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Swearing-in of poll agents rescheduled



Kahama Urban constituency returning officer Anderson Msumba swears in 567 agents set to represent political parties during the General Election due next Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Getrude Mbago

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has extended the schedule for swearing in poll agents of political parties for three days.

NEC director Dr Wilson Mahera told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the commission has considered geographical challenges, as some places are hard to be timely reached. NEC opted for an extension to ensure that the parties have all the required poll agents.

"It has been difficult for election supervisors to reach and swear in all election agents due to geographical reasons, so the commission has reached agreement as per the provisions of election law, to extend time for supervisors to reach poll centres in remote places," he said.

Election law stipulates agents representing political parties must be sworn in, given access to polling stations and be provided with results declaration forms, he stated.

Elaborating, he said that 19 political parties with permanent registration participate in this year's general election, so this has also led to an increase in poll agents. "This is one of the reasons for delaying the swearing in exercise."

"NEC expects that the extended time will be utilised well," he said, referring to the October 21 to 23 period of extension.

About 29m people are registered to vote in this year's election, from 23m voters registered in 2015, while the number of polling stations is 80,155 countrywide. A large portion of election

Four Chadema poll agents killed in Rukwa road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbwanga

FOUR agents of the main opposition party Chadema who were set to check next week's general election in Rukwa Region died in a road crash yesterday.

Regional Police Commander ACP Justine Masejo told this paper over the phone that the crash occurred in the morning at Malonje village in Sumbawanga District, leaving four others injured.

A portion of political party agents for the polls took the oath before constituency returning officers in many regions yesterday, ready for the twice in a decade event.

RPC Masejo said the Chadema representatives were travelling in a Noah van, T 381 DZQ where their vehicle overturned at a sharp corner around

Preliminary investigations show that the cause of the accident was speeding, as the driver failed to control the vehicle at the corner

8.30am.

"Preliminary investigations show that the cause of the accident was speeding, as the driver failed to control the vehicle at the corner," he said.

Three occupants of the ill-fated vehicle died on the spot while a fourth succumbed to injuries when being rushed to the regional referral hospital with the four others, he said, specifying that the bodies are being preserved at the hospital mortuary.

"The driver is among the four patients; they are all responding well to treatment," he stated.

The full names of the dead and injured had not yet been verified as the police were engaging relatives to fill in the gaps, he said, appealing to motorists to check habits on the road during this electioneering period as haste can lead to loss of life.

TMA: Floods possible in central, southern zones

By Getrude Mbago

RESIDENTS of central and southern highlands regions should brace for torrential rains in the next few weeks due to changing pressure belts in the sea.

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) director general Dr Agnes Kijazi (pictured) said yesterday that the climate outlook for November to next April will have rains that are normal to above normal over most regions.

End of year seasonal rains are likely to be enhanced by the occurrence of deep low pressure systems over the south-western part of the Indian



Ocean, implying that short periods of heavy rains are likely over a number of regions, she said.

This may occasion water accumulation and flooding with an impact on built infrastructures and even loss of lives, authorities, she said, noting that seasonal rains are likely from early November over Tabora and spread to other unimodal (one extended rainfall season) areas by the middle of November.

There is also an anticipated shortage of water over areas expected to receive below-normal rainfall, hence communities may be forced to utilize unsafe water, which can ignite an outbreak of water-borne diseases, she stated.

Areas where above-normal rains are expected may also be prone to water and vector-borne diseases, she cautioned.

Expected impacts of the changes in weather patterns include having sufficient soil moisture levels which favour cropping in the zone.

China hopes for smooth election, urges foreigners not to interfere

BEIJING

CHINA has expressed hope that next week's general election takes place smoothly and successfully but has been quick to caution about interference in Tanzania's internal affairs by foreign countries.

Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday about next Wednesday's polls, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the Asian economic giant believes that Tanzanian government and people have the wisdom and capability to organize the election.

"We wish that the election will be held in a smooth and successful manner. Non-interference in other countries' internal affairs should be a basic principle for all countries to follow," he said.

"China calls on all countries to respect this principle and all parties should support African countries' independence and safeguard their unity and stability."

Tanzanians will go to the polls to elect the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of parliament, members of the

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CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli introduces Vunjo constituency candidate Dr Charles Kimeiri (R) at a campaign rally held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Magufuli pledges to revive industries in K'njaro Region

By Henry Mwangonde, Moshi

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli yesterday pledged to revive industries in Kilimanjaro to retain the region's lost glory of being a home to factories as well as a source of raw materials for export.

Speaking during a campaign rally at Ushirika grounds in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region Dr Magufuli said the region was well known in the past for being an industrial and agricultural region which employed many people but now everything has changed due to various reasons.

In his address, Dr Magufuli said upon re-election the first thing he will do is to finance the revival of all major industries including building new ones to strategically process crops such as coffee which is grown in the area to a large extent.

"I want to take Moshi and Kilimanjaro region as a whole back to its heyday, this will be a task that I will work on just upon re-election. It is time we woke up," Dr Magufuli told thousands of voters who thronged the grounds.

According to Dr Magufuli a lot has happened in the last five years including construction of roads and

health centres.

He said his government will finalise the construction of district hospitals at Siha and Rombo starting next year adding that a lot are in the pipeline for the region.

He added that in the next five years, his government will work on finding a way to process coffee so that it is exported instead of the current situation where it is exported raw.

He took time to request the voters to vote for CCM Members of Parliament saying the region has been in the opposition hands for a long time a move that was derailing development.

Earlier, Dr Magufuli held rallies at Mwanga and Himo in Kilimanjaro Region where he ordered a contractor for the Nyumba ya Mungu water dam which has not been completed since 2017 to watch his steps or else face the law.

He gave a 30 days ultimatum to the contractor to speed up construction while at the same time directing the minister for water to follow up on the matter.

He said among the plans was the revival of the northern railway line from Dar es Salaam to Arusha which has not been operating for years.

Micheweni Community Radio in need of more assistance to scale up services

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MICHEWENI Community Radio is appealing to stakeholders to beef up its financial muscles to improve service delivery in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The 2019 radio quality survey conducted by the University of Dar es Salaam named the radio as the best station in Tanzania for producing better content.

Radio station manager Ali Masoud made the appeal when speaking to Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) director, Dr Mzuri Issa who visited the station recently.

Masoud said that the radio station is in need of reliable power, working tools and transport to accomplish its daily activities.

"The station has received capacity building trainings from an array of organizations mostly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and managed to establish the station with all the prerequisites including staff with radio administrative knowledge," he said.

He said through the fundraising knowledge which it acquired, it managed to foreground the Micheweni community in all its works, conducted fundraising events and established two ways communication in its programming.

According to him, Micheweni FM has successfully organised a fundraising event for the station sustainability on August 19, 2020 which was officiated by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Marketing Zanzibar, Ambassador Amina Salim Ali who raised 5m/- for the purchase of solar energy installation at the station.

Through the strategic plan prepared, the station was able to engage with new stakeholders to work with which include Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar), ActionAid, and RTI which have helped to increase radio revenue a great deal to a total of 11m/-.

He said the monitoring and evaluation knowledge has empowered the station to timely collect information from its programmes and put them in record for sharing, analysis and

responding into the issues whether from internally or externally.

He said the station has also strengthened the use of technology by utilizing the social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which travels beyond the vicinity of Micheweni community.

"In the past, we did not know the importance of using social media but through this programme, we have invested more energy in those networks including providing opportunities for our stakeholders to express their views directly through those networks," said Manager Ali Kombo.

The manager said that the only challenge the station faces now is lack of funds to undertake its ambitious plans which entails writing and tracking social economic progress reached by the Micheweni community and the challenges encountered.

TAMWA Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa who is one of the mentors said Micheweni Community Radio made a big stride to organisational sustainability since the launching and capacity development sessions by UNESCO, early 2019.

She said it has put in place all the necessary structures and systems including policies, strategic plans and periodic plans.

She stated that it has also demonstrated itself as a community radio by making the community at the top of the organisational hierarchy, independent board and involved the community in its broader way including in the preparation of news stories, programmes, debates, festivals and fundraising.

Safia Mohammed Mzirai one of the station's stakeholders said, "now I see that the community radio has changed a lot as we listeners get what we need in time due to the system they have put to involve us in everything they do."

She added that due to its activeness on addressing their social and economic issues through community participation, it has made them feel proud of having the station in their community as it gives what the community needs on time fashion.

China hopes for smooth election, urges foreigners not to interfere

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Zanzibar House of Representative and ward councillors.

Incumbent President John Magufuli is seeking re-election for the second and final five-year term via the ruling party.

Of all his 14 challengers, the more visible opponent is Chadema national vice-chairman Tundu Lissu. While Dr Magufuli has been touting his record for the past five years, especially in the area of infrastructure development, Lissu has been crisscrossing the country punching holes in the president's first term performance, describing his achievements as the 'development of things' and not 'development of people.'

Another candidate who was about to make next week's polls a three-horse race is ACT-Wazalendo's Bernard Membe, but his energy has been reduced significantly after his party decided to back Lissu.

One day after Membe announced he was to resume campaigns, the party's national chairman Seif Sharif

Hamad came out to reject the restart bid, denying that Membe was their flag bearer in the race.

He cited a number of reasons for the shift, including Lissu's stronger appeal among the voters, hence a higher chance of effectively challenging the ruling party compared to Membe.

This means that if he continues on the campaign trail, he will be doing it on his own terms as his name will not be removed from the ballot box on account of existing election regulations.

Membe served as Foreign Affairs minister for nearly 10 years under former president Jakaya Kikwete and sought CCM presidential nomination in 2015, then became a voice of dissent in CCM.

He decamped to ACT-Wazalendo mid-this year and obtained nomination as presidential candidate, enjoying a fair amount of popularity until former MP Lissu returned from a three year medical and political exile. The campaigns were starting at that time, and popular interest in the opposition has since then focused on the Chadema candidate.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, signs a condolence book for Amne Salim Ahmed Salim, the wife of former Prime Minister Salim Ahmed Salim, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Swearing-in of poll agents rescheduled

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must accord due importance to the training.

This is more so given the fact that they will instruct the supervisors of the actual voting process, he said.

Constituency returning officers need to swear in parties' agents within the provided extension, and agents not observing the time schedule will not be sworn in and will not be allowed inside the voting centres, he said.

A total of 29,188,347 voters appear

in the Voter Register for this year's election, to place ballots in 81,567 polling centres, "after which they must move away from polling centres, go home to wait for results."

Speaking after the seminar, Gaspar Balyomi, the Tunduru constituency returning officer pledged to abide by NEC instructions to ensure that people vote freely.

Mbinga town returning officer Grace Quintine said the training has reminded them to fully adhere to election laws.

TMA: Floods possible in central, southern zones

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grouping Tabora, Katavi, Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe, Iringa, Ruvuma, southern part of Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara regions, she stated.

Still, large parts of Kigoma, Rukwa and western parts of Tabora and Katavi regions are expected to feature mainly below normal rains, she pointed out.

Dr Kijazi called for precautions in weather-sensitive activities like farming and food security, livestock rearing as well as energy and water. Wildlife, natural resources and tourism, transport and communications will also have to look out for effects of changing weather patterns, she asserted.

Water harvesting and storage arrangements are vital in areas likely to receive above normal rains, to harvest rainfall water for use in the dry spell expected

afterwards, she said.

Moisture conservation techniques in agriculture are also recommended in areas where below normal rainfall is expected, with farmers needing post-harvest and storage facilities to stem corrosive effects of excessive moisture and humidity, she elaborated, underlining the need for public health authorities and civic bodies to plan for water purification and clearing mosquito breeding zones.

She urged setting up preparedness and mitigation mechanisms based on close monitoring of the season as it progresses, for timely communication of early warning information.

Preparedness and contingency planning for floods and hazards triggered by floods; resource mobilization and strengthened response preparedness depend on early warning mechanisms, the director added.

Pupils urged to focus on their studies

By Guardian Reporter

PRIMARY school pupils have been advised to prepare well academically to enable them face competition in the job market after completing their secondary and university studies.

The advice was given yesterday by CRDB eastern region bank manager, Mangire Kibanda on behalf of CRDB executive director Abdulmajid Nsekela at the 22nd graduation ceremony of STD 7 pupils at Julius Kambarage Nyerere primary school located at Mbezi Beach in Dar es Salaam.

Kibanda said that the graduates should realise that this is a journey forward so they should be diligent in their studies at both secondary and university levels.

According to Kibanda, in order to adapt to the world of globalisation, students should take the opportunity to learn the basics of using modern technology at all levels of their learning.

He urged parents and guardians to ensure that they give their children better education and moral upbringing in order to realise their dreams.

He said CRDB Bank has a special account for children's education as well as education insurance should a parent or guardian die.

Earlier, Mwalimu JK Nyerere school head teacher, Charles Wandu described the development of the profession, saying the school has been getting good results in national examinations since its inception, with all children being selected to join secondary schools.

He however, said they were facing a number of challenges including teachers' houses, a dining hall, and shortage of enough computers for learning. He cited an incident last year where all 55 children were selected to join different secondary school, including the prestigious ones.

Kibanda further said that since CRDB Bank has a community benefit plan in place, it will look at how to help address those challenges, after meeting with its board of directors for discussion.

The chairman of the school's board of directors, Jenerali Ulimwengu said the administration was striving to provide quality education to young people, to give them good foundation for secondary education that shall in future enable them to join both local and foreign universities.

CPB focuses on increasing production of wheat - MD

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) is focusing on increasing production of wheat in the country to meet the ever growing demand and reduce importation of the cereal.

CPB's acting managing director, Valerian Mbalangeti said here yesterday that the board is prepared to meet the huge demand of wheat with focus on its northern highland zone regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara.

He said Tanzania imports a total of 800,000 tonnes of wheat worth 530bn/- annually for local industries mainly due to low production of the crop.

Mbalangeti noted that CPB through its zonal office in Arusha has encouraged contracting farming with farmers in West Kilimanjaro in Kilimanjaro region, Mbulu and Karatu in Arusha region as well Hanang in Manyara.

"CPB is working on plans to reintroduce wheat farming in all the areas where the crop had been produced in the past, mostly in the northern highland and southern highland zones," said Mbalangeti.

Addressing a press conference here, the acting DG also refuted a report

by one of the newspapers in the country that the board's factory in Arusha Unga Limited suburb is not operational.

He said the said factory, since June, 2019 has created employment for 59 people, 20 of them being on permanent basis while 39 are casual workers and processed 2,309.55 tonnes of maize.

The acting DG said the newspaper reported that the factory is not operational and farmers have nowhere to sell their maize since the factory is closed. He said this is not true, explaining that the factory has never been closed since it was handed over to CPB in June, 2019.

He said the factory has always been carrying out its activities as before and between July and September, 2020, in addition to processing maize flour, it bought 3,000 tonnes of maize for WFP.

On the working strategy for 2020/2021 in the northern zone, he said the board plans to purchase 40,000 tonnes of cereals, process 15,750 tonnes of maize and 27,000 tonnes of wheat at the Unga Limited factory in Arusha as well as producing 36,000 tonnes of wheat through contract farming.

Mbalangeti, added that between July-October 2020, the Arusha office sold 3,000 tonnes of maize that were purchased from farmers in the zone to the World Food Programme (WFP).

The amount, he noted is part of the 21,000 tonnes that CPB sold through its zonal offices in Dodoma, Iringa and Mwanza, adding that the board has opened a warehouse in Kiteto, Manyara region which has bought a total of 1,000 tonnes between July and September, 2020.

"CPB is working on plans to reintroduce wheat farming in all the areas where the crop had been produced in the past, mostly in the northern highland and southern highland zones"



Tigo device manager Mkumbo Myonga briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of ITEL T20 Smartphone into Tanzanian market. He is flanked by ITEL public relations manager Fernando Wolle. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WFP representative presents credentials

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)'s new Country Representative to Tanzania Sarah Gordon-Gibson presented her credentials to the government yesterday.

A statement released yesterday by WFP said Gordon-Gibson presented the papers to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi.

"I am very pleased to be back in Tanzania and see that the country has made significant progress in key human development and economic indicators," said Gordon-Gibson.

"We remain committed to working with the government of Tanzania and partners in addressing national challenges around the environment, climate, social protection schemes, agriculture productivity and food systems, balanced and nutritious diets, as well as equality and women's empowerment."

A qualified lawyer, Gordon-Gibson has worked for WFP for over 20 years. In the past two years, she served as WFP's representative in Jordan, one of WFP's largest operations.

Gordon-Gibson also served as Country Representative in Lao People's Democratic Republic for three years. Her most recent assignments included Deputy Country Representative in Tanzania, Myanmar and Niger.

In support of government efforts to achieve middle-income status in Tanzania, WFP works in areas of nutrition, social safety net, supply chain and support to smallholder farmers.

WFP supports smallholder farmers to transition from subsistence farming to farming as a business and enables access to reliable markets with the aim to render farming communities more food

secure, self-reliant and resilient to shocks. WFP also provides food assistance for refugees and explores innovative solutions for sustainable development.

Additionally, WFP serves as a logistics hub for surrounding landlocked countries and is a key player in the East African region in enabling movement of life-saving food to people in crisis. WFP works closely with the Tanzanian government to strengthen the country's role as a maritime gateway and regional supplier of food.

Gordon-Gibson remarked that WFP highly values its partnership with the government of Tanzania: "An important part of our commitment is to support the government to address the needs of the most vulnerable and food insecure Tanzanians by bringing together our expertise, capabilities as well as resources, and collaborate more than ever before to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030."

WFP is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. We are the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

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Ford	Everest	MNBL54D-10BW320846	T340 CKM	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MIKOCHENI KWA WARIOBA
Ford 380	Ranger Double Cabin	6FPXXMJ2P-CC46113	T380 CGN	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MIKOCHENI KWA WARIOBA
Ford 373	Ranger Double Cabin	6FPXXMJ2P-CC46103	T373 CGN	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MIKOCHENI KWA WARIOBA
Toyota	DFP-Land Cruiser Hard-top 10 seater, 5 door,	JTEEB71J-107014198	DFP 8722	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MIKOCHENI KWA WARIOBA
Toyota	Hilux Double Cabin	AHTFR22G506014112	T776 AXP	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MIKOCHENI KWA WARIOBA
Toyota	Hilux Double Cabin	AHTFR22G606014054	Z 813 BW	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MOROGORO
Ford	Ranger Double Cabin	6FPXXMJ2PDP09874	T272 CTH	JUMAMOSI TAREHE 31/10/2020 SAA NNE ASUBUHI MIKOCHENI KWA WARIOBA

MASHARTI YA MNADA

- Mnunuzi atalazimika kulipa Asilimia Ishirini na tano (25%) papo hapo kwa bei itakayofikiwa na Asilimia Sabini na tano (75%) italipwa katika kipindi cha saa arobaini na nane (48) kuanzia siku ya mnada.
- Endapo mnunuzi atashindwa kulipa asilimia 75%, ndani ya saa 48, asilimia 25% iliyotolewa itakuwa imepotea na mnada utarudiwa tena kwa tarehe itakayopangwa
- Kwa yeyote atakayehitaji kuona magari na mali nyingine muda ni kuanzia saa tatu asubuhi mpaka saa kumi jioni kwa siku za kazi tu, usafiri ni juu ya mnunuzi.

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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Open to Tanzania Nationals Only

Official Job Title: Programme Analyst, Gender-Based Violence
Grade: NOB
Duty Station: Kasulu, United Republic of Tanzania
Post Type: Duration:
Closing Date: Fixed Term Appointment
1 year initially with the potential for renewal subject to performance and available funding
06 November 2020

Organizational Setting

The position:
The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is seeking to recruit a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Harmful Practices Programme Analyst with a focus on the humanitarian response. The successful candidate will work under the overall guidance of the Deputy Representative and the direct supervision of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Coordinator, based in Kasulu, as part of UNFPA's Country Team in Tanzania.

Qualifications and Experience

Education
Advanced university degree in social sciences, sociology, anthropology, gender and development studies, community development, public health or other related social sciences.
Knowledge and Experience
• At least three years professional experience of working on gender equality, with a focus on GBV and harmful practices. Additional experience in the humanitarian programme context is highly desirable.
• Demonstrated experience in working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, disaster risk management and/or human rights will be a strong advantage.
• Experience and a thorough understanding of government systems (national, sub-national) especially in the areas of GBV and harmful practices, gender equality; sexual and reproductive health and rights planning and programming.

Languages
Fluency in Kiswahili and English.

How to Apply
Applicants are kindly requested to apply through the online link below by 06th November 2020: Full details of the vacancy and how to apply can be found on UNFPA Tanzania's website at:
https://tanzania.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/vacancies/job_description_gbv_programme_analyst.pdf

Applicants are kindly requested to apply through the online link below:
https://recruit-partneragencies.org/psc/UNDP1HRE/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRM_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL2?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DT_L&Action=A&JobOpeningId=33198&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

UNFPA has established an electronic management system. This allows applicants to create a candidate profile, which can be updated regularly and submitted for more than one vacancy. Download the step-by-step guide to Applying in the E-Recruit System of UNFPA at <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/step-step-guide-applying-jobs-unfpa>.

Please print out the Guide for your reference during the registration and application process.
Notice: There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process. UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status

Tanzania Insurance Brokers Association

JOB VACANCY: OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/ COORDINATOR

Tanzania Insurance brokers association (TIBA) is looking for an Office Administrator cum Coordinator, capable to multi-task with excellent communication skills and an upbeat attitude. Candidates should be able to assist the Governing Council, Members and visitors to the Association, handle a variety of tasks in order to ensure that all interactions between the organisation and others are positive and productive. The Administrator will be expected to provide polite and professional assistance via phone, mail, and e-mail, keep office records, planning and generally coordinate and manage association activities and the workplace. To be successful the candidates should be professional, polite, and attentive while also being accurate. Should always be prepared and responsive, willing to meet each challenge directly. The Administrator must be comfortable with computers, general office tasks, and excel. Must be fluent at both verbal and written communication. Most importantly, Administrator should have a genuine desire to meet the needs of others.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Diploma or equivalent in Insurance, Mass communication, Marketing, Law or business administration
- Proficient in computer with Microsoft office application
- Fluent in English and Swahili (Multilingual is an added advantage).
- Prior experience will be an added advantage.
- Attention to detail.
- Desire to be proactive and create a positive experience for others.

APPLICATIONS TO:
Honorary Secretary
Tanzania Insurance brokers Association
1st Floor, NIC Kisutu Branch
Plot No. 9 Block "A", Olympio Street (Off Bibi Titi Road)
P.O. Box 77042, Dar es Salaam
Email: administrator@tiba.co.tz

Deadline for submission of applications is 30th October 2020

CODERT INVITATION

The Community Development and Relief in Tanzania (CODERT) is a nongovernmental NGO working in collaboration with an International Partner to offer Microfinance Services in the Southern Highlands Zone. CODERT is inviting Bidders for the Supply of Microfinance HISA Kits and Printing of Books from Experienced Suppliers of HISA Kits who have proven Evidence.

250 Complete VSLA Kit. The HISA kits should be complete.

- Strong, well-made lockable metal cash box, able to be closed with 3 locks
- Three good quality padlocks (this is very important), each with two keys
- Ledger book enough for 35 members
- 35 passbooks
- Rubber stamp for marking shares
- Ink pad and spare bottle of ink
- Ruler
- Two ball point pens: one black or blue, the other red
- Good quality calculator
- 3 plastic bowls in different sizes, about 25-30 cm in diameter and 12 cm deep (one for fines, one for share and one for money-counting)

2. PRINTING SERVICES

- 300 Printed VSLA village agent guide Swahili version 1.05
- 10 Printed VSLA Field Officer Guide versions 2.1 of June 2020

Bidders should request tender documents and forward quotations via the following email address: geitacodert19@gmail.com not later than 30th, October, 2020.
Tax will not be Considered for price evaluation since the goods are under EU Donated funds and are thus Tax exemption.

Songea airport facelift stands at 37 billion/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE government has set aside 37bn/- for refurbishment of Songea airport that has the capacity to handle six "Bombardier" type of planes at one time.

Presenting report for the airport's facelift to Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme early this week, Songea airport manager Jordan Mchami said work on the construction of the 1740mt long and 30mt wide runway has been completed.

He said the construction of the aircraft apron was in the final stages of completion and when completed by mid-November this year it will be able to accommodate more than 6 big planes.

Mchami said special emergency 70mx40m parking area for aircraft has also been built, and added that runway lights for night landing have also been installed.

"Bombardiers will now start landing at Songea airport, and we expect the first plane to land before the end of this month," said Mchami.

He said the new building for passengers' lounge will hold 150 passengers at one time has also been completed.

He said passenger fares would be affordable compared to those of private carriers which stand at between 500,000/- and 600,000/- for Songea-

Dar return journey.

He said the arrival of Bombardier will serve residents of Ruvuma region as they would now pay 400,000/- Songea-Dar return journey.

Speaking after inspection of the airport, Songea RC Christina Mndeme praised CHICCO contractors for refurbishment of the airport which will be 100 per cent complete by December, this year.

She said Songea airport was a rare resource that can boost Songea's economic growth and the entire Ruvuma Region especially in the tourism sector, following the launch of strategic plan to spur tourism in the region.

Songea airport was built between 1974 and 1980 and its runway at tarmac level will enable it to handle planes during all seasons.



Bombardiers will now start landing at Songea airport, and we expect the first plane to land before the end of this month



Karatu District Commissioner Abbas Kayanda talks with Lositete residents in Arusha region yesterday. He said the government released 150m/- to complete construction of Jobaj, Mang'ola Juu, and Huduma dispensaries in the district. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Dr Shein urges workers in President's Office to work hard

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has called on staff and workers in the President's and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council to work diligently.

Dr Shein was speaking at the

inauguration of the new office for the President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council at Chake Chake in Pemba South Region as well as the State House at Micheweni in Pemba North Region.

He praised the leadership of the office of the President and Chairman

of the Revolutionary Council led by Minister of State Issa Haji Gavu for the supervision of the construction work.

He also hailed local contractors and specially the architect, who is the Manager of the State House buildings Mohamed Abdulrahman Machungwa.

Dr Shein stressed that both buildings have been constructed from the government own funds, and called for taking care of the buildings to last long.

He also stressed the need for environment protection around the State House saying every person should take the responsibility.

He also mentioned the need for the Zanzibar government to establish buildings agency and housing corporation which will assist in reducing construction costs of government buildings.

The Minister of State in the Office of the President Issa Haji Gavu

thanked Dr Shein for his various directives and guidelines that enabled successful completion of the buildings construction.

Earlier, the Secretary to the Office of the President Salum Maulid Salum thanked Dr Shein for his mobilisation for the construction of the buildings.

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Make close follow up on child abuse cases, Isles' parents and guardians told

By Guardian Reporter

PARENTS and guardians whose children were abused in Zanzibar have been urged to make close follow ups on their cases so that perpetrators are taken to court for justice to take its course.

Asha Abdi Makame, programme manager at the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) made the call yesterday when speaking at a one-day training for children who were abused in different parts of Unguja. "Every parent and guardian has a responsibility of making a follow up on child abuse related cases and cooperate with legal entities, to ensure that the perpetrators are taken to court," she said, encouraging them to report all cases to responsible authorities so that end such uncouth behaviors in the society.

Zanzibar state attorney, Khamis Juma urged the abused children to be free from fears when they are in court and see it as similar to their homes.

"The court is responsible to stand for the rights of everyone including children. That's why juvenile cases have special environment to simplify justice dispensation. It provide better environment for children to testify without fear," he said. The law is very clear; a person is guilty if the plaintiff is free to provide evidences in court on what happened on the fateful day of the incident.

"So, I urge the abused children to be bold when testifying in courts as they need to say everything happened on the day of the incident. And it is important for the victims to testify in court if we're to end violence against children," he suggested.

Psychologist from Zanzibar School of Health (ZSH), Asya Saleh Abdullatif said in most cases GBV perpetrators are family members, the situation that complicates the fight against such barbaric behaviour.

Tamwa Zanzibar has empowered 29 children from different parts of Unguja with skills on how to testify in court.



TBL Pic managing director Philip Redman (L) receives a certificate of business appreciation from Vodacom Tanzania managing director Hisham Hendi at a visit to the company's headquarters in Dar es Salaam recently. TBL is one of Vodacom's biggest customers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA and China have jointly agreed to continue promoting friendship relations through language and cultures for the mutual benefit of people from the two countries.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Leonard Akwilapo said this on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam at the third Chinese Ambassador's Award Presentation Ceremony held at the Embassy premises.

The event was attended by around 20 Tanzanian students and teachers who

China, Tanzania vow to promote bilateral ties

won this year Chinese Ambassador's Award graduated from the Confucius College, University of Dar es Salaam. (The actual number of winners is 122).

He said that Tanzania had benefited a lot from the friendship including sponsorships in different cadres, Chinese language among them.

"I would like to thank the Chinese embassy for organising the award to the teachers which to a great extent promotes our existing relationship," he

said.

Dr Akwilapo said further that China had done a lot in the global market and development; therefore Chinese language was one of the opportunities to reach that goal.

According to the PS, the Ambassador award will inspire other students pursuing Chinese language courses to get good results. For her part, the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke said in a period of five years,

China had sponsored 1,023 in Tanzania mainland and 169 in Zanzibar.

She said this year China and Tanzania commemorate 55th since the late father of the nation visited China and the China Prime Minister Zhou Enlai in the country as well as the signing of the friendship relationships.

The envoy said currently, there was strong collaboration in business, tourism, cultural, education and education adding that learning Chinese

language could add more value to them to utilize more opportunities.

The Confucius Institute (CI) Director Dr Liu Yan said the CI co-founded by the University of Dar es Salaam and Zhejiang normal university was launched on 9th October in 2013.

He added that since the institute was established it had undergone seven years endeavour in the path of Chinese language, culture communication and friendship cultivation of China and

Tanzania.

He said that in 2019, there were more than 10,000 registered for Chinese training courses, Chinese elective courses, kungfu courses and other cultural courses languages.

Dr Yan said the institute also offers different categories of scholarship for outstanding learners, which has supported 48 students for further studies in China. He noted that from 2018, it started offering bachelor's with education (Chinese & English), and diploma in Chinese language, right now there were 169 degree students and 27 diploma students.



PUBLIC NOTICE

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC TAX STAMPS SYSTEM ON FRUIT OR VEGETABLE JUICES, BOTTLED WATER, AND FILMS/MUSIC PRODUCTS (RECORDED CDS/VCDS/DVDS/TAPES)

Dar es Salaam, 21st October, 2020

Pursuant to **Regulation 29 of the Electronic Tax Stamps Regulations, 2018** (henceforth, "the Regulations"), Tanzania Revenue Authority ("TRA" or "the Authority") do hereby inform all the licensed and registered manufacturers, importers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers of excisable goods, and the general public, that the **1st day of November 2020** shall be the effective date for commencement of the usage of the Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) System for fruit juices (including grape must), vegetable juices (under Heading 20.09), bottled drinking water (under Heading 22.01), and music and film products (recorded Tapes/CDS/VCDS/DVDS).

This follows the completion and application of the referred System, in **Phase I and Phase II** to such products that included cigarettes, wines, spirits, beer, and all kinds of alcoholic beverages on **15th January 2019** and followed by sweetened flavored water and other non-alcoholic beverages, like energy and malt drinks and soda, on **1st August 2019**, respectively.

Against the above background, and cognizant to the spirit of the need to effectively implement the mandate bestowed upon the Authority, as provided for in **Section 5(1)(a) of Tanzania Revenue Authority Act, CAP. 399 R.E 2019**, all respective stakeholders and the general public are hereby required to take note of the specified products as mentioned above, whether manufactured in or imported into the United Republic from 1st November 2020, that they must be affixed with ETS in accordance with **Regulation 4 of the Regulations**.

Please note that since the above mentioned products were not affixed with tax stamps prior to the introduction of ETS, THEREFORE, such products, which are still at the manufacturers' or importers' warehouses and at the markets are, in terms of **Regulation 44(3) of the Regulations**, given a privilege of a grace period of up to three (3) months, to wit, from 1st November 2020 up until or before **31st January 2021**, to either be traded or phased out.

In addition, every manufacturer or importer of the referred products in the current phase shall be required to declare all quantities of products with no ETS in their possession (unsold) in the prescribed form, which is available at all TRA Regional Offices and is downloadable as well at www.tra.go.tz, before the effective date.

The Authority undertakes to remind and direct all traders and other concerned stakeholders or parties to submit full details of their brands, forecasts of quantities of ETS they intend to use before the effective date and make registration in the Electronic Tax Stamp Management System (ETSMS) to enable their ordering of the new tax stamps through the web portal (<https://taxstamp.tra.go.tz/>) available in the website of TRA (www.tra.go.tz).

For more information and support, kindly feel free to visit any nearest TRA Office countrywide, our website, or use TRA Call Centre, through Toll Free mobile numbers 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078, WhatsApp number 0744 233 333 or email: services@tra.go.tz.

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Dr. Edwin P. Mhede, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER GENERAL

Government to construct Mtwara-Songea-Mbamba Bay railway line

By Guardian Reporter

A Member of CCM Central Committee Kassim Majaliwa has said the government wants to construct a railway line from Mtwara to Songea up to Mbamba Bay with branches to Mchuchuma and Liganga.

"Feasibility studies has already been done and all drawings are ready. And this is in the CCM Election Manifesto Para 59 (d)," he said. Majaliwa revealed this on Tuesday this

week when addressing residents of Ndanda at a campaign rally.

He elaborated that Paragraph 59(d) (page 94) explains that in the next five years, infrastructural projects to be implemented in various areas of the country include building of a 1,000km railway line from Mtwara to Songea up to Mbamba Bay with branches to Liganga and Mchuchuma.

Majaliwa who was in Mtwara Region to campaign for CCM Presidential Candidate,

Dr John Magufuli, also used the occasion to campaign for CCM Parliamentary Candidate for Ndanda Constituency Cecil Mwanje and other Council candidates.

In regard to the water sector, Majaliwa said the government provided a total of 11.2bn/- for Shaurimoyo, Mkalola, Mpitimbi, Shitingi, Sindano and Lihecha water projects.

On roads improvement, he said the contractor for the Nanganga-Ruangwa road at tarmac level has already arrived on site and work has started.

He mentioned other roads under construction as including the 45km Masasi-Nachingwea road, 50km Nachingwea-Ruangwa and the 45km Nanganga-Masasi road.

In regard to the education sector, Majaliwa said Ndanda Secondary school is among old schools and the government has set aside 600m/- to begin refurbishment of the dining room, saying the government wanted the school to return to its former glory.

He called on Ndanda Secondary School studentsto study hard to realise their life dreams and the government will continue providing higher education loans for students as the government has already increased budget thereof to 464bn/- now.

He said the number of higher education students receiving loans tops 130,883 from 98,300, adding that the number of students currently in the higher education institutions is 87,813 from 65,064 in 2015.

TAARIFA KWA UMMA

KUFUNGWA KWA KITUO CHA MAKUSANYO YA KODI YA NYUMBA CHA NKRUMAH

Shirika la Nyumba la Taifa (NHC) linapenda kuwatangazia wateja wote hususan wapangaji wa nyumba za Shirika Jijini Dar es Salaam kuwa kituo cha makusanyo ya kodi ya nyumba cha Nkrumah kitafungwa rasmi Jumamosi ya tarehe 31/10/2020.

Kufungwa kwa kituo hiki cha kukusanyia kodi kumefanywa baada ya Shirika kuhamia rasmi katika mfumo wa malipo wa Serikali ujulikanao kama Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG) kama matakwa ya sheria kwa Taasisi za Serikali.

Aidha, tunapenda kuwafahamisha wapangaji kuwa kuanzia tarehe 1/11/2020 huduma zingine zinazohitaji kutumia kituo hicho zitatolewa na Ofisi za NHC Upanga na Ilala. Ili kuendana na mabadiliko haya, namba za utambulisho wa malipo za wapangaji zitaonekana kwenye Ankara za malipo ya kila mwezi upande wa juu kulia. Tunawashukuru kwa ushirikiano wenu na tunaomba radhi kwa usumbufu wowote utakojitokeza.

IMETOLEWA NA:
KITENGO CHA MAWASILIANO KWA UMMA NA HUDUMA KWA JAMII
SHIRIKA LA NYUMBA LA TAIFA

Huge volumes of arms trafficked into SADC - UN

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations has said high volumes of firearms are being trafficked into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region with Angola and Botswana being among countries that are most affected by the illegal arms trade.

The report, by the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), comes at a time when Zimbabwean security forces have launched an investigation into the proliferation of illegal firearms into the country.

These firearms have been used in deadly criminal activities.

The report, titled "Global Study on Firearms Trafficking", was released during the ongoing virtual UN General

Assembly summit.

A total of 12,000 illicit firearms were seized in Angola this year alone while 1,000 were confiscated in Botswana, making the two countries the worst affected.

Angola is also the most affected African country.

However, the UNODC warns this might not be a true reflection of the

situation because of underreporting and incapacity to intercept the arms in other countries.

Apart from the two, no other southern African country appears on a nine-member list featuring prominently countries in the strife-torn East and West African regions.

Kenya is the second most affected African country after Angola.

"The seized firearms include pistols and submachine guns," the report reads.

"In Africa, the largest quantities of seized weapons were registered in Angola and Kenya. Aside from the prevalence of shotguns generally, notable proportions of machine guns were seized in Tunisia and of submachine guns in Burundi.

"In the Central African Republic, aside from miscellaneous weapons such as grenades, artisanal weapons and cannons, the remaining seized

weapons were predominantly rifles and submachine guns.

"However, many countries in Africa appear to have a lower capacity to intercept and report trafficked firearms, which may lead to underreporting of some types of firearms.

"Moreover, the total figures reported by countries include seizures which are not directly connected to trafficking. Based on customs seizures at borders, rifles emerge at par with pistols. This suggests that firearms such as rifles may play a bigger role in global trafficking patterns than what is reflected in the currently available data."

The report noted the majority of weapons are sourced from the US and are used in violent crimes and conflicts on the continent while some of the deadly weapons would be intercepted while in transit to other destinations.

"Northern America is the principal sub-region of departure for seized

firearms, according to the available data. Trafficking by land remains the most common type of cross-border case, accounting for roughly two-thirds of the total. Interceptions from vessels accounted for only around six percent of all customs cases, but 33 percent of the total number of firearms seized by customs."

The conflict-ridden DRC, the report says, is a major destination of European made firearms.

"Shotguns were most conspicuous in African countries in addition, a high proportion of shotguns was registered in Greece, driven by a single seizure of 6 404 shotguns intended for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Moreover, high proportions of high-powered arms could also be observed, albeit in a sporadic fashion, in some African countries, such as rifles in Angola, Botswana, Kenya and Libya and machine guns in Tunisia."



Mazars Wiscon Associates directors Ipyana Lazaro (R) and Witness Shilekirwa shake hands moments after a press conference held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Mazars Wiscon Associates has now changed to Mazars Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Celebrating African youth turning the tide on plastic pollution - UN

By Special Correspondent

MORE than 400 young Africans honoured for their leadership in addressing plastic pollution in their communities as part of the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge.

At a high-level event, political leaders, senior UN officials and Grammy-nominated Ghanaian musician Rocky Dawuni lauded the leadership shown by young people in global efforts to fight plastic pollution.

The African Youth Summit - Tide Turners Plastic Challenge acknowledged the role of more than 400 champions who have completed all three levels of the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge. Participants in the Challenge have shown leadership by raising awareness through social media, championing plastic waste collection campaigns and demonstrating sustainability in their own lives, among other things.

Funded by the United Kingdom for the past two years, the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge has been completed by more than 225,000 young people in over 25 countries, including 50,000 in Africa. The challenge takes the participants on a learning journey consisting of three different levels: entry, leader, and champion.

More than 1,500 young people attended the Summit, organised by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Organization of the Scout Movement and Junior

Achievement Africa.

"As a former Girl Guide, I am very proud of Tide Turners and all the inspiring young people who are part of it; so far, more than 50,000 young people in 18 countries across Africa have joined this important programme. Let's continue this momentum, adding seven more countries to reach youth in nearly half of all African countries," said Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.

The Summit which took place alongside the Scouts during their annual Jamboree on the Internet event (JOTA-JOTI) to share lessons from the actions young people have taken to fight plastic pollution and become environmental leaders in their communities. Six young changemakers shared their stories about how they went about provoking change and inspiring their peers to join them in taking action on plastic pollution.

"The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge gave me a great platform to pass on the message against plastic waste and share my solutions," said Fyona Seesurran, a 22-year old student from Mauritius, one of the champions who was honoured at the summit.

"100,000 mammals and one million birds die every year from eating or getting tangled in plastic in the ocean. If we do nothing, the amount of plastic in the ocean is set to treble by 2025. We must take collective action now. The Tide Turners are a force to be reckoned with, inspiring a whole new generation of leaders to tackle plastic

pollution within their communities. That's why the UK is supporting the UNEP to extend the work of the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge to a further 20 countries around the world", said Zac Goldsmith, UK Minister of State for Pacific and the Environment.

Grammy-nominated Ghanaian musician Rocky Dawuni - a UNEP Goodwill Ambassador - also addressed the young people at the Summit and serenaded guests with hits including "Rock Your Soul".

The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge is the first ever Scout and Girl Guide Badge made from recycled plastic; the Challenge has been integrated into a new digital platform for World Scouting's new environmental education initiative: Earth Tribe, which unites 54 million Scouts in a global youth movement for the environment, and offers young people the opportunity to learn and act on key environmental issues that are affecting their communities.

In 2021, organisers will be adding a new element to the badge which will focus on influencing policy and practice change.

Each year, more than 8 million tons of plastic ends up in the oceans, wreaking havoc on marine wildlife, fisheries, and tourism, and costing at least \$8 billion in damage to marine ecosystems. World production of plastic materials in 2018 was estimated at 359 million tonnes and by 2040, the amount of plastic going into our oceans could triple.

Africa observes Human Rights Day in a style

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

AFRICAN Human Rights Day being observed on Wednesday, representatives of various organizations urged to focus on health care, food, social protection to strengthen African societies.

"The Commemoration of the African Day of Human Rights is happening under difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic," said African Union (AU) Commissioner for Political Affairs Cessouma Minata Samate while addressing a webinar. She said the continent has displayed resilience and prevented the worst manifestation of the pandemic.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into force on Oct. 21, 1986. This date was thus declared the African Human Rights Day, according

to the AU website.

"Under article 30 of the African Charter, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) was established as an enforcement mechanism for the African Charter. The ACHPR is composed of eleven commissioners, nationals of the member states of the African Union elected in their individual capacity," says the website.

Solomon Ayele Derso, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Human and Peoples Rights said in 2020, the day is being celebrated in an extraordinary circumstance owing to COVID-19.

"It disrupted the living of our societies with huge consequences. The Pandemic highlights pervasive poverty and inequalities," he said.

He also said that the virus exposed deep structural weaknesses of the

societies.

"How can one who lacks water for handwashing comply with COVID-19 requirements?" he asked. He urged governments to make sure that citizens access necessities including health and social protection.

He also highlighted police actions in the continent, saying more people have been killed in by law enforcement agencies than the pandemic.

"We have a very serious problem of police brutality," he said.

These brutalities led to the loss of lives and injuries, worsening the vulnerability and fragility of African societies.

Derso called on governments to approach the issues of human rights with urgency and seriousness.

The Day was commemorated with a theme: Africa Human Rights Day: Building Back Better.



T-MARC TANZANIA

Tanzania Marketing and Communications

Serving Communities, Improving Lives

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Background

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

T-MARC is currently implementing two projects; 1) USAID Social Enterprise which has focused on family planning method and HIV prevention products, such as condoms, and oral contraceptives and USAID Tulonge Afya in partnership with Family Health International (FHI 360), this is an SBC focused project.

T-MARC Tanzania wishes to conduct the following:-

1. OMNIBUS SURVEY

As a part of project monitoring, Omnibus surveys are conducted occasionally to monitor reach of our products, promotion campaigns and SBC campaigns, recall of the messages that have been aired through different national campaigns around T-MARC's products and behaviour of individuals around the products. This study will also be used for other marketing purposes and designing purposes as well as future campaigns. As such information around knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours (efficacy, norms) around our products is also of need.

The objectives of these surveys are to provide the project with data on:

- Assess trends in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours (efficacy, norms) around our products among targeted audiences.
- Assess reaction of targeted audience to campaigns design and channels.
- Assess usability of T- MARC products

2. MEASURING ACCESS AND PERFORMANCE – FAST MOVING CONSUMER GOODS (MAP-FMCG) STUDY

The overall purpose of conducting MAP-FMCG study is to collect information on access to priority health products including T-MARC's product to measure access and performance of Flexi P, Dume brands and other T-MARC products. This study is also expected to provide a picture of where health products and interventions are available and the extent to which target populations have access to them. This study would also like to look at the availability of these products across different locations and different population.

3. SALES FORCE AUTOMATION SYSTEM

T-MARC Tanzania intends to procure the automated sales system which will manage its sales information system. The system expected to

enable continuous monitoring and routine decision making for sales, distribution, and trade marketing.

The sales force automation solution is intended to:

- Monitor the sales representative activities in the field in real time
- Collect sales data on mobile devices operated by sales representatives in the field.
- Store and process sales data collected
- Produce standard reports based on data (sales dashboard and offer report customization options based on user needs)

The Sales Dashboard will be generated by the system using the data collected from field force level. The Sales Dashboard will offer information related to productivity of the field sales force and of the outlet universe as well as information about coverage and product velocity at point of sale. Additionally, it may report on performance against targets, it may generate sales forecasting bottom up, or more advanced analyses on trade marketing initiatives. As a result of this Dashboard and other analyses possible in the system, Sales and Marketing teams will be able to make informed decisions about prioritization of resources, rewarding sales teams, and becoming more efficient, and more effective

Requirements

Interested companies/agencies will be required to submit the following with their proposals:-

1. A brief note detailing area of work and experience in respective category
2. Current and updated company profile
3. Certified copy of Registration Certificate, Business license, TIN Number and tax compliance certificate.
4. Attach at least three contacts for reference, two of them being the most recent client you have worked with on similar task.
5. Applicant's contact details (phone, email, website, physical address)

Note that the required documents are mandatory. Applications which do not include all the above documentation will not be considered.

Qualified and interested companies should request for a detailed scope of work through procurement@tmarc.or.tz or collect hard copies from T-MARC Tanzania offices located on Plot No. 215/217 Block D, Kuringa Drive, Tegeta P.O Box 63266, Dar es Salaam from Monday to Friday except public holidays. Please provide us with intent letter when requesting for Scope of work for follow up purposes.

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

Submission deadline

Proposals must be submitted to the following address before **1600 HRS local time on 11th November, 2020** and Late Proposal shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

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

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THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Digital agriculture impacts the entire agri-food value chain

DIGITAL agriculture refers to tools that digitally collect, store, analyse, and share electronic data and/or information along the agricultural value chain. Other definitions, such as those from the United Nations Project Breakthrough, Cornell University, and Purdue University, also emphasise the role of digital technology in the optimisation of food systems.

Sometimes known as "smart farming" or "e-agriculture," digital agriculture includes (but is not limited to) precision agriculture. Unlike precision agriculture, digital agriculture impacts the entire agri-food value chain – before, during, and after on-farm production. Therefore, on-farm technologies, like yield mapping, GPS guidance systems, and variable-rate application, fall under the domain of precision agriculture and digital agriculture. On the other hand, digital technologies involved in e-commerce platforms, e-extension services, warehouse receipt systems, blockchain-enabled food traceability systems, tractor rental apps, etc. fall under the umbrella of digital agriculture but not precision agriculture.

Emerging digital technologies have the potential to change farming beyond recognition. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has referred to this change as a revolution: "a 'digital agricultural revolution' will be the newest shift which could help ensure agriculture meets the needs of the global population into the future."

In other ways, the Digital Agriculture Revolution is distinct from its predecessors. First, digital technologies will affect all parts of the agricultural value chain, including off-farm segments. This differs from the first three agricultural revolutions, which primarily impacted production techniques and on-farm technologies. Second, a farmer's role will

require more data analytics skills and less physical interaction with livestock/fields.

Third, although farming has always relied on empirical evidence, the volume of data and the methods of analysis will undergo drastic changes in the digital revolution. Finally, increased reliance on big data may increase the power differential between farmers and information service providers,[6][29] or between farmers and large value chain actors (like supermarkets).[6]

Digital agriculture encompasses a wide range of technologies, most of which have multiple applications along the agricultural value chain.

The FAO estimates the world will need to produce 56 per cent more food (as compared to 2010, under "business as usual" growth) to feed over 9 billion in 2050. Furthermore, the world faces intersecting challenges like malnutrition, climate change, food waste, and changing diets. To produce a "sustainable food future," the world must increase food production. Digital agriculture could address these challenges by making the agricultural value chain more efficient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable.

Digital technology changes economic activity by lowering the costs of replicating, transporting, tracking, verifying, and searching for data. Due to these falling costs, digital technology will improve efficiency throughout the agricultural value chain.

From the agricultural use of drones in Mozambique to solar irrigation systems in Africa is embracing digital technologies to boost its food productivity and profitably – and that only becomes a more critical goal as young populations grow across the coming decades. That's one reason why youth is at the centre of a recent report from the Malabo Montpellier Panel. The 17-member panel is made up of African experts, along with a few Europeans.

Africa should seek durable solutions to the continent's migrants crisis

IMMIGRATION is the international movement of people to a destination country of which they are not natives or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle as permanent residents or naturalised citizens. As for economic effects, research suggests that migration is beneficial both to the receiving and sending countries.

There is even more evidence that African immigrants are more likely to move elsewhere within the continent than outside it.

While migration to Europe through life-threatening trips across the Sahara desert and Mediterranean Sea as well to North America through immigration programmes and asylum requests have dominated headlines, there are more Africans likely to emigrate to another African country.

A new Afrobarometer survey of respondents in 34 African countries shows that 36 per cent of Africans are more likely to move to another country within the continent. The trend noted in the report is also backed by reality as only 20 per cent of African migrants who decide to emigrate from their countries actually leave the continent, according to the African Union. For example, many more people move from the Horn of Africa to southern Africa than those crossing the Sahara to north Africa to reach Europe.

Research, with few exceptions, finds that immigration on average has positive economic effects on the native population, but is mixed as to whether low-skilled immigration adversely affects low-skilled natives. Studies show that the elimination of barriers to migration would have profound effects on world GDP, with estimates of gains ranging between 67 and 147 per cent.

Development economists argue that reducing barriers to labour mobility between developing countries and developed countries would be one of the most efficient tools of poverty reduction. Positive net immigration can soften the demographic dilemma in the aging global North.

The academic literature provides mixed findings for the relationship between immigration and crime worldwide, but finds for the United States that immigration either has no impact on the crime rate or that it reduces the crime rate. Research shows that country of origin matters for speed and depth of immigrant assimilation, but that there is considerable assimilation overall for both first- and second-generation immigrants. Research has found extensive evidence of discrimination against foreign born and minority populations in criminal justice, business, the economy, housing, health care, media, and politics in the United States and Europe.

African migrants' destinations are overwhelmingly not to Europe or North America, but to each other's countries, said the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

African migration in the 21st Century takes place mainly by land, not by sea. The report released recently by IOM and the African Union Commission (AUC). It is the first continent-specific report on migration and is being released during a virtual meeting bringing together policymakers, experts on migration and UN partner agencies.

IOM director general António Vitorino said in his opening remarks, it reminds us how migration is integrated into every aspect of our societies and economies. It reinforces the critical need to include migrants into our responses to multifaceted crises, and in all our public policies. And it forces us to look beyond the problems of today, and consider where the challenges, and solutions, of tomorrow might be found.

Globally, the salience of migration issues is getting higher on the policy agenda. Stories of desperate Africans on rickety boats trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe or embarking on the perilous Eastern trek to the Gulf States have become mainstream. This trend distorts the public's understanding that most African migrants are moving across land borders, not across oceans.

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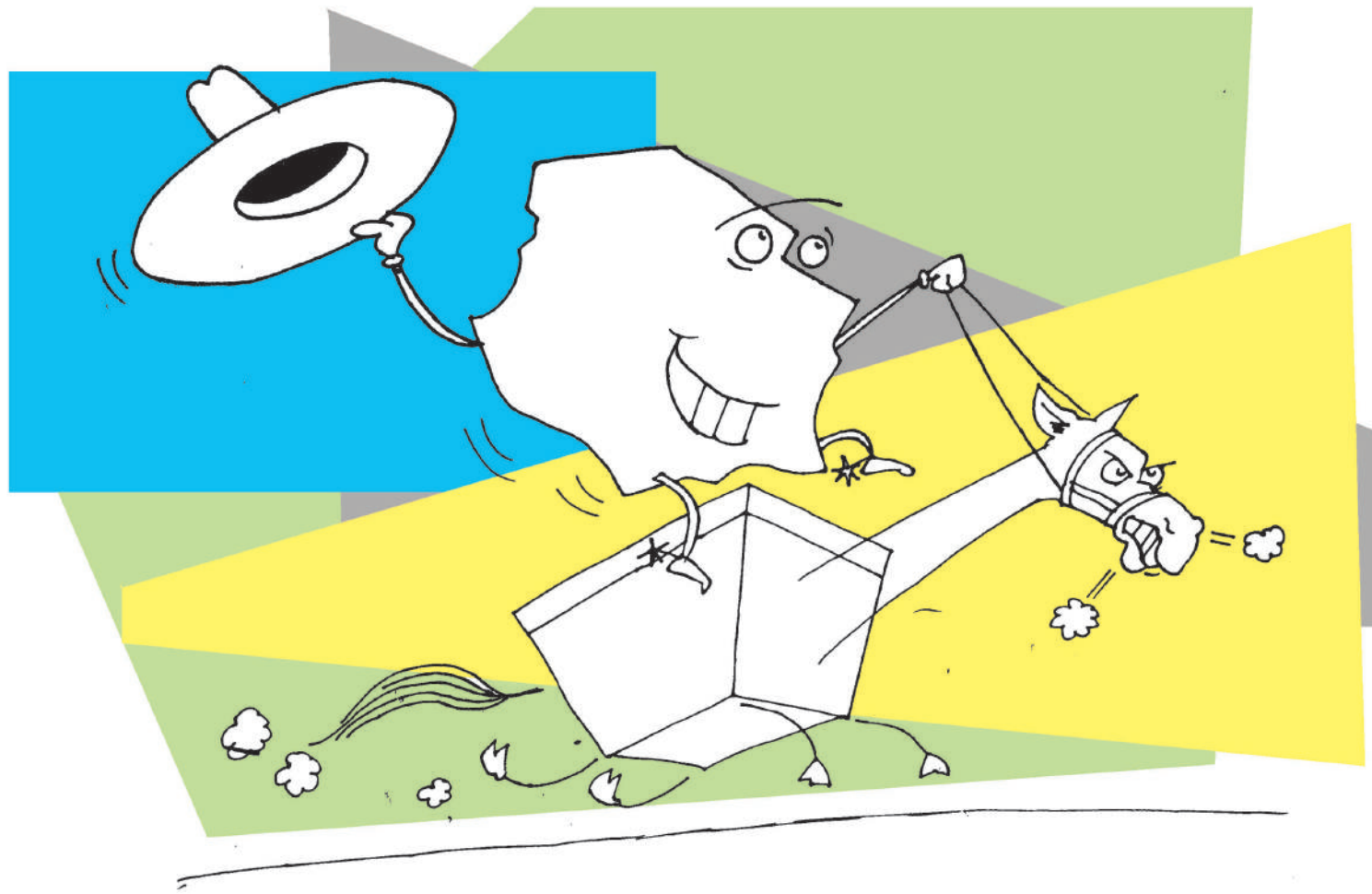
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Suffering in 'national interest'

By Special Correspondent

LONG gone are the days when purely financial factors were supposed to be the only consideration in government economic policies. These days, it's all about socio-economics, which involves conceptualising policies that ensure society remains peaceful and progresses, rather than stagnates or regresses.

The decline in Nigeria's fortunes over the years is a clear indication that successive governments have failed to conceptualise or implement appropriate socio-economic policies, which would have led to economic growth and social contentment. It says a lot that twenty years after the return to democracy, and in the days leading up to "celebrating" the 60th year of independence, the Trade Unions Congress (TUC) and Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) along with 80 workers unions and civil society groups under the umbrella of Alliance on Surviving COVID-19 and Beyond (ASCAB) are scheduled to hold nationwide protests over "anti-people" economic policies. Increasing numbers are suffering the ill-effects of government's economic policies, and questions are rightfully being asked as to why the "national interest" always involves inflicting hardships upon ordinary citizens while political leaders insulate themselves at public expense?

Even as thousands have lost and are still losing their jobs, the government is rolling out policies, which further impoverish citizens rather than increasing palliative. The withdrawal of subsidy from petroleum marketers has increased fuel prices by approximately 15% overnight. It's inexcusable that after five years in office, the All Progressives Congress (APC) led government hasn't managed to repair or build a single refinery and are instead burdening citizens with the cost of their failure to do the right thing! It's difficult to see how this is compatible with any claim to be trying to lift Nigerians out of poverty.

It's a well-known fact that increasing fuel price is the most poverty inducing economic policy, yet this increase is being implemented at a time when many companies are massively retrenching staff, increasing numbers are owed salaries, gratuities or pensions and the majority are struggling to satisfy their most basic needs. It also comes at a time when electricity tariff, Cable TV rates, GSM call rates, and air transport fares have increased. The increased electricity tariff effective 1st Sept 2020 is predictably creating widespread resentment. It's been condemned as being "totally inappropriate" at a time



National Assembly

when the nation's manufacturing sector is comatose due in large part to the high cost of energy, and personal incomes have been seriously affected by weeks of government ordered COVID-19 lockdown.

Some misguided analysts are using global comparatives to justify this increase in the pains of living in Nigeria. They irrationally compare fuel and electricity prices in developed nations with the local price, conveniently forgetting to take into account the minimum wage in those nations. Rather than call government's economic policies "wicked" like the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) spokesperson and human rights activists have done, it serves a better purpose to grasp that they are simply reacting to events and don't really have any people-oriented proactive economic policy.

These days, Nigeria is being described as "a nation on autopilot" with no coherent, generally accepted socio-economic plan as to how to ensure peace and progress. Supporters of the various price increases say they are good because the federal government will get more money. The problem is that much of what the government does with money these days is wasteful and unimpressive.

The constant purchase of fleets of new cars, renovation of government buildings, junketing, white elephant projects and indefensible personal "entitlements" of political office holders not only annoy long-suffering Nigerians, but also supports the assertion that government doesn't

actually need more money, they simply need to be more prudent in the manner in which they spend it.

In Western democracies, government's response to the COVID-19 economic downturn was to bail out citizens by packaging relief plans such as cash transfers, food banks, moratorium on rent payments and other interventions. These palliatives were targeted at employers, to prevent them from retrenching staff, and employees who had lost their jobs because businesses closed due to COVID-10 pandemic. In Nigeria, the government's response was to supposedly spend hundreds of millions on a questionable school feeding programme carried out at a time they had ordered schools to be closed! They also purportedly doled out billions in cash to unidentified, nameless recipients!

Nigerian political leaders are regarded worldwide as locusts with neither aptitude for the job nor concern for the plight of citizens, who concentrate on misappropriating national wealth and enjoying it in other lands. While the economy continues crumbling they cushion themselves, family and friends, financially with public funds, while citizens learn how to survive their continuously deteriorating circumstances or increasingly commit suicide. According to late British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, if you push a Nigerian to the wall, rather than face you, he will struggle to break through the wall and continue running! Be that as it may,

there is no denying widespread rightful indignation at those economic policies, which contradict claims APC leaders made when in opposition which garnered them support back then.

They claimed it would take only five months to fix power. Five years later the system is worse than ever and citizens are being forced into paying more for less electricity! They claimed that the fuel subsidy was a treasury looting scam.

Five years later they announced that they are removing the very same subsidy! They claimed they have a plan to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty, but the unavoidable inflationary side effects of fuel and electricity price increases will ensure that Nigeria continues to occupy a prominent position in the world poverty rankings.

The government's attempts to articulate exactly how they intend to alleviate poverty, habitually contain phrases such as "plans are in the pipeline"; which suggests an absence of tangible strategy. Successful democracy isn't simply about holding elections. It's also about ensuring peace and avoiding confrontation through consultations. The government must de-escalate the situation by consulting with various interest groups. There's no denying that inappropriate, economic policies imposed without consultation have routinely favoured the few, while further impoverishing the majority who are weary of constantly being asked to increase their suffering in the "national interest".

BY CORRESPONDENT VALENTINE OFORO, DO-

DOMA

GOVERNMENT efforts to revamp cultivation of grapes have started to receive tremendous results following establishment of large vineyard plantations in central zone corridor, as well as wine processing factories.

After facing years of lackluster performance, the vital economic sector has started to experience an impressive trend, following an influx of potential local and foreign investors who have initiated large grapes plantations and wine processing plants.

The development has successfully triggered potential financial institutions to start rolling-out lucrative capital loans to support farmers to venture into large cultivation of the prestigious crop, ever before.

At a wake of such positive trend, at least 1,500 grape growers from the three villages of Lubala, Bankoko and Lamaiti in Bahi districts, Dodoma region, have decided to join efforts under a special Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), to the tune of establishing a grape production company, dubbed Lubala Vine Yard Company.

The company, has successfully managed to attract a total of 2.6bn/- worth support from Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) and the Tanzania Unit Trust (UTT) to the tune of established a 170-acre modern grapes plantation.

Located at Lamaiti village, in Bahi districts, about 70kms from Dodoma city, the major farming project has been installed with modern irrigation scheme, with preliminary focus to harvest about 7000 kilograms per acre.

"The farm is irrigated twice a week through a special 'dripping system' which received water from

Grapes cultivation receives more investments



Donald Mejetii displays a healthier grapes plant at the modern 170-acre farm in Lamaiti village, Bahi District in Dodoma Region.

a 121m/- worth dam with capacity to preserve and distribute about 3.6 million liters per day. The dripping irrigation system is driven by 192m/-worth solar panel that have been installed at the farm," expressed the supervisor of the project, Donald Mejetii.

"We are handling this project very careful so as to realize high sounding profits because we are tasked to refund the money that we have been loaned from the two institutions," he told The Guardian during a special tour of the project.

He said per the project's

agreements, each farmer involved in a project manages and supervise one hectare, added, "We are expecting this project to play prime role at helping the farmer escape from shackles of poverty."

Growing methodology

Contrary to other cash crops, growing grapes is somewhat complicated and expensive. "Agriculture is science. Grapes require systematic and professional treatment throughout all stages till harvesting it," said Dr Emmanuel

Ulomi, the farm's manager -cum-extensional officer.

He said, at the farm, grapes have been grown in special trenches, whereby each hectare comprises 20 trenches, under special dimension of 2.5 meters from one trenches to another.

"Each trench consumes 1 lorry (5tonnes) of fertilizer, often urea during growing season, and later on we would apply termiticide," he detailed.

According to him, after growing to the tune of 18 centimeters the grapes would be trimmed before laying them

to a training tables system in order to allow them growing further and produce heavy bunches of grapes. Fungus diseases, especially powdery mildew and downy mildew are chronic complaints affecting grapes, but Ulomi said they have enough pesticides to overcome the matters.

Market Strategies

The grapes grown at the farm are the Wine-Grapes- 'Makutupora Reds', targeting vast external market. A sh729.5m processing industry is expected to be constructed in the area, thanks again for the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB).

"TIB has already assured to inject us the amount so that we could install an ultramodern processing industry. Our target is to sell grapes while in raw material, we will be processing concentrate juice and sell it in readiness for the manufacturing of different products," Mejetii added.

According to him, architectural draft for the plan has already been designed, whereby negotiations are in a better stage to acquire the said loan from TIB. "We have assured market. Already we have booked vast market in some of the South African's wine industries apart from home market demand," he assured.

With all long way up of 'rain and thunder' struggling to have the project materializing, Mejetii still recalls time-heart support given to him by Dr Marry Nagu and Dodoma MP Anthony Mavunde.

"To be honest, I am the one who pioneered the idea over this project. It was very difficult by then due to some bureaucracies' limitations. But thanks God I received some support, thanks to Dr Nagu and Anthony Mavunde," he narrated, saying the project also receives some support from Bahi districts offices. "The only

challenge we are currently faces is financial muscle to employ professional irrigation engineer, an accountant and a farm manager," he divulged.

Key grapes statistics and development

Impeccable statistics depicts that there are at least 1,696 farmers cultivating table and wine grapes in different 25 villages of Chamwino, Bahi and Dodoma Municipality, with annual production capacity at a tune of 10,052 tonnes.

In boosting the sector, the government through the Ministry of Agriculture has launched a programme for identifying and setting aside chunk land to support investments of large vineyards (among local and foreign investors) in all grapes growing areas in the country.

The on-going plan, bases also in collection of reliable current data over a number of grapes farms and farmers in the country, together with relevant production abilities. The timely strategy will also ensure for effective cultivation of more types of wine grapes varieties in order to enable indigenous wine producers to bottle and introduce more types of wines into the global market.

Recently researches proves the crop can grow up successively in more areas within the country, including Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Babati, Karatu, Tabora, Bunda, and Peramiho.

Moreover, scientific facts also established that grapes grown in Dodoma are more wine-worthy (in terms of good taste and aroma), surpassing those grown in rest parts of the world, which is an advantage to Tanzania

BY ALEX WELTE

Covid-19: What we do and don't know about second waves and herd immunity

As of the time of writing (mid-October 2020), there is much talk in South Africa about a "second wave" of Covid-19. In Europe, it is much more than talk, with Covid-19 diagnoses, hospital admissions, and deaths, not to mention "restrictions", all on the rise.

Studies looking for antibodies in community surveys suggest that in most of Europe and North America a far smaller proportion of people have anti-Covid antibodies than what we see in developing world settings like India and Africa, including South Africa. This implies that there is currently more immunity here and people have been wondering out loud whether we have sufficient "herd immunity" to avoid our own "second wave", and for how long.

There is a lot of jargon and technical discourse on such questions, framed in the language of mathematics and "dynamical modelling". This discourse involves analysing how things work in "model worlds" where the rules are fully known and analysable - because we invent/declare the rules ourselves. Hopefully, we do this in a way that makes it possible to draw useful parallels between our model worlds and the real world. For the purposes of understanding how to brace for that possible second wave of Covid-19, this discourse is obscure, technically inaccessible to most people, and largely irrelevant.

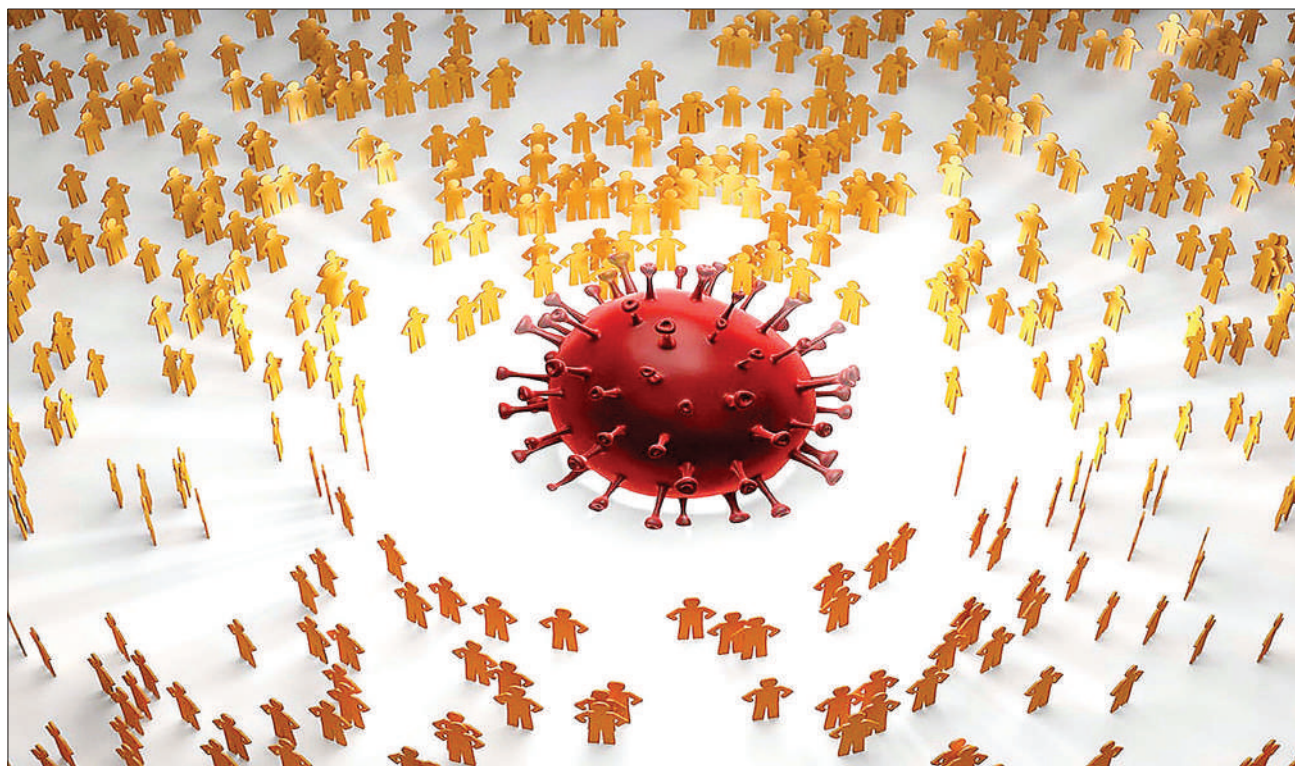
We can, however, unpack the key concepts in accessible ways that people will hopefully find useful.

Herd v individual

First, what is non-herd, for example, "individual" immunity?

To say I am immune to measles, or Covid-19, is to say that I am not at risk of being infected, even if I come into contact with sources of infection. Do I get to claim immunity by carefully dodging the really infectious exposures, or do I need to be able to avoid infection even if I am literally thrust into a crowd of people deliberately spluttering on me for hours on end? Precisely what I am immune to, and under what circumstances, can be tricky to define.

Let us say I get a dose of a vaccine, and then avoid infection for two years, after which I get infected. Did I "have" this thing called "immunity"



Do we have sufficient 'herd immunity' to avoid our own 'second wave' of Covid-19?

which I subsequently "lost"? Was I merely lucky to avoid infectious exposures for two years, even though the vaccine did nothing for me, or did I have partial immunity all along, but less and less over time, and eventually my number came up?

The flip side of immunity is susceptibility, and being susceptible does not mean one is guaranteed to be infected if some minimal exposure occurs. The idea that someone may have, or lack immunity is not absurd, but it is slippery.

Physicists and engineers talk of conductors and resistors. A high resistance means a low conductance, and vice versa, but every part of a simple electrical circuit has both a resistance and a conductance (the one implies the other) and we even have a way of attaching numerical values to these properties - just like a rod has a length, a width, and a mass. Humans are on some continuum from highly

susceptible to highly immune, but it is not obvious that we can summarise this with a single number.

Collective immunity

Now, is there a sensible way to talk about "collective immunity", or "collective susceptibility"? In fact, there are many ways we could try to define such a thing.

We could just try to recycle some definition of individual immunity and ask how many, or what proportion of a population have it. This would not help us much, because it tells us nothing about who has the immunity, and what various people in the population do by interacting with one another, and how this contributes to the outbreak growing or receding.

We can try to define collective susceptibility in a more "emergent" rather than "microscopic" way, so it directly captures something about the tendency for infections to spread. Let us try. The "collective susceptibility"

of a population, at some stage of an epidemic, is the average number of new infections that are expected to be produced by any one currently infected individual. This sounds potentially useful - and it even comes directly with a numerical value that is easy to interpret. If collective susceptibility is greater than one, we will see an increase in cases. If it is less than one, we will see a decline in cases. But wait - this is old hat. This is what we have been reading about for months in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic - the "R number" - short for "reproductive number".

Public health agencies, ministerial advisory committees and the like, have been discussing this reproductive number for months, trying to estimate it from such data as we have available, and trying to figure out how to bring it "below 1.0" by encouraging the use of masks, decreased social

contact and handwashing, among others. Hopefully, a safe and effective vaccine is also coming.

No one has yet seriously suggested that the reproductive number can be stuck on to a country, or a city, or even a neighbourhood like a vintage or cultivar label can be stuck on to a bottle of wine.

Collective susceptibility, and its inverse, collective immunity, are constantly changing. In colder weather, people spend more time indoors. Under lockdown, they encounter few people outside their families. Depending on rules and norms, people adopt various levels of mask-wearing and hand sanitising and crucially, as the case counts grow and people recover, many people get individual immunity, at least for a while. It is all fluid. Daily case counts jump around like stock prices, but broadly they slowly go up and down as we ride the ripples and waves of the epidemic.

Herd immunity

So what is herd immunity then? It is essentially the state of affairs when "collective susceptibility", also known as the reproductive number, is less than one. In a population that currently has some infections, to say that there is herd immunity is just a sophisticated-sounding way of saying that infections are on the decline. In a population where there are currently no infections, saying that there is herd immunity expresses that you would expect any new outbreak to fizzle out.

But would you replace your speedometer with a gauge that just tells you whether you are above or below the speed limit, or do you like to know the actual speed? Would you replace a thermometer with a device that simply said whether it is "hot" or "cold" or do you like to know the temperature?

When we have plausible estimates of the reproductive number, or collective susceptibility/immunity, which vary smoothly over a range of values, we do not make progress by forgetting the actual number and just recalling whether it is larger or

smaller than one. It matters greatly whether it is 1.2 or 5; and it matters greatly what we are currently doing to manage collective susceptibility, and what cards we still have left to play.

In short - the Covid-19 pandemic is coming and going in ripples and waves, and perhaps there are even features that look like tides. We can all try to be reasonably aware of whether things are getting better or worse, and how rapidly - and we can all try to be reasonable in how careful we are to reduce the spread of infections while still getting on with our lives and livelihoods. The authorities should also be attentive and reasonable. There is, however, not only little point or comfort in "herd immunity" - there is in fact very little meaning in it beyond taking a coarser look at what we should all be keeping a closer eye on in any case.

How then to face the imminent future of the Covid-19 pandemic? Higher proportions of people with detectable antibodies must mean higher levels of collective immunity - all other things being the same. But in what sense are "all other things" "the same"? Indeed, to what extent are all other things even defined and knowable?

While it is not wrong to hope that we can breathe a little between waves, we cannot predict much, and we must expect further swells. Alas, an end to the pandemic requires the interplay of tolerable/sustainable precautionary habits and sufficiently widespread individual immunity. Unfortunately, we don't know how durable individual immunity really is, either after infection or the use of some vaccine.

So, we are stuck for the foreseeable future with working on our collective immunity mainly through tolerable habits of infection control. An eye on estimates of the reproductive number gives us about as much hard information as we can hope to have about what we could possibly mean by collective immunity.

Agencies

BY WAMBUI GICHURI IN ABIDJAN

Why Covid-19-impacted World Food Day 2020 is time to prioritise investments in food systems

World Food Day (October 16) 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, but celebrations this time around are muted owing to the coronavirus.

Covid-19's multi-sectoral impact should have governments and development institutions rethink investments in food security, healthy diets and building infrastructure that supports how food is grown, processed, traded, delivered, sold and consumed.

Covid-19 lockdowns and decreases in incomes have generated a double demand shock - increasing the number of poor and vulnerable people, particularly in Africa's cities.

To meet today's needs, the African continent relies on more than \$75 billion worth of food imports to supplement its food supply. From cereals like wheat, maize and rice to dairy products and other animal products, Africa imports essential food in significant amounts and this deficit has quadrupled in the last 15 years.

But we are planting the seeds to reverse this trend. In line with the World Food Day theme, "Grow. Nourish. Sustain. Together", the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Feed Africa strategy is working with African governments and the private sector to grow more - and more nutritious - food.

Feed Africa is meant to build robust food systems. For example, the Feed Africa Response to Covid-19, or FAREC, is supporting the bank's regional member countries with a range of investment options designed to stabilise food systems and minimise disruptions to the delivery



and accessibility of nutritious food in the short term, as well as build more sustainable, healthy diet-oriented food systems in the longer term.

The bank's Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation, or TAAT, is meant while working with developers of food production technologies, seed

companies, farmer groups, regional economic commissions and researchers to more efficiently deliver certified seeds, breeds and young fish (fingerlings) to 40 million farmers. So far, TAAT-funded programmes have produced 65,000 tonnes of heat-tolerant, certified wheat seeds in Ethiopia that resulted in

higher-producing, higher-quality wheat harvests in areas that were once inhospitable to the grain. Similarly, TAAT has helped produce 27,000 tonnes of certified drought-tolerant maize seed for distribution to farmers in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Virtually all African nations

have been affected by Covid-19. During this pandemic, we must emphasize advocacy and economic sector work related to agriculture, nutrition and building back food systems.

The reality is that resources are being directed to emergency Covid-19 responses. However, we can maintain the momentum around nutrition and food systems awareness by leveraging the lessons learned from the coronavirus era to conduct analytical work and knowledge sharing.

This is also an opportune time to carry out policy research to implement bolder programmes as we "build back better" from Covid-19.

Post pandemic, resilience is key. Our priorities to build food systems that deliver safe, affordable, nutritious food and diets including: support to the capacity of smallholder farmers and agro-input providers to enhance productivity; promotion of enterprise development and digital technology; and building up key quality infrastructure that focuses on public-private partnerships financing and support for government-led connectivity programmes.

To achieve these goals, we also need closer involvement and engagement with key stakeholders who we are celebrating as Food Heroes on this World Food Day. Food Heroes are important players and influencers in the agri-

cultural value chain, from farm to fork. Let's recognise just a few.

Food Heroes are the (UN) Food and Agriculture Organisation, with whom AfDB recently hosted a series of online sessions on Digitalisation to Transform Agriculture in Africa and Respond to Covid-19.

Food Heroes are the (UN) World Food Programme, which won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020 for its leadership in supporting provision of food and nutrition to the most vulnerable around the world.

Food Heroes are AfDB President and 2017 World Food Prize laureate Dr Akwumfi A. Adesina, who in his re-election inauguration speech committed to building on the bank's accomplishments in agriculture to help feed Africa, to process more of what we grow and to generate jobs.

Food Heroes are the African agripreneurs submitting their agribusiness start-up plans to our AgriPitch competition, being held next month. The competition offers business development training and a combined \$120,000 in investment fund prizes.

Food Heroes are our newly named SME Champions, part of a growing number of small and medium enterprises dominating Africa's domestic food supply chains, largely in processing, wholesale, logistics and retail.

And Food Heroes are AfDB staff and consultants who develop and implement projects and policies to light up and power Africa, industrialise Africa, integrate Africa, and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa and feed Africa. They are making the continent's food systems stronger, sustainable and more resilient.

Wambui Gichuri is acting Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development at the African Development Bank. She also holds the position of Director for Water Development and Sanitation at the AfDB.

Ten signs that Covid-19 is about to get much worse

BY ROBERT ROY BRITT

THE pace of new Covid-19 infections is accelerating at exactly the wrong moment in the United States, Europe and elsewhere, alarming scientists who envision a winter of coronavirus carnage - physical, mental, and economic - unlike anything we've seen so far.

In America, daily new infections are surging, which could lead to an inevitable peak that will exceed the highs seen in the spring and summer, all exacerbated by the effects of colder weather.

"We face rapidly accelerating increase in Covid-19 cases across much of Europe, the US, and many other countries across the world. It is critical to act decisively and urgently," according to an October 14 open letter published in *The Lancet* journal.

The letter was signed initially by about 80 of the top infectious-disease experts in the United States and around the world, and hundreds more since.

Most frustrating for infectious-disease experts is that it all could have been prevented. "We should have had this virus under control already. We have spectacularly continued to squander any effort in the time that we've had," says Michael Mina, MD, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Given that the coronavirus is airborne, scientists stress that every individual effort at mask-wearing and distancing helps keep the pandemic from getting even worse. But they say the outlook is grim for health and the economy if governments don't quickly launch strong, well-funded efforts to control community spread.

There are ten signs that Covid-19 is nearing a dire tipping point, one being that there's a vast reservoir of infected people.

Mina likens the current situation to fighting forest fires. This spring, many US states chose to lockdown even when there were only a few embers poised to flare up on the perimeters - in New York City and a handful of other cities.

Now, with all states engulfed in outbreaks and documented new cases exceeding 50,000 each day and rising, there are sparks strewn throughout the entire forest, all ready to ignite.

"We're likely to see massive explosions of cases and outbreaks that could



potentially make what we've seen so far look like it hasn't been that much," Mina told a group of reporters recently. Other experts agree.

Epidemiologists worry that when the rate of new infections ratchets up from linear to exponential, doubling every few days instead of every few weeks, explains Mark Cameron, PhD, an immunologist and medical researcher in the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

That's what happened in the spring and autumn, with those tipping points leading to uncontrolled spread and new highs.

"The great concern here is that we are once again at the tipping point of exponential growth of Covid-19 in the US, this time starting from an infection level above our April peak, and this time coinciding with the predictable return of the flu season. Not good," Cameron told *Elemental*.

Two: The viral high season has just begun. The high number of cases could not come at a worse time, with schools restarting, restaurants and bars reopening, and cooler weather forcing people indoors and potentially making the coronavirus itself more virulent.

Scientists don't know exactly what effect colder weather will have on the virus itself, but none expects it to calm down. "I think we are in a dangerous place," Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University, told *The New York Times*.

Three: Young people are being infected at unprecedented rates. In the early stages, the pandemic swept through nursing homes and infected a disproportionate number of older people.

But since Memorial Day, the number of infections in young adults has soared, and now with in-person classes resuming, children are being infected more than ever - we don't really know how many, because they often don't have symptoms, but we do know that they're able to spread what they've caught.

Because younger people are less likely to die from Covid-19, the rate of deaths per infection has fallen, with improved treatment having also helped lower the death rate.

But that masks the fact that more than 700 Americans are dying from Covid-19 every day - a plateau that has held steady for several weeks. Meanwhile, hospitalisations have already started to tick back up, and Covid-19 deaths were rising in 23 states as of October 16.

Four: There are far more infections than we know. While the official count of new daily infections is in the tens of thousands, the real count is in the hundreds of thousands, Mina says.

Many of those who are infected do not know it and may never know it, given a lack of symptoms or only mild symptoms. A handful of these people create superspreading events like what occurred at the White House.

Expect more of these if people don't avoid crowds, maintain physical distance, and wear masks.

Five: Everyone is fed up. Covid-19 fatigue is widespread, fuelled by sadness, stress, isolation, constant vigilance and conflicting messages from political leaders that run counter to scientific advice. We all run the risk of letting our guard down, psychologists say.

"This has been so emotionally taxing, and we can only take so much," says Neda Gould, PhD, a clinical psychologist and assistant professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medicine, adding: "People are feeling exhausted and burned-out from having to do certain things a certain way, and then not do so many things."

Scientists fear that some people might stop masking up or give in to the temptation of large or even small gatherings. The coronavirus will take full advantage of any lapse, they warn.

Six: The holidays will only make it worse. Everyone needs a break from all the social separation, sure. But travelling to large family gatherings is a surefire way to worsen the pandemic, scientists say.

Already, "small household gatherings" are contributing to the rising rate of infections, Robert Redfield, director of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said on a call with governors October 13.

"This does not surprise me given people's Covid-19 fatigue," says Krutika Kuppalli, MD, a clinical professor of

infectious diseases at Stanford University School of Medicine, adding: "And it makes me increasingly concerned as we head into the holiday season with Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah (a Jewish festival), and other religious festivals that we will see more small gatherings leading to an increase of cases."

Seven: The people who are most likely to spread the virus are least able to stay home. Those most affected by the pandemic are overrepresented in crucial jobs like frontline healthcare, transportation and the service industry, and many of them don't have the privilege of working from home to stay safe and help avoid spread.

This has been a problem throughout the pandemic but, with restaurants and other businesses opening back up and schools restarting, the risk of exposure for everyone grows. Recently, it was revealed that 123 frontline workers on Capitol Hill, including police and contractors, have tested positive for Covid-19.

Eight: A widespread vaccine is at least months away. Even if a safe vaccine is cleared for production tomorrow - which nobody expects - it will be months before most people have access to it. Maybe April (2021), says Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

But given the politicisation of the effort and the breakneck speed of development, we might end up with multiple vaccines and people won't know which one works best - some may not work well.

We should thus expect lots of confusion as scientists and politicians wrangle over who gets the first doses. Meanwhile, an increasing number of Americans say that they're unwilling to get the vaccine, according to the latest Gallup Poll. Regardless, even a wildly successful vaccine won't dent the pandemic this year.

Nine: We're nowhere near natural "herd immunity". From early on in the pandemic, a handful of scientists and politicians have proposed that we let the coronavirus run wild, eventually creating natural "herd immunity", whereby enough people will have been infected and presumably protected that the virus finds few new hosts and dies out.

The latest version, the so-called Great Barrington Declaration, has been promoted within the White House by three scientists who claim that the vi-

rus is not that deadly. They recommend protecting only the most vulnerable people and letting the virus run its course among younger people and others.

"This is a dangerous fallacy unsupported by scientific evidence," the infectious-disease experts argue in *The Lancet* letter.

They elaborate: "Uncontrolled transmission in younger people risks significant morbidity and mortality across the whole population. In addition to the human cost, this would impact the workforce as a whole and overwhelm the ability of healthcare systems to provide acute and routine care."

Somewhere between 40 per cent and 70 per cent of a population would have to be infected to see a significant impact of natural herd immunity, infectious-disease experts say. In the United States, some 10 per cent or fewer have caught Covid-19 so far. Achieving natural herd immunity here would cause at least a million deaths, the scientists say.

Ten: The economy is being prioritised over health. Scientists are well aware that lockdowns are economically painful. They argue, however, that the economy can't be healthy if the people aren't healthy.

"We need to have a national plan to get control of this virus," Mina says, adding: "It's not out of our reach. And this is why I'm so frustrated at the federal response."

Full-on lockdowns may become inevitable if hospitals fill up, but he says we don't need to get to that point. "We have the tools, and the wherewithal, and the ability, if we actually worked as one," he adds.

Imagine, Mina muses, if the president (Donald Trump) were to change his tone and say the following: "My fellow Americans, today we're turning over a new leaf. We are going to take control of this virus. All we have to do is everyone wear a mask, and everyone social distance as much as possible within reason. But wear a mask, and be responsible."

"Those few words coming from this president, combined with all of the people who are doing that already, could really make all the difference in the world to our ability to control this virus," Mina says, adding: "And then we could safely open the economy."

• A report originally run in *Elemental*, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is a science & health journalist.

Many schools in Bariadi District lack adequate pit latrines-teacher

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT, BARIADI

SHORTAGE of pit latrines in Somanda B and Salunda primary schools in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region has contributed to infectious diseases as well little learning ability for students.

The remarks were given early last week by the headteacher of Somanda B primary school Travel Ndimangwa as he spoke to this paper, saying efforts by various stakeholders have resulted in building classrooms, but many schools in the district still lack good and adequate pit latrines.

He said his school has a total of 1,157 students, 578 boys and 578 girls, but use only eight pit latrines, while the actual need was 37 pit latrines, a shortage of 29, the situation prone to infectious diseases, such as diarrhoea and cholera.

Ndimangwa said the 2009 Education Policy says 20 girls were to use one pit latrine while for boys the number is 25 for one pit latrine.

He said the situation was the same for other areas, and in general he said the schools need great improvement to the infrastructures, especially in regard to toilets.

"Just look, in my school there are 579 boys and 579 boys who use only eight pit latrines, but according to the 2009 Education Policy the school needs 29 more pit latrines, the problem is immense," he said.

Some students from Somanda and Salunda primary schools said the main challenge faced by the schools is the inadequacy of pit latrines compared to the number of students.

They said they were being inconvenienced by the few available pit latrines, the situation that denies them privacy when wanting to attend nature's calls.

"Sometimes we are forced to go to unsanctioned places to help themselves outside schools' premises, places that lack water, sometimes in nearby bushes," said a Std VI student who did not like his name mentioned.

Simiyu regional education officer (Environment and Cleanliness) Justin Gilbert said the shortage of pit latrines could be the same for other schools in the district and even the entire Bariadi Region.

He said research done in 2015 by (Swash



Mapping Survey in primary and secondary schools in Tanzania's 16 districts showed that the situation in regard to water, cleanliness and health in the schools was not satisfactory.

He said only 11 per cent of the schools researched on satisfied to the 2009 Education Policy in regard to pit latrines for students.

Headteacher called for the government to give consideration to better performing schools, by improving their dilapidated infrastructures as a motivation for them to perform even better.

Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka suggested need for people in the region to inculcate a culture of using improved latrines, hence, discouraging open defecation.

He said: "It is high time for the community to abandon all traditions and customs, which

are discouraging the effective use of improved latrines."

"There are some cultures, which don't support the use of toilets, particularly the issue of sharing toilets with their in-laws, so even if the facility is there, some family members weren't ready to use them. This is challenge to campaigns that encourage people to use improved toilets."

"We also need to carry out a serious campaign against such cultures as we did in other campaigns such as female genital mutilation (FGM)," Mtaka said, supporting health practitioners, who have been in forefront in encouraging the best use of toilets to get rid of waterborne diseases.

According to Mtaka, in 2019, Simiyu Region had 215,316 households, whereby out of that only 208,856 households (97 per cent) had toilets, 97,536

households (46.7 per cent) had modern toilets.

"But, we're still encouraging people to use toilet facilities to avoid waterborne disease outbreak."

Anyitike Mwakitalima, coordinator of the National Sanitation Campaign, once quoted as saying that the initiative is one of the government's efforts to fulfill the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which states; 'by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations'.

He said that the government through Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children was alarmed by open defecation along highways, hence is

determined to build toilet facilities at strategic areas, across the east African nation.

"As a government, we're concerned about the high number of people who defecate in the open mainly along the main highways in the country," he said.

According to him, the open defecation was one of the leading causes of the increase in the number of typhoid and diarrhoea cases in the country.

According to a desk study carried out by the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP), poor sanitation costs Tanzania US\$206 million, and the sum is the equivalent to US\$5 per person in Tanzania per year or 1 per cent of the national GDP.

About 26 million Tanzanians use unsanitary or shared latrines, whereby 5.4 million have no latrine at all and defecate in the open.

In Africa, more farmers learn new methods for facing drought, floods

BY TAWANDA KAROMBO, BULAWAYO

IN the sweltering mid-October heat of Matobo, one of Zimbabwe's hottest and driest districts, Spiwe Moyo tended her ripening tomato crop. Nearby, underneath a baobab tree, a few emaciated donkeys and a small herd of skinny cattle take shelter from the blazing sun.

Along with the onions, vegetables and green beans grown by other communal farmers as part of the Evergreen Community Market Garden, Moyo's tomato crop is a virtual oasis of green, surrounded by bare red soil that receives little shade from the sparse leaves of the mopani trees and a few patches of dry grass long desolated by the high temperatures.

Despite the punishing heat, unfriendly surroundings and daily struggles for water for humans and domestic animals, she beamed a smile when she spoke of the prospects for her crop, which will ripen in the next week or so.

"I am just weeding out the crop and inspecting for pests and other diseases, because in this hot weather, crops can suddenly suffer diseases or pest attacks. We only water the crops in the morning or evening, to conserve the water," Moyo told EarthBeat in an interview at the garden.

The water comes from a solar-powered well funded by Catholic Church organizations. Without it, she says, "there would be no green crops to talk about, as the rains are not sufficient."

There has been practically no rain in the past two years in this arid part of Matebeleland South province, in southwestern Zimbabwe. This year, however, rains came suddenly, a month earlier than expected. Experts say that is one of the uncertainties caused by climate change, and it has combined with other climate-related disasters that have made food scarce in southern Africa.

Climate change has caused as many as 86 million people across sub-Saharan Africa to migrate from their land, according to a September UNICEF report. And drought and climate change are cre-

ating critical food scarcity for more than 11 million people in nine southern African countries, the report says.

In an effort to head off water wars and help farmers adapt to the changing climate, various Catholic agencies, including the Irish aid agency Trócaire, Britain's Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, or CAFOD, and Catholic Relief Services, the US bishops' aid and development agency, are funding agro-ecology learning centers and solar-powered community wells in southern African countries, including Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia.

At the centers, which blend sustainable agriculture techniques with indigenous farming practices, local farmers learn skills such as contour plowing, drip irrigation and organic pest control, as well as practices such as "intercropping," or combining multiple crops in one plot.

As a result, communal oases of green are appearing in various areas, as "model" farmers share their new knowledge with their neighbors.

"The seasons are changing and we are seeing the impact of climate change, because we usually have the first showers in August and at the end of October we then get the first planting rains. But in the last two years, there have basically been no rains here," said Felix Ncube, who is a member of the management committee of St. Joseph's Agro-Ecological Center in Matopos.

Committee members run the learning center and also train other people in the community, passing along their new knowledge to other farmers.

The problems related to climate change are worsened by unemployment and food insecurity, Ncube said. Although Caritas and the World Food Program assist the community with relief kits, they distribute aid only to the elderly, leaving younger people desperate, he said.

"The youths here have nothing to do to feed themselves or take care of their families, so they end up cutting down trees as a source of energy [for brick-making kilns], and this is contributing to the arid conditions in the area," he said.

TPSF lauds Magufuli for the good cause

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has won praise from local and foreign people and institutions for impressive socio-economic and political feats Tanzania has bagged in last five years. One of the strategic institutions that threw their weight behind the president and his administration is the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

Last Sunday at a function to mark five years of cooperation between the Government and the TPSF, the TPSF chairperson, Angelina Ngalula, told the Vice-President, Sania Suluhu Hassan, that in the eyes of the TPSF the past five years have been years of success and progress.

Ngalula, told the VP—who was the guest of honour, that to the TPSF the five years have been years of peaceful growth, advancement, success and cooperation with the government.

True, Tanzania is peaceful. The Global Peace Index 2020 says Tanzania is the most peaceful and tranquil country in eastern Africa and the seventh country in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The plans implemented by this government have been the basis of this nation's successes, advancement and growth which have made Tanzania a middle-income nation," Ngalula said. She also attributed national growth and advancement to strides made in the transportation sector, especially in building roads, the standard gauge railway (SGR), buying of aeroplanes,

rehabilitation of ports, railway lines and building of durable roads.

A thriving construction sector in a country is a pointer to the growth of the country's private sector and this is evident in Tanzania.

In the last five years some 3,500 kilometres of tarmac roads were completed making Tanzania have a total of 12,964 km of tarmac roads and 2,000 km are still being built. Potable water reaches the people largely by projects implemented by contractors. In 2015 only 47 percent of the population had access to potable water. This year 70.1 percent of the population access potable water and this is reflected in 1,423 water projects that have been implemented -- 1,268 rural and 155 urban built at cost 1.2 trillion/-.

Construction of 300 km of SGR from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro (first phase) and the 422-km Morogoro-Dodoma stretch (second phase); the two phases have collectively been completed by 30 percent. The two phases will cost 7,062 trillion/-.

A delegation of the TPSF has visited the project and made recommendations, especially use of local materials. "This rail will haul 14,000 tonnes of cargo annually," Ngalula said.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan (L) shares a light moment with Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairperson Angelina Ngalula shortly after opening a meeting to mark five years of cooperation between the government and the private sector in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

ers have reached," she told the VP who nodded in agreement. Eleven planes have been secured for revamped Air Tanzania Corporation, eight planes are operational.

Most industries belong to the private sector. In the last five years 8,477 new industries have been built-up from 52,633 in 2015 to 61,110 this year creating direct and indirect jobs.

But improvement of the business and investment climate has been an important aspect in strengthening the national economy. The national agenda has been agro-industrialisation and making Tanzania a middle-income nation by 2025. The world bank has already declared Tanzania a middle-income nation.

The Blue Print for Regulatory Reforms (Blue Print) agreed upon by the government and the private sector has improved sharply business environment in Tanzania. The blueprint has given the government a fitting framework for a holistic review of business-enabling environment and this development has improved the business climate in Tanzania. Private sector recommendations for reform that seek a more business-friendly envi-

ronment are known to the government and are put on the table for discussion. The government has accepted fast-track implementation of the blueprint.

TPSF has cluster-based structure with 14 clusters. Cluster chairmen attend meetings of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC). TNBC meetings are chaired by President of Tanzania and views on how to strengthen successes and deal with constraints are discussed openly in those meetings. Cluster chairmen bring into these meeting views from virtually all sectors of the economy.

The government and the TPSF are implementing jointly the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) 2016-2027 with a view of having skilled competitive Tanzanian workforce; a workforce capable of fostering inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth. The NSDS priority economic and enabling sectors are agriculture and agri-business, tourism and hospitality, transport and logistics energy, construction and information, communication and technology (ICT).

Electricity defines industrial success; and Tanzania wants to

become an industrial middle-income nation by 2025. Existing hydro-power projects are being strengthened. But a giant JKN Hydro-power project, that will cost 6.5 trn/-, is being implemented in Rufiji Basin and is projected to produce 2115 MW upon completion.

Power is going to people rural villages using private contractors, members of the TPSF. Tanzania has 12,268 villages. In 2015 some 2,018 villages had power but as of April this year, power from the national grid was flowing to 9,112 villages, meaning a steep rise from 35 percent in 2015 to current 85 percent. The government plans to provide power to 3,156 villages in the next few years. Tanzania is dependent on agriculture, just as it is dependent of the inform sector economy. Agriculture employs 58 per cent of Tanzania's labour force and contribute 40 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The informal sector economy employs millions of young people in both urban and rural areas. In the past, especially in urban areas, young people were arrogantly chased local council guards, most of them accused of being corrupt. Today millions young people are

employing themselves on urban road pavements and are visibly particular about cleanliness. They use these public places for as long as they have entrepreneur cards (vitambulisho vya wajasiriamali). In the past these same pavements played host to rotting stinking garbage, while young people (popularly known as wamachinga) roamed roads on empty stomachs. Having young people selling assortments of industrial and farm products on pavements is an achievement to be proud of, not to be ashamed of. Cities the world over have their own characters!

The chairman of the small entrepreneurs society (VIBINDO), Gaston Kikui, told the vice-president that petty traders were grateful to the current government for solving the plight of hungry petty traders. "On behalf of our members, I express our gratitude to this government for recognising and solving our plight; for giving us the entrepreneur cards."

The Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Health Practitioners, Dr Samwel Ogilo, said the health sector has made a big stride in the past five years. "We see a health facility in every ward and

a hospital in every district. These facilities have hugely improved the provision of health services," Dr Ogilo said. During the last five year 1,198 dispensaries have been built, 487 health centres, 71 district hospitals and 10 regional referral hospital have been built.

In 2015 Tanzania had a total of 7,014 health facilities and they have risen to the current 8,783.

Corruption undermines the efforts of an efficient private sector; a private sector with integrity and one that pays taxes and is accountable to host communities. When tenders are advertised, they must be secured without lubricating hands; when the private sector supplies goods and services it must be paid in time by the government and bribe-free. Tanzania is not corruption-free. But in the last five years, the anti-corruption agency (the Prevention of Corruption and Combating Bureau) has been strengthened and is delivering.

The position of the government is to see the Tanzania Revenue Authority remains friendly to tax payers, more so the private sector.

The vice-president pledged continued cooperation between the government and the private sector.

By Taylor Mulcahey

How has the pandemic affected journalism? A recent report offers a sobering snapshot...

THE Covid-19 pandemic has impacted many journalists and newsrooms in one way or another. Whether it's burnout from working extra hours, layoffs at a local news publication, or misinformation spreading in WhatsApp groups, the health crisis has placed extra pressure on an industry already facing an uncertain future.

To better understand the effects of the pandemic on the news industry worldwide, the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) - IJNet's (International Journalists' Network) parent organisation - teamed up with the Tow Centre for Digital Journalism at Columbia University to conduct a survey of journalists in seven languages.

They have recently released the preliminary results of their English-language survey, which are based on responses from 1,406 respondents across 125 countries.

The Journalism and the Pandemic Survey explores journalists' physical and mental health, the spread of mis/disinformation, the economic effects on newsrooms, changes in the way journalists work and challenges to press freedom.

"Our report demonstrates that journalists are working in a severely pressured financial, physical and psychological environment during the pandemic," write researchers Emily Bell, Julie Posetti and Pete Brown, adding: "This will be the most enduringly difficult professional period many have experienced during their careers."

We explore a few of the key findings below, one relating to journalists' mental and physical health, the researchers reporting that journalists are struggling to cope with the psychological toll of reporting during the COVID-19 crisis.

The report lays bare the widespread extent of the issue: 70 per cent of respondents rated the psychological toll as their biggest challenge during



the pandemic - the most common response. More than 80 per cent of respondents noted at least one negative psychological effect, including anxiety, burnout, difficulty sleeping and a sense of helplessness.

Despite the challenges, many employers fall flat in their level of support. Over 70 per cent of respondents said that employers failed to offer flexible hours, time off, social support or regular check-ins, to name but a few.

The data don't indicate much bet-

ter support for journalists' physical health, despite the worldwide health crisis. One in four respondents are still travelling to the field at least once per week to report, yet many respondents noted a failure by their employers to provide adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for field reporting.

Perhaps most shocking is that 45 per cent were not even provided with masks when they conducted in-person reporting.

As early as February, the World

Health Organisation cautioned that the world wasn't just fighting a deadly virus but also an information crisis.

This "disinfodemic" is no secret to the journalists tasked with providing factual information to their audience. Over 80 per cent of respondents said they came into contact with misinformation on a weekly basis.

Respondents saw disinformation circulate most on Facebook (66 per cent), Twitter (42 per cent) and WhatsApp (35 per cent). A large majority (82 per

cent) of respondents reported disinformation to the platform they found it on, yet almost half said they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the platform's response.

While regular citizens remain the number one purveyor of disinformation, political leaders and elected officials come in at a close second. This is particularly disheartening at a time when information can literally mean the difference between life and death.

Reporters are producing fact-checks (29 per cent) and using digital verification tools (29 per cent) to actively counter mis/disinformation during the pandemic.

However, many journalists said they need additional training to adequately fight the disinfodemic. Almost 70 per cent of respondents marked advanced verification and fact-checking training as their most pressing need.

The pandemic has inflicted significant economic damage on newsrooms. Researchers and media reporters around the world have documented the impact in resources like "The Tow Centre Covid-19 Newsroom Cutback Tracker" and Poynter's running list of US layoffs, furloughs and closures, in addition to stories tracking cuts, for instance, across African newsrooms. Still, so much is yet to be seen.

The report's findings indicate that this economic crisis is top of mind for most industry employees. Three in four respondents said their first priority during the pandemic was the survival of their publication.

Underscoring the economic impact, almost four in five respondents with access to information about their newsroom's finances reported at least a 50 per cent decline in revenue.

To cope, outlets are cutting back on

content, shrinking salaries and laying off employees. Sixty-five per cent of respondents said they have less job security now than before Covid-19.

Meanwhile, the study also shows that covering Covid-19 around the world has proven difficult - and even dangerous. Many journalists report threats and restrictions that have an effect on press freedom.

For example, one in five respondents reported that online harassment was "much worse" than before Covid-19.

The pandemic has also had an effect on relationships with sources, as nearly half (48 per cent) of survey respondents said sources were concerned that speaking to journalists would lead to negative repercussions such as job loss, legal consequences or physical violence.

There is some good news, though. Despite the many challenges, more than 40 per cent of respondents perceived an increase in audience trust (of journalists and the media) during the pandemic. Only 4 per cent felt that trust had declined.

One in four respondents experienced more positive feedback and received more engagement from their readers. This may have been a result of more dedicated engagement work from many reporters, as 24 per cent of respondents reported spending more time identifying audience needs.

These findings provide a small window into a uniquely challenging time for journalism. They can help academics, researchers, industry leaders and media commentators begin planning for a post-pandemic future.

For mental health support to training opportunities, the results can also offer guidance to editors, publishers and other newsroom leaders looking to offer immediate support to their employees as they continue to cope with the ongoing crisis.

• Taylor Mulcahey is the editor with IJNet, itself a project of ICFJ.

By H lo se Hakimi Le Grand

Key takeaways for covering the 2020 US election

Covering elections can vary significantly from one cycle to another. But a global (Covid-19) pandemic, heightened polarisation and the spread of misinformation have turned the 2020 US presidential election into an unprecedented event difficult for journalists to prepare for.

From their inability to travel to daily attacks on their profession, though, reporters have had to adapt.

Politico editor Carrie Budoff Brown and Bricio Segovia, White House correspondent for Mexico's MVS Noticias have delved into the challenges journalists face this election cycle. This was at a recent IJNet-Muck Rack webinar.

They explored the difficulties of reporting for a foreign audience, the importance of carving out unique angles within over-covered stories, and best practices to counter misinformation.

The panel agreed that expanding one's source network was a key lesson learned from the 2016 US election. Segovia emphasized the importance of talking to people from varied backgrounds, with dissenting points of view and experiences, to be able to paint a fair representation of the country.

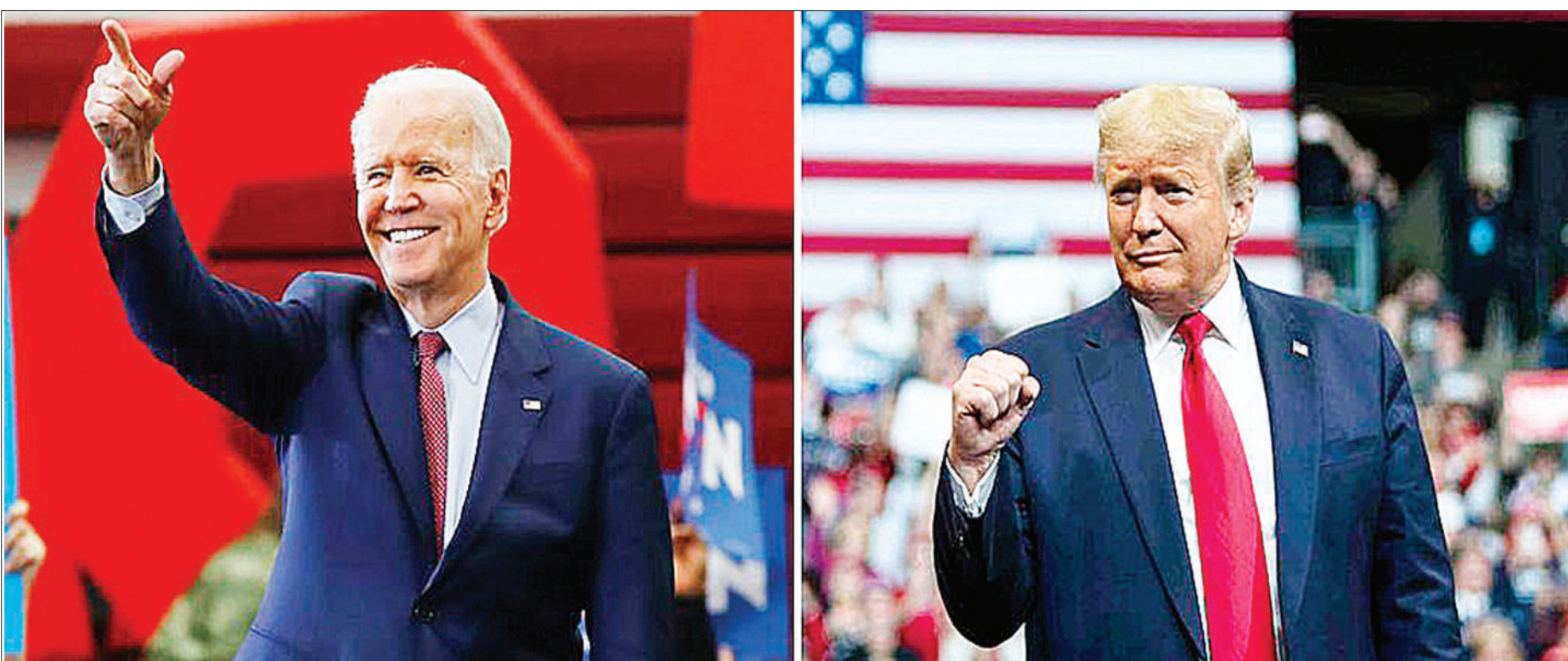
"Washington, DC is a bubble that doesn't represent the whole country, so travel as much as you can. Talk to people as diverse as you can find so that you can have different points of view and explain to your audience what's happening in the country as a whole," he said.

Brown, who covered Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008 and served previously as Politico's White House correspondent, advised journalists to stay skeptical at all times, and to refrain from reporting an end result they might assume will come to pass. "I always tell my reporters to test your assumptions," she said.

Brown added that it's important for reporters to cultivate an array of contacts to tap into for their reporting. "You need a diverse source network - geographically, professionally, racially, ethnically," she said.

She said this would help ensure that one's reporting is both well-informed and free from unintended blindspots: When you approach stories, you have to cast a wider net just to make sure that you are not caught in an echo chamber. Confirmation bias can creep in for a national election like this one."

An award-winning international news anchor who has reported from



over 30 countries throughout his career, Segovia said foreign correspondents need to be able to translate critical language and cultural concepts.

"The basics of journalism and of being a correspondent include trying to explain things that are usually hard to understand, making them as simple as you can," he said.

Segovia said this task has been more difficult under the Trump administration, explaining: "When the President tweets, he uses a lot of slang, a lot of puns that are extremely hard to translate to a Spanish-speaking audience. The essence of the message can get lost."

He also noted that, as a one-person team, he is able to have more control over the story he's reporting. However, this also comes with its own set of challenges: he often cannot report from the campaign trail, for example, because he has to cover the president in Washington, DC. This alone makes it more challenging

to report on both sides of the campaign.

On the carving out of unique angles, Brown said she has spent several years building up Politico's reporting capacity in several critical battleground states. The newsroom now has official offices in seven US states and reporters in more than a dozen.

She has made use of this unique advantage during this election cycle. Half of Politico's national political reporters are lead reporters based in Florida, Michigan, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and across New England.

"These reporters are deeply sourced in these states. These aren't reporters we picked up from Washington and put in some random state. These are reporters who have reported throughout their careers in these places," she said, adding: "For decades, national publications didn't have people out in the states. I think it's going to have to change in the future."

Brown called upon all reporters to pursue stories someone else hasn't yet written. "The mission and mandate of my reporters is that if it has been reported, let's not write it. Let's find something new to say about it or wait until we do. That I think is essential for distinguishing oneself in what is a tremendously crowded media environment," she said.

Segovia meanwhile chimed in: "I always say that a journalist is worth what their contact list is worth. Building your network of sources is central to finding unique stories."

Commenting on ways to ensure that reporting prevails over misinformation, Brown emphasized the importance of being nonpartisan and fact-driven to fight disinformation.

"If we lead with facts, we can do our part in countering whatever is out there," she said, adding: "We all have this great privilege as journalists to speak to audiences, to demand answers from sources.

"How do we individually maintain that credibility so that we can continue to do our jobs and maybe someday turn the tide? Maybe that's optimistic, but all we can do individually is the best damn job - to be fact-based and to put that out into the world."

Nowadays, misinformation often comes from the White House, noted Segovia, explaining: "There is a campaign to discredit media reports critical of the administration by calling them fake news."

He explained that while there is a lot of noise around the state and level of fact-checking, journalists have always been fact-checkers - and in the past four years they have had to fact-check more than ever.

"We can't let the president decide the news agenda. Our job is to decide whether whatever the White House is pushing in the news agenda is relevant. If it's not, just don't report it," he stated.

The panel further agreed that media literacy is an es-

pecially in swing states, is one way to compensate for the changes.

"We're relying more heavily on these reporters in the states to intensively report out what's happening in order to give a better picture of where this race is headed nationally," she noted.

Segovia admitted that Covid-19 has drastically changed his work as a foreign correspondent, starting with the White House, chiefly in that interaction with government officials and other reporters is limited, access to the president is now often reserved only for the press corps, and working from the White House premises is no longer possible.

Because Segovia is a one-person team, travelling used to be his only option for covering election-related developments in other states. During Covid-19, he says, he now relies more heavily on social media to contact voters and other sources.

"Social media has been this window for any journalist to reach millions of people," he said, adding: "You can find good stories through social media. You can build a great story by reaching out to people, regardless of where you are."

However, Brown cautioned that using social media could lead to bias in that the only people one would be talking to would be the ones opting into it.

"If in a small town or rural area, I would try to go anywhere where there are still people gathering instead," she noted.

• A dispatch by IJNet (the International Journalists' Network), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) - where H lo se Hakimi Le Grand is a communications intern at ICFJ.



Thursday 22 October 2020

Zaipuna basks in markets' Safest Bank Award for 2020

By The Banker Reporter

NMB Bank Plc's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna has said being as the safest bank in the market by New York based Global Finance magazine demonstrates how investment in cybersecurity has been given priority at the largest bank in the country.

Zaipuna said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that the Global Finance magazine award which based on the bank's credit ratings, financial performance, asset base, approach to cybersecurity, digital banking solutions and financial inclusion, among other factors is testimony of investment in digital security systems.

"We are honoured to be recognized as Tanzania's Safest Bank in 2020 because we continue to work tirelessly to evolve NMB's capabilities to deliver sustained returns. As the uncertainty surrounding businesses in the world post coronavirus outbreak still lingers on, this award is a testament of our stability, resilience and digital transformation capabilities in supporting employees, customers and the wider community to achieve financial success," Zaipuna said.

Annual rankings of the world's Safest Banks by country are selected after an evaluation of long-term for-



NMB Bank Plc's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna (L) handing over a Euromoney Award to the bank's Board Chairman, Dr Edwin Mhede while Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi looks on. NMB has been named as the Safest Bank 2020 by New York based Global Finance magazine. File photo.

ign currency ratings from Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch investor services - in addition to the total assets of 500 largest banks worldwide, of which NMB received a significant ranking over its peers.

The latest accolade comes a few months after NMB Bank was named the Best Bank in Tanzania for the 8th consecutive year by Euromoney, a leading global financial markets magazine based in London.

Zaipuna said this award underscores the importance NMB Bank places in providing a secure banking experience for its customers and elevating its position within the global financial community in defining the

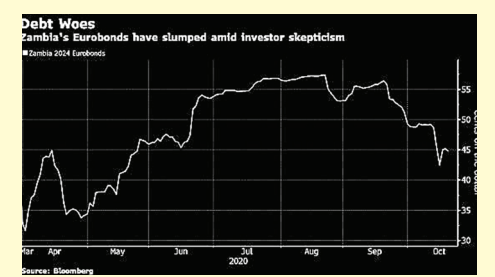
future of banking.

Commenting on NMB's success, Publisher and Editorial Director of Global Finance, Joseph Giarraputo said: for most of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has upended commerce and made forecasting even more difficult, yet business must continue.

"NMB is an example of a bank that was ready for the sharp rise in demand for digital banking services during the pandemic and has been mostly stable. The rankings will be used by companies, investors and individuals to gauge the relative safety of banks with which they choose to do business," Giarraputo said.

In the 2019 financial performance, NMB Bank reported a net profit of 142bn/- which was a 46 percent increase from 98bn/- recorded in 2018 and thus retaining its pole position as the most profitable bank in the market for several years.

The Dar es Salaam based lender currently has total assets of over 7trn/- with Netherland based Rabobank as majority shareholder with 34.9 percent stake and Treasury with 31.8 percent while minority shareholders who include individuals share the remainder.



Zambia bond graph.

Investors throw Zambia lifeline

LUSAKA

A key group of investors representing 40% of the Eurobonds on Tuesday abstained from voting rather than outright rejecting the southern African nation's debt-standstill proposal, according to a person familiar with the situation who asked not to be named because the matter is sensitive.

While the bondholders remained concerned about the lack of transparency on the country's debt, they wanted to give the government more time to engage with them, the person said. The investors are prepared to contribute to debt relief, but only as part of a comprehensive effort by all creditors and with the endorsement of the International Monetary Fund.

The talks will be closely monitored by other poor nations seeking debt relief, as well as fixed-income investors worried about where the next potential default may be on a continent awash with debt to Chinese state lenders. "The core sticking points remain exactly the same: a lack of clarity over the treatment of the Chinese loan holders versus Eurobond holders, and the potential trajectory of an IMF program," Ron Raychaudhuri, a portfolio manager at APG Asset Management in Amsterdam, said by phone. "Those concerns have not gone away."

Voting on Zambia's request for a six-month deferral of interest payments worth about \$120 million on its three Eurobonds will now take place November 13, after it failed to reach the required quorums. That's the day Zambia will enter default unless it pays an already overdue coupon on its \$1 billion of dollar notes due 2024.

"The government remains committed to finding a consensual and collaborative resolution to the fiscal and debt sustainability issues it is currently facing," Zambia's finance ministry said in an emailed statement.

While Zambia said it wants to treat commercial and official creditors on an equal basis, bondholders are concerned any relief they grant would be used to service debts owed to Chinese state lenders, which account for as much as a third of its external liabilities.

"No-one is a winner without an agreement," said Simon Quijano-Evans, the London-based chief economist at Gemcorp Capital LLP. "The real way forward is to increase transparency and adopt a multi-pronged approach that includes bondholders, the international finance institutions and China, just like Ecuador did."

Pandemic woes
The coronavirus pandemic added to Zambia's woes, with the economy forecast to shrink this year for the first time since 1998, but its debt problems started years earlier. Africa's second-biggest copper producer borrowed heavily since 2012, building up nearly \$12 billion in external debt and ignoring warnings from the IMF of growing debt-distress risks. Zambia's 2024 Eurobonds fell 1.2% to 43.8 cents on the dollar by 4:12 p.m. in London on Tuesday. Its currency has slumped by 30% this year, more than any other in Africa.

Investors have grown increasingly skeptical of the government's commitment to keep external debt in check and reach a deal with the IMF. With 10 months to the next general elections, it faces a tumultuous task of trying to negotiate deals with private creditors and Chinese state-owned banks, while seeking to win endorsement from the IMF. "They can give assurances but I think we're past the stage where mere assurances are enough," Raychaudhuri said.

IMF warns against premature withdrawal of fiscal support

WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund called on governments to avoid withdrawing fiscal support too quickly as economies reopen gradually after taking a hit from the coronavirus-induced slowdown.

Government support should shift gradually from protecting old jobs to ensuring people return to work, the fund said yesterday in a blog post accompanying its Fiscal Monitor: policies for the recovery report.

This could be achieved by reducing job retention programmes or wage subsidies, reintroducing job search requirements and offering training to equip people with new skills, as well as helping viable but still-vulnerable companies reopen safely, the IMF said.

Governments have pumped fiscal and monetary support worth \$12 trillion into their economies to soften the blow of the slowdown. These include measures such as rate cuts, liquidity injections and asset purchases by central banks.

"However, these measures are costly and, together with sharp falls in tax revenue owing to the recession, they have pushed global public debt to ... high of close to 100 per cent of GDP," the Washington lender said. "Also, with 80 to 90 million people likely to fall into extreme poverty in 2020 as a result of the pandemic - even after additional social assistance - it is too early for governments to remove fiscal support."

The World Bank said last week that the pandemic will push up to 150 million people around the world into extreme poverty by next year. The IMF called on governments to boost public investment to create jobs and spur economic growth.

Governments were also encouraged to adopt measures to improve tax compliance and evaluate the introduction of higher taxes for more affluent groups and highly profitable companies. The fund said countries should prioritise healthcare and education investment after Covid-19 subsidies. It called on government to strengthen social safety nets to ensure that everyone has access to food and other basic goods and services.

As economies begin to recover, countries around the world have been urged to seize the opportunity to move away from the pre-crisis growth model and, instead, hasten the transition to a low-carbon and digital economy.

During the global lockdown phase, public health measures introduced by governments contained the spread of the virus and created conditions for the safe reopening of businesses. Other initiatives such as unemployment benefits and wage subsidies helped to preserve jobs while cash transfers supported poor and informal workers.



Mazars Tanzania Managing Partner, Witness Shilekirwa.

Global audit firm, Mazars targets more revenue, clients this year

By Francis Kajubi

A subsidiary of global audit and tax advisory company, Mazars Global is targeting to increase its customer base from 40 to 70 this year with revenue rising from 800m/- to over 1bn/-.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week, Mazars Tanzania Managing Partner, Witness Shilekirwa said the company which was until this week known as Mazars Wiscon Associates serves both local and companies.

Shilekirwa the firm has so far employed 30 people with expertise in the field of tax, assurance audit and accounting of companies and other entities. "Initially we had an expectation of recording revenue of

not less than 2bn/- but due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus our clients have gone through business hardships that has disrupted targets," she said.

According to her, the firm is looking forward to expand its services by offering a diverse of services in the near future that will cut across consulting, legal and outsourcing departments. She asserted that rebranding of the firm will add value and credibility among foreign companies seeking to invest in the country. "With rebranding our firm also hopes to attract different public entities in areas of our jurisdiction," Shilekirwa added.

On his part, Ipyana Lazaro who is a Partner at Mazars Tanzania, said the firm has rebranded in over 90 countries where it

has operations backed by 25,000 employees. "Last financial year, Mazars Global recorded revenues of Euro1.8 billion up by 10.4 percent compared to the previous year," Lazaro said.

He added that to date globally the firm works with nearly 2,000 public interest entity around the world on their audits, 30 percent of the listed companies in France, and in China the firm serve almost 140 large-listed companies.

"At the same time, globally the company serves over 50,000 privately owned and family businesses, from private clients and start-ups to mature international clients," he noted while revealing that the global conglomerate started operations 75 years ago.

Finally DCB Bank shareholders to share 500m/- dividend pay

By Francis Kajubi

IN a rare feat, DCB Commercial Bank Plc's shareholders heaved a sigh of relief when management and board proposed 500m/- dividend payment this year after four bad years of performance.

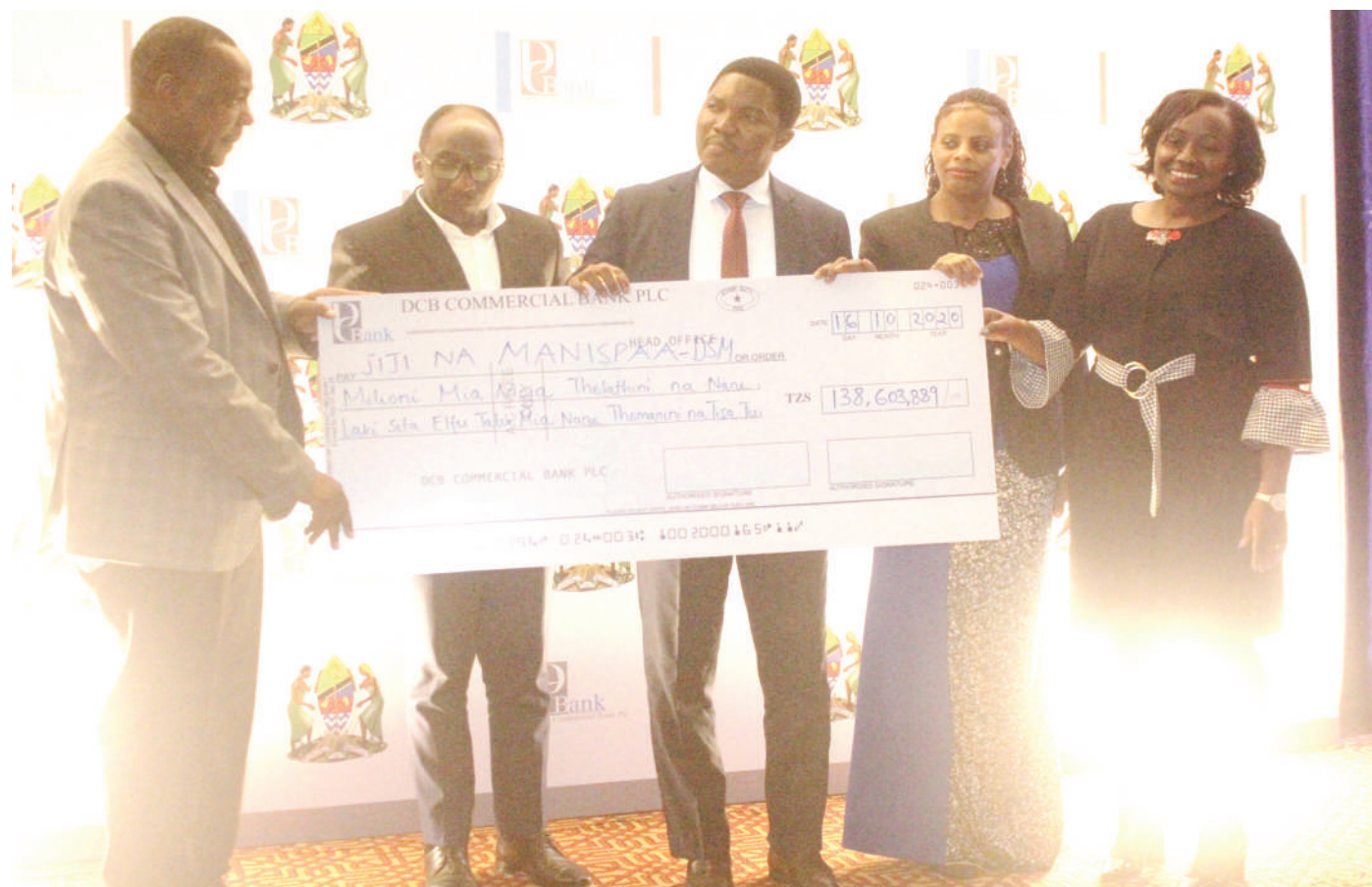
The bank's Managing Director, Godfrey Ndalaha whose management is credit with reviving the ailing publicly listed bank, said in Dar es Salaam last week that the dividend is being paid because of improved performance last year.

Ndalaha was speaking at a special gala to hand over dividend pay cheques to the bank's three major shareholders who include Dar es Salaam's municipalities of Kinondoni, Ilala, Temeke and Ubungu.

He said the three large shareholders who founded the bank over a decade ago, were joined by Ubungu which acquired shares soon after its formation while Kigamboni is yet to join the regional bank.

"The four district councils were given 138.6m/- to be distributed amongst themselves. The other two big shareholders are UTT-AMIS which got 119.07m/- while 30.78m/- went to National Health Insurance Fund," Ndalaha said. He asserted that another 211m/- dividend amount will be distributed to individual shareholders of the bank across the country.

On April this year the bank through its 18th annual general meeting which was held virtually and attended by a record 7,000 shareholders or so, endorsed the management and board proposed dividend pay. The bank made a gross profit worth 2.1bn/- being an increase of 30 percent last year from 1.62bn/- registered in 2018.



Minister of State in the President's Office—Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities, Selemu Jafo (C), presents a dummy check worth 138.6m/- as dividend from DCB Commercial Bank Plc to Temeke District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe (2nd L). Immediate left is the bank's CEO, Godfrey Ndalaha. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

tered in 2018.

"The bank had in 2018 set up strategic goals to be realized in five years to 2021 that targeted to increase liquidity of the bank, expansion of its network and transform it from loss making to profit generation," the DCB Bank chief added. The bank last

paid its shareholders dividend of 14/- per share in 2015.

According to him, the bank's non-performing loans decreased to 13 percent at the end of 2019 from 19 percent the previous year thanks to aggressive collections which peaked 1.8bn/- from loan defaulters, up

from 986m/- collected in 2018. The bank has also increased its share capital to 25bn/- in 2019 from 16bn/- in 2018.

Ndalaha said this year, the bank plans to open five new branches in six different regions of the country to bring service closer to customers. "The bank

will also open 28 new point of sales to enable customers have services in areas with no branches," he noted.

The bank has already services outlets including agents and other digital platforms in Dodoma, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza and Singida Regions.

Telco debuts smartphone with free internet access for 12 months

By The Banker Reporter

IN a bid to increase online access to many consumers, Tigo Tanzania Limited has teamed up with Transsion Holdings to introduce an ITEL T20 smartphone with free internet access for a year.

Tigo Device Manager, Mkumbo Myonga said in Dar es Salaam this week that the leading digital lifestyle company has partnered with Transsion Holdings to unveil the new handset into the local market.

"Our partnership with Transsion Holdings is one we carry with pride because it fits very well with our vision of delivering a bold new digital world for customers. This launch of yet another top of the range, affordable smartphone, is testament of our commitment to ensuring that everyone enjoys the benefits of a modern connected digital life style through the services and products we offer," Myonga said.

He pointed out that the telco continues fulfilling a promise of enabling all Tanzanians to experience the best smartphones while using the widest 4G network in the country. "The phones are available in all Tigo shops countrywide and the ITEL T20 comes with a complimentary 30 GB internet data for a whole year. The ITEL T20 is a new 4G entry-level focused model smartphone and will retail at \$4,900/," he added.

Myonga further noted that the new handset is more than just a smartphone because of the upgrades installed in the device. "The ITEL T20 is a 4G smartphone coming with 5" screen with memory of 1GB+16GB running on the latest Android P Go edition OS," the Tigo Device Manager noted.



Tigo Device Manager, Mkumbo Myonga.

Botswana sees 7.7 pc growth in 2021 on diamond industry recovery

GABORONE

Botswana's economy will rebound and grow 7.7% in 2021 from a 8.9% contraction forecast this year, on the back of improved sentiment in the global diamond industry, the finance minister said on Tuesday.

Botswana's economy shrank

by 24% in the second quarter of 2020 as coronavirus lockdowns at home and abroad slowed domestic economic activity and severely constrained diamond sales. Buyers of the precious gem were locked out of the capital Gaborone, where they come to purchase diamonds from De Beers. Mining is the sparsely

populated southern African country's biggest revenue earner and accounts for just under 20% of total gross domestic product.

"Recent months have seen a robust recovery in the international diamond industry, which will hopefully underpin strong growth in Botswana next year and help to boost exports and

fiscal revenues," Finance Minister Thapelo Matsheka said during a World Bank online meeting held late on Monday. "Based on these developments, we are forecasting a GDP growth rate of 7.7% in 2021," Matsheka told World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, Hafez Ghanem, during the meeting.

Global firm De Beers, which gets about 70% of its supply from Botswana, said last week it had seen a 57% jump in sales to \$467 million at its September "Sight" - when selected buyers come to view and purchase goods already priced by De Beers. The firm cited higher retail orders ahead of the holiday season.

India's Tata group claims 45 minute paper-strip Covid-19 test ready this month

NEW DELHI

India's Tata group said it will soon roll out a low-cost Covid test that gives results in 45 minutes. The test involves a nasal swab and the results can be delivered using a simple paper strip, similar to a pregnancy test.

Tata's health division chief set out details of the potential breakthrough screening at a UAE-India health forum, attended by government officials from both countries, this week. He said the Feluda test, named after a fictional Bengali detective, could be made available by the end of the month.

It is expected to be priced at less than \$7. "The benefits in the current pandemic is that it is simple, reliable, highly scalable and this test does not require expensive machines," said Girish Krishnamurthy, chief executive of Tata Medical and Diagnostics, at a virtual event organised by the Indian consulate in Dubai.

"The turnaround time is very quick. In 45 minutes, you can get the viral test and nucleic acid test and more importantly a tamperproof result," he said. "The product is being tested and is in production mode."

"We are looking to offer it to the world by the end of this month and from that point of time we will start moving a significantly large volume for the world. "We have interest coming from the UAE and this test will be available very, very soon for your country."

The Tata group has set up a large plant in India to produce a sizeable volume and is in talks with laboratories and hospitals. "In the next two to three months, we will be in a position to handle demand from India as well as global demand," he said.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, India's federal health minister, last week said the test had been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for a commercial launch. Based on tests during trials and in private labs, Feluda showed 96 per cent sensitivity and 98 per cent specificity.

The accuracy of a kit is based on these two indicators - a highly sensitive test can detect almost everyone who has the virus. And a high specificity rate will accurately rule out people who don't have the disease, ensuring fewer false negative and false positive results.

The test was developed by a team at the Delhi's CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, led by Dr Souvik Maiti and Dr Debojyoti Chakraborty. The main advantage is fast results, affordability, ease of use and mass testing. "We are working on the next version of this test which can be tested by saliva," Mr Krishnamurthy said.

"It will not only reduce the time to less than 20 minutes, it is going to reduce the cost significantly." He said such breakthroughs were required to get people back in factories, schools, colleges and sporting events.

The Feluda test uses Crispr technology, short for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, or very precise gene-editing to sense the virus. Several research companies in the US and UK are developing similar paper-strip tests. The technique can detect specific sequences of DNA within a gene so it is capable of detecting even low quantities of the genetic material of the coronavirus



A medical staff displaying Tata's Feluda device for Covid-19 rapid testing.

Bank lures pensioners with digital benefits payment through SimBanking

By The Banker

RETIRED Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Suleiman Kova is a happy man because CRDB Bank Plc has now remembered the group of senior citizens through tailor made services for retirees.

"This initiative is very good because it ensures that we retirees are not tired and obsolete," said Kova who was among senior citizens who attended a ceremony when the bank launched, 'Ndoto zako hazistaafu' program targeting the group. The former Dar es Salaam SZPC is also retired senior police officers Chairman in the region.

"We as retirees can now boast of having our bank which attends to our financial challenges," Kova said while promising to immediately open a digital account through the bank's SimBaking application that qualifies him and millions of other retirees in the country.

Kova's remarks were backed



CRDB's chief commercial officer, Dr Joseph Wits (3rd L) in a souvenir photo with retirees during the launch of Pension Account at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam recently. File photo.

by Chairman of retired Permanent Secretaries, Michael Mwanda who paid tribute to CRDB management

for considering the plight of retirees who have been marginalised by many financial institutions.

"We hope that the bank will sensitize pensioners countrywide on this service so that many can utilise the opportunity,"

said Mwanda who pointed out that retirees also have investment plans which often need financial backing.

"This initiative by CRDB leadership is an important gesture to us who are often seen as a high risk group to lend to," Mwanda said. He dared his peers throughout the country to seize the opportunity and utilise it to improve their livelihoods in retirement.

Speaking during the launch of 'Ndoto zako hazistaafu' program recently, CRDB's Chief Commercial Officer, Dr Joseph Wits said the initiative also targets to encourage pensioners to save and invest in the market.

Dr Wits said through the Pension Account, the senior citizens will also be able to get various financial services through their mobile phones using SimBanking application. "I happy to announce that as we officially launch this account, some 19,000 pensioners have already subscribed to it," he revealed saying after opening the account, individuals are also given a

TemboCard for use at CRDB Wakalas and ATMs machines.

He further noted that through the account, the retirees can get their monthly pension payments timely through pension advance with a minimum of 50,000/- and a maximum amount of 1m/-electronically.

"The good thing is that this pension advance is interest free and can be accesses anywhere in the country," the CRDB CCO added while luring pensioners to subscribe to the account and leave their retirement life comfortably. The senior citizens can also invest in the bank through 'Akaunti ya thamani' product which earns an eight percent interest annually, he stated.

In remarks to back Dr Wits, Director of Retail Banking, Boma Rabala said through the latest product, the bank will continue offering loans to the retirees aimed at growing their businesses or invest in other development projects. Rabala said the loan ranges between 1m/- and 100m/- with a repayment period of between 1-7 years.

Financial markets in Africa still underdeveloped

JOHANNESBURG

Modern, robust and transparent financial markets are essential to attract investors to the African continent and fund economic growth, according to a research report by the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF) as part of its annual study into the development of financial markets in African countries.

The research, in collaboration with Absa, again puts SA first in its ranking of African countries in respect of different aspects in an attempt to measure the state of financial markets on the continent. Absa and OMFIF have just announced the latest Absa Africa Financial Markets Index ratings, described as a key reference tool for policy makers and investors to guide their efforts in developing robust financial markets.

It comes as no surprise that SA is found to have the best regulation, largest and most liquid markets, robust legal frameworks and best access to investment capital and foreign exchange while the rest of Africa is far behind, and deteriorating. The research report and a presentation by the researchers seem to focus on the improvements countries have achieved since the previous year's survey, but from the figures investors will (unfortunately) probably think the financial markets in most African countries have become less attractive and welcoming.

Overall score is down

The overall score for the whole of the African continent declined, with more than half of the 20 countries' measures in both years registering a disappointing worsening in the state of their financial markets. And the scores of the laggards are dismally low, with Ethiopia scoring only 27 out of a possible 100, Angola 30 and Malawi 37. SA scored 89, with Mauritius in second place with a score of 79.

The report notes that financial markets improved in Mauritius and Seychelles over the last year, narrowing the gap between them and SA. The index measures the state and development of financial markets in a country by way of six main categories or pillars, each gauging a few important aspects the researchers believe investors would deem critical.

Pillar 1

The first category considers the size and liquidity of each country's financial markets, as well as the diversity of products available. The report states that, on average, countries' scores dropped by 0.6 from last year.

"This partly reflects the decline in local equity indices as markets reacted to Covid-19. Liquidity was more mixed, as a fall in foreign investor activity in eq-



Absa Group CEO Daniel Mminele.

uities was partly offset by central banks and local investors in bond markets," says the report.

"Market capitalisation decreased across most markets in the index, but exchanges have remained operational with staff working remotely during the virus disruption. However, initial public offerings were put on hold in many markets because of the pandemic."

Pillar 2

This evaluates African markets' openness to foreign investment based on the ease of moving capital, liquidity of foreign exchange markets, rigidity of foreign exchange regimes and availability of reliable foreign exchange data.

It considers countries' resilience to volatility by measuring portfolio flows against foreign exchange reserves. The report says that since the first edition of the index in 2017, several countries have loosened capital controls and moved towards more flexible exchange regimes.

During the last year, scores measuring these aspects were largely unchanged. Generally, countries maintained strong reserve positions, although there was more variability in foreign exchange activity.

Pillar 3

A Pillar 3 scores countries based on regulatory frameworks, tax systems and market transparency as a healthy market environment is key to attracting capital. Countries perform best in this pillar, scoring 67 out of 100 on average.

Pillar 4

Local investors' willingness to invest in domestic markets can have a significant impact on market development and growth. Pillar 4 measures local investor capacity based on the amount of pension fund assets available in the country relative to the population and market capitalisation. While African countries tend to perform poorly in this regard, especially if their pension systems are not yet well established, this pillar showed the greatest improvement from the previous year.

Interestingly, Namibia scored the highest in this category - its total pension assets are nearly twice the size of local market capitalisation, indicating that Namibian pension funds can play an important role in spurring market activity.

Pillar 5

Pillar 5 assesses countries' macroeconomic performance, export competitiveness and banking sector health. It evaluates the quality of governance based on external debt management and financial sector transparency.

The average score in this category improved by 1.1 points, subdued by adjusted growth forecasts reflecting the impact of Covid-19. SA regained its first place this year, says the report, despite its poor economic performance.

Its compound annual growth rate over the last five years is the lowest in the index at just under 1%, while the International Monetary Fund expects South Africa to post the weakest recovery of the countries in the index over the next two years. However, high living standards, a relative low ratio of non-performing loans to gross loans and a large export market share was enough to put it in first place.

Pillar 6

Pillar 6 measures the all-important legal framework and enforcement of contracts, a critical aspect to foster investor confidence. In essence, this scores countries based on the enforceability of market-related financial contracts, adoption of standard master agreements and the strength of insolvency frameworks.

"By establishing a common fact base that allows cross-country comparisons, the index helps anchor policy discussions between regulators, exchanges, investors and corporates on how to promote the open, accessible and transparent markets that are best placed to mobilise capital and promote investment on the continent," states the report.

Key tool

Absa Group CEO Daniel Mminele

says that since its launch in 2017, the index has become a key reference tool used by policy makers and market participants to guide their efforts in developing robust financial markets in Africa. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic also weakened markets. "The Absa Africa Financial Markets Index is being released at a time when many African countries are grappling with the profound economic and health challenges posed by Covid-19," says Mminele.

"The outlook remains highly uncertain in most markets, as downside risks continue to persist. With the global economy forecasted to contract in 2020, our continent is expected to experience the first severe recession since 1992, placing pressure on public finances, and eroding the progress that many countries had made towards poverty alleviation and sustainable development goals.

"These unpredictable operating conditions foretell challenging times for financial markets for the foreseeable future, requiring continued effort from stakeholders, and even more regional economic collaboration than ever before, in order to maintain stability and regain market confidence," says Mminele in his introduction to the research report.

The research shows that there has been improvement, despite the lower average scores. "When the index was first released in 2017, only three out of 17 countries scored above 50, with many performing poorly on more than 40 indicators considered," say the researchers.

"This year, 11 out of 23 countries scored above 50, indicating improvements across the board. Stronger legal frameworks and growing local investor capacity contributed to better scores overall. "The countries whose standing improved the most from last year were Ghana, Morocco and Seychelles. Firmer rules enforcing close-out netting boosted Ghana's standing, while improving business environments in Morocco and Seychelles earned them points," says the report.

With this in mind, the OMFIF report dispatches more bad news than good: "The initial impact of the pandemic was felt by countries with high levels of external debt as global investors pulled back investments. The withdrawal of international capital impacted the region's stock markets as liquidity dropped in the first half of 2020." In simple terms, the report seems to say that Africa needs more chickens, which is only possible by getting more eggs, for which we need more chickens.

UK's Bank of Mum and Dad more stretched by Covid-19

LONDON

A fifth of British working parents are taking lump-sums from their pensions to help their children onto the property ladder, as the bank of Mum and Dad gets more stretched by Covid-19.

Anecdotally referred to as one of the UK's biggest lenders, the bank of Mum and Dad is now at growing risk of default, according to the Great British Retirement Study by interactive investor, with 21 per cent of those still working dipping into their pension pots to fund their offspring's property ambitions. In addition, more than half of already retired parents helped their children buy property, 10 per cent by loaning and 41 per cent by gifting money - a rise of 6 per cent on last year.

"With jobs in jeopardy and incomes slashed, many are turning to their parents for help - whether it's for a cash bailout, support to get on the property ladder or childcare. But the older generation is suffering too, with many having seen their savings rocked," said Moira O'Neill, head of personal finance at interactive investor.

"If the Bank of Mum and Dad was a regulated institution there would be urgent calls for a review of its liquidity ... Not surprisingly many older savers are feeling gloomy. Last year more than half of those still at work thought their lifestyle would improve when they retired. This year that number has halved."

British household finances remain under severe strain amid the pandemic, according to IHS Markit's latest UK Household Finance Index, as the economic effects of the crisis take their toll on spending power.

The headline seasonally adjusted index, which measures households' overall sense of financial wellbeing, was at 40.8 in October - substantially below the neutral 50.0 threshold, signalling a sharp deterioration in sentiment. The October data showed a further reduction in the amount of cash available to households for spending, with many still using savings to fund some purchasing.

"A greater proportion of households were also turning to unsecured debt such as credit cards and overdrafts during October," said IHS Markit. "Overall demand for unse-

cured credit rose to the greatest extent since April."

One in five workers aged 60-65 say they expect to delay their retirement as a result of Covid-19, according to the interactive investor study, with 25 per cent expecting to wait a year to give up work, 34 per cent expecting a two-year wait and 14 per cent a delay of five years or more. Separately, a quarter of the 12,000 adults polled said they were worried that investment losses incurred because of coronavirus would mean they would never actually retire.

"There has been a material increase in the financial calls being made on the Bank of Mum and Dad. The average house price has risen by 1,170 per cent in the past 40 years - from around £20,000 (\$25,930) to over £234,000 today. Parents told us time and again how they had benefited from the house price boom but were now watching their children struggling to become homeowners," said Rebecca O'Connor, head of pensions and saving at interactive investor.

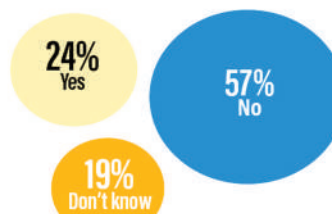
"It's understandable that they want to help but worrying how many people have drawn on their pensions to do so. The worry is that many of those raiding their pensions and cash savings now to help their children will find they haven't enough for their own needs later. We see a retirement storm brewing." As well as financial support for children, more retired grandparents are now providing childcare - 29 per cent this year compared to 18 per cent last year.

The study also found some disparity between how women's finances have been hurt more by the crisis than men's, due to factors such as the equalisation of the pension age, with both men and women now retiring at 66, divorce and women not being as familiar with their finances as men.

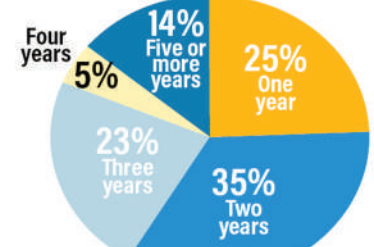
"Far too many women have no idea what their retirement income will be in retirement, and they tend to be far more pessimistic about their financial prospects. It is a disgrace that one in ten women expect a household income of less than £10,000 in retirement compared to just 2 per cent of men. We have to start lifting women's financial expectations," said Ms O'Neill. The report also found that many couples still can't talk to each other openly about money - and many have a 'runaway fund'.

UK RETIREMENT AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Do you fear that you'll never be able to afford retirement owing to coronavirus-linked investment losses?



How long will you delay your retirement because of the coronavirus-linked fall in the markets?



Source: interactive investor

WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: These voters sat out in 2016. Now they could determine the next US president

WASHINGTON

IOWA resident LeAnne Putman-Thomas has watched her country pursue wars, endure recessions and elect its first Black president. Yet the 53-year-old never felt compelled to vote.

That changed this month, when she went to an early voting center to cast a ballot for Democrat Joe Biden - or, more accurately, to vote out Republican incumbent Donald Trump.

"His presidency has ignited something bad that was festering in this country," said the self-employed embroiderer, who lives in Adel, a small town of 5,500 people outside Des Moines. "I want to be part of the solution."

If Biden defeats Trump in the November presidential election, voters like Putman-Thomas could be a big reason why.

Opinion polls and early voting returns indicate that millions of Americans who typically don't participate in elections are coming off the sidelines this year and backing the Democrat by wide margins.

Roughly 7.3 million infrequent and first-time voters had cast their ballots as of Tuesday, according to TargetSmart, a Democratic analytics firm. That's more than two and a half times

the number of ballots cast at the same point four years ago, the data show, as states have expanded absentee and early in-person voting options due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

TargetSmart estimates that this group leans Democratic by 16 percentage points.

"If we want to look at it in terms of who has more intensity and where does the advantage lie, it's in these infrequent and first-time voters," said TargetSmart Chief Executive Officer Tom Bonier.

Republicans caution not to read too much into those numbers as this year could also see higher participation rates by white voters without a college degree, a key Trump constituency.

"I would caution against saying this is exclusively a Biden electorate," said Patrick Ruffini, a co-founder of Echelon Insights, a Republican analytics firm.

It's another twist in a precedent-shattering presidential campaign that has already seen more than 35 million people cast ballots with less than two weeks to go before Election Day on Nov 3.

Democratic strategists believe their party has the advantage in mobilizing infrequent voters this year, in part because of Trump's upset victory in



A woman wears a mask with a message urging voter participation while she waits in line to enter a polling place on the first day of the state's in-person early voting for the general election in Durham, North Carolina, U.S. October 15, 2020. File Photo

2016. A combined 78,000 votes across three battleground states - Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin - allowed Trump to snatch an Electoral College win over Democrat Hillary Clinton despite losing the popular vote by almost 3 million votes nationwide. The U.S. presidency is clinched by winning a majority of the 538 votes apportioned to the 50 states and Washington D.C. in the Electoral College.

That razor-thin margin has haunted some of those who stayed home, said University of Wisconsin political science professor Barry Burden.

"They feel stunned by what happened four years ago and surprised," Burden said. "And so they are trying to make up for their past sins this time around."

The Trump campaign meanwhile is running an aggressive operation to engage infrequent voters in battleground states. In Pennsylvania, for example, volunteers are going door-to-door to talk with these voters and provide information on how to cast ballots and where. The effort has helped the party gain 200,000 net new registered Republicans since 2016, Pennsylvania voting records show, shrinking a long-time Democratic registration advantage in the state to the lowest level since the 1970s.

A similar push in Florida and North Carolina has likewise eroded Democrats' historic voter registration advantage in those states, official figures show.

"There's just no way the Democrats can spin this. We dominated them when it comes to getting new voters," said a senior campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

China opens up further to foreign investors

By Ouyang Shijia

CHINA is taking more steps to open up its economy to foreign investors, as it aims to further facilitate investment and spur growth despite disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic and mounting international uncertainties, officials and experts said on Tuesday.

Meng Wei, a spokeswoman for the National Development and Reform Commission, said the country will unveil a new negative list for market access to Hainan Free Trade Port by the end of this year, allowing foreign investors to have wider access in a number of key areas.

Meng said at a news conference that the upcoming negative list is part of the country's larger drive to build Hainan into a free trade port with a higher level of openness and attract more foreign investment.

"It's sending very clear signals of an unwavering push for further opening-up and facilitating free trade and investment," said Cui Weijie, director of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation's Insti-

tute of Industry Development and Strategy.

Cui cited the master plan for the construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port released in June, which said its negative list will dramatically reduce the number of prohibited and restricted items.

"It means the country will open more industries to foreign investors, which will significantly stimulate foreign trade and investment growth and help build an economy with a new level of openness in the future."

This year, global cross-border direct investment declined significantly amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. Against this backdrop, foreign investment has gradually stabilized in China, posting better-than-expected growth, said Meng from the NDRC.

Data released by the Ministry of Commerce showed China's actual use of foreign capital rose in the first three quarters of the year, both in yuan and dollar terms. In dollar terms it increased by 2.5 percent year-on-year to US\$103.26 billion.

"A number of major foreign projects have been implemented in



Cargo is being unloaded from a ship docked at a port in Haikou, capital of Hainan province, on Aug 25, 2020. File photo

an orderly manner this year," said Meng, adding that "their progress fully demonstrates foreign companies' confidence in China's development".

For example, German chemical giant BASF's new integrated petrochemicals project in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, has completed the pile foundation construction for the first batch of equipment, Meng added.

"We will work with relevant parties to roll out the (new edition of the) catalog of encouraged industries for foreign investment by the

end of this year, expanding the investment scope for foreign investors," Meng said.

As most nations still struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic, China has reported robust economic growth. The Chinese economy grew 0.7 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters, turning positive after a 1.6 percent slide in the first half, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

"China's fast economic rebound signals the ample room for growth in the future as well as the strong resilience of the economy," said

In an era of political polarization, analysts say infrequent voters across the political spectrum could determine who sits in the White House next January.

Patrick Sebastian, a Republican strategist with the firm Majority Strategies, said both parties are enjoying strong support from their core voters but can't rely on them alone.

"The party that can best motivate low-propensity voters will likely win the election," Sebastian said.

OFF THE SIDELINES

Roughly 40% of eligible Americans typically don't vote in U.S. presidential elections. The 2016 matchup between Trump and Clinton fit that pattern.

Americans cast a record 137 million ballots that year, according to University of Florida political science professor Michael McDonald. Still, another 100 million eligible adults did not participate.

In surveys, nonvoters cite a variety of reasons, including disinterest in politics, distrust of the U.S. government or a lack of identity documents required in some states to cast ballots.

Some experts predict turnout could be significantly higher this year as Trump's polarizing presidency has galvanized voters across the political spectrum, including millions who stayed home four years ago. McDonald predicts as many as 150 million ballots could be cast in 2020.

Several opinion polls show that irregular voters who are likely to show up this year are backing Biden by wide margins.

An October survey by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center showed Biden leading Trump by 16 percentage points among those who didn't vote four years ago, double his 8-point lead among those who cast ballots that year.

Likewise, a September poll by the University of Wisconsin Elections Research Center found Biden leading Trump by 27 percentage points among 2016 nonvoters in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, the three states that handed Trump his unexpected Electoral College win four years ago.

Kenyatta calls for constitutional consensus to foster harmony

NAIROBI



KENYAN President Uhuru Kenyatta led the nation in marking this year's "Heroes Day" on Tuesday by calling for a constitutional consensus that accommodates all communities and entrenches equity and national unity.

Kenyatta (pictured) said constitutional consensus was key to entrenching equity and national unity and reiterated his caution against rigidity that breeds negative and divisive politics. "Our Founding Fathers and constitutional heroes did not intend our constitutional order to enslave us.

"They constructed it to serve us. And when it ceased to serve us, we are meant to borrow from the example of our Founding Fathers and rethink it," he said in Kisii County in western Kenya.

The president's remarks come as debate is raging in Kenya on whether or not to amend the 2010 constitution, fuelled by the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), a project aimed at fostering national unity initiated by Kenyatta and opposition leader, Raila Odinga.

Odinga, the High Representative for Infrastructure at the African Union who is working closely with Kenyatta, is reported to be determined to rally his supporters to support the change to the constitution.

A panel spearheading the BBI initiative picked by Kenyatta and Odinga has proposed reforms to end Kenya's winner-takes-all political system.

Opinion is already divided with some Kenyans wanting the current constitution which was promulgated in 2010 to be implemented instead of amending it. But Kenyatta said he advocates for a constitutional consensus that will secure the country's democratic credentials without reaping apart the diversity of the Kenyan nation.

He urged Kenyans to weave a constitutional consensus around a three-pronged national question that addresses political inclusion, equity in the distribution of opportunities and resources as well as the contests and violence that occur every electoral cycle.

According to the Kenyan leader, the quest to liberate Kenya was fueled by the desire to drive hunger, ignorance, disease and unemployment away from Kenyans. He emphasized that unless the economy is sustainably expanding to accommodate the youths graduating every year, they are being robbed of their future.

The east African nation plans to amend its constitution to enable the country to end cycles of violence that have plagued general elections for decades.

Xinhua

S. African govt urged to clarify list of COVID-19 high risk countries

CAPE TOWN

THE opposition on Tuesday requested clarity on the criteria used by the government to draw up the COVID-19 red list comprising countries South Africa considers as high risk for international travel.

This came after the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) on Monday revised the list of COVID-19 high risk countries which now stand at 22, down from an initial 60.

While the number of countries are reduced, the list now includes countries such as Germany, the United States and Canada which are among the most important source markets for tourism in South Africa, the Democratic Alliance (DA) said in a statement.

As was the case last time, the revised red list appears to have been arbitrarily drawn up as there is no correlation with the latest global COVID-19 statistics, the DA said.

The red list bars people from high risk countries from visiting South Africa, except for those who fall in the following categories: business travellers, holders of critical skills visas, investors and people on international mission in sports, arts, culture and science.

The DHA did not say what criteria it used to determine which country is high risk. "If total deaths per country was the criteria used to draw up this list then countries like Ecuador would have been included on the list as it has more deaths than Canada which was added onto the red list," said Manny de Freitas, DA Shadow Minister of Tourism.

Turkey and Bolivia with more deaths and are not on the red list yet the Netherlands with less deaths than those two countries remain on the list, De Freitas said.

The same can be said for the statistics for deaths per million population such as Bolivia and Chile which are fourth and sixth respectively in this category but are not on the red list while countries such as Bangladesh at number 46 has been added onto the list, according to De Freitas.

The DA is of the view that the red list should be replaced with a simpler and more economically-beneficial system.

Xinhua

China promotes common development through high-level opening-up

CHINA'S tourism sector witnessed a robust rebound during the combined Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday that lasted from October 1 to 8.

More than 600 million Chinese made domestic trips during the eight-day holiday, when the sales of key retail and catering firms monitored by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) totaled 1.6 trillion yuan (about \$239 billion), with average daily sales rising 4.9 percent compared with the National Day holiday last year, data from the MOC showed.

Such figures mirrored the strong vitality of the domestic circulation of the country.

While global tourism is estimated to suffer from a loss of over \$1 trillion this year, China's tourism industry has almost returned to normal, said an article published on Hamburger Morgenpost, a daily German newspaper.

The whole country was on the move as hundreds of millions of Chinese visited their relatives and friends or took trips to

tourist destinations during the past eight-day Golden Week holiday, a scene that was seen only 9 months after the global outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the article described.

Many international media outlets have also made similar comments about China recently.

China has injected dynamism into economic development by making efforts to facilitate the movement of people and goods. The experience could also be helpful for other countries.

China has speeded up creating a "dual circulation" development pattern whereby domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

It is a strategic decision made by the country in accordance with its development stage, environment, and conditions.

Facts have shown that China has con-

tinuously unleashed the potential of domestic demand and witnessed growing vitality of the domestic circulation. Meanwhile, international circulation has constantly gained new momentum as China has continued to expand opening-up.

China's foreign trade rose 6 percent year on year in August, registering an increase for the fifth consecutive month.

The country has recently released a master plan for three new pilot free trade zones (FTZs) in Beijing, Hunan province and Anhui province, and adopted a plan to expand the pilot FTZ in Zhejiang province, bringing the number of its pilot FTZs to 21.

On October 11, China issued a plan on implementing pilot reforms in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, intending to develop the city into a demonstration area of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the next five years.

By granting the city with greater autonomy in the reform of important areas and key links, China aims to advance higher-level reform and opening-up towards higher goals in Shenzhen.

Although economic globalization has been struck by headwinds, the world will never return to isolation, and no one can sever the ties between countries.

"We should pursue open and inclusive development, remain committed to building an open world economy, and uphold the multilateral trading regime with the World Trade Organization as the cornerstone. We should say no to unilateralism and protectionism, and work to ensure the stable and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains," said Chinese President Xi Jinping at the General Debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

China has made it clear to the world

that its sincerity and determination to cooperate with other countries for mutual benefits and common development have always remained the same.

By promoting high-quality development through high-level opening-up, China has brought new opportunities to the common development of China and the rest of the world, thus winning wide recognition and trust from the international community.

The country has continuously shortened its negative list for foreign investment and that in pilot free trade zones and officially cleared the negative list for foreign investment in financial sector.

The 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) has yielded rich fruits and the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) to be held in November is attracting more and more foreign enterprises.

People's Daily



Yang Xiaoming, president of China National Biotec Group

CNBG president races against time to accelerate development of COVID-19 vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are the most expected after the pandemic broke out.

China National Biotec Group (CNBG) under China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation delivered outstanding anti-pandemic performance. It built COVID-19 vaccine production workshops, and the vaccine that the group developed has been approved for emergency use by China.

Apart from that, CNBG has been racing against the virus since the very start of the epidemic. Its research teams developed a COVID-19 test kit in just 48 hours, which was among the first batch of products recommended by China's National Health Commission (NHC). Besides, the group also collected plasma from some recovered patients to prepare therapeutic products including convalescent plasma and immune globulin.

Such achievements couldn't have been made without Yang Xiaoming, chief scientist of the vaccine project under the "863 program", a national government-funded high-tech development initiative, and president of CNBG.

After joining a commendation conference for national response to COVID-19 on Sept. 8, Yang immediately started working eating a few mouthfuls of packed lunch. "I've already been used to this, as I have been eating packed meals for over nine months," he said.

Yang always forgot to have meals or slept very little during work, saying what he did was a race against the virus. Scientists are warriors in the lab, and they need to fight, he told the People's Daily.

After the outburst of COVID-19, Yang in no time sent his team to Wuhan and finally confirmed that the virus was a whole-new pathogen.

"We had too many unknowns facing the new virus, so we had to establish a comprehensive response plan as soon as possible," said Yang, who has studied infectious diseases for over 20 years. He quickly established a command center with his team to develop test kit. Meanwhile, they also started vaccine development.

When the team was working for test reagent, Yang would call the R&D personnel almost every hour to see how things were going.

"It was really urgent. My cell phone was totally a hotline, and I had to

charge it at least three to four times a day. I couldn't miss a single call, so that I could learn the progress and solve problems," he said.

The high intensity of work led to a rising blood pressure of Yang, and he had to control it by taking drugs. "The medical workers are battling on the frontline, so we must fight, too," he said. Finally, the test kit was developed within 48 hours.

Soon after that, he led his team to the new battlefield - COVID-19 vaccine development.

During those days, how to make safe vaccines as soon as possible was all he was thinking. After rounds of researches, CNBG decided to take multiple approaches to develop inactivated vaccines.

"We resorted to multiple approaches because we didn't know too much about the virus back then, and we chose inactivated vaccines because the techniques and production platforms are mature, so we were able to launch massive production easily," he explained.

CNBG decided to start researches of inactivated vaccines at two of its biological product institutions in Beijing and Wuhan simultaneously, which meant it must expand its investment. "Such a 'back-to-back' method enabled us to compare the results, so as to ensure the safety and reliability of the vaccines. In addition, the competition between the two institutions also improved our efficiency," Yang said.

When the vaccine was just approved for clinical test, Yang became the first one to be injected. After phase-I and phase-II clinical tests, no severe side effect happened among all those injected.

"Without enough output, vaccines, no matter how great they are, cannot shield people from diseases. Therefore, we must massively produce them," Yang said. That's why CNBG has built COVID-19 vaccine production workshops in both Beijing and Wuhan. It took only 60 days to build the workshops. The one in Beijing was completed on April 15, and the one in Wuhan on July 1.

"We'll do everything to finish the 'last mile' of COVID-19 vaccine development, and build a fence to protect people's health with concrete actions," Yang said.

People's Daily



We had too many unknowns facing the new virus, so we had to establish a comprehensive response plan as soon as possible," said Yang, who has studied infectious diseases for over 20 years

Lavrov says crisis in Council of Europe showed that ultimatums are unacceptable

MOSCOW

THE resolution of the systemic crisis in the Council of Europe related to the restriction of the Russian delegation's rights in the organization's Parliamentary Assembly has shown that ultimatums and pressure are unacceptable, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters at a news conference on Monday following talks with Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejcinovic Buric.

According to Russia's top diplomat, the secretary general's visit symbolically draws a line under the systemic crisis in the Council of Europe was in 2014-2019 due to illegal actions by some members of its Parliamentary Assembly that contradict the organization's statute.

"Now the situation has changed qualitatively, primarily as a result of the session of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers held in Hel-



sinki last May. The rights of Russian parliamentarians have been fully restored since then.

The main lesson of that situation is that using the language of threats, ultimatums and pressure in the Council of Europe is unacceptable. It is unacceptable to try to violate the key principles, on which the Council of Europe is based and which are enshrined in its Statute," Lavrov stressed.

He noted that Marija Pejcinovic Bur-

ic's visit was taking place in the run-up to the 25th anniversary of Russia's Council of Europe membership.

"We will celebrate that date on February 28, 2021. This is probably a good reason to analyze where we are and what tasks we face in the interests of further cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation," he said.

The Russian delegation to PACE was stripped of its rights to vote, take part in monitoring missions or make up the PACE leadership institutions in April 2014, following the events in Ukraine and Crimea.

In 2015, PACE considered the issue of reinstating the rights of the Russian delegation twice, but the sanctions only got tighter then.

In response, the Russian delegation announced that it refused to work in such conditions and since 2016 did not submit an application to confirm its rights.

Agencies

World should sober up to tough realities in global pandemic fight

BEIJING

IN merely a month the global COVID-19 caseload spiked from 30 million to 40 million, blaring a siren that the worst hours of the pandemic are yet to come.

The latest grim milestone of 40 million infections is a blow to the foolish expectation that the virus can somehow retreat by itself. Although some parts of the globe have done a better job containing the virus and the infection curves in some countries have seen plateaus, it remains too early for the world to let its guard down against the deadly and cunning pathogen.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has admitted that the next few months will be challenging "simply because all of us in Austria and Europe are already tired of corona, but it will take months before we can really achieve a breakthrough with a vaccine."

What the past ten months or so have taught us is that while restriction measures are not popular, they are undeniably necessary and effective against the highly contagious virus.

That is why some countries in Europe, where the latest surge in confirmed cases has become a major concern, have once again tightened restrictions, including "grounding," targeted lockdowns and curfews.

The 40 million milestone confirms again that it is impossible to cover up or beat the outbreak with lies and shifting blame.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, some U.S. politicians in Washington have been energetically peddling virus-related lies and rumors, spinning unproven treatments like hydroxychloroquine, and attacking medical professionals and experts. Their negligence and arrogance have contributed to America's tragic fiasco in the fight against the pandemic.

The worst is yet to come unless scientific guidance can have an upper hand in the fight against the pandemic. To this end, one urgent task is to debunk the myth of the so-called "herd immunity" theory that is both immoral and unscientific.

Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "herd immunity" is a kind of protection that needs to be achieved by vaccination, not by deliberately exposing people to a potentially fatal disease, and that "allowing a dangerous virus that we don't fully understand to run free is simply unethical."

The 40 million milestone underscores how fighting the virus alone is futile. As long as infections surge, no one is safe. Countries worldwide need to pool their wisdom and resources into vaccine research and development, and fairly distribute vaccines around the world once available.

Meanwhile, while governments are responsible to formulate effective anti-pandemic policies and guide the public through this unprecedented public health crisis, ordinary people have a role to play.

As top U.S. infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci said, sometimes "you may have to bite the bullet and sacrifice" amid still surging infections.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres commented recently that the international community is unfortunately failing the test of the pandemic as a major global challenge.

Xinhua

Protesters return to Nigeria's streets after deadly clashes

By Bloomberg

NIGERIAN security forces opened fire on protesters in Lagos before a lockdown was imposed on Africa's most-populous city to quell growing rallies against police brutality in the OPEC nation.

Hundreds of youths defied a Nigerian government lockdown and returned to the streets of Lagos, Africa's most populous city, a day after violent clashes between the security forces and protesters.

The youths, who carried sticks and metal poles, chased cars that tried to evade barricades they'd erected along one on the Lagos's main expressways. Several other streets were also sealed off, and the sound of sporadic gunshots echoed across the city. There was no sign of the police or army.

A Nigerian Red Cross Society official said at least two civilians were shot dead, adding to at least six other deaths in the country on Tuesday.

Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said 25 people were in the hospital after the incident, which he blamed on "forces beyond our direct control." His government said it's investigating what happened.

In a series of tweets on its Twitter page, the Nigerian Army labeled reports that soldiers had fired on protesters as fake news. Spokespeople for the army and the police didn't immediately answer calls by Bloomberg seeking comment.

Yields on Nigeria's 2032 dollar bonds climbed 15 basis points to 8.26 percent by 8:31 a.m. in London, after jumping 21 basis points on Tuesday.

While Nigeria has become accustomed to violent incidents in recent



Protesters carry a banner during a demonstration to press for the scrapping of Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) on Abuja-Keffi Expressway, Abuja, Nigeria on Monday. (PHOTO / BLOOMBERG)

years, most have been confined to the country's north, where President Muhammadu Buhari's government is fighting an Islamist insurgency led by Boko Haram extremists. Large-scale deaths perpetrated by security forces in the country's economic hub are almost unheard of.

The clashes in Lagos's Lekki district came after Sanwo-Olu announced a 24-hour curfew to try and end disruptions in a region that's home to more than 22 million people and houses the headquarters of Nigeria's biggest banks and largest companies.

Before Tuesday, protests that began on Oct. 5 had been largely peaceful, with the government issuing a directive to its security forces not to use violence.

The events in Lagos drew criticism from US political leaders including presidential candidate Joe Biden, who urged Buhari to end the violent crackdown on protesters. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton echoed the call.

Key demand

The demonstrations have continued despite the government bowing to a key demand of protesters -- the dissolution of a police unit accused of brutality. Thousands of mainly young people have taken to the streets of Abuja, the capital, Lagos and other towns, sealing off major roads and bridges, disrupting flights and bringing many businesses to a standstill.

Prior to the latest clashes, Amnesty International had estimated that at least 18 people had been killed in the protests, which have spread to about half of the 36 states.

The Lagos lockdown was imposed after two police stations were torched and a major expressway linking the main port city to the northern and southeastern parts of the country was sealed off. Police Inspector-General Mohammed Adamu ordered the deployment of anti-riot police to protect lives and property.

Agencies

Kremlin slams US sanctions against Nord Stream 2 as 'hostile takeover competition'

MOSCOW

KREMLIN spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the new US sanctions against Nord Stream 2 a manifestation of hostile takeover competition.

At the same time, the Kremlin is not inclined to associate the introduction of these restrictions with the START negotiations, he noted.

"This [Nord Stream 2 sanctions and the START negotiations] can hardly be considered interrelated subjects," he told reporters on Wednesday.

"In general, this rather unfriendly and destructive policy of constant introduction of various restrictions in relation to us, our economic operators, our economy, unfortunately,

this has already become an integral part of unfair competition, undisguised hostile takeover competition on the part of Washington," the spokesman said.

Peskov recalled that "this destructive policy has been conducted for several years now." He reiterated that "of course, this harms bilateral relations."

US sanctions against Nord Stream 2

In 2017, the US Congress adopted the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions act (CAATSA). It envisages the introduction of sanctions against companies involved in the Nord Stream-2 project.

In July 2020, the US Senate's international relations committee supported a special bill on restrictions against contractors involved in laying the pipeline.

On October 2020, 2020, US State Department published a statement that US sanctions against Nord Stream 2 may also cover companies providing services or funding to vessels involved in the project.

The Nord Stream 2 project contemplates construction of two gas pipeline strings with the total capacity of 55 bln cubic meters per year from Russia to Germany across the Baltic Sea. The gas pipeline is 93% complete to date.

Agencies

1 in 6 children lived in extreme poverty prior to COVID-19 - analysis

UNITED NATIONS

ONE In six children, or 356 million globally, lived in extreme poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the situation is set to worsen significantly, according to a new analysis by the World Bank and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for two-thirds of children living in households that struggle to survive on an average of 1.90 U.S. dollars a day or less per person -- the international measure for extreme poverty. South Asia accounts for 18 percent of these children, according to the analysis

released on Tuesday.

The number of children living in extreme poverty dropped moderately by 29 million between 2013 and 2017.

However, UNICEF and the World Bank warned that any progress made in recent years is concerning slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although children make up around a third of the global population, around half of the extreme poor are children, according to the analysis. Children (people younger than 18 years) are more than twice as likely to be extreme-

ly poor as adults (17.5 percent of children vs. 7.9 percent of adults in 2017).

The youngest children are the worst off -- nearly 20 percent of all children below the age of five in the developing world live in extremely poor households, according to estimates based on the Global Monitoring Database of household surveys from 149 countries compiled in spring 2020.

Because the estimates pertain to 2017, they do not consider the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Extreme poverty among children has not fallen as much as it

has for adults. A larger share of the global poor were children in 2017, compared with that in 2013.

All regions of the world experienced varying levels of decline in extreme poverty among children, apart from Sub-Saharan Africa, which saw a 64 million increase, from 170 million in 2013 to 234 million in 2017.

Child poverty is more prevalent in fragile and conflict-affected countries, where more than 40 percent of children live in extremely poor households, compared to nearly 15 percent of children in other countries, according to the analysis.

The analysis also notes that

more than 70 percent of children in extreme poverty live in a household where the head of the house works in agriculture.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis will continue to disproportionately impact children, women and girls, threatening to reverse hard-won gains toward gender equality, said the World Bank and UNICEF in a joint press release.

Social protection measures have a crucial role to play to mitigate coping mechanisms by the poor and vulnerable in both the immediate COVID-19 response as well as the longer-term recovery, said the press release.

World Bank and UNICEF data

suggest that most countries have responded to the crisis by expanding social protection programs, particularly cash transfers. However, many of the responses are short-term and not adequate to respond to the size and expected long-term nature of the recovery.

It is more important than ever for governments to scale up and adjust their social protection systems and programs to prepare for future shocks.

This includes innovation for financial sustainability, strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, protecting human capital, expanding child and family ben-

efits for the long term as well as investing in family-friendly policies, such as paid parental leave and quality child care for all, said the press release.



All regions of the world experienced varying levels of decline in extreme poverty among children, apart from Sub-Saharan Africa, which saw a 64 million



Coach Amri Said

Mbeya City FC ultimately sacks coach Amri Said

BY CORRESPONDENT ADAM FUNGAMWANGO

MBEYA City FC has officially announced to have parted ways with coach, Amri Said, shortly after the club had conceded 2-1 loss to Mwadui FC in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League clash which took place in Shinyanga on Tuesday.

The Mbeya club netted its first goal of the season in the duel, which was played at Mwadui Complex.

A statement issued by the club on its social media account yesterday, and signed by the side's Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel Kimbe, disclosed the side reached mutual agreement with Said to terminate the coach's contract because of the club's poor performance in the top flight.

The statement said Mbeya City FC will be under the tutelage of caretaker coach, Mathias Wandiba that was Said's assistant.

Said, nevertheless, disclosed he has yet to meet the side's leadership and reach an agreement on termination of his contract.

He noted all he told them is they should hand him a letter notifying the coach of the decision to sack him.

"I told them they should write me a letter containing terms which were in the contract, they had earlier told me we should have written agreement to terminate the contract but they noted I should write statement saying I have resigned," he disclosed.

"I refused to do so, I told them they should write a letter approving termination of the contract as per the employment regulations," he noted.

Said had joined Mbeya City FC in December last year, helping the outfit continue participating in the VPL after getting good results in the relegation play offs.

Mbeya City FC has had a frustrating start to this season's VPL given the squad has suffered five defeats and draw in two games.

The side grabbed its first goal in the Tuesday match against Mwadui FC after playing six matches.

Mbeya City FC failed to score in the side's past six games but, in the game against Mwadui FC, forward Richardson Ng'ondya netted for the former on the 66th minute of the clash.

Mwadui FC though went on to notch 2-1 win over Mbeya City FC.

Samatta wins plaudits

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

PROMINENT Tanzanian soccer stakeholder, Mohamed Noray 'Mo Noray', has congratulated soccer player, Mbwana Samatta, who plays for Turkey's Premier League side Fenerbahçe S.K, for promoting Tanzania in the sport.

Noray, who is also a respected cadre for Tanzania's ruling party 'Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)', issued the comments at an occasion for commemorating the Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, in Dar es Salaam recently.

Noray is the Director for a construction firm, Tanzania Works Building Limited, which is currently renovating the National Indoor Stadium that hosts a variety of sports including basketball.

He is in the fore front of efforts to develop sports in the country.

Noray pointed out that he remembers Mwalimu Nyerere for prioritizing the sports sector, noting Tanzanians must value Nyerere's contribution.

Noray said Tanzania's population is estimated at 55 million, thus, it has large population as compared to the rest of the countries in the East and Central Africa region.

He disclosed Tanzania, though, has only one successful professional soccer player in Samatta that has made the country proud by playing in such tough European leagues like English Premier League and Turkish Premier League.

Samatta had plied his trade at English Premier League club, Aston Villa, and was recently loaned to Fenerbahçe S.K.

"Honestly I congratulate Samatta, he has

helped our country earn recognition in Europe because of his individual efforts. We therefore must support him to prove we are all backing him," Noray disclosed.

He asked soccer stakeholders in the country to come out and construct soccer stadiums and venues for other sports disciplines in an effort to help nurturing sports talents which will emulate Samatta.

Commemorating on the General Election, which will take place on October 28, he stated he remembers that Mwalimu Nyerere liked to advocate for peace.

Tanzanians, in this case, must peacefully cast their votes to elect a president that will help the country make tremendous progress.

He said CCM's presidential candidate, John Magufuli, is the right choice.

He requested Tanzanians to once again elect Magufuli as president with a view to seeing to it Magufuli helps the country make headway economically in the coming five years.



Mohamed Noray, alias 'Mo Noray'.

CAF braves Covid-19 threat in last stages of key tournaments

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

CHANCES of finishing the semi-final stage of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup tournaments were early this week hanging on a thread as players and other squad members were reported to be Covid-19 positive after the first leg was completed.

The tournament has this year repeated its rather boring format of Egyptian vs Moroccan clubs at the highest level, though at times this regularity is disturbed by clubs from sub-Saharan Africa like AC Horoya in Guinea or TP Mazembe in nearby DR Congo.

Algeria has usually a strong national side in the World Cup but not so well known at club championship.

The two second leg fixtures are slated for Saturday and Sunday for the CAF Champions League while the CAF Confederation Cup semis were being wound up Tuesday night with an interesting encounter between Pyramids of Egypt and AC Horoya of Guinea.

The winner joins the Moroccan club HUSA of Agadir in the final, all the schedules now being at risk as at least two teams in the semi-final ties in the two tournaments reported cases of Covid-19 among players and squad members.

At least in one instance a delay of the return leg has been applied for but there was plenty of hesitation about granting a potentially costly delay.

Making a decision on the matter shall depend as much on the respective clubs, how fit they are to play if they discount the services of players testing positive at the start of the week.

It is an exercise that may have to be conducted once more, one or two days before travelling for the match, or regrouping for the next



Tanzania's Azam FC midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (L), negotiates his way past Zimbabwe's Triangle FC midfielder in the second leg of the previous season's CAF Confederation Cup's first round, which took place in Zimbabwe. Triangle FC knocked Azam FC out of the continental competition's first round. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

match, as in terms of Covid-19 management rules, the whole squad ought to be quarantined for 14 days to see if any positivity will develop.

Anything short of that will be seen as negligence, as it unduly exposes non-infected young people to an atmosphere of possible infection, by ignoring social distancing.

As in various countries and scores of organizations, how to manage the Covid-19 threat and ensuring that 'life goes on' is a vexing problem in CAF ranks at present, a situation that is likely to tear apart not just the confederation leadership but clubs and national federations as well.

It is hard to see how the rule 'the buck stops here' can be applied in this context, as to what set of regulations in relation to managing the tournaments given the obvious threat of Covid-19 infections ought to be followed.

The tournaments are technically in the private sector, by private organizations granted an official franchise to run the sport.

In that sense they are subjected to the general rules that the population or citizenry as a whole are

expected to observe, but there is a whole sphere of decision-making that is left to individuals or private organisations to determine.

When it comes to inviting teams from outside to play say a semi-final encounter, the preliminary condition is an open sky and minimum social gathering, which in most countries is not 'business as usual' as we have in Tanzania, where Covid-19 is minimal or absent.

In the CAF championship series, a lot of risk is being taken from inviting teams to hosting matches, even without crowds being present as Tanzania is now used to do, speaking of the pandemic in the past tense.

Holding the second semifinal was still a testy moment with several players ruled out due to Covid-19 positivity, but the general rule of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its standard pandemic control guidelines will not be followed.

It avers that in the CAF championship as it is the case largely in the UEFA Champions League and continental tournament preliminaries undertaken recently, one is tested and if he is negative he travels or

comes to the game.

There is no contact tracing rule and observing a 14-day lockdown rule for those who were near the player or squad member at that time, as that would cripple all activities the teams are expecting to conduct in the current period, without any end in sight for that matter.

That is precisely what worries soccer administrators and managers of economies generally, that waiting for the pandemic to 'turn the corner' and slid into decline is becoming an impossible feat, a huge burden.

What is rather ironic and it is not being admitted by too many people, whether in the United States or elsewhere is that US President Donald Trump, widely expected to lose the poll on November 3 largely on account of raising false hopes in relation to the pandemic, is right not on these hopes but the method.

His position has always been not to let the pandemic govern what people are doing, urging organizations and individuals to find ways of doing what is normal or necessary for survival, instead of having a defeatist mentality about the pandemic.

He is pilloried all over, but is not it the truth - when all is said and done?

Limited in play, Tiger returns to a course he ruled

THOUSAND OAKS, CALIF.

ALONG with his five victories and five-runner-up finishes, Tiger Woods only once in 12 appearances at Sherwood Country Club has finished worse than a tie for fourth.

That one time is a reminder how much time and circumstances have changed.

It was at the end of 2005, and Woods was competing for the sixth time in six weeks. His itinerary took him from Atlanta to China to Japan to Hawaii to the California desert before wrapping up his worldwide, whirlwind tour at Sherwood in his Target World Challenge. He tied for 14th against a 16-man field.

Imagine that. Six events in six weeks, even if two of them were 36 holes (PGA Grand Slam and Skins Games).

Now he hardly plays at all. The Zozo Championship at Sherwood is his sixth tournament in the last eight months.

True, the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out three months from the schedule. Even so, Woods waited a month after the shutdown ended in June before making his first appearance. He tied for 40th at the Memorial. He hasn't played in a month since missing the cut in the U.S. Open. And he likely only has one more tournament - the Masters - the rest of the year. Golf should be used to this by now.

Woods has made it clear that less is more in a bid to get as much out of his aging body. He rarely plays two weeks in a row unless the circumstances force his hand, such as the FedEx Cup playoffs. Everything is geared toward the majors.

Go back to 2005 to find a 29-year-old Woods who was three years removed from knee surgery to remove fluid and a few benign cysts. Now he is 44 with seven additional surgeries



In this Oct. 28, 2019, file photo, Tiger Woods celebrates after winning the Zozo Championship golf tournament at the Accordia Golf Narashino country club in Inzai, east of Tokyo, Japan. Woods is the defending champion at a course where he has won five times. The Zozo Championship is the second Asia-based event to move to the United States this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. (AP Photo)

- three more on his knee, four on his back. He has a teenage daughter and 11-year-old son who is playing junior golf events in Florida. Woods sometimes serves as his caddie.

Priorities change. His health has changed. The game is changing.

All of which makes Woods more unpredictable than ever at this stage in his career.

Who shows up at Sherwood? The 82-time PGA Tour winner with his next shot at setting the record for career victories? Or the 44-year-old who doesn't know how his body will react until he wakes up, sometimes even later than that?

He can win any week, and evidence of that comes from the Masters he won in April 2019, even if it seems longer than 18 months ago. He isn't the longest off the tee - that's been the case for years - and doesn't always putt the way he did. He remains a master shot-maker,

the hallmark of his game.

What might help this week is the course.

Woods tied the PGA Tour record last year when he won the Zozo Championship in Japan that finished on a Monday on a rain-soaked course. He had not played in just over two months and had gone six tournaments without contending. Not many could have seen that coming, except that he's Tiger Woods.

And then the pandemic caused upheaval, especially with travel. The CJ Cup in South Korea opted to move this year to Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, and the Zozo Championship followed by agreeing to move to Sherwood.

That can only help Woods. Sherwood doesn't quite fall into the category of Firestone or Torrey Pines, where he won eight times at each. While he has five wins and five seconds at Sherwood, most

of them were against 16-man fields.

Firestone and Torrey Pines were different.

In the first stage of his incomparable career, through 2009, Woods won six out of 12 times at Torrey Pines, including a U.S. Open, and he never was out of the top 10. At Firestone, he won seven out of 10 times and never finished out of the top 5.

(Woods also is an eight-time winner at Bay Hill, but he had some stinkers amid his dominance.)

The record at Torrey Pines might be better because Woods had to face a 156-man field. Firestone was a World Golf Championship where the field was loaded with the world's best players but invariably featured players from smaller tours around the world who were out of their league.

Woods has 26 victories on the PGA Tour against smaller fields with no cuts. It's an interesting argument which are tougher to win. Those no-cut fields have the best players in the world, the ultimate measure. Full fields increase the chance of somebody - these guys are all good - having a career week (think Bob May at the PGA Championship, Grant Waite in Canada).

One thing is clear. Woods has his favorite courses, which is why he keeps going back. Sherwood is among 11 courses where he has won at least three times, including a European Tour event in Heidelberg, Germany.

This will be the shortest year for Woods when he wasn't forced out by injury. His performances have not been inspiring. Father Time, he often says, remains undefeated. But he's still Tiger Woods. And this might be one of his better chances.

If not, the Masters is three weeks away.

China wants football to be 'bridge with the world': top FA official

BEIJING

CHINA wants to unite its 1.4 billion people through football while also using the sport as "a bridge to work with the rest of the world", a top FA official says.

Chinese Football Association Secretary General Liu Yi explained to AFP what lies behind the country's aggressive push to become a major football power by 2050.

Under President Xi Jinping -- described by state media as an "avid soccer fan" -- the world's most populous country has grand plans to host and even one day win a World Cup.

In rare comments to international media, Liu talked of "using football to motivate the whole nation".

"Football is a beautiful game to educate the new generation of young Chinese and also to (help) our nation to team up as one and be more cohesive," he said.

Like China's success in recent Summer Olympics, Liu called football "another tool to unite a nation and also demonstrate what we can deliver."

"And football, as I said, is a bridge between China and the rest of the world. Everyone plays football."

Expanding on that theme, which comes as China is embroiled in a variety of disputes with countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia, Liu said: "China is still open."

"And the development of Chinese football needs help from external stakeholders like the AFC (Asian Football Confederation), FIFA and other federations as well, and other leagues as well."

"We are definitely going to carry on with that kind of partnership, working with all the international governing bodies, brands and stakeholders."

- Long-term goals -

China's football ambitions are striking for a country which has reached the World Cup only once, in 2002, when they failed to win a point or score a goal.

China are 76th in the FIFA rankings and their chances of

reaching the Qatar 2022 World Cup are in the balance, underlining how far they have to go to reach the top.

But speaking in Suzhou, where the Chinese Super League is in a "bubble" to thwart the coronavirus, Liu said that failing to qualify will not deter the country from its long-term goals.

"To win a spot (in Qatar) means a lot to the Chinese, to the country and also the Chinese football community because that boosts the confidence and gives motivation to every stakeholder and to the football community to contribute more to the development of Chinese football," he said.

"If we fail, you might have a short-term setback, but the president of the central government (Xi) understands football and that developing football is a process."

- Sustainability over spending -

Along with building a football infrastructure and overhauling grassroots, school and youth systems, the CSL is a crucial part of the determination to be a superpower in the sport.

The league made headlines in recent years when a series of well-known foreign players -- along with coaches -- arrived on generous contracts and for inflated transfer fees.

Attacking midfielder Oscar moved to Shanghai SIPG from Chelsea in 2017 for what is still an Asian-record 60 million euros.

However, the CFA has since introduced measures such as a salary cap so that the largesse is redirected towards developing young Chinese players.

"We want to be one of the top leagues in Asia, for sure, which we probably already are, but the benchmark is not supposed to be big spending," said Liu.

"It's about sustainability."

Liu conceded that Oscar and other overseas stars, such as fellow Brazilians Hulk and Paulinho, have boosted the CSL's profile.

"But has that (expensive foreigners) helped the development of the local players? That's our question mark," he said.

AFP

Rashford sinks PSG again as Koeman's Barca send message

LONDON

MARCUS Rashford once again sank Paris Saint-Germain after netting the decisive goal in a 2-1 Champions League win in the French capital on Tuesday, while Barcelona sent a message with a thumping 5-1 victory over Ferencvaros.

Rashford, who scored the winning spot-kick when United knocked PSG out in 2019, drilled home a low shot three minutes from the end which won a thrilling Group H contest at a near-empty Parc des Princes.

United had taken the lead in the 23rd minute when Bruno Fernandes slotted home from the spot at the second attempt, but Anthony Martial inexplicably headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.

The rest of the match was an end-to-end affair with both sides opting to go for the win rather than hold on for the draw, and Rashford took the points after twice being denied by Keylor Navas earlier in the match.

"Of course it's a nice feeling. More importantly we win the game and we're in a strong position now in the group," Rashford told BT Sport.

"It's the first game, the concentration and intensity we showed today we have to take forward in the next games in the Premier League."

The win sets United up nicely for next week's home clash with RB Leipzig, who are top of the group after beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Germany.

- Koeman's winning start -

Ronald Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with



Lionel Messi gave Barca the lead against Ferencvaros. (Agencies)

a confident win over Ferencvaros that gives them control of Group G, top but level on three points with Juventus.

Ferencvaros, the first Hungarian team to make the group stage in 11 years, started brightly and even had the ball in the net via Tokmac Nguen only for the powerful 12th-minute strike to be ruled out for offside.

Messi won and converted the penalty to give the Catalans a 27th-minute lead and the match was as good as done when Ansu Fati clipped home Frenkie de Jong's sumptuous pass just before the break.

Philippe Coutinho lashed home the third before Ihor Kharatin pulled one back from the penalty spot after Gerard Pique was sent off for pulling back Nguen as

he charged towards goal. Pique's red card means he will miss next week's game away at Juventus, a greater test of Barca's capabilities.

Pedri and Ousmane Dembele finished the scoring for the 10-man hosts as they prepare for the weekend's Clasico with Real Madrid.

"We go into it with the maximum motivation possible," said Fati. "It's a Clasico, a game I have always dreamed of playing in."

Barca announced contract extensions for Gerard Pique, Frenkie de Jong, Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Clement Lenglet almost straight after the win.

Juventus looked comfortable in their 2-0 win at Dynamo Kiev in what was the Andrea Pirlo's first ever Champions League match

in the dugout, with Alvaro Morata scoring twice to take the points for the Italians.

- Immobile downs Dortmund -

It was a good night for Italy as Ciro Immobile got revenge on his old club Borussia Dortmund by scoring in Lazio's 3-1 win over the Bundesliga club in Rome, their first Champions League match in 13 years.

Immobile managed just three goals in 24 Bundesliga games for Dortmund in 2014/15, but last season's European Golden Shoe winner outshone Dortmund's star forward Erling Braut Haaland by netting the opening goal for the hosts after just six minutes.

Lazio went two ahead midway through the first half thanks to Marwin Hitz

deflected Luis Alberto's whipped corner into his own goal.

Haaland pulled one back with a thumping finish but Immobile laid on an easy finish for Jean-Daniel Akpa-Akpro to hand Lazio a big win.

"There was an extra flavour and we are satisfied because the match was played to perfection," continued Immobile.

Simone Inzaghi's men are level on three points with Club Brugge in Group F following their dramatic 2-1 win at Zenit Saint Petersburg earned thanks to Charles De Ketelaere 93rd minute winner.

Chelsea are still waiting for a £220 million (\$284 million) spending spree to pay off they began their campaign with an uninspiring 0-0 Group E draw with Sevilla at Stamford Bridge.

The Blues have now won just two of their opening six games of the season and the only consolation of a cagey encounter for Lampard was a rare clean sheet.

All four sides in the group are on a single point after Rennes drew 1-1 with Krasnodar in their first ever Champions League match in front of 5,000 passionate fans in Brittany.

AFP

Premier League turns to South American players for inspiration

BY TIM VICKERY, ESPN SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Everton side that has enjoyed such a fine start to the Premier League season is all also the most South American team they've ever fielded. With Colombia playmaker James Rodriguez and defender Yerry Mina and Brazil's Allan, Bernard and Richarlison impressing, the Toffees are the outstanding example, but all across the country, from Brighton to Newcastle, players from South America are playing a key role.

Eight Premier League clubs, plus two Championship teams, had representatives on the field in the opening two rounds of South American World Cup qualifying recently. And now the transfer window is closed, there are a few more that have come in -- one of whom had to cross the Atlantic to join up with his national team before the ink was even dry on his contract.

Alex Telles came off the bench in both of Brazil's matches and would now seem to be the second choice left-back for the Selecao. Swapping FC Porto for Manchester United should improve his profile and, hard on the heels of that 6-1 defeat to Tottenham, he would appear to have chosen an appropriate moment to join the club. United fans should certainly look forward to seeing his left foot in action, and as well as the attacking options he provides, he should be able to tighten up their defence.

Still, the United signing that attracted most of the headlines was that of Edinson Cavani. The veteran Uruguayan striker was not called up for international duty this time -- a combination of his need to find a new club and the after-effects of testing positive for COVID-19 -- but he will have plenty of chances to add to his impressive total of 50 goals for his country. And now, after success with Napoli in Italy and Paris Saint-Germain in France, he has found himself a big contract in England.

United's recruitment policy has come in for heavy criticism in the past couple of years, making it hardly surprising that this move has not been greeted with universal approval. Cavani was a free agent; there were no other clubs vowing to complicate the deal. If United really wanted him, he could have been there for months already. Instead there was a whiff of desperation about making a late move for a player closer to 34 than 33, and one who had earlier priced himself out of deals with Benfica and Atletico Madrid with his wage de-



Cavani will soon make his first appearance for Man United and has a lot of the attributes that should help Solskjaer & Co. consolidate their top-four aspirations. (Agencies)

mands.

Whatever the inadequacies of the deal, there's little doubt that United have acquired a proven top-class performer, and one who consistently puts in a shift up front. The amount of work that Cavani gets through almost entitles him to be described as a box-to-box striker, while his performances for past clubs have shown an admirable spirit of sacrifice. For years with Uruguay he was third in the striking pecking order behind Diego Forlan and Luis Suarez; he went uncomplainingly to play from the left wing, breaking into the penalty area when he could, carrying out defensive duties when he had to. National team coach Oscar Washington Tabarez called him "the perfect son in law."

Cavani became alienated by the star culture that ended up taking hold of the dressing room at PSG

clubs, for around £10m.

Since the second half of last year Pellistri found himself being linked with a succession of European clubs. The virtues that attracted their interest are obvious: he's well-balanced, fluid of movement and neat in technique, with mobility and vision. There's something of a prototype David Silva about Pellistri. Indeed, Manchester City were one of the clubs he was linked with and that move might have made more sense than United, where the team's style of play is not as well-defined.

There are genuine grounds to fear for Pellistri, despite his talent. The physical side of the game has been a challenge for him even in South American club football. The Premier League is a huge step up in that regard, and many a career has foundered on the premature move and the resulting loan spells. At least he has his compatriot Cavani to give him protection.

Pellistri has little more than a year under his belt as a first-team player in Uruguay, including a lengthy interruption to the season due to the coronavirus pandemic -- he's played just over 30 games for Penarol. That said, at the start of his career, Cavani also made just 30 appearances for Danubio before making the move across the Atlan-

tic and things worked out for him.

Both Cavani and Pellistri made their names at home and were well-known to football fans in Uruguay before going to Europe. Increasingly, though, this is not the case with South Americans in Europe. Moves are made at an ever-earlier age, with whole careers are constructed far from home.

The latter part is certainly true of a couple of Brazilians who have just made their way to England. Striker Carlos Vinicius has been loaned to Tottenham from Benfica. He came through the youth ranks with Sao Paulo giants Palmeiras, where he was the sixth-choice centre-back, and then played for a couple of tiny clubs at home before heading to Portugal for a season-long loan at Real Sport Clube. After a move to Napoli saw more loan spells at Rio Ave and Monaco, Benfica took a €17m gamble on him and he rewarded them with 24 goals in 49 games. Now, after one good season, he will act as back up to Harry Kane at Tottenham.

Little winger Raphinha, who joined Leeds from Rennes in France, is another one who was whisked away to Portugal with Vitoria Guimaraes, then Sporting CP, before making his mark back at home with his first club Avai.

Liverpool fuming at 'stupid' Pickford challenge

LONDON

LIVERPOOL midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum branded the challenge from Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford that injured Virgil van Dijk as "stupid" and called for the England number one to be punished.

Van Dijk looks set to miss the rest of the season after suffering cruciate ligament damage in a contentious 2-2 draw in the Merseyside derby on Saturday that also saw Everton forward Richarlison sent off for a wild lunge on Thiago Alcantara.

"Of course we are upset," said Wijnaldum at a pre-match press conference ahead of Wednesday's Champions League clash with Ajax.

"The way Pickford went in to the challenge was completely, in my opinion, stupid. I believe he didn't want to injure Virgil the way he injured him, but the way he took the tackle, he didn't care about what happened after the tackle."

"I think we had it a lot in the games against Everton. In my opinion they take it way too far in the games we play against them."

"We know it is a derby and everyone wants to win that derby, sometimes you go over the top, but it was too much."

"It was not only his tackle. If we talk about the tackle from Richarlison on Thiago, that was also a nasty one."

Pickford will not face any retrospective punishment after referee Michael Oliver took no action on the field, nor was

he instructed to review in the incident by VAR.

"Accidents can always happen in football, you can be unlucky but they way they were doing it was completely unacceptable," added Wijnaldum.

"It makes it harder that they don't get punished. In this case Pickford doesn't get punished after seeing the videos."

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp labelled both challenges "difficult to accept".

"Injuries happen, it is just normally it is both players just going for the ball. That was not the case in these two challenges and it makes it so difficult to take."

Klopp called for more incentives for good disciplinary records.

"In the last four years we were leader of the fair play table and you don't get anything for that."

Klopp also rounded on reporters for asking whether he plans to bolster his defensive options in the January transfer window.

Joe Gomez and Joel Matip are the only other senior central defenders in Klopp's squad. Matip has not travelled to Amsterdam due to injury, with midfielder Fabinho set to deputise at centre-back.

"We are still a little bit sensitive with the subject," said Klopp.

"We know since yesterday our vice-captain and best centre-back in the world is not playing for us for a long time. We will try to find solutions, but I have no idea how they will look."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Rashford sinks PSG again as Koeman's Barca send message

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Simba SC, Yanga eager to trim Azam FC's lead at the top



Simba SC players, (L-R) Muzamiru Yassin, Meddie Kagere, Clatous Chama and Larry Bwalya, jubilate after their side had registered a goal against Biashara United in a Vodacom Premier League's duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

VODACOM Premier League's title contenders, Simba SC and Yanga, return to action in the top flight today with ties against Prisons and Polisi Tanzania respectively.

Both Simba SC and Yanga seek to close the gap on leaders Azam FC to five points with victory.

Azam, who won their

seventh successive league games on Tuesday with a 2-0 away victory against Ifhefu FC to move to 21 points, have played two more games than Simba

SC and Yanga.

Simba SC coach Sven Vandenbroeck's charges will miss the services of injured John Bocco, Ibrahim Ame and Ger-

son Fraga while Clatous Chama and Paschal Wawa are still in their respective countries sorting out passport issues.

"The away match for us

is difficult, regardless of the team we face, unlike when we play at home, I expect to tweak the system according to the opponents," Vandenbroeck said ahead of the game.

Prisons come into the clash off the back of a third league draw of the season, having settled to a one-all draw away to JKT Tanzania on Monday.

The wardens have taken just six points from their opening six matches of the campaign.

In head-to-head stats, Simba SC and Prisons have met in 16 league matches since 2011/12.

Simba have claimed 10 wins compared to two for the Prison wardens, while four matches have been drawn.

When the teams met in July this year, at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, they played out a goalless stalemate.

The last three league meetings of Simba SC

and Prisons have produced just one goal.

Yanga will chase a fifth straight league win when they host Polisi Tanzania at Uhuru Stadium.

This will be Cedric Kaze's first game in charge as Yanga head coach. Kaze replaced Serbian coach Zlatko Krmpotic who was fired by the club after only 37 days in charge.

Visitors Polisi Tanzania will aim to keep up their strong record, they have gone five games unbeaten since their opening day loss to Azam FC at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

They have claimed 11 points from six matches and are sitting at sixth place in the standings.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Polisi Tanzania have met in six league matches since 2011/12.

Yanga have claimed three wins while three games have been drawn.

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- 14:00 Ujenzi (r)
- 14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
- 15:00 Funguka
- 15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
- 16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
- 16:30 #HSHIAG
- 17:00 SSELEKT
- 17:55 Kurosa
- 18:00 eNewz
- 18:30 Music/Soap
- 19:30 EATV SAA I
- 19:45 MJADALA
- 20:00 DADAZ (r)
- 21:00 Salamana

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Riedoh Berhadien

Yanga part ways with assistant coach Riedoh

By Lydia Sospeter, TUDARCo

AFTER a long silence, Yanga have finally reached an agreement to part ways with the club's assistant coach, Riedoh Berhadien.

It should be noted that Berhadien had left Tanzania before Yanga's Vodacom Premier League's games against Mtibwa Sugar and Coastal Union.

The South African coach had returned to his home country for what was termed as a week-long break, but, since completing his short break, he has failed to return to Tanzania to join his club.

Berhadien said he had agreed with the Yanga leadership to get back to his duties after some of Yanga officials said they had not given him permission to travel to South Africa for the break.

The coach disclosed that prior to heading for the break, he contacted Yanga Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, the outfit's Registration Committee Chairman, Hersi Said, and the club's Acting Secretary General Simon Patrick.

Yanga's advisor, Senzo Mbatha, did not want the orthopedist to travel to South Africa for the rest.

"Many players and fans were telling me they did not want me to leave, but I had reached an agreement with Yanga officials to leave because they did not want me to return to Tanzania," he disclosed.

"What surprised me was that some officials said I had not informed them I would leave for a break."

"When I left I agreed with Msolla, Hersi Said and Patrick, but Senzo did not want me to go to South Africa for a break and see my family, when I left he was not in Tanzania," he said.

The gaffer joined Yanga in January last year on recommendation by the outfit's former head coach, Belgian Luc Eymael.

His contract with Yanga was expected to expire in January, 2021.



Arusha's Future Stars Academy's youngsters discuss match tactics with their coach during one of the side's matches in a past 'Chipukizi Cup' soccer competition, which took place in the region.

Spanish soccer moguls to make scene at Arusha's 2020 Chipukizi Cup tourney

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SPAIN'S Premier League 'La-Liga' representatives are expected to come to Tanzania in December.

They will be jetting into Arusha to scout for new soccer talents during the 11th installment of the East Africa Youth football tournament, known as 'Chipukizi Cup'.

Organized by Arusha's Future Stars Academy, the 2020 Chipukizi Cup will be held at the Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) grounds from December 8-13 this year.

The competition has so far attracted participants from all the five East Afri-

can countries.

Through the La Liga Africa branch, the Spanish top football division will be recruiting shining talents at the Chipukizi Cup and this will provide opportunity for upcoming young soccer players to play beyond Tanzania.

According to Alfred Itaeli, the Future Stars Academy's Director, Kampala Elite from Uganda, Kenya's Ligi Ndogo outfit, the Fountain Gate center of Dodoma and for the first time Mwanza's Pamba FC will also bring young footballers to Arusha.

The organizers stated here that the National Microfinance Bank (NMB)

continues to support the Chipukizi Cup.

The showpiece last year attracted more than 168 soccer teams, which was a record hard to break, with more than 110 teams coming from outside Tanzania.

In another development, Japan was intending to participate in this year's tournament but the country has been forced to shelve the idea following the upsurge of the second wave of Covi-19 outbreak which has now grounded young Tokyo players.

Still, Itaeli said the fresh emergence of new teams from Tanzania will enable the annual youth soccer tournament to still create

ripples in Arusha next December. The NMB Bank's representative, Lembris Lesion, said the institution has been supporting Future Stars Academy, as well as the Chipukizi Cup, for three years now.

Lesion noted the bank wants to ensure that the youths become professional players and transform football from recreational activity into commercial soccer.

"We also have the 'Watoto' and 'Chipukizi' accounts to give young players good starting points towards saving discipline once they start earning from their football endeavours," he said.

Yanga take aim at Polisi Tanzania

By Ismail Tano, TUDARCo

YANGA's management has said that the side is ready for the Vodacom Premier League match against Polisi Tanzania to be played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

It will be a sixth round tie for Yanga and it is expected to be highly competitive due to records the teams set when they locked horns in the 2019/20 season.

In the two matches, both sides were looking for six points but they ended up recording two points apiece, given the matches ended in draw.

In the first phase match played at Uhuru Stadium, Yanga forced a 3-3 draw with Polisi Tanzania and, in the second phase match played at the Ushirika Stadium in Kilimanjaro, Polisi Tanzania salvaged 1-1 draw with Yanga.

Yanga's Manager, Hafidh Saleh, said that everything is going on well at the club so the squad's fans have to turn up in big number at

the match.

"Everything is going on well, the fans should come out in big number to support their team as preparations are well underway," Saleh stated.

"The competition will be great but we are also prepared to see how we can win our game," he said.

Yanga are placed third in the domestic top flight standing after collecting 13 points in five games.

Polisi Tanzania are placed fifth in the table having notched 11 points in six games.

In Yanga's five outings they have beat Mbeya City FC, Kagera Sugar, Mtibwa Sugar and Coastal Union, whereas the other duel had seen Yanga settle for 1-1 draw with Tanzania Prisons.

Prisons' striker Lambert Sabiyanka scored for the club, which is lately based in Rukwa, Ghanaian striker Michael Sarpong netted an equalizer for Yanga.

Yanga winger, Farid Mussa, attends the outfit's training session held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday to prepare for a Vodacom Premier League match against Polisi Tanzania, which will take place in the city today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA



Flexibles by David Chikoko



You may be STRONG, BUT, I AM THE NOISEST!