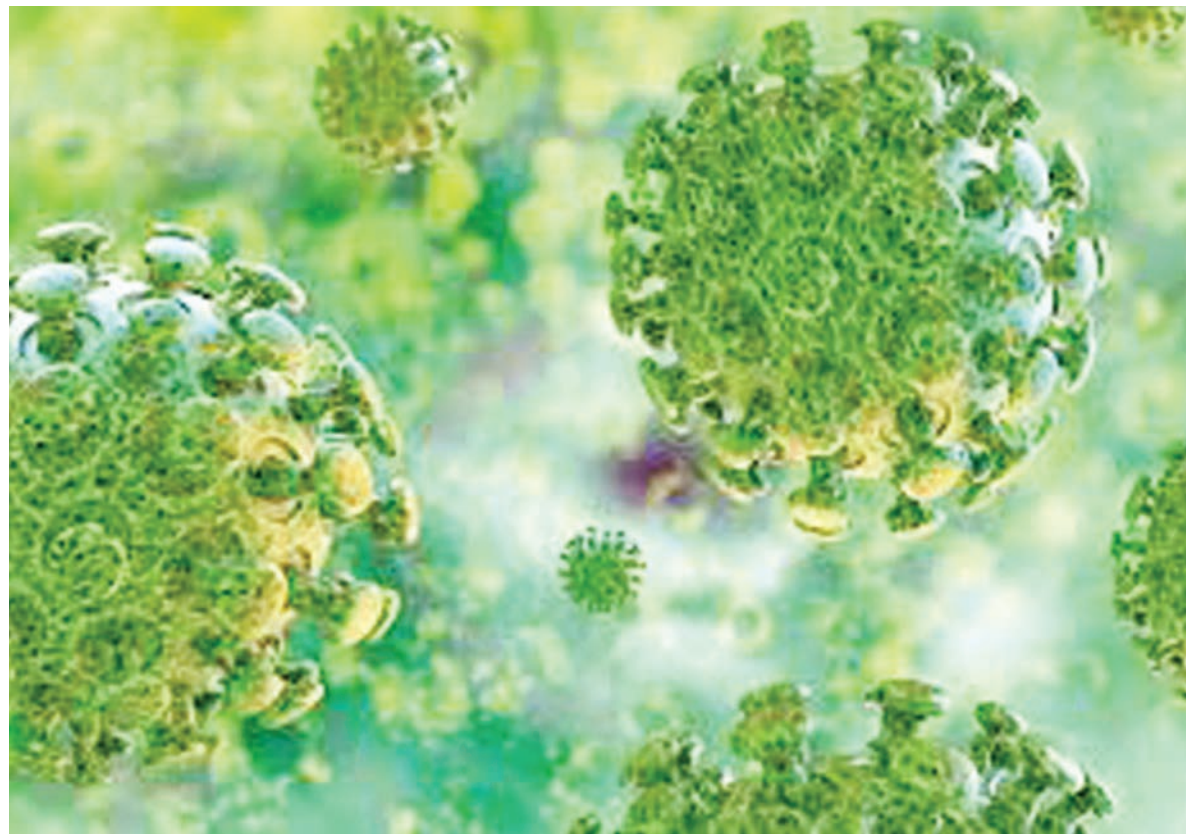
can Union member states between February 14 and December 31 2020.

Using publicly available data, it also analysed health control measures such as school closures and travel restrictions.

At the end of 2020, the continent had reported nearly 2.8 million COVID-19 cases - three percent of the global total - and just over 65,000 deaths.

Daily new cases during the first wave numbered 18,273. During the second wave this figure stood at 27,790 - a 30-percent rise.

Among the 38 nations that experienced a pronounced second wave and for which control measures were available, the study found that almost half had fewer measures in place compared with the first.



"This first comprehensive analysis of the pandemic in Africa provides greater insights into the impacts of COVID-19 on the continent as a whole, and within its diverse regions," said Dr Justin Maeda, from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

"Better understanding of the challenges posed

at national, regional, and continental levels are essential for informing ongoing efforts to tackle current outbreaks and future waves of infections."

The researchers said it was highly likely new variants had contributed to higher caseloads across the continent's second wave.

The highest incidences of cases per 100,000

population were recorded in Cape Verde (1,973), South Africa (1,819), Libya (1,526), Morocco (1,200), and Tunisia (1,191), the study showed.

And while African COVID-19 cases were not overall more deadly than the global average, this varied greatly between nations.

Of the 53 countries that reported more than

100 virus cases, one-third had case-fatality ratios - the proportion of deaths compared with total cases - higher than the global average of 2.2 percent.

"These insights reveal a need to improve testing capacity and reinvigorate public health campaigns," said John Nkengasong, a study author and virologist who is also director of Africa CDC.

Stronger data systems needed to fight poverty, says World Bank report

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has called for strengthened national data systems in order to realize the full potential of the data revolution to transform the lives of poor people.

According to the new World Development Report 2021 "Data for Better Lives, data is also a double-edged sword, requiring a social contract that builds trust by protecting people against misuse and harm, and work toward equal access and representation.

World Bank Group President, David Malpass said that data offer tremendous potential to create value by improving program and policies, driving economies, and empowering citizens.

"The perspective of poor people has largely been absent from the global debate on data governance and urgently needs to be heard. Lower-income countries are too often disadvantaged due to a lack of institutions, decision-making autonomy, and financial resources, all of which hold back their effective implementation and effectiveness of data systems and governance frameworks," he added.

Malpass said that international cooperation is needed to harmonize regulations and coordinate policies so that the value of data is harnessed to benefit all, and to inform efforts toward a green, resilient and inclusive recovery.

World Bank Group Chief Economist, Carmen Reinhart said: "Combining data from multiple sources can advance evidence-based policy making through more precise and timely statistics. The adverse effects of COVID-19 have been felt unequally, and innovative uses of data offer new opportunities to understand its spread, assess policies to mitigate it, and target government resources to the people most in need."

Data can inform policies and spur economic activity, serving as a powerful weapon in the fight against poverty. More data is available today than ever before, yet its value is largely untapped.

Data collected for public or commercial purposes, by traditional or modern methods, is being used, combined, and reused in ways that deliver benefits to many people and provide information with greater accuracy.

Better data are enhancing governments' abilities to set priorities and target resources more efficiently.

In Kenya, for example, social media, mobile phone data, and digitized official reports of traffic accidents in Nairobi identified the most dangerous roads, leading to road safety improvements to save lives.

The private sector is using data to power platform-based businesses that boost economic growth and generate international trade in services. In Haiti, technology has helped mango farmers track their produce through to final sale, eliminating many intermediaries, letting them keep more of their profits.

COVID-19 has dramatically highlighted opportunities and challenges associated with newfound uses of data. Countries have repurposed mobile phone data to monitor the virus - but have had to provide protection against harmful misuse of such data.

The abrupt shift to virtual work has also exposed a digital divide between those with access to technology and those without, serving as a reminder of the need to work toward equitable access to mobile phones and the internet for the poor and for low-income countries.

Virus containment has hindered basic data collection in numerous countries, underscoring the need for investments in infrastructure, data systems and statistical capacity.

The WB, one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries, is taking broad, fast action to help developing countries respond to the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

This includes \$12 billion to help low- and middle-income countries purchase and distribute COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments, and strengthen vaccination systems. The financing builds on the broader WB Group COVID-19 response, which is helping more than 100 countries strengthen health systems, support the poorest households, and create supportive conditions to maintain livelihoods and jobs for those hit hardest.



The Utende Beach area on Mafia Island

Mafia Island: Tanzania's true diver's paradise

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

MAFIA Island is a unique destination off Tanzania's coast with secluded sandbars, nesting turtles and migrating whale sharks. It is much less known and definitely much quieter than Zanzibar, but it offers the most incredible diving experiences and embodies the real definition of barefoot luxury.

Mafia is part of a small archipelago consisting of one large island and several smaller ones, each featuring a unique history dating back to the 8th century.

The name "Mafia" has nothing to do with Italian mobsters but

is instead derived from the Swahili mahali pa afya, meaning "a healthy dwelling-place."

Still little-known to travel agents, tour operators and travelers, Mafia is not a tourism hot spot. In fact, the local tourism authority says the island receives fewer than 7,000 tourists a year staying an average of nearly five nights. "Mafia attracts those who have a wish to get away from the crowds and explore something new and experience nature and local culture that has not been disturbed by urban or industrial development and mass tourism," its website said.

Mafia is a true water paradise with some of the richest reefs in the world. With groupers, clownfish, octopus, rays, turtles and whale sharks frequenting these warm and clear waters, the island is referred to as the coral garden of East Africa. The Mafia Island Marine Park was formed in 1995 to protect the archipelago's reefs and more than 460 species of fish.

Almost all of Mafia's best diving is at depths of less than 30 meters. Beginner divers and snorkelers will enjoy the shallow reefs of Chole Bay, and experienced divers will be able to admire a long coral wall out-

side the bay with huge stands of blue-tipped staghorn corals. Large predatory fish and turtles are common and surprisingly unaffected by approaching divers.

Juani Island

The island's conservation projects are equally impressive. On Juani Island, just off the coast of Mafia, Sea Sense is working in partnership with local communities to monitor and protect sea turtles. Travelers can witness hawksbill turtles nest on the more remote beaches and watch the tiny hatchlings emerge. Sea turtle ecotourism

provides direct benefits for communities such as the freshwater harvesting system and latrine block at Juani Primary School in Mafia Island Marine Park.

On Juani, travelers can visit the ancient city of Kua dating back to the early 12th century. The archaeological site features several mosques, a cemetery, a palace with large storeroom, a dispensary and a school, all of which were funded by the then-lucrative trade in cowrie shells. From this site, one can tell that Kua was once a place of considerable local importance.

A global south organisation: A sine qua non for developing nations' influence in world arena

By Branislav Gosovic

I observed the Group of 77 (G77) shortly after the 1964 Geneva Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the 1968 UNCTAD 2 in New Delhi and the 1972 UNCTAD 3 in Santiago. The Group was influential at the time, benefiting from several factors helpful for its functioning which are no longer present, namely:

High level leadership. Major developing countries and their leaders, who spearheaded the establishment and rise of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and then of G77, maintained close interest in activities of the two groupings. They also believed in the importance of collective action of the Global South at the UN, and provided high level political drive and direction. This kind of involvement of leaders has not been common recently.

UNCTAD Secretariat support. The G77 enjoyed substantive and logistical back-up from the UNCTAD secretariat in Geneva, and in New York where its Division on Development Finance was located. This secretariat was staffed by committed personalities, both from the North and the South, with required expertise and political outlook.

The UNCTAD secretariat acted as a "public service" offered by the UN to developing countries to assist them in their unequal, political and economic encounter with the B Group of developed countries, who controlled the world economy and were unhappy to see the Third World pressing its demands in an organized manner in the UN.

The UNCTAD secretariat also provided G77 with intellectual back-up, and assisted it to mount initiatives in trade, finance and development fields. It also offered the infrastructure, logistical and administrative support necessary for Group's functioning.

Following the launch of the New International Economic Order (NIEO) in the General Assembly, and of other joint NAM - G77 initiatives when the two groupings worked closely together, the B Group launched a drive to weaken and gradually end UNCTAD secretariat's support for developing countries' group actions arguing that this favouritism was contrary to the "neutral" posture international civil servants were required to assume in the North-South tug-of-war.

Focussed, limited of agenda. In the beginning, the G77 agenda was focussed on trade and development within purview of UNCTAD. This helped the Group evolve its positions on key items of interest to developing countries, i.e. commodities, manufactures, invisibles, development finance, transfer of technology, restrictive business



practices, as well as to organize its work, to involve developing countries governments in Group action, and to mobilize expertise and human resources required.

Activities of the Group were structured by Trade and Development Board, standing committees and conferences held every four years, patterned on the 1964 Geneva Conference.

This provided a framework and timetable for a continuing process and a set of objectives for Group's work. As the principal locus of G77 activities gradually shifted to UN HQs in New York in early 1970s and scope of its work diversified, the Group was not able to evolve its own strong support structure needed to cope with many demands of the wide-ranging UN agenda.

A few years later, I was on the South Centre staff when it cooperated closely with the Group of 77 (1991-2005), as well as with NAM, during the chairmanships of Indonesia and Colombia (1992-1998). To the extent of its limited capacities, the Centre served as their detached "outfit" to undertake assignments.

There was a demand for Centre's "pro bono" services and its contributions were used and appreciated, illustrating the need for continuous substantive support for both G77 and NAM in their work.

Today, the twin groupings of the Global South confront a wide-ranging global agenda, acting on two parallel tracks: G77 is predominantly concerned with the socio-economic questions, while NAM is focussed on political and security issues.

The two domains overlap and are interrelated, and should be dealt with in an integrated, coordinated manner. While the relations between them are cordial, coordination is ad hoc and close working relations needed to deal with these questions are lacking.

It is not easy to keep up successfully with demands that the paucity of issues on UN agenda present, more so as the Global South does

not have its own organization to back it up.

The G77 relies on the support of its own valiant very small technical secretariat and keeper of its institutional memory, which however does not have substantive capacities necessary to deal with multiple needs.

NAM, in turn, has traditionally eschewed having its own institutional support and depends on the foreign ministry of the country which happens to chair the Movement during a given three-year period.

The importance of greatly improved organization of developing countries at the global level has been self-evident for decades. It is essential for achieving their greater cohesion and utilizing more fully the potential of South-South cooperation, and for increasing their collective and national influence and role in the United Nations and on the world scene.

It is also necessary for exercising political and intellectual counterweight vis-à-vis the domineering, well-organized and equipped North. When chairing the South Commission, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, used to say "Countries and peoples of the South must work together and stand up to be counted!"

He felt that a global organization of the South would help the Third World to stand up, interact, think, work and act together, and play an important role in giving direction to multilateral policies and in shaping global futures.

It can be argued that by not building purposefully their institutional strength in the world arena, the developing countries have in effect disempowered themselves. Still, much can be done today to improve the presence of the Global South on the world scene. Developing countries have the means, resources and brains for this historic undertaking and necessity.

The idea of establishing a global organization of the South is now six decades old. When the matter

was raised in the South Commission, Manmohan Singh, member of the Commission and its Secretary-General, felt that this was unrealistic given myriads of obstacles, but concluded "unless someone was to serve it to developing countries on a silver platter".

Accepting the validity of his perceptive observation, one should consider how to provide a "silver platter" that would help leapfrog potential obstacles and opposition to the idea, and revitalize the process of gradually building-up this still-missing, South-South piece of global governance architecture of such great importance.

In the rise of the Global South, a primordial role was played by a few visionary national leaders (Nasser, Nehru, Tito) who contributed to conceptualizing ideas and goals, and then spearheaded the initiative to translate these into practice by launching NAM in 1961 and via NAM paving the way for emergence of G77 in 1964.

Later, such was the case of Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, who sought and got support of 1986 Harare NAM Summit for the establishment of the South Commission, and then convinced Mwalimu Nyerere to accept to be its Chairman.

During his chairing of the South Commission, Mwalimu Nyerere grasped the critical role of organizational support for the Global South and devoted the last decade of his life to this idea, which resulted in establishing the South Centre as an IGO intergovernmental think-tank of the Global South.

This was a major breakthrough, but only a first step which did not match the modest "South Secretariat", a medium sized (35 professionals) multifunctional set-up recommended by the South Commission in its report 1990 "The Challenge to the South".

At the 2000 South Summit in Havana, a group of developing countries' leaders headed by President Obasanjo of Nigeria, then chair of

G77, launched the initiative to upgrade the institutional machinery of the Global South by "taking over" the South Centre and transforming it into a "coordinating commission" for improving implementation and follow-up of agreed policies and decisions of the Summit.

However, since it was poorly conceived, covertly prepared without any consultation with those concerned, and foisted on the Summit at the last minute, the idea was opposed by many countries and did not get off the ground.

The next upcoming South Summit, on hold due to covid19, offers an opportunity to launch a thorough preparatory, coordination and consultation process required for establishing an Organization of the Global South. Drawing on the rich experiences accumulated, and lessons learned, it could agree on a project and a facility for such an organization.

An innovative institution is needed to serve as the home of the Global South, a nursery of ideas and

initiatives of common interest, and a reference point on complex issues on the UN agenda.

For a start, functions of a "South secretariat" recommended in the South Commission's 1990 report "The Challenge to the South", a high-level panel, including some elders who have taken part in earlier endeavours and persons with hands-on-experience of South-South cooperation, can be set up to launch this project of historic importance for the Global South in its efforts to overcome dependence and figure prominently in the changing world geo-political map.

Branislav Gosovic was on the staff of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), and South Commission. His last post, before retirement, was with the South Centre in Geneva 1991-2006.

RADIO One
1440 AM 89.7 FM
STEREO

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	COMMERCIALS
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
07.15 AM	NEWSPAPERS REVIEW
07.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI
09.00 AM	WATOTO SHOW
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.15 AM	MIWANI YA MAISHA
11:00 AM	MTAA WA MAGOMA
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	CHAGUO LAKO
15:00 HRS	MUZIKI NA MICHEZO
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.15 HRS	MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO
18:00 HRS	BONGO TEN
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.15 HRS	CHEMSHA BONGO
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW I
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	WEEK END SHOW II
23.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW III
01:00-05:00HRS	MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE

CAPITAL RADIO

07:30-10:00HRS	DK 90 DUNIANI
10:00-11:00HRS	KADOGO
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
22:00-00:00HRS	ALIYEVUMA(MARUDIO)
00:00-01:00HRS	HALI HALISI(MARUDIO)
01:00-05:00HRS	DAKIKI 90(MARUDIO)
05:00-07:00HRS	ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO(MARUDIO)

Politics and the Court of Appeal

By Reuben Abati

It is most unfortunate that the proposed appointment of new judges for Nigeria's Court of Appeal has been controversial since the announcement of a shortlist in December 2020. The President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem has now found herself in an uncomfortable situation where she has to defend the integrity of her Court and the process that led to the emergence of a list of 20 preferred candidates and a list of additional 20 reserved candidates.

To have the judiciary dragged into the mud of Nigerian politics and the usual culprits: ethnicity, religion, Federal Character and nepotism playing a prominent role in the matter, is disheartening. Why is it so difficult in Nigeria to have at least one sacred institution, a special symbol, that no one can desecrate? As it is, that seems increasingly impossible.

I asked this question as I read over the weekend, a statement attributed to the President of the

Court of Appeal, Justice Dongban-Mensem in which she had cause to protest that persons who have been complaining about the alleged manipulation of the ongoing process of appointing Judges for her Court are seeking to destabilize and scandalize the judiciary. She argues that the appointment process has so far followed "due and usual process" and that the allegation of "favouritism" is a false campaign of calumny: "A total of 80 nominees were short-listed and recommended for the appointment of 20 Justices to fill the existing vacancies.

I state on my honour that any of the 80 nominees could be appointed", she writes. "It is unfortunate that some people have elected to go to the press without hard evidence which are readily available to those who seek to know. I hereby state that the current recommendation pending determination by the National Judicial Council was done without any preference for tribe, creed or association."

The problem here is that many

stakeholders and interested parties do not think so, MiLord. Shortly after the list was made public, the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum (SMBLF) was one of the first groups to cry out in protest. The group alleged that the published list favours only Muslims from the North and does not in any way reflect the fact that Nigeria is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. Thirteen out of the 20 preferred judges are from the North, including three Sharia Judges. The SMBLF asked to know if there is no Christian judge at all from the North and the Middle Belt who can be considered good enough to be a Judge of the Appellate Court! Along the same lines, a civil society group, the Global Integrity Crusade Network (GCIN) petitioned the Chief Justice of Nigeria to ask that the National Judicial Council should not go ahead to approve the "fraudulent" list before it. Stakeholders from the South East of Nigeria also cried foul. In a petition to the President of Nigeria and the Chief Justice of the Federation, the

Alaigbo Development Foundation led by Professor Uzodinma Nwala pointed out that the proposed list of new Court of Appeal Justices is meant to deny the South East its quota in the Court of Appeal based on the principles of Federal Character as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution.

The ADF puts the matter thus: "... it is very unjust and unfair for only one Justice to be appointed from the South East out of twenty (20) justices that are being appointed from the six geo-political zones, whereas the other zones were allocated as follows: North West (8), North East (3), North Central (2) South West (4), South South (2)". Before the ADF, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) also found it necessary to express "its feelings of sadness, disgust and anger at the insensitivity demonstrated by the FJSC in compiling the list. It seems undeniable that the recklessness displayed by the FJSC suggests a steady and gradual descent (sic) to a process of Islamising the Judiciary of Nigeria..."

BUSINESS

BREAKTHROUGH

Potent turmeric extract 'likely' to protect brain from chemical exposure

NEW DELHI

A powerful turmeric extract may help protect the brain against a range of neurodegenerative diseases, including aluminium-induced neurotoxicity caused from daily exposure to chemicals in some cookware, cosmetics and medicines, a new study shows.

The study by Indian and Saudi Arabian scientists and published in the Hindawi BioMed Research International Journal, tested the neuroprotective effect of BCM-95 - a combination of turmeric extract called curcumanoids and purified turmeric essential oil.

The study found that over a 45-day period the nutraceutical solution (BCM-95) was more effective than standard turmeric extracts in mitigating the toxic effects of aluminium build-up in the brain by helping reduce oxidative

stress, increasing antioxidants in the brain tissue and improving glutathione levels.

Neuroprotective benefits included 14-times higher plasma and brain curcumin levels from BCM-95 compared with standard curcumin extracts. Chronic exposure to aluminium may cause a neuroinflammatory response, contributing to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis.

"Aluminium is unfortunately a prevalent toxin and contact with it is unavoidable in everyday life," notes Dr Benny Antony, inventor of BCM-95 which is found in highly bioavailable Bio-Curcumin. "Curcumin is known for its ability to bind to metals such as aluminium and thus could offer neuroprotection..." explains lead researcher Dr David Banji. "But poor absorption and low blood levels of free curcumin after oral intake pose a major limitation for delivering its full clinical benefits."

Health expert, Vanessa Ascencao said studies show that long-term aluminium exposure may trigger autoimmune diseases and affect immunity. "Educate yourself to reduce exposure to aluminium, exercise regularly, follow a healthy diet of organic vegetables and fruit, avoid processed foods and baked goods and try high-quality supplements like Bio-Curcumin, a potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant," said Ascencao.



RACISM

Unilever says they do not sell any products designed to lighten skin

JOHANNESBURG

Beauty and personal care conglomerate Unilever says it does not produce products designed to lighten skin tone amid its rollout of a strategy that is meant to rectify exclusionary packaging and advertising of its beauty and personal care products.

Following the announcement of the strategy, which the company said takes effect immediately, Keegan Alicks, Southern Africa beauty and personal care category director at Unilever, says the company is "working to end discrimination in the beauty and personal care industry."

"We don't sell any products designed to lighten skin tone or which contain skin lightening compounds," Keegan adds. The owner of controversial brands Dove and Glow & Lovely (previously named Fair & Lovely) also announced it will remove the word 'normal' from all packaging and advertising and will not digitally alter a person's body shape, size, proportion of skin colour in its brand advertising and will stop digitally altering a people's body shape, size, proportion of skin colour in its advertising.

This announcement comes on the heels of widespread backlash based on the issue of skin-lightening, when Unilever announced it will rename its Indian cosmetic product Fair & Lovely to Glow and Lovely while its formula. In tandem with its most recent global announcement, Unilever maintains it does not sell skin-lightening products but will be modifying its formula, however, only to accommodate changes in its packaging. In line with its new inclusion



Keegan Alicks, Southern Africa beauty and personal care category director at Unilever.

strategy Unilever has also announced plans to reduce its impact on the environment by modifying its packaging through increasing the amount of packaging that contains recycled materials. This is in addition to ensuring all packaging is designed to be recycled as the company works on creating alternatives that don't need plastic at all. It is with regard to this that the formula and design of products are being reconsidered. "This transformation is about

changes like using sustainable oils from deforestation-free sources, shifts in product formulation that work better in recycled packaging or finding ways to use more ingredients from local suppliers so we avoid shipping materials across the globe," says Keegan.

After years of global public outcry about its various brands, most recently Dove and TRESemmé, Unilever commissioned a study, which found South Africans think labels on beauty products contribute

to narrow beauty ideals. This is with 71 percent of those surveyed thinking that non-inclusive beauty product packaging and advertising has a negative impact on people.

Sunny Jain, Unilever president of beauty and personal care, says, "With more consumers than ever rewarding brands which take action on the social and environmental issues they care about, we believe that Positive Beauty will make us a stronger, and more successful business."

GENEROSITY



Andrea Mason jogs in Cape Town.

UK athlete on drive to provide sanitary pads to girls in Stellenbosch

STELLENBOSCH

British endurance athlete Andrea Mason is on a quest to raise funds to provide underprivileged girls in Stellenbosch with free reusable sanitary pads.

Mason launched her charity, Lady Talk Matters, in Stellenbosch early last year and now works to empower young women and raise awareness about "period poverty" and "female reproductive health."

The charity will manufacture affordable reusable sanitary pads and distribute them for free to girls and women in the area. "Fifty percent of the population living in Kayamandi is female and an estimated 75% of those women are unable to afford basic period products," Mason said. She added about 30% of South African girls miss school due to their monthly period.

Being a cervical cancer survivor herself, Mason said besides the concerning figures,

female reproductive health and menstrual health were still very much taboo and unspoken about. Along with the distribution of the pads, the charity will provide women and girls with education and necessary support surrounding their reproductive and menstrual health.

Each sanitary package contains three reusable sanitary towels and costs R100 to manufacture per pack, a cost which will be covered by the Lady Talk Matters charity. The packages are set to provide women and girls with sanitary products for three years.

The plan will also serve as a job creation project as women from the community will be employed by Lady Talk Matters to sew the period products needed for the project," Mason added. The athlete, who spends five months of the year training in Stellenbosch, said once she

discovered the challenges local women faced, it was a natural step to extend the work of Lady Talk Matters from Great Britain to South Africa.

"With the project just having gotten underway, I am looking forward to seeing how the efforts of Lady Talk Matters helps with the crisis of period poverty, allowing women to lead fulfilled lives without the monthly worry that the cost, inconvenience and embarrassment of the natural cycle of menstruation brings," she added.

Mason will attempt to swim 36km across False Bay from Miller's Point to Rooi Els, on her first endurance challenge in South Africa, to raise money for her charity. The 36km swim, will be followed by a 360km bike ride to the base of the Seweweekspoort in the Klein Karoo, ending in a hike to the top of Seweweekspoortpiek, the highest mountain peak in the Western Cape.

PROTEST

Hotel Rwanda 'star' Paul Rusesabagina quits trial, says he expects no justice

KIGALI

Paul Rusesabagina, a Rwandan government critic who was hailed as a hero during the 1994 bloodbath inspired hit movie Hotel Rwanda, has been charged with nine offences, including "terrorism" for starting an armed group in recent years that is accused of staging deadly attacks within Rwanda.

The 66-year-old had been living in exile abroad but was mysteriously taken back to Rwanda in late August when he was presented to the media at the headquarters of the Rwanda Investigations Bureau in Kigali.

Rusesabagina has said he was kidnapped, after being tricked into getting onto a plane to Rwanda's capital, when he thought he was going to neighbouring Burundi. Rwandan Justice Minister Johnston Busingye admitted in an interview with Al Jazeera last month that the government had paid for the flight. Deadly attacks

Rusesabagina has admitted to helping form the National Liberation Front (FLN), but denied any role in its crimes. Rwandan authorities blamed the FLN for a series of deadly attacks in 2018. At Wednesday's hearing, a letter from Nyarugenge Prison where Rusesabagina is being held was read out, saying that he would no longer attend the trial.

"He told Nyarugenge jail that he will never again appear before this court, not just today but even for future hearings. He said that he does not expect any justice from this court," according to the letter, written by Michel Ka-

mugisha, the prison's director.

Presiding judge Antoine Muhima ruled the trial would continue. "Rusesabagina chose not to attend this hearing. He has a right to do so but choosing not to appear does not stop the trial from proceeding," Muhima said, according to the AFP news agency.

During his last appearance on 12 March, when the court ruled against Rusesabagina's request to have six months to prepare his defence, he said he was quitting the trial as "my basic rights to defend myself and to have a fair trial were not respected." Rusesabagina's

family insists that he has not been given access to more than 5 000 pages of documents in his case file.

He is also being tried alongside 20 others accused of terrorism, "all of whom pled guilty and incriminated him", according to Kitty Kurth, spokesperson for Rusesabagina's Hotel Rwanda Foundation. "President [Paul] Kagame has publicly pronounced that Paul [Rusesabagina] is guilty of the charges, effectively obliterating his right to be presumed innocent."

PESSIMISM

Instant coffee may soon be at risk from Suez blockage

AMSTERDAM

The vessel blocking passage in one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints isn't just curbing shipments of crude oil and liquefied natural gas, but also containers of robusta coffee - the type used in Nescafe. Europe is most affected as it imports through the Suez, but the impact will be felt globally as the shipping delays exacerbate a shortage of containers that upended food markets.

The massive container ship Ever Given became jammed in the key trade route on Tuesday, blocking passage for ships hauling almost \$10 billion of goods through the Egyptian waterway. Dislodging the 200 000-ton vessel could take days or even weeks, and a logjam around the canal has already doubled.

"For traders, they are going to scramble to supply their clients in Europe," said Jan Luhmann, founder of JL Coffee Consulting and a former head coffee buyer at Jacobs Douwe Egberts BV, one of the world's largest coffee roasters. "Resolving this is going to take a few days if we are lucky, but even so, a lot of damage has already been done."

About 12% of global trade goes through the Suez, and the



Instant coffee cans.

waterway is more known for its role in energy markets than agricultural commodities like coffee. Still, only two major robusta coffee producers - Brazil and Ivory Coast - don't use this key route to reach major consumers in Europe.

Coffee conundrum

Coffee roasters in the continent had already been struggling to get coffee from Vietnam, the world's largest robusta producer, due to a shortage of shipping containers. Just when the availability of boxes started improving, the canal blockage brought another headache. All of the beans Europe imports from East Africa and Asia flow through the Suez.

"Can roasters support two to three weeks of delays? Probably not," said Raphaele Hemmerlin, head of logis-

tics at Swiss coffee trader Sucafina SA. "I don't think they have the buffer stock that they normally have."

What's more, the disruption will have a global impact as it holds back containers, exacerbating the global shortage that's already pushed US inventories to a six year-low. Boxes will not only be stuck at ships in the canal, but when traffic clears up, they will back up at ports like Antwerp and Rotterdam, said Hans Hendriksen, who has traded cocoa and coffee for 40 years. "Logistics will be disturbed more the longer it takes to solve the problem," said Hendriksen, who now advises exporters as well as small and medium sized traders.

Unlike roasters in the US, Europe's coffee makers can't as easily use supplies of robusta coffee from Brazil due to the taste of their products. As a

result, some roasters in the continent recently turned to supplies from East Africa to bridge the shortfall of robusta beans from Vietnam, buying up supplies from places like Uganda or the milder-tasting arabica beans from the region.

But those beans also travel via the Suez. Traders who have them stored in European warehouses are charging a hefty premium in the physical market. At the peak of the container squeeze, traders were demanding \$450 a metric ton above the exchange price for Vietnamese coffee held in Europe, three times the normal rate.

"Inventory in Europe is very tight and I expect the spot market in will be on fire," JL Coffee Consulting's Luhmann said. "Inventory in Vietnam is comfortable, but what's the value of that if you can't get it to Europe?"

Brazil has so far benefited from price dislocations caused by the container shortage that first hit Vietnam at the end of last year. The No. 2 robusta producer exported a record 4.9 million bags of the coffee in 2020, a 24% increase from a year earlier, according to

industry group Cecafe.

A question of taste

Still, most of those beans ended up in exchange-certified stockpiles instead of with roasters. That's because replacing Vietnamese coffee with Brazilian beans would change the taste of the final product for consumers. East African beans are a better replacement. "Will roasters change their recipes?" Sucafina's Hemmerlin said. "It's not so simple."

Container lines A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S and Hapag-Lloyd AG said they are considering sending ships around Africa to avoid the Suez gridlock, while Torm A/S, a Danish owner of tankers, said its clients have asked about the cost of options to divert. Even if that happens, it would still take time to clear a queue of vessels.

"If this lasts another day or two, that will mean about a week of delay, so there won't be much of an impact," Hemmerlin said. "Beyond that, with the freight issues we already have out of Asia, freight prices will increase further." "For me, it's just adding more problems to the whole supply chain," she said.

PETITIONING

Destruction of fig tree planted seven years ago sees firm facing legal trouble

NAIROBI

Three activists in Homa Bay County have sued the Coca-Cola Company for allegedly destroying a "sacred" fig tree that was planted by ODM leader Raila Odinga at Posta Grounds in Homa Bay town seven years ago.

The activists have asked the court to compel the beverage making company to facilitate Mr Odinga to visit Homa Bay and plant another tree, locally referred to as Bongu at the same spot where he had planted the one that was destroyed.

On March 25, 2017, a Toyota pickup from one of Coca Cola bottlers crushed the tree while reversing near Bunge grounds, prompting the court suit. ODM supporters, who used to water the plant every morning, demanded action against the driver after reporting the matter at Homa Bay police station under OB number 16/25/3/2017.

Evanco Oloo, Micheal Kojo and Walter Opiyo filed a case under certificate of urgency before an Environment and Land Court in Migori County on Tuesday saying a fig tree, under traditional beliefs, is handled with care.

Justice George Ongondo of the Environment and Land Court has scheduled the case for hearing from June 21, with the activists expected to file submissions during the hearing of the case. Coca-Cola Company Limited, Kisii Bottlers, and Almasi Beverages have been listed as the first, second and third respondents respectively.

Almasi Beverages operated Kisii Bottlers, Mount Kenya Bottlers based in Nyeri and Rift Valley Bottlers in Uasin Gishu County before it was acquired by Coca-Cola Beverages Africa on June 12, 2019. Coca-Cola is said to have made attempts to bring a replica of the tree which failed to impress some ODM supporters.

An assessment from Kenya Forest Services (KFS) in April 2017 estimated the cost of the tree to be about Sh68,000. Mr Odinga planted the controversial fig tree on August 2, 2014 when he toured Homa Bay town for a political function and to usher in the devolved system of government.

Members of Bunge la Wenye Nchi, a group of local activists in Homa Bay believed the tree was meant to rescue Nyanza from political and economic woes. In central Kenya, the fig tree or Mugumo tree (Ficus Sycomorus) is considered sacred as fear would always grip the whole community when it falls down or gets destroyed.

ENTERPRISING

Creative artist making money from paper guns

KIGALI

BENOIT IMENA is a proficient and unrivalled artist who would make you believe that without art, the world would be a boring place to be.

In addition to painting, realistic pencil drawing and design, the 19-year-old's other craft is in making paper guns that are used in movies. With his left hand, he sketches out anything his mind lands on, for instance; people, landscape, walls, nature

or anything his clients want, and with a mixture of diverse colours, the outcome is amazing.

Imena's love for making guns started at a tender age. He was passionate about toy guns that his parents gifted him with some on special occasions. Like any inquisitive child, he sought means of how such guns are made. He checked out YouTube tutorials and before long, he had started making guns out of cardboards.

Some of his 'guns' have

been used in local movies such as; "Killerman series", "Major series", "Pattyno comedy" and "Mistustu na boss" and featured in a music video titled, "Game Zanjye" by Fizzo Mason, among others in production.

The youngster shared that it takes him about two to three days to complete one gun, depending on the type and size and each of his guns goes for Rwf 15,000. When it comes to painting, some portraits take him about

two days and others such as landscapes, about four days to perfect. This is because they are complicated and require more creativity.

He also recalls starting to draw as early as the age of 10. One time while in Primary level, a teacher asked students in his class to draw a car, but was mesmerized at what Imena had drawn. It was so perfect that he was awarded with a prize.

In 2017 he sold his first artwork and that pushed

him to do better. It was also the same year that he attended a school competition where he made an AKA-47 paper gun that left people turning heads in awe of his talent that he won the competition.

On joining Ecole d'art De Nyundo, he was exposed to real art as he learned new techniques that helped him polish his talent. He was equipped with skills in drawing, painting, decorating, design and so forth.

He has so far started to enjoy the fruits of his work. He earns money out of it and he has grown his network too. According to the artist, it's those little steps that keep him moving forward. He is anticipating that his talent will be recognized not only in Rwanda but also beyond.

He wants to be among the artists that are invited to attend different art exhibitions and he is looking forward to building an art gallery to showcase all his artwork and teach youngsters talented in art how to draw and paint. Imena also wishes to work with promoters to not only promote his art but also other Rwandan artists' locally and internationally, not underestimating the

power of social media as well. But rather use it to share the immense Rwandan talents.

"My wish is to see that my guns are used in many movies and music videos in and outside Rwanda and I am optimistic that this will come to pass," he says. Besides the costly materials, Imena says that some of them are not easily accessed. But also, he was dismayed that he doesn't have any art galleries to display his artwork yet.



Benoit Imena at work.



Raila Odinga plants his fig tree at Posta Grounds in Homa Bay town.

CONCERN

Easter rules are needed, say liquor makers - but don't ban booze until hospitals get full

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa needs a "swift response" before a potential third wave of coronavirus infections, groups representing much of South Africa's liquor trade say - but that should not include any bans on the sale of alcoholic drinks.

Instead the government should lengthen curfew, and reduce the number of people allowed to gather, ahead of Easter weekend. Restrictions on liquor, on the other hand, should be reserved "only if hospital capacity becomes severely stretched", said the groups in a joint statement.

Between them, the bodies represent makers of beer, wine, and spirits, as well retailers. These businesses have lost revenues of R36.3 billion during South Africa's last three alcohol bans, the organisations say, "putting 200,200 jobs at risk in the nation's informal and formal economy."

"A further ban would cause irreversible damage to small and medium sized businesses that would be unlikely to survive. Meanwhile, the illicit trade has taken root and is building momentum, and this poses an enormous risk to society in the longer term." Instead their recommendations to Nedlac

include going back to a curfew that starts at 23:00 instead of the current midnight, and limiting gatherings to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. News24 this week reported that science advisors had recommended the National Coronavirus Command Council put South Africa back on Alert Level 2

for the Easter holidays.

Significant debate is understood to be ongoing about the size of church gatherings that should be allowed, or banned. There has been no official word on the likelihood of a harder lockdown, nor of plans to limit alcohol sales in any way.

ACTIVISM

Why thousands of women in India are sharing pictures of themselves dressed in ripped jeans

NEW DELHI

Over the past week, #RippedJeans has been trending online after thousands of women across India posted pictures of themselves wearing them. But the trend is far from a fashion statement. It is an open act of defiance.

It all started when Tirath Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, made a comment about ripped jeans while at a workshop on substance abuse, organised by the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in Dehradun.

Mr Rawat recalled being on a plane when he saw a woman who was wearing jeans torn at the knees. He said it caused him to question her morality.

Mr Rawat said the woman, he said, was a charity worker and was accompanied by two children.

"You run an NGO, wear ripped jeans, move about in society with children. What values will you teach?" he was caught on camera saying. He criticised her for copying western culture, saying people in India were now wearing ripped jeans while those in other countries are covering up and practising yoga.

Hours after Mr Rawat made his comments, they went viral online, with the hashtags #RippedJeans and #RippedJeansTwitter trending for days. Hundreds of women have taken to Twitter to post pictures of themselves in ripped jeans and tagging Rawat. His comments seem to



From right; Karishma Mehta, founder of Humans of Bombay, actress Kangana Ranaut and actress Gul Panag have shared snaps of themselves in ripped looks.

have spurred an increased love for the garment, as more women promised to wear them.

"A message to society: #rippedjeans or otherwise, leave us and our choices alone" tweeted Karishma Mehta, founder of the Humans of Bombay page. Actress Gul Panag simply shared a picture of herself wearing them. Another actress, Shruti Seth, shared a tweet saying she was "ripping all her jeans."

Yet another actress, Kangana Ranaut, weighed in by sharing a snap of herself in ripped jeans, along with advice to make sure it looks like "your style, not your state as a homeless beggar." Here is a look at some of the best reactions to the minister's con-

troversal comments.

Blogger Ginia said it was time to "rip apart the glass ceiling of misogyny": Karishma Mehta, founder of Humans of Bombay, got involved: As did actress Gul Panag; Architect Seetu Mahajan Kohli said it was the "narrow-minded brains that needed mending", not the jeans. Entrepreneur Vishakha said a picture was worth a thousand words.

And journalist Rohini Singh said she stood in solidarity with the woman to whom Rawat was referring. Mr Rawat has since issued an apology for his statement, saying he did not mean to offend anyone and was broadly speaking about inculcating good values and discipline in children.

GLOBETROTTER

Woman who is the youngest person to travel to all 197 countries in the world

LOS ANGELES

Most people don't participate in social media challenges, but for once, there's a challenge we would all like to be a part of, and that is to beat the record of a 22-year-old who has reached every country in the world.

Lexie Alford started travelling when she was young; her mom, a woman who began a travelling agency at the age of 19, would pull her out of school to join her exploring. "This lifestyle meant that by the time I was 18, I had travelled to around 70 countries already. I had graduated early from high school and got my associates degree by 18," says Lexie.

When she was 12-years-old, she dreamt of experiencing what it would be like to live for one year with no school and no work. "So I saved up a crazy amount, so I could take this gap year and travel the world." Although travelling for Lexie has been a natural evolution with her mom owning a travel agency, she intentionally broke the record.

"I wanted to see as much as I could and learn as much as I could. It was during that gap year that it dawned on me: how many countries are there? I was only 18, and I knew I had some time to do it," she says. "So I Googled the youngest person to travel to every country, and James Asquith's Guinness World Record came up. When I saw that, I knew I would regret it for the rest of my life if I didn't at least try."

Her entire travelling experience was self-funded; she also worked for her mom, saved up, and while travelling, she learned about blogging and making money off social media. The North California traveller lists five out of the 197 countries she's been to as her favourites for different reasons.



Lexie Alford with Madagascan children.

"I love Indonesia because of the diving. I'm a diver, and the underwater world there is fascinating. Venezuela, because of its natural beauty and the kindness of the people. Pakistan was the most hospitable place and the people I visited. It has an incredible mountain landscape as well. Egypt for the history - its preservation is incredible. You can still see the paint and smoke on the walls inside the Great Pyramids. And Iceland. It's just such a unique island, the most unique place in the worlds," she adds.

Lexie is well aware of the dangers of travelling alone as a young woman; however, the 22-year-old has been to fifty countries alone in eight months. "Taking the first step into solo travel doesn't have to be huge. You don't have to go to a completely different culture, with a completely different language, and try to figure it out. A neighbouring city, a closer country," she says.

"Just somewhere you can be with yourself and your thoughts, you can slowly ease into these things and start learning how to navigate the world. But it teaches us how to be grateful: for the people, we have in our lives, the experiences we have in our lives," she concludes.

I wanted to see as much as I could and learn as much as I could. It was during that gap year that it dawned on me: how many countries are there? I was only 18, and I knew I had some time to do it



ITV

MONDAY 08 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera News
12:30	Mtego rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:10	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Aibu yako rpt
18:15	Mapishi
18:45	Kesho leo
19:00	Afya ya Jamii
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

TUESDAY 09 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:30	Jungu kuu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	DWTV: Kesho leo rpt
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
19:00	Uchumi na biashara
19:30	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Ripoti Maalum: Mafuriko

WEDNESDAY 10 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama rpt: Jumong
19:00	Ijue Sheria
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: Wild Skin
22:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

THURSDAY 11 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Shamba lulu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum: Mafuriko D'Salaam
13:30	Kipindi Maalum: Wild Skin
13:55	Habari za saa
14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi rpt
18:30	Jagina

FRIDAY 12 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:30	Usafiri wako rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Jagina rpt
13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kiisiam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

SATURDAY 13 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15	Korean drama rpt: Jumong
13:45	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20	Igizo: Mtego
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean drama: Jumong
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Art and lifestyle
21:30	ITV TOP 10
22:10	Isidingo rpt
00:30	DWTV

SUNDAY 14 March

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

MONDAY 08 March

6:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00	Eco@Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
22:00	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Mon 08 March

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00	Eco@Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
22:00	Al Jazeera

Tues 09 March

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Innovation
19:30	Jagina rpt
20:00	Series: Beats of Love
20:45	Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30	Capital Prime
22:00	Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30	Eco@Africa
23:00	Al Jazeera

Wed 10 March

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00	Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	The Décor
20:00	Korean Drama: Iris
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Movie: A Stranger in Town (tape no:5335)
23:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
01:00	Al Jazeera

Sun 14 March

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Korean Drama rpt: Iris
12:00	Jagina rpt

WORLD

US COVID response could have avoided hundreds of thousands of deaths - research

WASHINGTON

THE United States squandered both money and lives in its response to the coronavirus pandemic, and it could have avoided nearly 400,000 deaths with a more effective health strategy and trimmed federal spending by hundreds of billions of dollars while still supporting those who needed it.

That is the conclusion of a group of research papers released at a Brookings Institution conference this week, offering an early and broad start to what will likely be an intense effort in coming years to assess the response to the worst pandemic in a century.

U.S. COVID-19 fatalities could have stayed under 300,000, versus a death toll of 540,000 and rising, if by last May the country had adopted widespread mask, social distancing, and testing protocols while awaiting a vaccine, estimated Andrew Atkeson, economics professor at University of California, Los Angeles.

He likened the state-by-state, patchwork response to a car's cruise control. As the virus worsened people hunkered down, but when the situation improved

restrictions were dropped and people were less careful, with the result that "the equilibrium level of daily deaths ... remains in a relatively narrow band" until the vaccine arrived.

Atkeson projected a final fatality level of around 670,000 as vaccines spread and the crisis subsided. The outcome, had no vaccine been developed, would have been a far-worse 1.27 million, Atkeson estimated.

The economic response, while mammoth, also could have been better tailored, argued University of California, Berkeley economics professor Christine Romer. She joins former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and several others from the last two Democratic administrations in criticizing the spending authorized since last spring, including the Biden team's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan.

While she said the federal government's more than \$5 trillion in pandemic-related spending won't likely trigger a fiscal crisis, she worries that higher-priority investments will be deferred because of allocations to initiatives like the Paycheck Protection Program.



Nurse practitioner Nicole Monk, 44, receives a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination at the LA Mission homeless shelter on Skid Row, in Los Angeles, California, U.S., February 10, 2021. (File photo)

Those forgivable small business loans were "an interesting and noble experiment," but were also "problematic on many levels," including an apparent cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars for each job saved, she said.

"Spending on programs such as unemployment compensation and public health was exactly what was called for," she wrote, but other aspects, particularly the generous one-time payments to families, were "largely ineffective and wasteful."

"If something like the \$1 trillion spent on stimulus payments that did little to help those most affected by the pandemic ends up precluding spending \$1 trillion on infrastructure or climate change in the next few years, the United States will have made a very bad bargain indeed," Romer wrote.

Biden administration officials, including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, argue the full package was needed to be sure all workers and families are kept economically intact until the job market recovers.

In a separate paper, Minneapolis Federal Reserve researchers Krista Ruffini and Abigail Wozniak concluded the

federal programs largely did what they intended by supporting income and spending, with the impact seen in how consumption changed in response to the approval and lapse of different government payments.

But they also found room for improvement.

Evidence of the PPP's effectiveness in job retention, for example, was "mixed," they found, and increases in food assistance didn't account for things like higher grocery prices.

"Food insecurity remained elevated throughout 2020," they noted.

The aim now, they said, should be on determining what worked in order to make the response to any similar crisis more effective.

"The 2020 social insurance system response had many successes," they said. "Given the scope and scale of the pandemic response, it is critical we continue to evaluate these efforts to understand the full extent of their reach, which populations were helped, who was left out."

Canada calling? Hong Kong residents shift billions abroad after clampdown

TORONTO

AS China imposed a sweeping national security law in Hong Kong last year after massive protests, residents of the city moved tens of billions of dollars across the globe to Canada, where thousands are hoping to forge a new future.

Capital flows out of Hong Kong banks reaching Canada rose to their highest levels on record last year, with about C\$43.6 billion (\$34.8 billion) in electronic funds transfers (EFT) recorded by FINTRAC, Canada's anti-money laundering agency, which receives reports on transfers above C\$10,000.

The previously unreported outflows, the highest since 2012 when the earliest FINTRAC records are available, are the first evidence of a significant flight of capital overseas from the Asian financial hub following the security turmoil.

One Canadian lender, Equitable Bank, also told Reuters it had seen a surge in deposits from Hong Kong just after the new law was introduced in June 2020. Critics say the law was aimed at stifling dissent, an allegation denied by Beijing which says it was needed to strengthen national security.

The Hong Kong government has said the city has not seen significant capital outflows since the anti-government unrest first began in 2019, when a now-shelved bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China was proposed.

The record transfers, up 46% from 2016 and up 10% from 2019, came in a year when Hong Kong police froze the accounts of several people linked to pro-democracy protests, triggering concern among some residents about asset safety.

The outflows represent only 1.9% of Hong Kong's total bank deposits in 2020. But, at the same time, the FINTRAC data captures only a fraction of total legal inflows into the Canadian economy because many transactions are not included, such as transfers via cryptocurrencies, between financial institutions, or under C\$10,000, said spokesman Darren Gibb.

The agency has seen a steady increase in overall EFT reporting, consistent with global trends, he said.

And it's not just money.

Reuters interviewed a dozen immigration consultants, lawyers, and real estate brokers who provided a window into how many Hong Kong residents are eager to start a new life in Canada and bring with them millions of dollars, once pandemic-induced travel restrictions end.

Canadian visa applications from Hong Kong, excluding visitors' visas, rose 10% to 8,121 in 2020, indicating further capital flows from the city are likely. Britain and Australia are expected to be other favored destinations for Hong Kong residents.

Andrew Lo, chief executive of immigration consultancy Anlex in Hong Kong, is looking to expand into wealth management services in Canada, which he believes will be "a booming market for new immigrants, especially from Hong Kong."

Lo said he helped around 36 families emigrate to Canada in the past 12 months, each bringing C\$1.5 million on average.

HONG KONG INFLOWS SWELL

Despite the cash leaving Hong Kong, it continues to receive inflows on a net basis, with total deposits growing by 5.4% in 2020 to HK\$14.5 trillion (\$1.9 trillion), according to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

"As an international financial center (IFC), Hong Kong handles capital inflows and outflows which arise from all sorts of needs on a regular basis," a central bank spokeswoman told Reuters in response to the questions about outflows to Canada.

"This is just normal in keeping with the nature and function of an IFC."

Robust cash flows from mainland China via the Stock Connect initiative and strong demand for some of Hong Kong's initial public offerings (IPOs) last year have helped capital inflows into Hong Kong, analysts and bankers have said.

Canada is a second home for many Hong Kong residents after their families moved to the Vancouver and Toronto areas ahead of the British handover of its former colony to China in 1997. After obtaining Canadian citizenship, many returned to Hong Kong, which is now home to about 300,000 Canadians - one of the largest Canadian communities abroad.

But following the 2020 security law, more Hong Kong residents want to make their home in Canada, which took steps here late last year to make it easier for them to obtain work permits and permanent residency, according to immigration consultants and lawyers.

The residents cite eroding rights and freedoms, and a better education for their children as reasons for their choice, and many are selling their Hong Kong properties and bringing their money with them, they said. **Agencies**

China announces sanctions on 9 British individuals, 4 entities

BEIJING

CHINA yesterday announced sanctions on relevant British individuals and entities.

According to a statement by a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, the United Kingdom (UK) imposed unilateral sanctions on relevant Chinese individuals and entity, citing the so-called human rights issues in Xinjiang.

"This move, based on nothing but lies and disinformation, flagrantly breaches international law and basic norms governing international relations, grossly interferes in China's internal affairs, and severely undermines China-UK relations," said the statement.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has summoned British Ambassador to China to

lodge solemn representations, expressing firm opposition and strong condemnation.

The Chinese side decides to sanction the following nine individuals and four entities on the UK side that maliciously spread lies and disinformation: Tom Tugendhat, Iain Duncan Smith, Neil O'Brien, David Alton, Tim Loughton, Nusrat Ghani, Helena Kennedy, Geoffrey Nice, Joanne Nicola Smith Finley, China Research Group, Conservative Party Human Rights Commission, Uyghur Tribunal, and Essex Court Chambers.

"As of today, the individuals concerned and their immediate family members are prohibited from entering the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao of China. Their property in



This undated photo shows the building of China's Foreign Ministry.

China will be frozen, and Chinese citizens and institutions will be prohibited from doing business with them. China reserves the right to take further

measures," said the statement.

China is firmly determined to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests, and warns the

UK side not go further down the wrong path. Otherwise, China will resolutely make further reactions, said in the statement. **Xinhua**

US Supreme Court widens ability to sue police for excessive force

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday expanded the ability of people to sue police for excessive force, ruling in favor of a New Mexico woman who filed a civil rights lawsuit after being shot by officers she had mistaken for carjackers.

The 5-3 decision allowed the woman, Roxanne Torres, to pursue her lawsuit accusing New Mexico State Police officers Richard Williamson and Janice Madrid of violating

the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment ban on illegal searches and seizures even though she had not been immediately detained, or seized, in the incident.

The court determined that in order to sue for excessive force under the Fourth Amendment, it is not necessary for a plaintiff to have been physically seized by law enforcement.

"We hold that the application of physical force to the body of a person with intent to restrain is a seizure even if

the person does not submit and is not subdued," conservative Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the ruling.

Roberts was joined in the decision by the court's three liberals and one of his fellow conservatives, Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Three other conservatives justices dissented.

The newest justice, conservative Amy Coney Barrett, did not participate because she had not yet joined the court when the case was argued in October. In a dissenting opin-

ion, conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch said a "seizure" under the Fourth Amendment has always been defined as "taking possession of someone or something," and he criticized the court's contrary conclusion.

"That view is as mistaken as it is novel," Gorsuch wrote.

The case will now return to lower courts, where the officers could seek to have the lawsuit dismissed on other grounds including the legal doctrine called qualified im-

munity that protects police and other types of government officials from civil litigation in certain circumstances.

In the 2014 incident, four officers arrived at an apartment complex in Albuquerque and approached Torres, who was sitting in a car. Torres said she fled when she saw people with guns approaching, thinking she was going to be carjacked. Madrid and Williamson fired 13 shots between them, hitting her twice in the back as she drove away in her car.

New changes to draft outline of China's 14th Five-Year Plan

THE draft outline of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the first five-year period after the country embarked on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country, charts the route for China's development with 20 indicators in five categories covering economic development, innovation, well-being of the people, green development, and security guarantee.

Like the country's previous five-year plans for national economic and social development, the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan, which was reviewed at the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top

legislature, places indicators of economic development top on the list.

However, instead of setting specific anticipatory indicators for annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP), the new five-year blueprint says the country will keep GDP growth within an appropriate range and set annual targets in light of actual circumstances.

Such narrative marks the first time that the country describes its economic development targets in its Five-Year Plans with mainly qualitative expression and only implicit quantitative expression, said Hu Zucui, deputy director of China's National Development

and Reform Commission (NDCR) at a press conference held by the country's State Council Information Office (SCIO) on Monday.

China will formulate and implement a 10-year action plan for basic research, according to the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan, which specifies for the first time the proportion of China's basic research expenditure in the country's total spending on research and development (R&D).

Government funding for basic research is expected to account for over 8 percent of China's total expenditure on R&D by 2025, said Hu, adding that it sends a

clear signal that China is going to pay increasing attention to basic research.

Seven of the 20 major indicators of economic and social development in the new five-year plan are directly related to people's well-being, representing the highest proportion of such indicators in the country's five-year plans, Hu noted, adding that the seven indicators cover such fields as employment, income, education, healthcare, elderly care, and childcare.

Three of the seven indicators are new ones, namely keeping the surveyed urban unemployment rate under 5.5 percent

during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, increasing the number of certified (assistant) doctors to 3.2 per 1,000 population by 2025, and raising the number of nursery school places for infants under three years old to 4.5 per 1,000 population by 2025.

As China is expected to enter a moderately aging society during its 14th Five-Year Plan period, the draft outline of the new five-year plan therefore responded to concerns about relevant problems by stressing the implementation of a national strategy for addressing population aging, according to Hu.

China will make more efforts

to develop elderly care services that are accessible for all, build a system that integrates home, communities and healthcare facilities, improve the network of community and home-based services for elderly care, and make public facilities more elderly-friendly, so as to improve its capacity to provide elderly care services and the quality of such services, Hu said, citing the new five-year plan.

According to Hu, the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan includes a special section for safe development, a first in the history of the country's five-year plans.

People's Daily

Japan complains over US military's use of term 'East Sea'

TOKYO/SEOUL

THE US military landed in hot water with Japanese officials on Thursday when a spokesman used the term "East Sea" to refer to the wedge of sea between Japan, Russia, and the Korean peninsula where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) fired suspected missiles earlier in the day.

"We are aware of North Korean missile launches this morning into the East Sea," the US Indo-Pacific Command spokesman Captain Mike Kafka said in the only initial official statement from the US government.

The DPRK, which is also referred to as North Korea, launched two suspected missiles into the sea near Japan. The US military's use of the term "East Sea" made a splash of its own in Japan, which prefers the name "Sea of Japan".

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Manabu Sakai told a news conference that the use of East Sea was "inappropriate".

"Japan's stance on this issue is that 'Sea of Japan' is the one and only official, international name for this body of water," he said.

"We have already made our position on this issue clear to the United States and are currently requesting a correction."

Kafka did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Japanese consternation highlights the challenges for the new Biden administration, which has vowed to rebuild relations with its allies in Asia.

The Republic of Korea, which was occupied by Japan from 1910-1945, argues that the area of ocean should be known by what it sees as the neutral name "East Sea".

The sea is also the location of islets that both the ROK and Japan claim. ROK, which administers the outcrops, calls them Dokdo while Japan calls them Takeshima.

Those are just two areas of tension between the US allies.

Historical and economic disputes nearly led to ROK scrapping, in 2019, an intelligence-sharing deal with Japan that had been backed and brokered by the United States.

Rhetoric has since cooled but the disputes can flare up unexpectedly and complicate US efforts to coordinate Asia strategy.

Agencies

Elite salvagers set to tackle massive ship blocking Suez Canal

By Bloomberg

AN elite team is set to tackle the monumental challenge of freeing the massive container vessel that's blocking the Suez Canal, as a backlog of ships continued to build up for a third day in what is arguably the world's most important waterway.

Work to re-float the Ever Given and free up oceangoing carriers hauling almost US\$10 billion of oil and consumer goods was expected to begin early Thursday in Egypt. Tugs and diggers failed to budge the vessel on Wednesday, and dredgers are still trying to loosen the vessel before any attempt to pull it out, the ship's manager said.

Still, the best chance for returning shipping to normal may not come until Sunday or Monday, when the tide will reach a peak, according to Nick Sloane, the salvage master responsible for re-floating the Costa Concordia, the cruise ship that capsized on the coast of Italy in 2012. Sloane works as the senior salvage master for Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based Resolve Marine Group.

It's taxing to even grasp how big this ship is. About 400 meters long and weighing in at 200,000 tons, its sheer size is overwhelming efforts to dig it out. A huge yellow excavator, itself about twice as tall as its driver, looked like child's toy parked next to the ship's bulking bow.

The struggle to dislodge the ship is now falling to SMIT Salvage BV, a legendary Dutch firm whose employees parachute themselves from one ship wreck to the next, saving vessels often during violent storms. Japan's Nippon Salvage Co has also been hired to assist in the re-floating, according to a person familiar with the matter.

This ship is so heavy that the salvors may have to lighten it by removing things like the ballast water, which helps keep ships steady when they're at sea. Fuel could also be unloaded.

"Dislodging a grounded ultra-large container ship in the Suez Canal will be challenging due to the confined nature of the canal's shipping channel," said Rockford Weitz, director of the Fletcher Maritime Studies Program at Tufts University. "This presents additional complications in comparison to a grounding on a reef or shoal."

The Suez Canal Authority hasn't commented on the work or given any indication of when traffic could resume.

About 12 percent of global trade goes through the canal, making it so strategic that world powers have fought over the waterway since it was completed in 1869. For now, all that traffic is backed up with the Ever Given aground in the southern part of the canal, creating another setback for global supply chains already strained by the e-commerce boom linked to the pandemic.

A rough estimate shows the blockage is costing about US\$400 million an hour, based on calculations from Lloyd's List that suggest westbound traffic is worth around US\$5.1 billion a day and eastbound traffic approximately US\$4.5 billion. On Wednesday, 185 vessels were waiting to cross the canal, according to shipping data compiled by Bloomberg, while Lloyd's estimates there's 165

"Every hour, more vessels - including container ships, oil tankers, RoRo vessels, and bulk carriers - are being backed up in the Mediterranean to the north and the Red Sea to the south," said Jett McCandless, chief executive officer of supply-chain tracking company project44. "It's another big blow to global trade in an already back-logged and battered supply chain year."

A rough estimate shows the blockage is costing about US\$400 million an hour, based on calculations from Lloyd's List that suggest westbound traffic is worth around US\$5.1 billion a day and eastbound traffic approximately US\$4.5 billion. On Wednesday, 185 vessels were waiting to cross the canal, according to shipping data compiled by Bloomberg, while Lloyd's estimates there's 165.

About 34 container vessels chartered by Maersk Corp and other shipping lines are either stuck in the canal or en route, according to project44. Preliminary reports show 10 crude tankers carrying a total of 13 million barrels could be affected by the disruption, according to Vortexa Senior Freight Analyst Arthur Richier.

China urges US to drop double standards on human rights

BEIJING

China on Thursday expressed hope that the United States and some of its Western allies can abandon double standards, face up to their own human rights problems, and take concrete actions to improve and protect human rights.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks at a daily news briefing when responding to the US State Department's comments on a China-sponsored resolution, titled "Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights", which was adopted on Tuesday by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

"Human rights are not slogans, let alone tools to exert pressure on other countries. They should reflect in concrete actions," Hua said.

She said some US politicians focus on the interests of political parties and do not care about the lives of ordinary people.

She said that the United States keeps saying that it attaches importance to individual human rights and freedom. Hua asked, however, when the United States launched wars against sovereign countries for no reason, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths, countless people separated and displaced, did they care about the individual human rights and freedom of the people of these countries?

Hua asked, when the United States, the most developed, richest, and most advanced country in medical conditions in the world, puts politics above science, which left more than 500,000 Americans dead, tens of mil-



Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying

lions of people losing their medical insurance, and one-sixth of Americans and one-quarter of American children faced with the threat of hunger, did they care about the individual human rights and freedom of the American people?

Hua asked, when the United States connived to spread racist speech, indulged police violence against people of color, watched people like George Floyd unable to breathe, and watched Asian Americans be discriminated against, attacked, or even killed, did they care about the individual human rights and freedom of these people who suffered from systemic racism and hate crimes?

She asked, when the flood of guns in the United States dragged on for a long time, and more than 41,500 people died from shootings last year, did they care about the individual human rights and freedom of these victims?

The China-sponsored resolution adopted by the UNHRC on Tuesday, titled "Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights," calls upon all states to uphold multilateralism, conduct constructive dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity. "This fully demonstrates the universal aspirations and calls for justice of the international community and the people of the world," she said.

She added that China is willing to conduct dialogues, communications and exchanges with other countries on human rights issues in the spirit of equality and mutual respect, and make common progress.

Hua noted that this year, when the UNHRC reviewed the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices released by the United States, more than 110 countries criticized the United States for its human rights issues.

Dozens of special rapporteurs of the UNHRC repeatedly criticized the United States on many occasions for issues such as poverty and discrimination against minorities in the country.

"We hope that the United States and some of its Western allies can abandon hypocrisy, arrogance and double standards, face up to their own human rights problems, and take concrete actions to improve and protect human rights," Hua said.

Foreign media recently published photographs of a temporary detention center at the US-Mexico border, showing children sleeping crammed together on thin blankets and lacking food and clothing. Critics say the US government is treating immigrants inhumanely, separating children from their parents, and accusing the US government of not allowing media access to the detention centers.

"Will the United States do a thorough investigation and hold those involved accountable? Does the European side want to impose sanctions on the United States for human rights violations?"

Xinhua

Biden: Hard to get US troops out of Afghanistan by May 1

WASHINGTON

- US President Joe Biden said on Thursday that it would be hard for the United States to meet the May 1 deadline to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

"It's gonna be hard to meet the May 1 deadline in terms of tactical reasons, hard to get those troops out," Biden told reporters in his first formal press conference since taking office.

Biden said that the United States is in consultation with US allies on this issue, adding that the withdrawal would be in "a safe and orderly way."

"It is not my intention to stay there for a long time, the question is how and what circumstance do we meet that agreement that was made by President (Donald) Trump," he continued.

"But we are not staying a long time," he said. "We will leave, the question is when we leave."

When asked if the United States will have troops in Afghanistan next year, Biden replied, "I can't picture that being the case."

Adam Smith, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, suggested Wednesday that withdrawing all US forces from Afghanistan by the May 1 deadline is "too soon" due to logistics reasons.

"You cannot pull out 10,000 plus troops in any sort of reasonable way in six weeks," said the Democrat.

US media reported last week that Biden was considering a six-month extension for US troops in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon said that there



In this file photo, members of the US Army stand at a checkpoint in Buwri Tana District, Khost Province, Afghanistan on August 9, 2012. US President Joe Biden warned that a deadline to withdraw all American soldiers from Afghanistan by May 1, 2021 as part of a deal with the Taliban was possible but "tough." "Could happen, but it is tough," Biden said when asked in a TV interview broadcast on March 17, 2021. (AFP)

are roughly 2,500 US troops in Afghanistan, but US media recently said the number did not include 1,000 more US special forces in the country.

Besides, about 7,000 NATO troops in Afghanistan rely on US logistics and security support.

The war in Afghanistan, which

has caused about 2,400 US military deaths, is the longest one in US history.

The United States and the Afghan Taliban signed an agreement in late February 2020, which called for a full withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan by May 2021 if the Taliban

meets the conditions of the deal, including severing ties with terrorist groups.

The Biden administration had noted that the Taliban had not met its commitment under the US-Taliban deal.

Xinhua

China's small appliance industry enjoys robust development momentum

SMALL appliances, such as air fryers, electric mops and electric massagers, rose as a highlight of China's electric appliance industry which registered a remarkable operating revenue of 1.48 trillion yuan (\$230 billion) last year.

Given the continuously improving living standard of Chinese residents, as well as the saturate market of traditional home appliances, appliance makers nowadays are placing more emphasis on expanding their market shares. Under this background, the

small appliance market is like a "new racing track" of the industry.

Personal beauty equipment, as well as fascia guns are popular among young consumers; electric ovens and breakfast makers make cooking possible for "rookie chefs"; vacuum cleaners and robots free people from daily chores.

These new products are rapidly occupying every scenario of modern living. With their advantages in price and convenience, they have

gradually become what's necessary for more and more people.

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 brought huge impacts on the home appliance industry. The retail sales of the business dropped drastically by over 30 percent in the first quarter of 2020 from a year ago, due to impeded supply chain, offline sales, and logistics.

Compared with the sluggish performance of the traditional business, the small appliance market bucking the

trend has injected a strong momentum for recovery into the industry.

The "stay-at-home economy" fueled the demand in the small appliance market, and influencer marketing also created favorable conditions for the market to grow.

Within an hour after last year's "Double 11" online shopping festival kicked off, the transaction of hundreds of small appliance brands on an e-commerce platform surged over tenfold. As a major front of small appliance

retailing, online marketplace embraced booming sales.

Many enterprises renewed their perception of the market, and are closely following the consumption trend that is turning more quality-oriented and intelligent, so as to deliver more innovative products and improve their competitiveness.

For instance, touch screen smart speakers not only conform to the trend of consumption upgrading, but also create benefit for enterprises. They are to some extent a

winner in the price competition that alleviates market homogeneity.

Innovations made for small appliances stem from the demand of the market. Facing a consumption demand that is becoming personalized and differentiated, to dig into different market segments is a consensus of the industry.

On one hand, many enterprises have launched customized products for customers. For example, when sales of traditional TVs slipped, TV makers are producing new

TV sets catered for education use, offering diversified choices for students and their parents.

On the other hand, driven by a national strategy to bring more appliances to the countryside, many enterprises are working to expand lower-tier markets. The hot sales of electric steamers, foot baths and heating tables in small- and middle-sized cities, as well as rural regions fully explained their huge consumption potential to be released.

People's Daily



Former Azam FC defender Said Mourad. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Former Azam FC defender now turns to beach soccer

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Azam FC and national side 'Taifa Stars' defender, Said Mourad, has turned to beach football, with the player being one of those selected for the national beach soccer team's squad for the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Mourad, who has not been seen in neither the Premier League nor First Division League (FDL) for a long time, is among the 23 members of national beach soccer team that will have two matches to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations' finals.

The national beach soccer team will confront Burundi on March 30 and April 2.

Boniface Pawasa, national beach soccer team's coach, said that they have decided to include Mourad due to the many technical qualities he has that enabled him to do well in the sport.

"Morad's great reputation is his ability to defend well when he plays against opposing outfits," he noted.

Pawasa added: "He has moreover been making good use of the ball, so he will help us a lot."

He disclosed: "He is also a fit player

and this game really needs someone to be fit so I believe Morad will help us in that."

Pawasa further disclosed Mourad has international experience so he will add quality to the team especially for youngsters who have never been challenged in international matches.

He, however, noted as the defender is still a newcomer to the game, there are a few tactics they are adding to him and he believes if the player gets used to them, he will be a dependable player in the team.

Commenting on the coming match against Burundi, Pawasa said they have high hopes of doing well despite the competition they will face.

He noted: "Burundi are a good team and they have been showing a lot of competition every time they play and so we need to plan well considering there are many new players."

He insisted: "I, though, believe we will be fine and we will knock them out of the qualifiers."

Winners of the two-leg qualifiers between Tanzania and Burundi will secure a ticket to the Africa Cup of Nations' finals, to be played in Senegal in May.

Yanga defender Job allays fears on injury

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER rumours had had it Yanga defender, Dickson Job, is still nursing an injury much as he was selected for the senior national football side, Taifa Stars, he has come out to confirm he is in good shape.

Job has insisted Yanga's followers should not be worried by the news.

The former Mtibwa Sugar player has yet to play a game for Yanga since joining the outfit in January this year.

The situation was caused by a hamstring injury he sustained while he was part of Taifa Stars' squad, which was preparing for qualifiers for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Commenting on his progress, Job said: "It is true that I suffered minor injuries during the final preparations for Taifa Stars' match against Equatorial Guinea."

"This is due to the fact I was recover-

ing from the injury, so, I was not physically fit, I was advised to get some rest, but for now I'm doing well," he said.

On March 23, 2021, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) released list of players making Taifa Stars, who traveled to Equatorial Guinea for the AFCON qualifiers' tie.

Taifa Stars were in pursuit of a place in AFCON finals, which will take place in Cameroon.

They suffered 1-0 loss to Equatorial Guinea in the Group J match, which took place in Malabo on Thursday, to officially lose out on progression to the continental tournament.

Job was among the team's players, who traveled to Equatorial Guinea after camping in Nairobi for several days.

Other players, who were dropped from Taifa Stars, are Said Hamisi Ndemla, Charles Manyama, Carlos Protas, Hassan Kessy, Baraka Majogoro, Ditram Nchimbi, David Bryson and Meshack Mwamita.

Simba SC still poses threat to Al Ahly

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Simba SC's performance in this season's CAF Champions League's group stage has been posing threat to the showpiece's defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, now coached by Pitso Motsimane.

The failure by premier continental club tournament's giants to take hold of top spot in Group A of the competition has shocked many of the outfit's former players.

The side moreover faces uncertainty of progressing to the quarterfinals of the showpiece.

The Egyptian big guns are placed second in the group, which is led by Simba SC, and, in this case, the defending champions ought to come out victorious in all of their remaining fixtures to progress to the last eight.

Al Ahly's veterans still believe that their side's 1-0 loss to Simba in Dar es Salaam is Mosimane's technical error.

They then went further by insisting that the team's players are playing below standard at the moment and they are not supporting Mosimane.

Simba lead Group A of the CAF Champions League with 10 points, whereas Al Ahly have collected seven



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

points.

Third-placed AS Vita of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have posted four points and Sudan's Al Merreikh, currently languishing at the bottom, have one point.

Former Al Ahly's skipper, Wael Gomaa, noted that the side's players are not working hard in fixtures, both domestic and the CAF Champions League's.

He claimed that the defeat to Simba was appropriate to show weaknesses within the outfit, as

well as squad planning and defective changes that Mosimane makes several times.

"Al Ahly have the best players in the continent, they should not perform horribly, look even the changes made by Mosimane sometimes slow down the competition, I do not think he is a good coach but there is still a big challenge," the former Al Ahly defender disclosed.

Several other former Al Ahly players have been critical of the team's style of play and quality

since Mosimane's arrival.

Various analysts have moreover been critical of the South African tactician, claiming that he has not effectively taken charge of the first team since joining the squad.

Former South African defender Mark Fish, however, believes despite the challenges Pitso has in his outfit this season he still has a great chance to do well as it is only a short time since he took that sensitive position.

VPL top goal scorer's prize race slackens

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MUCH as winners of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League are yet to be decided, another interesting aspect of the top flight is the quest for the showdown's top goal scorer prize's winner.

The sport's followers in the country are eager to know who will lay his hands on the Premier League's golden boot gong.

In the past two seasons, Simba SC striker, Rwandan Meddie Kagere, won the award.

The attacker finished with 23 goals (2018/19) and 22 goals (2019/20). He is in this season's showdown has only nine goals so far.

The Guardian had an interview with some of the strikers who last season scored a lot of goals to find out if they can either break their records or do even more this season.

Kagere said his main goal was to reach 22 goals last season, maintaining he is in the process of fighting to set another record this season.

The forward, nevertheless, has been having little playing time at Simba this season under head coach Didier Gomes.

"Let me stress on my need to register number of goals I scored last season, it's not an easy task but I believe in working hard, nothing is impossible," he said.

Dodoma Jiji FC's attacker, Peter Mapunda, netted 13 goals while he was featuring for Mbeya City FC.

The forward has so far scored one goal for Dodoma Jiji FC in a top flight match against Ruvu Shooting.

Mapunda made it clear that he will not be in a position to break his record, given he is adapting to a new working environment.

The striker disclosed that he also does not get a lot of playing time in the outfit's first team.

Despite admitting he will not be able to break his record and turn into one of the strikers who will score the most goals this season, Mapunda suggested Simba's skipper John Bocco



Kagera Sugar's striker, Yusuph Mhili. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

has a chance to pick up the golden boot prize, if the striker steps up.

He stated: "What brought about this goal drought, according to me, is this the new working environment, I don't get a chance to regularly play and there are few fixtures."

Kagera Sugar's striker, Yusuph Mhili, last season finished with 13 goals.

He has, this season, scored six goals and, when talking about breaking his record, he opined that anything can happen.

"I have not admitted defeat because we still have games to

play, I'm fighting and if possible I will score more than 13 goals that I scores the previous season, given anything is possible," he said.

Other goal poachers who finished with the most goals are Paul Nonga, who netted 11 goals when he was a Lipuli FC player.

The Gwambina FC forward has this season scored four goals.

Polisi Tanzania's Daruweshi Saliboko scored 11 goals when he played at Lipuli FC, he, nevertheless, has scored four goals for his new team this season.

Reliants Lusajo of Namungo

FC finished with 12 goals last season and he now has four goals after returning to the outfit from Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Yanga's Waziri Junior scored 13 goals for Mbao FC in the previous season, he though has scored one goal for his new outfit this season.

Azam FC's Obrey Chirwa had 12 goals last season and he now has scored four goals this season.

Namungo FC's Blaise Bigirama had 10 goals last season, now he is yet to hit the opposing outfits' back of the net.

Party time in Comoros after historic Africa Cup qualification

JOHANNESBURG

A DOUR 0-0 Africa Cup of Nations home draw with Togo on Thursday was instantly forgotten by Comoros supporters as they celebrated reaching the finals for the first time.

The southeast island state have steadily improved since being humiliated twice by Madagascar when they debuted in the 2010 edition.

And the stalemate with bottom team Togo at Stade Maluzini in Moroni ensured a top-two finish in Group G with Egypt filling the other place a few hours later by drawing 1-1 in Kenya.

It was a situation no one predicted ahead of the first qualifiers two years ago with record seven-time African champions Egypt hot favourites and Kenya and Togo expected to slug it out for second place.

But with one round to come Monday, the team representing a state with a population approaching just 900,000 trail Mohamed Salah's side only on goal difference with each on nine points.

Unable to attend the qualifier because of coronavirus restrictions, Comorans compensated by filling the streets of the coastal capital city to salute their heroes.

"This is our country. We are so proud. We want to get to the top now," one jubilant supporter told AFP as cars inched by, decorated in the green of the national team.

Another fan took exception to the strictness of the police, who were faced with the impossible task of enforcing social distancing among thousands filling every metre of public space.

"How can they want to prevent us from celebrating this (qualification)? In any case, today we are not going to obey them (the police)," declared the supporter.

Apart from the residents of Moroni, many more Comorans travelled to the capital from nearby towns to join in the celebrations at the hotel where the team was based.

Even a few rounds of tear gas from the police had little impact on the overjoyed crowds, who defiantly shouted that "there is no corona(virus), there is no curfew".

- Stuff of fairytales -

The qualification is the stuff of fairytales, and a lesson to often trigger happy national football officials to give coaches reasonable time to develop a winning formula.

Marseille-born Amir Abdou has been in charge since 2014 and slowly but surely the team known as the Coelacanth after a rare fish has improved to a level where they can draw with Egypt in Moroni.

The team that started against Togo are all based in Europe, but contained only three players with top-flight clubs, and one from an amateur side in France.

Meanwhile, Egypt made a dream start in Nairobi with Mohamed 'Afsha' Magdy blasting the ball into the net less than two minutes into the first half.

Hassan Abdallah levelled after half-time and Kenya played the last 15 minutes a man short because Johnstone Omurwa was sent off.

Gambia were another country to qualify for the first time, thanks to a 1-0 win over Angola in Bakau through a goal from Assan Ceesay, his third of the qualifying campaign.

Group D is done and dusted with Gabon joining Gambia as qualifiers after hammering the Democratic Republic of Congo 3-0 in Franceville, where Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was among the goals.

In Soweto, Ghana shrugged off the coronavirus-related absence of the Ayew brothers, Andre and Jordan, Thomas Partey and Jeffrey Schlupp to draw 1-1 with South Africa and secure qualification.

The goals came within three minutes soon after half-time as Mohammed Kudus put Ghana ahead and Percy Tau equalised, leaving South Africa to battle with Sudan Sunday for the other Group C ticket to the finals.

A thrilling 3-3 draw between Zambia and already-qualified Algeria in Lusaka meant Zimbabwe, who won 1-0 in Botswana, will be the other Group H qualifiers.

Emilio Nsue netted in the final minute to snatch a 1-0 win for Equatorial Guinea over Tanzania in Malabo, and qualification from Group J with table-toppers Tunisia, who triumphed 5-2 in Libya.

Despite the heavy loss, Libyans were thrilled at being able to watch the national team play at home after a seven-year ban due to post-Moamer Kadhafi era violence.

AFP

No sleep until Qatar 2022: How will football fit in a winter World Cup?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE race to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar has now begun with the qualification campaign underway across the globe. Next Thursday, April 1, marks the 600-day countdown to the start of tournament on Nov. 21, 2022, and the period in between promises to be hectic and congested for many of the world's top players.

While the impact of the coronavirus pandemic has placed unprecedented demands on players due to the congested nature of this season, the workload is only likely to intensify in the weeks and months until the start of Qatar 2022.

The major leagues, national associations and continental confederations have yet to agree on a calendar that will enable the 2022-23 club season to incorporate a six-week suspension for the World Cup to take place, while the knock-on effect of the pandemic has created uncertainty over the prospect of clubs embarking on lucrative preseason tours in the summer of 2022. But, however the key issues are resolved, the men in the middle will be the star players who are expected to perform in domestic leagues and cups, European competitions and international fixtures.

One thing for certain is that the 2022 World Cup, because of its November-December schedule, will have a huge impact on football in the years ahead. So what can players and fans expect?

Why is Qatar 2022 having such an impact on the calendar?

When Qatar was announced as the winning bid to host the 2022 World Cup back in 2010, it was awarded on the basis of the tournament being staged in June and July, as with every previous tournament. But concerns over the searing summer temperatures in the Middle East, which average 41.2 degrees Celsius (106.2 Fahrenheit) in June, prompted FIFA to move the World Cup to November-December.

That decision immediately created a major problem for the club game, particularly in Europe, with the season traditionally played from August to May. The final two months of the year are a busy time with plenty of domestic games and group fixtures in the Champions League and Europa League.

With Qatar 2022 running from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18, 2022, the club game faces a shutdown of at least six weeks -- a week before the tournament and a week after for players to recover -- so the 2022-23 season must somehow be reconfigured to enable the club game and the World Cup to be concluded as smoothly as possible. But the ripple effect of dropping a World Cup into the mid-



The 2022 World Cup in Qatar is expected to cause significant upheaval to the already packed football schedule. (Agencies)

dle of a club season will affect both the start and finish date of the 2022-23 season and potentially the start of the 2023-24 campaign.

What will a player's workload look like between now and the World Cup?

Players have different demands in different leagues, but the top stars can expect to play between 55-60 games a season if their club is successful. And then you have international fixtures. In 2019-20, according to Transfermarkt, Manchester United captain Harry Maguire played more minutes than any other player in the world, clocking up 5,509 minutes in 61 games for club and country last season. FC Copenhagen defender Victor Nelsson came second, with 5,366 minutes.

United reached the semifinals in three competitions last season, which helped Maguire make so many appearances, but with the likes of Manchester City and Bayern Munich also regularly going deep in all competitions, top players could play more than 100 games each for club and country between now and the start of the World Cup. But they will then have to play in the tournament -- the pinnacle of many players' career -- and return for the second half of the 2022-23 season. And if you play for a team like Bayern, United or City, players can expect to travel to Asia or North America in summer 2022 on a preseason tour, which will only add to their game time.

So what are the solutions? If there are solutions out there, the rival factions -- FIFA, clubs, national associations, continental confederations -- are yet to agree on them.

One obvious answer would be to simply start the 2022-23 club season at the beginning of August and extend it until early June, giving clubs additional time to play their fixtures and overcome the impact of a 4-6 week break in November and December.

But UEFA has already scheduled the 2023 Champions League final for May 27 in Munich, one day earlier than the date for the 2022 final in Saint Petersburg, so there is little sign of UEFA extending their season to allow for the disruption caused by the

World Cup. UEFA will also lose two Champions League/Europa League match days to the World Cup, so when will they be staged? We are still awaiting an answer.

And in terms of national leagues, sources have told ESPN that discussions are still ongoing in terms of a start date and end date, but while it seems straightforward to cram in the European fixtures over a shorter period of time as has been done this season, it would not solve the problem of finding space for 4-6 weeks of league games that would need to be moved for the World Cup.

Has the pandemic added to the problem?

Yes. The CONMEBOL World Cup qualifiers in South America began last October, but a full round of qualifiers has been postponed this month due to travel restrictions forcing Europe-based players to stay with their clubs. Those fixtures are likely to be played next season, with the delayed Copa America expected to take place this summer, a year after being postponed because of the pandemic.

In Europe, Euro 2020 is also due to go ahead this June and July, so what was due to be a free summer for players will now be busy with two major tournaments, plus the delayed Olympics in Tokyo, which will involve major nations such as Germany, France, Spain, Argentina and Brazil. The pandemic, and delay in staging the Euros, Copa and Olympics, has hit the revenue streams of top clubs, who will miss out on a money-spinning summer tours for the second successive year, making it a financial necessity to cash in next summer.

So the impact on the 2021-22 season

is still unknown, but any rollover from this campaign will inevitably add to the congestion and demands of next year.

What do the clubs think?

Sources at a number of high-profile clubs have told ESPN that the scheduling of the 2022 World Cup is unhelpful and an inconvenience, but something that they have no option but to accept. However, sources have also said that clubs will hold onto players until the latest possible departure date for Qatar, potentially using them for league fixtures just a week before the World Cup begins. Similarly, players could find themselves back in club action just days after the World Cup ends, which could be challenging for players who reach the semifinals and final.

International coaches often have the benefit of a lengthy build-up to a major tournament, with training camps and friendly games scheduled for preparation, but that is unlikely to happen in 2022. Expect clubs to insist that the World Cup fits in around their demands rather than the other way around.

The European Club Association (ECA), which includes Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Manchester United, Liverpool and other major teams, initially urged FIFA to stage the tournament in April-May 2022 before the decision was made to move to November-December. Having lost that battle, the clubs and UEFA blocked FIFA president Gianni Infantino's attempts to enlarge Qatar 2022 to 48 teams from 32, in order to avoid further games for their players.

Will football adopt Arsene Wenger's plan for a unified calendar?

Arsene Wenger, the former Arsenal manager, is now FIFA's chief of global development and he recently proposed an overhaul of the football calendar that would see a unified season from March to November.

"I'm convinced that to harmonise the world calendar, somebody has to give in and it's Europe or the rest of the world," Wenger said. "It would make things more simple."

In an ideal world, the simplicity of Wenger's plan would solve the problem, but arguably the biggest reason for moving Qatar 2022 to November-December was the summer climate and the same would apply to many leagues in Europe, with the heat in likes of Spain, France, Greece and Russia making it unfeasible to play club games. It would be a similar problem in large parts of Africa and Asia.

The plan would also see teams in the southern hemisphere having to play through harsh winter conditions, so the proposal falls down on the issue of climate. So shifting the football season from March to November would not solve the Qatar 2022 problem, even if it could be imposed in such a short space of time.

Is anyone thinking about the demands on the players?

Leading players are becoming increasingly vocal on a range of issues, but so far, there have been no concerns raised about the workload between now and Qatar 2022. Players tend to want to play, but coaches are often the ones to speak up about the demands being placed on their squad.

Earlier this season, England manager Gareth Southgate said that the issue over the football calendar around Qatar had not been addressed, but he called on coaches to be given an input.

"I would hope that within all the discussions that coaches are consulted," Southgate said. "It doesn't have to be me, but maybe coaches of the big clubs, maybe all the national managers, whatever it might be. But generally speaking, a lot of the decisions are made without the input of coaches."

So when will we have a confirmed road map for football into Qatar 2022?

That continues to be an unanswered question. The challenge of

dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic has understandably taken the focus away from the need to plan the calendar ahead of Qatar 2022, but sources have said that a resolution is unlikely until later this year, well into the 2021-22 season.

But it's safe to say that the next two years will be busier than ever for the world's top footballers.

Qatar has been a controversial choice of host for the outset, so what will it be like in 2022?

FIFA has changed the selection process for World Cups since 2010, when the hosts of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups were decided, with the voting of Russia and Qatar's successful bids both mired in allegations of corruption. Now, every football nation gets to vote on the potential host for future tournaments rather than 22 FIFA Executive Committee members.

But aside from the controversy over the tournament being moved from its usual June-July slot in the calendar, Qatar has also been under the microscope for the treatment of migrant workers who have helped build many of the new stadiums in the country since 2010. According to a report in the Guardian last month, more than 6,500 migrant workers have died in Qatar during that time.

Homosexuality is an illegal offence in Qatar that can carry a prison sentence, and there has been widespread condemnation of the Gulf state's human rights record, with Norway's players wearing T-shirts bearing the slogan "Human rights on and off the pitch" prior to Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Gibraltar.

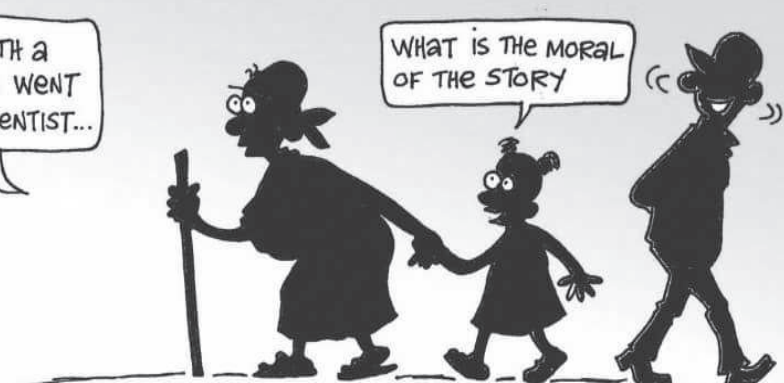
When asked about Qatar's position on homosexuality by ESPN in 2019, Hassan al Thawadi, the secretary general of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy for Qatar 2022, said: "We are a conservative people and we ask visitors to appreciate our culture while at the same time accepting our hospitality. Open displays of affection are not part of our culture and we ask that people don't [openly display affection]."

The international scrutiny of Qatar will only increase as the tournament approaches, and is likely to overshadow the host nation during the event itself like no other World Cup before it.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

A CHILD WITH A TOOTHACHE WENT TO SEE A DENTIST...

WHAT IS THE MORAL OF THE STORY?



SPORT

**No sleep until Qatar 2022:
How will football fit in a
winter World Cup?**

PAGE 19



AS Vita Club's midfielder, Papy Tshishimbi.

AS Vita Club midfielder warns Simba SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club midfielder, Papy Kabamba Tshishimbi, has made it clear that they will beat Tanzania's Simba SC in the fifth round of this season's CAF Champions League's Group A tie, to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 3.

Tshishimbi, who joined AS Vita Club earlier this season after parting ways with Tanzania's Yanga, said they would come to Tanzania to seek victory.

He disclosed that he believes nothing would stop them from reaching the goal of winning the game.

He said they are aware that Simba SC will need a win in the game to secure a place in the quarterfinals, but AS Vita Club has more goals on the road.

He disclosed: "We have two games left to complete the group stage, and qualify for the quarterfinals, we must win those games against Simba SC and Al Merreikh, so we will try our best to do so."

"At first they humiliated us in our stadium in Kinshasa," Tshishimbi stated.

Simba notched 1-0 victory over AS Vita Club in the opening clash, which took place in Kinshasa.

The AS Vita Club would need to use the next week clash as revenge for the home venue loss in the first round, which had Simba, against all odds, recording 1-0 victory.

However, this will not be the first time AS Vita Club has played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The side, trained by Florent Ibenge, conceded 2-1 loss to Simba SC in the 2018/19 CAF Champions League and were knocked out of the of continental showdown's group stage.

Simba are in training to prepare for their clash against AS Vita Club, with the former claiming that they want three points in the match.

Simba will entertain AS Vita in their fifth group stage match to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

So far Simba SC leads the Group A's standings with 10 points, followed by the showpiece's defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, with 7 points.

Third-placed AS Vita Club has collected four points, and Sudan's Al Merreikh, languishing at the bottom, have recorded one point.

Simba need just one point in the remaining two games to qualify for the quarterfinals, but victory over AS Vita Club will put the former in a good position to finish top of the group.

Yanga ought to stick with Juma Mwambusi, says Malima



Yanga's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Yanga defender, Bakari Malima, has explained why the Vodacom Premier League side should stick with interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi.

Mwambusi returned to the club after the then head coach, Cedric Kaze, was fired following a 2-1 loss to Coastal Union, Yanga's first defeat in the 2020/21 season.

Malima stressed on the importance of letting the Tanzanian coach have the chance to finish the season at the helm.

"Let them stick with Mwambusi to see the team through the season," Malima, nicknamed 'Jembe Ulaya', said.

He disclosed: "If they hire a new coach, he will come to simply take the money and, if he does not win the league, he would complain he did not sign the current players."

He insisted: "The fans and the players need to come together and support the coach.

Mwambusi should also be given the support he needs."

The former Taifa Stars defender

also said the title race in the domestic top flight, which has Yanga leading the rest of the pack, is still wide open.

According to Malima, Mwambusi is the right person to help Yanga finish it before making technical changes.

"Up to now, there is no team that can claim they are champions because anything can happen, even though the majority have tipped Simba to again be crowned," he added.

He stated: "I'm sure Mwambusi will help the players get back to their previous form and we will see them work hard even though it might not be a hundred percent."

Malima noted: "So, he needs to take charge of the team and a new one should come when the new season shall begin."

Meanwhile, former soccer player, Abeid Kasabalala, condemned how Kaze was sacked and he asked for Mwambusi to be given the right environment to operate in.

"Yanga need time to be rebuild. The fans must be told the truth so that Mwambusi cannot work in a toxic environment that in the end he will be hated as it was with Kaze when they get poor results," Kasabalala, who played for the then Mbeya-based Mecco, said.

He noted: "Had Kaze stayed a little longer, he would have built a good team and what is important to note is it is never prudent to make judgments when emotionally charged."

Pan Africa's head coach, Gordian Mapango, said Mwambusi needs good support in order to deliver the desired results.

"He needs support in order to do his job in a better way. I believe the players will be in great form given the manner of drills Mwambusi conducts," Mapango said.

After winning this season's Mapinduzi Cup tournament, Yanga's focus is now on the Federation Cup tournament and the Premier League trophies.

Choki, Muumin compose track for mourning Magufuli

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FAMOUS dance musicians in Tanzania, Mwinjuma Muumin, Ally Choki, Nyoshi El-Saadat and Tarsis Masela, have composed a song for mourning the loss of the country's fifth phase President, the late John Pombe Magufuli.

Muumin told The Guardian the track, titled 'Pole Mama Samia', is specially aiming at mourning Magufuli, who was laid to rest in Chato District, Geita yesterday.

Magufuli had passed away in Dar es Salaam on March 17.

"We have decided to come together and release the song, much as we are coming from different troupes, we have been saddened by the death of our beloved President," he disclosed.

Muumin noted that every Tanzanian has been saddened by the loss.

According to the veteran vocalist, popular domestic artists sought to appreciate the former President by releasing the song.

He maintained they are hopeful the track is a good memory.



Dance musician, Mwinjuma Muumin.

"Musicians might have varying views in this profession, you have heard Choki and I have, on several occasions in the past, not been in good terms, but, in this period, we have to put our differences aside so we can mourn together," he disclosed.

The vocalist opined Magufuli's death should help in bringing domestic artistes together and open a new chapter, which will see them work together in the profession.

"In this period, we have seen politicians put their differences aside and unite with

new President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, to mourn," he stated.

Muumin stated domestic artistes should therefore take a leaf from the politicians' book.

The artiste pointed out the approach might help the domestic dance music regain its

lost glory, which has for years not been in view.

Failure by the genre to win music enthusiasts' hearts in recent years, the musician states, is caused by lack of unity among the genre's artistes.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

