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Police gun down suspected bandit



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1.5bn/- for revamping Mzumbe varsity



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TARI experts advise grape farmers



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Govt floats seven new Form V combinations

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has introduced five new combinations for Advanced Level secondary school students joining Form Five next July, with the move said to be part of solutions towards ending the shortage of experts in various fields including sports.

Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), told journalists here yesterday that the new combinations will be taught at seven government schools, to start with.

The new combinations are Physics, Mathematics, Computer (PMC), Kiswahili, French, Chinese (KFC), Kiswahili, English, Chinese (KEC), Physical Education, Biology, Fine Art (PBF) and Physical Education, Geography, Economics (PGE).

"We have introduced the new combinations to curb the shortage of experts in the country. We will start with students joining Form Five this July," he stated.

The combinations will be taught at three girls' secondary schools, namely Dodoma, Morogoro and Makambako, as well as four boys' secondary schools, namely Iyunga, Usagara, Kibiti and Mpwapwa.

Minister Jafo added that the PMC

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Pangani town residents pictured yesterday boarding small boats ready to head for Bweni village in Pangani District, Tanga region, after MV Tanga (R) developed mechanical problems and was grounded to await repairs. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Forest elephants now critically endangered

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has just published a new red list of animals threatened with extinction.

It shows that poaching and deforestation have put the African forest elephant in "critical" danger of extinction, with the population of the pachyderm falling by 86 per cent in 30 years.

As the new symbol of biodiversity decline, the African forest elephant, known scientifically as *Loxodonta cyclotis*, is now

the most noticeable group among 37,480 threatened species listed by the global NGO.

The largest land mammal has been classified as critically endangered in the Red List of Threatened Animals dated March 25, 2021.

The forest elephant, which is smaller than its savannah cousin and lives mainly in the forests of Central Africa (particularly Gabon and Congo) as well as West Africa, has seen its population fall rapidly in three decades, to earn the tag of being "critically endangered."

"This classification should serve as a warning that if we don't reverse the trend, we have a good chance of seeing these animals become extinct," warns Benson Okita-Ouma of the NGO Save the Elephants and co-chair of the IUCN African Elephant specialist group.

The IUCN says the drastic decline in the population of both African elephant

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Govt promises to solve new Union challenges

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has promised to continue finding solutions to various challenges facing the Union as they crop up and will ensure that solutions already provided to other challenges will be fully implemented by both sides of the Union.

The pledge was given by the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment), Ummu Mwalimu when submitting the ministry's report on 2020/21 Budget implementation and outline of the



The idea was to beef up coordination between the two sides, with seven joint sittings conducted during the year

2021/22 Budget estimates to the standing committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the National Assembly.

Through joint sittings between the Union and Zanzibar governments chaired by the Vice President about 25 issues have traditionally been on the table, out of which 10 are still in various stages of decision, she said.

"Challenges facing the Union cannot go away, but both governments intend to ensure that emerging challenges are dealt with as fast as possible so that the Union is sustainable," the minister

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Mining earns 399bn/- across seven months

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TREASURY coffers were boosted by 399.09bn/- in taxes on minerals, a sum exceeding projections of the Ministry of Minerals by 13.73 per cent for the period July 2020 to February 2021.

Minerals minister Doto Biteko (pictured) made this observation in a briefing and budget profile presentation for members of the parliamentary standing committee on Energy and Minerals.



He said the collections arose from deliberate taken by the government, including the establishment and running of minerals markets and centres in all areas with mining activities countrywide, an effort that increases government revenues year after year.

In the last quarter of 2020 mining sector contribution rose to 6.4 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the ministry hopes that the sector will be contributing 10 per cent of GDP by 2025, he said, tying this possibility with continuing to improve the sector and establishing large, medium and small-scale mines.

Permanent Secretary Prof. Simon Msanjila lauded big efforts of the government in the minerals sector thus

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Govt floats seven new Form V combinations

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combination will be taught at Dodoma Girls and Iyunga Technical secondary schools.

Two combinations—KFC and KEC will be taught at Morogoro Girls Usagara Boys secondary schools while PBF and PGE combinations will be taught at Makambako Girls and Kibiti Boys secondary schools, alongside the Mpwapa co-educational secondary school, accommodating both girls and boys. “We will provide a chance for students to switch from one combination to another as per their preferences. This will help them to go for subjects that are likely to prepare them to be experts in particular fields,” the minister elaborated.

Introducing the Physical Education, Geography, Economics (PGE) combination will in future enable the country to have a good number of sports experts also teaching or working in other fields, he stated.

Students will have two weeks to change their combination selection through internet procedures in an exercise that was kicked off yesterday and slated to be finalised on April 11.

To change the combination selection, students will need to log-in into the relevant website using their Form Four final examination numbers and follow procedures, he said.

Some students had selected combinations without being sure which subjects they stand a chance to get good passes, so they can change combinations in the wake of release of exam results, he stated.

Dr Charles Msonde, Executive Secretary of the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA), said when announcing the 2020 Form Four examination results back in January, said the pass rate rose by 5.19 percent compared to 2019.

Dr Msonde said a total of 373,958 school candidates, equivalent to 85.84 percent of the 434,654 Form Four candidates passed their examinations.

Girls who passed were 193,672 and equivalent to 85.44 percent of the candidates, while boys who passed are 180,286 which is 86.27 percent of the candidates, while in 2019 about 340,914 candidates equivalent to 80.65 percent of school candidates passed exams, he added.



Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on five newly introduced Advanced Level secondary school subject combinations to take effect beginning with students joining Form Five in July this year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mining earns 399bn/- across seven months

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enhancing its contribution to national income, also expressing appreciation for advice given by parliamentary committee members from time to time on how to ensure the minerals sector contributes more to the GDP and the wellbeing of Tanzanians.

The ministry has mobilised a team to organize the Tourism Minerals Centre where minerals

mined in the country will be exhibited and auctioned to increase income by undercutting foreign middlemen.

In response to Dunstan Kitandula (Mkinga), the committee chairman, Prof Msanjila said in order to control gold smuggling, mining pits centres will be registered to ensure the quantity of minerals produced from every pit is sold at the minerals markets.

Govt promises to solve new Union challenges

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underlined.

Achievements made during FY 2020/21 include coordination of joint sittings of ministerial committees of the two governments handling Union issues, while the signing of five protocols to remove solved matters took place on October 17 last year in Dar es Salaam.

In monitoring economic and

social issues, 12 institutions were visited on both sides of the Union to find out how responsibilities of the various institutions are discharged, monitoring development projects on both sides for disputes or demands in spheres which aren't part of Union matters. The idea was to beef up coordination between the two sides, with seven joint sittings conducted during the year, she

stated.

During the next financial year, the ministry will focus on finding solutions to challenges facing the Union, particularly financial issues; to strengthen cooperation between non-Union institutions operating in similar sectors like health, education and communications.

The Union and Zanzibar governments will continue

to pursue joint development projects financed by development partners for the benefit of the people of the Mainland and Zanzibar, the minister affirmed.

Mohammed Mchengerwa (Rufiji), the committee chairman, advised the government to continue educating the public, especially those born after the Union, to explain opportunities and benefits of the Union.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki responds questions from members of the Parliamentary Livestock, Agriculture and Water Committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

UNHCR provides medical equipment to health workers in Kigoma Region to forestall spread of Covid-19, Ebola

By Correspondent Deogratius Nsookolo, Kigoma

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has provided medical equipment to health workers in Kigoma Region to prevent the spread of infectious diseases including Covid-19 and Ebola.

The Head of UNHCR in Kasulu District, Ben Diallo handed over the support worth more than 100m/- to Regional Medical Officer, Dr Simon Chacha.

Diallo explained that the support is meant to improve health services outside the refugee camps.

He said the organization recognizes its importance in serving refugees and the Kigoma community which is hosting the refugees. He promised to continue support the health sector and other social services for the residents.

Diallo noted that pandemics such as Covid-19 are dangerous and its war needs to be sustainable. Speaking after receiving the

aid, Kigoma Regional Medical Officer, Dr Simon Chacha said the provided equipment will improve provision of health services as well as protect health practitioners working at borders.

“We need to ensure the safety of our workers because they are the first people to get in contact with patients,” he noted.

Dr Chacha urged refugee organizations in Kigoma region to continue supporting the community because the safety of refugees depends on the safety of the people living around the

camps.

He also said that all border areas are monitored to ensure everyone entering the country is screened taking into considerations that Kigoma borders Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which are still experiencing the outbreak of diseases such as Ebola.

Dr Chacha advised the community to take precautions and report to local government leaders whenever they suspect any person with Ebola symptoms.

Forest elephants now critically endangered

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species stems from intensive poaching and the destruction of their habitat through urbanisation and the conversion of forests into farmland. Furthermore, the coronavirus pandemic is having a negative impact on efforts to protect biodiversity as it deprives countries of ecotourism revenues partially financing the protection of nature reserves, it asserts.

In November 2019, another global NGO was already sounding the alarm about the rapid decline in the African elephant population. “An elephant dies in Africa every 25 minutes, killed for its ivory tusks,” declared the

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), alarmed that if nothing is done, the species would disappear by 2040 due to poaching gone wild.

Rampant poaching has resulted from a steady increase in the price of ivory, magnified tenfold from 2004 to 2018. With its central geographical position and colonial history, Belgium is the hub for illegal ivory trafficking in Europe, the NGO noted.

From 2007 to 2016, Belgian customs officers seized 3,616 ivory products, mostly at the Brussels airport and destined for China, where 79 tonnes of ivory has been seized since 2000, which implies a total of 10,800 elephants killed, experts observed.

‘Virtual rangers’ help South African Balule reserve keep poachers away

JOHANNESBURG

THE animals that roam South Africa's Balule Nature Reserve have a new ally in the battle to keep them safe from poachers - camera phones mounted in protective cases that stream images of their activities to thousands of “virtual rangers” worldwide.

With reserves across Africa cutting back on anti-poaching patrols amid a coronavirus-induced tourism lull that has hit funding, Balule has teamed up with handset manufacturer Samsung and tech pioneer Africom to supplement staff numbers with eyes and ears online.

Over 55,000 people have become virtual rangers since the project, Wildlife Watch, went live this month.

“We need more eyes; we need more people helping us,” said Leitah Mkhabela, a member of the park's all-female anti-poaching unit known as the Black Mambas.

“They can become a ranger while staying at home and they can save a rhino every single day.”

Located in Limpopo province and home to the “big five” of rhino, lion, leopard, elephant and buffalo, Balule forms part of South Africa's flagship Kruger National Park.

Mkhabela and her colleagues use the same model of phone for communication and to capture images of suspicious activity during patrols, while other handsets have been installed to monitor perimeter fences.

Swiss-based environmental network, International Union for Conservation of Nature, said anti-poaching patrols have been cut in more than half of Africa's protected sites due to the impact of the pandemic.

One in five rangers has been laid off globally since the pandemic began, said deputy leader of the Wildlife Practice at WWF-International, Wendy Elliott.



Dr Anna Makakala (R), the Commissioner General for Immigration, presents a report on the implementation of her department's budget plans for financial year 2020/21 and the budget estimates for FY 2021/2022 before the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

25 CCM cadres line up for Muhambwe constituency

By Correspondent Deogratus Nsokolo, Kibondo

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has announced April 4th 2021 as the date for commencement of parliamentary race for Muhambwe constituency in Kibondo District, Kigoma Region.

According to NEC the campaigns will run until May 1st this year with the by-election to be conducted on May 2nd.

The commission's director of elections, Dr Wilson Mhera released the election timetable indicating that candidates from different political parties will start picking forms on March 28th to April 3rd 2021.

Meanwhile, twenty five members of the ruling CCM have so far collected forms to vie for the parliamentary seat following the death of Eng Atashasta Nditije.

Eng Nditije also served as the Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications. He died on February 12, this year while receiving treatment at the Benjamin Mkapa referral hospital in Dodoma.

The party's acting secretary in Kibondo, Tausi Feruzi said all the 25 cadres have successfully filled and returned their forms.

Among those who have picked forms to vie for the post are former Muhambwe Member of Parliament and former Arusha Regional Commissioner, Felix Kijiko, businessman Jamal Tamim and Dr Florence Samizi.

Others are Eng Dickson Bidebeli, Dr Donasiana Stephano, Shukuru Gwamagobe, Filbert Misuzi, Nduhilibusu Mapigano, Dr Joseph Tutuba, Juhudi Ngarama, Zabron Wailalo, Nyinisaeli Gwamagobe and a journalist Prosper Kwizige.

The list also includes David Ntezidyo, Hassan Mgutta, Dr.

Christpine Shami, Fredrick Rulagilije, Regina Kayabu, Dyagombwa Ntimba, Amina Kanyogoto, Dr. Arkado Barakabise, Philipa Mturano, Richard Makera, Adrian Sabudema and Baraka Budogo.

Nditije was involved in an accident on Wednesday 10, Feb 2021 at Nanenane area and was rushed to Dodoma regional referral hospital, before being transferred to Benjamin Mkapa hospital for further treatment.

He was born on October 17, 1969. He joined the Parliament in November 2015 after he was elected to represent Muhambwe Constituency in Kigoma Region, defeating the former lawmaker, Felix Mkosamali from NCCR-Mageuzi.

In 2017, he was appointed the Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, a post he served until October 2020.

During last year's General Election, Nditije managed to defend his legislative seat, and served until he was pronounced dead.

“Nditije was involved in an accident on Wednesday 10, Feb 2021 at Nanenane area and was rushed to Dodoma regional referral hospital, before being transferred to Benjamin Mkapa hospital for further treatment”

Police gun down suspected gangster in Kasulu District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

POLICE in Kigoma Region have killed a suspected bandit in a fire exchange at Kagerankanda area in Kasulu District.

Regional Police Commander, Charles Manyama said the incident occurred on Sunday night when police were conducting regular patrols following information that a group of six armed men were

planning to invade the area.

The RPC said the suspected bandit was seriously injured and that he died when he was being rushed to the hospital for treatment. He said five of his colleagues managed to escape unidentified.

“We also found the deceased with one AK 47 gun and 17 rounds of ammunition magazines,” he added.

Commander Manyama said

the body of the deceased has been preserved at Kasulu District Hospital as police waits for his relatives to identify his body. He said police are still hunting for the other five people calling upon the resident to share information with police on their whereabouts.

Following the incident, some interviewed residents have called upon the force to increase security in high-risk areas, especially along

the Kasulu-Kibondo and Kasulu-Kagerankanda roads. They were concerned that regular patrols at the identified areas would control crime.

“We had managed to reduce crime incidents in our region; we are now starting to witness crime incidents in some areas. We are well organised to control such incidents which are geared at disrupting peace,” said the Commander.

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BY ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA, COMMERCIAL DIVISION, REGARDING CASE NUMBER 162 OF 2016, WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC THAT WE WILL SELL BY A PUBLIC AUCTION A PROPERTY THAT IS LOCATED AT KARIAKOO AREA, DAR ES SALAAM AS FOLLOWS:

S/N	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY AND LOCATION	TITLE DEED	DATE / TIME AND AUCTION PLACE
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1. THE AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE WHERE THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED.
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Govt set to provide 1.5bn/- for revamping sanitation system at Mzumbe varsity

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has assured the Public Accounts Parliamentary Committee (PAC) that it will provide 1.5bn/- for permanent solution rehabilitate waste water drainage system at Mzumbe University in Morogoro Region.

The pledge was given by the Education, Science and Technology Permanent Secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo via telephone with the committee's chairman Naghenjwa Kaboyoka during the visit at the university to inspect the construction project for four new halls of residence from government funds.

The construction of the modern halls of residence cost 6.5bn/- and are capable to accommodate 1,025 students.

After talking to the PS, Kaboyoka said the ministry has also pledged to provide funds for a permanent waste water drainage system.

As for now, following the completion of the halls of residence, the current waste water drainage system does not have capacity to cater for the students.

In regard to improvement to education, he advised the university officials to see the need for reviewing the teaching curricula in order to enable students employ themselves.

He said the government was investing in the higher learning institutions including Mzumbe University in expectation to have better results to graduates who can employ themselves, instead of waiting to be employed.

The University's acting

Vice Chancellor Prof Ganka Nyamsongoro said apart from submitting to the ministry application for funds the construction of a permanent waste drainage system, as for now the new halls of residence were waiting for the furniture.

Profesa Nyamsongoro said the university plans to buy furniture from internal funds while waiting for government funds.

In regard to improvement to the curricula, the chairman of Mzumbe university board, Prof Mathew Luhanga said what was needed was to improve the curricula to go in tandem with the current environment to enable graduates employ themselves.



As for now, following the completion of the halls of residence, the current waste water drainage system does not have capacity to cater for the students



Residents of Mugango ward in Musoma District participate in the digging of the foundation for the library building at Karubugu Primary School, as captured at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NIMRI conducts research on 7 traditional herbal remedies

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Institute of Medical Research (NIMRI) has started conducting research on seven traditional herbal remedies which may bring relief to COVID-19 patients.

NIMR executive director Prof Yunus Mgaya said that the three months studies will come up with recommendations to the manufacturers on how to improve them.

He mentioned some of the food supplements believed to treat COVID-19 as NIMRCFAF, Bupiji and Covidol adding that the study to examine its efficacy started a few weeks ago.

"What the public should know: NIMR is conducting a

number of studies relating to COVID-19 pandemic including the observation studies on the available seven traditional remedies. Our goal is to ensure that the health of our people is protected," he said in an interview.

In the same development, Prof Mgaya said NIMR will in July start massive production of its traditional herb remedy this year.

Prof Mgaya said the consignment for machines and other equipment from abroad had already arrived and will be installed at Mabibo in Dar es Salaam Region.

"Our goal is to ensure that there is enough supply of its nutrients supplement including NIMRCFAF believed to bring relief in the fight

against the covid-19 are sold at an affordable price," he said.

According to the don, Chief Government Chemist and Chief Medical offices have confirmed it to be safe for human consumption

On March 13, this year, it was reported that NIMR had embarked on a study aimed at establishing whether there is a mutation in the malaria vector in order to come up with the proper treatment.

This comes as Tanzania and other malaria-endemic tropical countries battle malaria drug resistances which lead to costly change malaria parasites mutate into new variants of malaria medicines every now and then.

Prof Yunus Mgaya said the research will be conducted for three-and-half years in 19 regions

of Tanzania mainland.

"The hypothesis is that the plasmodium that causes malaria may have the ability to mutate; this study will prove or disprove this," he said.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is the largest public health research institution in Tanzania. It was established by the Parliament Act No. 23 of 1979 as a parastatal organization under the Ministry of Health.

The establishment of NIMR was in recognition by the government of the need to generate scientific information. Required in the development of better methods and techniques of enhancing disease management, prevention and control in the country.



Form Four students at Semkiwa Secondary School in Korogwe District pictured yesterday attending classes from the comfort of tables and chairs donated by NMB Bank Plc - under the watchful eye of headmistress Deborah Singu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

President Samia will lead nation in right direction, says cleric

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

Retired Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT)- Iringa Diocese, Dr Owdenberg Mdegela has hailed how President Samia Suluhu Hassan has started her new journey by taking stern measures of the embezzlers of the public funds.

According to him, the good pace which Samia has started emulates the respectable job done by the late President John Magufuli who always fought bureaucracy and corruption in the government.

"The difference between these two leaders, Samia and the late Dr Magufuli is their tribes and tones of speaking but I think they share the same vision and spirit of making Tanzania a better country," he said.

Rt. Bishop Mdegela told this paper when giving views on the speech of President Samia she issued on Sunday when receiving the annual reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) and Prevention of and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The retired bishop described President Samia as a good leader who will take the country to a better direction.

He urged the new leadership to think on coming up with a system which will enable more prisoners and suspects of crimes to be heavily listed firstly before punishing them so as to reduce overcrowding of prisons in the country.

"I have said this regularly even when President Magufuli was still alive; I usually encouraged the government to simplify the listening processes of cases in courts so as to reduce

the overwhelming cases and overcrowding of remandees and prisoners in our prisons," he added.

Dr Mdegela further urged the government to strengthen security in the president's office and monitor more the systems of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) so as to eliminate leaking of the government information.

"It is possible that there are some dishonest people who are being used to steal the confidential information and disseminate them in the public. The government has to work on this very seriously," he noted.



I have said this regularly even when President Magufuli was still alive; I usually encouraged the government to simplify the listening processes of cases in courts so as to reduce the overwhelming cases and overcrowding of remandees and prisoners in our prisons

Don't turn hunting blocs into farming areas - RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

THE government has called on owners of 16 hunting blocs in Manyara Region not to transform them into farming areas.

Manayara Regional Commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti issued the warning on Monday saying farming activities cause

environmental destruction and chase away wildlife from the habitats.

Mkirikiti was forced to issue the directives after inspecting hunting blocs in Simanjiro District.

During his inspection, the RC said: "I and my Defense and Security Committee have not been pleased by one hunting block owner because we want to know the interests of the

government and the residents in the area.

"We have seen many areas allocated for hunting activities were being used for farming. I want all owners of hunting blocs to at once stop farming activities in the areas."

In the circumstances, the Regional Commissioner called on owners of the blocs to introduce themselves to respective District

Commissioners in order to be identified by the Defense and Security Committees.

He said apart from the hunting blocs, the owners have also been purchasing land in villages without following procedures.

"We have information that villagers sell their land cheaply, without following procedures, this has to stop," he said.



Getrude Tarimo, head teacher of Arusha's Naurei Primary School, pictured yesterday talking one of her pupil into taking a schistosomiasis vaccine meant for children aged between five and 14 years. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Traditional healers, midwives promise to honour Magufuli for valuing their contribution

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TRADITIONAL healers and midwives have vowed to cherish the late President John Magufuli for recognizing their contribution. Union of Traditional Healers and Midwives in Tanzania (UWAWATA) cited one of the attributions the late Dr Magufuli honoured the industry as the introduction of the classes for further studies for them and his call in fights against Covid-19.

Speaking to journalists in Dodoma over the weekend, UWAWATA Secretary General, Lucas Mlipu said the late Dr Magufuli showcased real commitment and appreciated the great contribution made by traditional healers in the communities.

He said during the fight against Corona pandemic, Mlipu reckoned that President Magufuli allowed traditional healers to help fight the disease. "That was a clear sign that JPM recognized our contribution, so as we mourn his death we are reminded of his goodness in our natural medicine industry." He recalled.

Mlipu said after President Magufuli's directive to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to provide access to alternative therapies that was a key moment and turning point in the war against the pandemic.

Mlipu reminded that in contemporary Tanzania, the traditional medicines are not widely respected but Magufuli called people to trust them after encouraging the use of traditional medicine to curb Covid-19.

"In his speeches he repeatedly emphasized the use of natural remedies until he went so far as to say that the pharmaceutical companies should be established,

JPM believed in natural remedies, we will miss him very much," he insisted.

He also thanked the late president for his hard work, including implementing the big economic projects including SGR that surely would benefit the present and next generations.

However, he asked President Samia Suluhu Hassan to oversee traditional medicine as her predecessor the late Dr Magufuli was doing.

For his part, Ally Maganyari, the Coordinator of Traditional Healing Education, said President Magufuli tasked the Ministry of Health to push the cadre forward by providing the short-term education on the provision of treatment.

He added that in the implementation of that order so far, at least 45 traditional healers out of 11,238 members of the union have been provided with education that enables them to be smarter and recognizable.

He also vowed to embrace Magufuli's dream to encourage all traditional healers to get education so as to improve traditional medicine



That was a clear sign that JPM recognized our contribution, so as we mourn his death we are reminded of his goodness in our natural medicine industry

By Guardian Correspondent,

Grape farmers advised to stick to guidance from TARI experts

Dodoma

DODOMA Region's grape farmers have been called upon to adhere to the training provided by agricultural experts to avoid losing big quantities of the crop during harvest season.

The call was made by a researcher from the Makutupora Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Makutupora) Andekelile Mwamahonje, as he was explaining on the importance of adhering to procedure governing grape farming.

Mwamahonje said the things needed in order to reap a lot of

harvest include abiding by the training given for preparations of grape farms, planting until harvest time.

He said there are some farmers who do not know how to use quality seeds, adding that if they do not understand that they might end up with problems as grapes grow.

In the circumstances, he said they are supposed to abide by the education given by experts to reap great profits from the crop.

He said already they have

visited Chamwino and Bahi districts as well as other areas to give training to grape farmers to ensure they care for the crop until harvest time.

He added that among the Centre's strategies was to ensure they provide education to grape farmers since the crop was a cash crop in great demand, hence its better farming practice was essential.

He said grapes was different to other crops as it takes longer period to harvest hence farmers

have to follow directives from experts.

For her part, Mary Stephen from the Centre's Seeds Department said the centre has been making efforts to ensure grape farmers in Dodoma Region to be examples to be emulated by other farmers.

She said Dodoma was the only region where grapes are cultivated in two seasons, hence farmers are required to get frequent training after preparation of farms and it's harvesting.



Embassy of the United States of America

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Position Title: Security Investigator

Vacancy Number: DaresSalaam-2020-009

Position Title: Security Investigator (Senior)

Vacancy Number: DaresSalaam-2020-013

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Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted only via email.

CLOSING DATE: April 13, 2021.

On behalf of Sung Shin Rolling Stock Technology Korea, we, Board of Director and members, would like to extend warm congratulations to Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan as President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

AWLN Tanzania disappointed with gender insensitive article in UK-based newspaper

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Women Leaders Network Chapter in Tanzania (AWLN Tanzania) has expressed its disappointment by the article published recently in the UK-based newspaper—'The Times' which diminishes the great role and potential of African women.

Published on 19 March 2021 with the headline "President's death makes mother of four Africa's only female leader", the article, according to AWLN was a blatant display of gender discrimination.

In the statement availed to the media yesterday, AWLN-Tanzania said such headlines, that give prominence to the private and personal life of women in leadership are not common when it comes to male leaders.

It stated that the article further gives prominence to gender stereotypes and prejudices over the President's extensive qualifications and leadership experience.

"In our analysis, the article was a blatant display of gender

discrimination within the international media, which diminishes the great role and potential of African women in leadership and decision-making," the statement read.

It noted that AWLN Tanzania is further disappointed by the ensuing negative and imbalanced tone of the article, which fails to include any women as sources.

"According to the Inter-Press Service, gender sensitive reporting requires journalists and editors to ensure that events and issues are covered through the voices of both women and men; using data, background information and analysis through the perspectives of both women and men. This was sadly lacking in the article," it read.

The statement further stated as a network of Tanzanian women leaders that seeks to harness the wealth of women's experiences of leadership and enhance their contributions to transformation towards the realisation of gender equality and sustainable development, it is critical that

AWLN Tanzania draws attention to these repeated, unacceptable and unethical reports in the media that serve to demean women's leadership through the perpetuation of gender stereotypes, and further serve as a deterrent to young women aspiring to leadership.

"Building an equitable world requires a media industry which plays a transformative role by producing content that breaks rather than reinforces gender stereotypes, challenging discriminatory norms, attitudes and practices," it stressed.

The network appealed to the media industry to take accountability. "We call on all media stakeholders, in Tanzania and internationally, to practice ethical and responsible reporting practices, and put in place the necessary measures within respective media organisations to ensure that gender responsive reporting is prioritized, so that gender discriminatory reports of this nature are not published again," it stated.



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro presents a report on the implementation of the Police budget for financial year 2020/21 and the budget estimates for FY 2021/2022 before the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

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Extract of Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Profit or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income			Statement of Financial Position		
Note	2020 TZS 000	2019 TZS 000	Note	2020 TZS 000	2019 TZS 000
Gross written premium	35,271,964	29,091,060	Assets		
Premium ceded to re-insurers	(18,673,489)	(14,174,523)	Motor vehicles and equipment	10	617,410
Net written premium	16,598,475	14,916,537	Intangible assets	11	785,828
Changes in the gross provision for unearned premium	(639,755)	(2,500,421)	Right-of-use asset	12	644,920
Re-insurers' share of change in the provision for unearned premium	1,872,121	1,128,798	Deferred tax assets	13	794,528
Net unearned premium	1,232,366	(1,371,623)	Deferred acquisition costs	14	396,318
Net insurance premium revenue	17,830,841	13,544,914	Equity investments	15 (a)	137,519
Commission income	4,214,241	3,439,347	Investments in Government securities – amortized cost	15 (b)	1,263,483
Investment income	2,142,283	1,694,779	Current tax asset	9	414,008
Other expense	(130,337)	(131,841)	Reinsurers' share of technical provisions and reserves	16	13,117,123
Net income	24,057,028	18,547,199	Insurance and reinsurance receivables	17	3,335,145
Claims and benefits incurred	(13,483,365)	(2,987,537)	Other receivables	18	656,024
Re-insurers' share of claims and benefits incurred	6,619,578	(1,364,909)	Deposits with financial institutions	19	17,350,853
Net insurance claims	(6,863,787)	(4,352,446)	Cash and cash equivalents	19	9,024,035
Acquisition costs	7 (5,048,062)	(4,398,547)	Total assets		48,537,194
Administrative expenses	8 (9,530,616)	(10,579,663)	Liabilities		
Finance costs on lease liability	(107,435)	(124,338)	Lease liabilities	20	583,851
Profit before tax	2,507,128	(907,795)	Insurance contract liabilities	21	25,663,365
Income tax (expense)/credit	9 (883,635)	152,398	Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements	24	6,957,064
Profit for the year	1,623,493	(755,397)	Due to related parties	24	3,113,003
Other comprehensive income:	-	-	Other payables	22	3,566,356
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,623,493	(755,397)	Total liabilities		39,883,639
			Net assets		8,653,555
			Shareholders' equity		
			Ordinary share capital	23	2,125,000
			Preference share capital	23	5,000,000
			Advance towards share capital		164,000
			Accumulated losses		(1,981,622)
			Contingency reserves		3,346,177
			Total shareholders' equity		8,653,555

Statement of Cashflows			Statement of Changes in Equity						
	2020 TZS 000	2019 TZS 000	Ordinary share capital TZS'000	Preference share capital TZS'000	Advance towards share capital TZS'000	Contingency reserve TZS'000	Accumulated losses TZS'000	Total TZS'000	
Operating activities			At 1 January 2020	2,125,000	5,000,000	90,500	2,811,252	(3,070,190)	6,956,562
Profit/(loss) before income tax	2,507,128	(907,795)	Profit for the year	-	-	-	1,623,493	1,623,493	1,623,493
Adjustments to reconcile profit before tax to net cash flows:			Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	-	(534,925)	(534,925)	-
Depreciation and amortization	386,885	327,701	Advance towards share capital	-	-	73,500	-	73,500	73,500
Amortization on right of use asset	349,063	361,182	At 31 December 2020	2,125,000	5,000,000	164,000	3,346,177	(1,981,622)	8,653,555
Interest income	(2,140,056)	(1,691,732)	At 1 January 2019	2,125,000	5,000,000	-	2,404,905	(1,908,445)	7,621,459
Dividend income	(2,227)	(3,047)	Loss for the year	-	-	-	(755,397)	(755,397)	(755,397)
Interest on lease liability	107,435	124,338	Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	-	(406,347)	(406,347)	-
Credit losses	333,775	(123,426)	Advance towards share capital	-	-	90,500	-	90,500	90,500
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(3,824)	(12,300)	At 31 December 2019	2,125,000	5,000,000	90,500	2,811,252	(3,070,190)	6,956,562
Working capital adjustments:									
Deferred acquisition costs	267,339	(243,305)							
reinsurer's share of technical provision and reserves	(3,646,052)	2,777,142							
Insurance receivables	(1,438,220)	214,268							
Increase in other receivables	(124,202)	(6,909)							
Insurance contract liabilities	4,276,703	(1,574,256)							
Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements	2,466,523	(1,614,243)							
Balances with related parties	(168,187)	1,341,581							
Other payables	(67,666)	1,561,370							
	3,084,416	3,759,056							
Income tax paid	(235,604)	(326,475)							
Net cash flows generated from operating activities	2,848,812	3,432,581							
Investing activities									
Interest received	2,140,056	1,691,732							
Dividend received	2,227	3,047							
Increase in investment in government securities	(127,830)	5,149,424							
Decrease in investment in deposits with banks	(971,828)	(12,291,374)							
Acquisition of lease liability	(333,772)	-							
Acquisition of motor vehicles, equipment and intangibles	(377,922)	(452,028)							
Proceeds from disposal of motor vehicles and equipment	5,041	12,300							
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities	335,972	(5,886,901)							
Financing activities									
Proceeds from advance towards share capital	73,500	90,500							
Repayment of lease liability – principal	(448,242)	(413,423)							
Net cash used in financing activities	(374,742)	(340,923)							
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,810,042	(2,795,243)							
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	6,213,993	9,009,236							
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	9,024,035	6,213,993							

The above extracts are from the annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 which have been prepared in compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, No 12 of 2002. The financial statements are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Certified Public Accountants and received Unqualified Audit Opinion. The annual report and audited financial statements were approved and authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on 10 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Dr. Peter Munga, CBS
Chairman

Mr. M. Laiser
Director

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100 vehicles get stuck following breakdown of Pangani ferry

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

MORE than 100 goods and passenger vehicles have been stuck at Pangani town as they were proceeding to Bweni in Pangani District following the breakdown of MV Tanga, the ferry plying the Indian Ocean estuary forcing passengers to use private boats to cross.

The ferry's breakdown happened on Sunday morning in one of its engines, to allow technicians from TEMESA to undertake repair work that took six hours.

For more than six hours long queues of vehicles, more than a kilometer long remained stuck on both sides of the estuary.

Pangani Ferry Accountant Slim Rubbeya said a fan belt of one of its engines snapped.

He said the ferry's supervisor Ameir Abdurrahman and TEMESA technicians worked together to ensure the vessel operates again.

The ferry's breakdown was a field day for owners of small boats and other crafts as they could be seen ferrying passengers and other people across the water way.

There are two ferries serving Pangani district but one broke down for some time now making MV Tanga the only one operating at the moment.

Pangani District CCM Secretary Mohamed Moyo advised that the ferry should be serviced from time to time by replacing various of its worn out parts, as it was important to ferry the people and vehicles across the estuary.

ACT-Wazalendo candidate wins Pandani by-election

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

OMAR Faki Hamad of ACT Wazalendo party has won the Pandani Constituency House of Representatives seat in the by-election held last Sunday.

Hamad received 2,361 votes over CCM's candidate Muhammed Juma Ali who received 1,934 votes.

The by-election was called following the death of the former Representative Abubakar Khamis, also from ACT Wazalendo in December last year.

The Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) said in the by-election the total number of valid votes cast was 4,500 while 56 votes were spoiled.

ZEC's Returning Officer for the Pandani Constituency Khamis Abdalla Hassan who announced the results said the election was free and fair.

"From the authority vested on me under the Zanzibar Election Act (No. 4 of 2008) I hereby announce Omar Faki Hamad to be House of Representative Member-elect for Pandani Constituency.

Other candidates who contested in the by-election included Massoud Ali Said (CUF) who received 79 votes, Ali Jabir Khamis (ADC) who received 33 votes, Ali Hamad Omar (ADA TADEA) 25 votes.

Others were Said Hamad Ali (Demokrasia Makini) received 28 votes, Khamis Faki Mgau (NRA) 19 votes, Mohammed Sharif Khamis (URND) 13 votes, Asha Fom Ali (UDP) two votes and Abdalla Ali Ahmed (AFP) with six votes.

Addressing reporters after he was announced the winner Omar Faki said he would make sure he implements all the pledges he made to his constituents in bringing to them development.

Meanwhile, ZEC has announced Salama Rajab Masinga, the CCM candidate as new Councillor for Kinuni Ward after winning the ward's by-election. She received 2,374 votes.



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H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan

The President of United Republic of Tanzania



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the **Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF)** joins all Tanzanians in congratulating **Hon. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN** her inauguration as President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

We wish her well in fulfilling her role towards the progress and prosperity to which we all aspire.

GOD BLESS TANZANIA.



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Tariff	Current a/c Business - Sole proprietor, Companies	Community Current A/C	Current A/C Personal	Call A/C	Savings Business	Savings Diocese, Parish, Jumuiya	Savings Personal	Bishop A/C	Integrity A/C	Student A/C	Joint/Wanando a/c	Mwana A/C	Wajasiriamali A/C	Forex A/C	Salary A/C	Vicoba/Informal Group A/C	Priest A/C	Nun A/C
Account opening amount	20,000	20,000	15,000	5,000,000	50,000	20,000	15,000	50,000	20,000	5,000	30,000	15,000	16,000	\$/€ 100	zero	20,000	20,000	20,000
Minimum operating balance	50,000	10,000	20,000	5,000,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	10,000	zero	10,000	5,000	10,000	\$/€ 50	zero	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest rate payable below 5m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5%	n/a	0.5%	n/a	up to 2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	n/a	n/a	0.50%	n/a	n/a
Interest rate payable above 5m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	up to 4%	2.0%	n/a	2.0%	up to 5%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	n/a	n/a	1.00%	n/a	n/a
Interest minimum earning balance	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,000,000	100,000	n/a	100,000	n/a	500,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	n/a	n/a	100,000	n/a	n/a
Monthly maintenance fee	12,000	free	10,000	free	1,500	free	1,500	free	free	free	2,000	free	free	free	n/a	n/a	free	free
Deposit fee (Notes)	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free
Deposit fee (Coins)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teller withdraw fee below 5m	4,000	free	4,000	free	4,000	free	4,000	free	free	1,500	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.1% min \$/€ 2	free	free	3,000	3,000
Teller withdraw fee below 5m - 20m	6,000	free	6,000	free	6,000	free	6,000	free	free	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	max 50	free	free	3,000	3,000
Teller withdraw fee above 20m	0.12% max 100,000	free	0.12% max 100,000	free	0.12% max 100,000	free	0.12% max 100,000	free	free	0.12% max 100,000	0.12% max 100,000	0.12% max 100,000	0.12% max 100,000	max 50	free	free	3,000	3,000
Teller B/E	500	500	500	free	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Monthly statement	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free
Adhoc statement	1,500	1,500	1,500	free	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	\$/€ 1.5	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Other charges																		
Certificate of Balance	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$/€ 15	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Confirmation to Auditors	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$/€ 15	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Search for information over 5 years	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$/€ 15	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Cheque book costs (per leaf)	500	500	500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 0.25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bankers cheque issued (BPs)	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Status Report	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stop payment	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dishonored Cheque for lack of funds or refer to drawer or effects not cleared	150,000	150,000	150,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dishonored Cheque due to technical error caused by customer	30,000	30,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dormant account activation	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free
Closing account less than six month (other than SGL accounts)	30,000	30,000	30,000	n/a	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$/€ 15	n/a	30,000	30,000	30,000
Counter cheque book per leaf	10,000	10,000	10,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
monthly charge drawn below Minimum balance	10,000	10,000	10,000	n/a	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	\$2 /€1.5 /€1.5	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Salary processing/bulk payment (per entry)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$/€ 1	2,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
(a) Standing order																		
(i) Instructions within Mkombozi bank	5,000	5,000	5,000	n/a	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	\$/€ 1.3	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
(ii) Standing orders to other banks	15,000	15,000	15,000	n/a	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	\$/€ 15	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
(iii) Unpaid bankers orders	30,000	30,000	30,000	n/a	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$/€ 15	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
(b) Mobile banking charges																		
(i) Transfer from Bank to MNCs	n/a	n/a	YES	n/a	n/a	n/a	YES	n/a	YES	n/a	n/a	n/a	YES	n/a	YES	n/a	YES	YES
1,000-50,000	n/a	n/a	1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,000	n/a	1,000	1,000	n/a	n/a	1,000	n/a	1,000	n/a	1,000	1,000
50,001-100,000	n/a	n/a	1,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,500	n/a	1,500	1,500	n/a	n/a	1,500	n/a	1,500	n/a	1,500	1,500
100,001-500,000	n/a	n/a	2,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,000	n/a	2,000	2,000	n/a	n/a	2,000	n/a	2,000	n/a	2,000	2,000
500,001-1,000,000	n/a	n/a	3,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,000	n/a	3,000	3,000	n/a	n/a	3,000	n/a	3,000	n/a	3,000	3,000
1,000,001-1,500,000	n/a	n/a	4,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,000	n/a	4,000	4,000	n/a	n/a	4,000	n/a	4,000	n/a	4,000	4,000
1,500,001-3,000,000	n/a	n/a	6,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,000	n/a	6,000	6,000	n/a	n/a	6,000	n/a	6,000	n/a	6,000	6,000
3,000,001-5,000,000	n/a	n/a	8,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,000	n/a	8,000	8,000	n/a	n/a	8,000	n/a	8,000	n/a	8,000	8,000
(ii) Internal Bank Account Transfer	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	500	500	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	500	n/a	500	500
(iii) Transfer from MNCs to Bank	n/a	n/a	300	n/a	n/a	n/a	300	n/a	300	300	n/a	n/a	300	n/a	300	n/a	300	300
(iv) Balance Enquiry	n/a	n/a	300	n/a	n/a	n/a	300	n/a	300	300	n/a	n/a	300	n/a	300	n/a	300	300
(v) Mini statement	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	500	500	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	500	n/a	500	500
(c) EFT / SWIFT / TISS transfers																		
(i) EFT Within the bank (incoming)	free	free	free	n/a	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	free	n/a	free	free	free	free
(ii) EFT to other banks	1,500	1,500	1,500	n/a	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	n/a	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
(iii) TISS transfers	10,000	10,000	10,000	n/a	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	n/a	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
(iv) Swift transfers	USD 50 plus swift charges																	
ATM & ID Cards charges																		
Customer ID	n/a	n/a	n/a	12,000	12,000	12,000	n/a	n/a	12,000	n/a	12,000	12,000	n/a	\$/€ 5	12,000	12,000	n/a	n/a
New ATM Card	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	n/a	n/a	5,000	n/a	5,000	n/a	5,000	5,000
Replacement of lost/ damaged ATM card	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000	10,000	n/a	10,000	n/a	n/a	10,000	n/a	10,000	n/a	10,000	10,000
ATM Monthly fee per month (charged quarterly or annually)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	500	n/a	500	n/a	n/a	500	n/a	500	n/a	500	500
ATM Balance Inquiry	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	200	200	n/a	200	n/a	n/a	200	n/a	200	n/a	200	200
ATM Withdraw charges per transaction	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,300	1,300	n/a	1,300	n/a	n/a	1,300	n/a	1,300	n/a	1,300	1,300
Fixed deposit rates - Local currency																		
3 months	4% p.a																	
6 months	5% p.a																	
9 months	6% p.a																	
12 months	7% p.a																	
18 months	8% p.a																	
24 months	9% p.a																	
36 months	10% p.a																	
Above TZS 100 Million	Negotiable																	

We want to get the world talking about World Down Syndrome Day

WORLD Down Syndrome Day is annually observed on March 21 to raise public awareness of Down syndrome, a congenital disorder caused by having an extra 21st chromosome. According to the UN, about 1 in 800 people are born with Down syndrome.

Down syndrome occurs when an individual has an extra partial (or whole) copy of chromosome 21. It is not yet known why this syndrome occurs, but Down syndrome has always been a part of the human condition. It exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics and health.

Adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes, and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual.

In December 2011, the General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day. The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012, to observe World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March each year. In order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome, the General Assembly invites all member states, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner.

The estimated incidence of Down syndrome is between

1 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,100 live births worldwide. Each year, approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chromosome disorder.

The quality of life of people with Down syndrome can be improved by meeting their health care needs, including regular check-ups with health professionals to monitor mental and physical condition and to provide timely intervention be it physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counselling or special education. Individuals with Down syndrome can achieve optimal quality of life through parental care and support, medical guidance, and community based support systems such as inclusive education at all levels. This facilitates their participation in mainstream society and the fulfillment of their personal potential.

In 2020 around the world, we all had to adapt the ways we connect with each other. It was a big challenge and many people have been left behind. But it was an opportunity to find new ways to connect. This can be a positive outcome from the COVID-19 pandemic. For WSD 2021 we want to focus on improving connections to ensure that all people with Down syndrome can CONNECT and participate on an equal basis with others.

We connect so that we can: Share ideas, experiences and knowledge, empower each other to advocate for equal rights for people with Down syndrome, and reach out to key stakeholders to bring about positive change.

We should crusade for the sustainable management of freshwater resources

WORLD Water Day is an annual United Nations (UN) observance day held on 22 March that highlights the importance of fresh water. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme of each day focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The UN World Water Development Report is released each year around World Water Day.

UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day and selects the theme for each year in consultation with UN organisations that share an interest in that year's focus. The theme for 2021 was "Valuing Water" and the public campaign invited people to join a global conversation on social media to "tell us your stories, thoughts and feelings about water".

In 2020, the theme was "Water and Climate Change". "Nature for Water", and "Leaving no one behind". World Water Day is celebrated around the world with a variety of events. These can be theatrical, musical or lobbying in nature. The day can also include campaigns to raise money for water projects. The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.

World Water Day is an international observance day. The intention is to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an additional focus on hand washing

and hygiene.

Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate change (which is the theme of World Water Day 2020). The day brings to light the inequality of access to WASH services and the need to assure the human right to water and sanitation.

The theme of World Water Day 2020 was about water and climate change - and how the two are inextricably linked. UN-Water states that "adapting to the water effects of climate change will protect health and save lives". Also, using water more efficiently will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 campaign also promoted messages of hand washing and hygiene and gave guidance on staying safe while supporting the campaign.

The theme for 2021 is "Valuing Water". People were invited to join a global conversation to "tell us your stories, thoughts and feelings about water" on social media using the hashtag #Water2me. The campaign looked beyond the issue of pricing, asking the public: "How is water important to your home and family life, your livelihood, your cultural practices, your wellbeing, your local environment?"

This day was first formally proposed in Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. In December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water.

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Matric results highlight unequal schooling in SA

By Michael le Cordeur

MATRICULATION is the formal process of entering a university, or of becoming eligible to enter by fulfilling certain academic requirements such as a matriculation examination. It seems that while the COVID-19 pandemic had no notable impact on the matric pass rate of private schools, the impact of the virus on government schools varied from slight, to significant, to great and enormous. The figures also indicate that there was no correlation between the number of infections and deaths and the matric results.

If we ever doubted the inequality in South African schools, it was finally cleared by the announcement of the matric results of 2020. After 147 examination papers had been set, of which eight million were printed and marked in 179 centres by more than 65,000 markers, the pass rate was 76.2 per cent.

Compared with the pass rate of 81.3 per cent of the class of 2019, this is a decrease of 5.1 per cent. Given the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account that some matrics missed school for more than a term, these figures are nothing to be ashamed of: in fact, it is excellent! It attests to the work of teachers, principals, departmental officials and parents. Everyone had a hand in the success of the 2020 class.

Inequality

The inequality of the South African education system is, however, not the only aspect that was revealed by the pandemic. Thanks to the pandemic, society gained new respect for the role of teachers in the development and education of our children. Parents who were normally critical of the work of teachers and tried to take over that role during the pandemic soon discovered that it is not so easy.

With this analysis, there are three aspects that should be highlighted. First: is there any marked difference between the impact of the pandemic on private schools versus state schools, and if so, what is that cause? Second: how big is the impact of the pandemic on the results of government schools and are there any plans in place to address similar problems? Last, to what extent have the factors which impacted negatively on the matric results, and were revealed by the pandemic, addressed?

The matric pass rate of IEB schools in 2020 is 98.07 per cent. This is less than 1 per cent lower than the previous year's pass rate of 98.82 per cent. There is thus no significant difference in the matric pass rate of private schools when you compare 2019 with 2020 - the

year of the pandemic.

In my view, these excellent results are thanks to the fact that learners in these schools had regular access to online classes. As a result, private schools were able to absorb the impact of COVID-19. Thanks to more resources, private schools could offer learners a full school year. In fact, due to the smooth transition to online classes, they hardly lost any time. In a television interview, one principal indicated that they had not lost a single day. A matric learner at the same school mentioned that they had already been working online on their tablets before the pandemic started.

It must add that many independent schools did not have full access to online classes and therefore had to return to traditional strategies of distance learning. But with capable teachers and the determination and perseverance of learners, a high level of success was achieved.

The impact of COVID-19

The second question which must be investigated is whether the pandemic had an effect on the results of government schools. The following table reflects Covid-19 figures on 21 February, one day before the results were announced:

It seems that while the COVID-19 pandemic had no notable impact on the matric pass rate of private schools, the impact of the virus on government schools varied from slight, to significant, to great and enormous. The figures also indicate that there was no correlation between the number of infections and deaths and the matric results. The decrease in the pass rate of the three provinces where the most infections occurred (Gauteng, Western Cape and KZN) was slight to significant. In the Western Cape, there was only a slight decrease (2.4 pc) while the decrease in Gauteng (3.5pc), the Free State (3.2pc) and KwaZulu-Natal (3.7pc) was significant.

In contrast, the decline in the results of the rural provinces with their great distances was quite severe: Limpopo (-5%), Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape (-8.3) and North West (-10.6%). The Northern Cape, the biggest province by area, discovered that the great distances between schools and district offices in the absence of online facilities were perhaps just too high a mountain to climb. The pass rate shows an enormous decline of 10.5% which means that the pass rate of 66% is the lowest of all nine provinces.

This raises the question of the whereabouts of the tablets that the president promised the country's government schools in his State of the Nation Address two years ago. Could it have made a difference? The mere provision of tablets is not enough to ensure successful

online tuition. It requires trained personnel who in their turn can guide the learners. I admit that in the modern era it can perhaps take place in the reverse: the youth in many cases are way ahead of their parents when it comes to technology.

It does not, however, change the situation of the matriculant in a distant rural area of the Eastern Cape who begged in a television interview last year that the government should not forget them. Heartbreaking as it is, it would appear that that is exactly what the government has done. The pass rate of the Eastern Cape dropped by 8.3% from 76.5% to 68.1%.

Basic defects

It will require more than a matric pass rate to convince us that all is well with education. My own research (see the table above) shows that the most important factor, which had a negative effect on the matric pass rate, was not the virus per se, but probably the basic shortcomings in the education system.

An aspect that requires urgent attention (about which I have written ad nauseam) is the large number of schools, especially in rural areas, which still do not have access to basic facilities such as toilets and running water. Its effect on the pass rate of the rural provinces is clearly visible in the table above. The absence of teachers and the violence which has affected South African schools for some time now, including the gang violence on the Cape Flats, remain a growing problem.

Maths and science

A worrying aspect of the matric results is the decreasing number of matrics who take maths and physical science, which I had already pointed out last year. These subjects are supposed to equip learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). It points to defective tuition. Learners are trained for the examination instead of being taught. More attention should be given to problem-solving.

Mother-tongue tuition

By now, everyone knows that a child learns better and excels in their mother tongue. But this privilege is reserved for those with Afrikaans and English as their language of tuition. It is these schools whose names shine on the merit list. It is these schools whose learners achieve top positions and it is these matrics who are at the front of the queue for bursaries. Ironically the results were announced on International Mother Tongue Day, and to be fair, the minister made a special effort to speak in her mother tongue.

We need more of this.

Poverty

Poverty still plays a role in the

results: this is testified to by the fact that the top seven districts were all in or around the big cities. They are: Tshwane South, the top district, followed by Johannesburg West, Gauteng North, Johannesburg North and Sedibeng East, also in Gauteng. They are followed by the Metropole North in Cape Town and Ekurhuleni South. This is not the first time that the six top districts are all in Gauteng. And then we have the three districts in the Free State.

Positive aspects

There are a number of positive aspects which come to the fore in the results and let us give the department and the minister credit where it is due. In many of the poorer neighbourhoods, a welcome positive change is visible: 275,615 matrics from so-called non-fee schools passed with bachelor's passes. This gives them access to universities and other tertiary institutions. It is refreshing to note that more and more young people are rising above their circumstances.

Something that is often criticised is the 70,560 Grade II learners who were promoted to matric. Nearly 24,000 of them seized this opportunity and passed, 1,065 with distinctions.

Another feather in the cap of the education department is that they also offered citizens in prisons the opportunity to increase their living standards by sitting for the examination. Out of 133 candidates, 110 (83%) passed, of whom 71 got exemptions.

Disabled learners also made their mark, with a total of 2,161 matrics with special education needs lining up for the exam, of which 2,058 (95%) passed. They achieved more than 900 distinctions and 563 exemptions. This was also the second time only that the examination included sign language, technical science and civil technology.

Despite the lower pass rate, it is gratifying to see that the number of distinctions and university exemptions has risen. In this regard, the council for quality assurance (Umalusi) did the right thing by insisting that the exam paper not be "adjusted". This ensured that the integrity of the results of the matrics who excelled was protected. It would be unfair to link the stigma of "an easy exam" to the certificate of those who worked hard in difficult circumstances.

Lessons learnt

In conclusion, we must ask the question of whether the factors which impacted negatively on the matric results, and were revealed by the pandemic, have been addressed. Have any lessons from 2020 been learnt to limit that impact to the minimum? I list just three aspects:

Female motorcycle rider in Rwanda defies odds, joins male-dominated job

KIGALI,

IN Kicukiro trading centre located in Kigali's suburb, streets roar with the sound of commercial motorcycles -- commonly known as moto-taxi in Rwanda -- traversing between car lanes.

Motorcycles, which many commuters rely on in the mountainous country, are driven mostly by men. Yet, in Kigali, a 33-year-old mother Claudine Nyirangirente from the capital's rural palce joins hundreds of moto-taxi drivers to ferry passengers of all types, including pregnant women heading to hospitals, business people going to work, pupils going to school, as well as luggage including groceries and cement bags.

She is one of the four known female moto-taxi drivers out of a total of about 20,000 in the capital city of Rwanda, according to Albert Byimanabirizana, president of Taxi Moto Cooperative of Kicukiro District, which Nyirangirente works in.

Not satisfied with the housemaid work she was doing in Kigali, Nyirangirente ditched the job in order to operate a small business. Finally, in 2013 she bought a small motorcycle worth 600,000 Rwandan francs (about 612 U.S. dollars) with savings from vending eggs to start moto-taxi business.

"It took me like a week to learn riding the motorcycle. It was quite difficult but I gave it time," she recalled.

In Byimanabirizana's eyes, Claudine is a good driver and "can work to multiply family income." Her customer, Joseph Shema, also commended her as a "careful rider" who makes him feel comfortable on the road.

However, at the beginning, the young driver had to face prejudice against females.

"Initially, some people felt it was



Female moto-taxi rider Claudine Nyirangirente waits as a passenger pays in Kigali, Rwanda, March 23, 2021. (Xinhua)

not socially acceptable for women to ride motorcycle taxis and scramble for passengers at parking areas packed with men, but with time I got over it," she said.

"Some drivers would insult me off the highway and some male customers criticized me as weak and less-skilled but I overcame the criticism," she added.

Nyirangirente takes pride in riding a motorbike, saying it had been the source of income for her family for years until her husband, also a moto-taxi driver, freed up his time to engage in other income-generating jobs.

"I use some of the income generated from the motorcycle taxi to clear school fees in time so my children are able to go to school. We are able to pay rent and meet our other home needs such as food, clothing, medical care and other items," said Nyirangirente, who recently bought a bigger motorcycle worth 1.5 million Rwandan francs, which her and his husband ride in turns.

With support of her husband, she manages to strike a balance between home chores and the work.

Female taxi motorcyclists like

Nyirangirente have been an inspiration for young women, for instance, 21-year-old Marie Louise Karegeya.

Karegeya, who started driving taxi motorcycle in 2018, also met with opposition at first, including from her mother. The only person who backed her decision to join the business was her aunt.

Now she still faces mixed reactions from her male counterparts. Some of them discourage her by saying it is men's job and describe her as a "female-man," while others encourage her and help her when she encounters mechanical problems on the way.

To Karegeya, riding motorcycle is significant. "I manage to meet all my demands as a young woman instead of being a dependent. I also manage to contribute to my family welfare," she said.

"Your limitation... It is only your imagination," said Nyirangirente, who castigated the belief inherent in some young women who think there is nothing they are capable of.

The woman driver now has a new target, buying a car to run taxi business.

Xinhua



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR VACANCY.

Tanzania Health Promotion Supports (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under non-governmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC), Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health and community systems for comprehensive quality health services including HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; prevention of GBV; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services; laboratory systems and services and health management information systems (HIMS). THPS is currently seeking highly experienced, committed and motivated Tanzanians to fill the following vacant positions for the PEPFAR/CDC AFYA KWANZA HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Program:

1. POSITION TITLE : Strategic Information Director
REPORTS TO : Executive Director
LOCATION : HQ- Dar es Salaam

OVERALL JOB FUNCTION

The Director for Strategic Information (SI) is part of THPS leadership team, responsible for leading the THPS program in the planning and implementation of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities. S/He leads the Strategic Information and Research Department and save as the THPS focal person for all MEL related issues with MOHCDGEC, PORALG, donors, RHMT and CHMT and other stakeholders as requested by the THPS Executive Director. As the project's SI technical lead s/he will ensure quality data for all THPS supported projects and timely reporting to GOT, PEPFAR, and other donors. S/He will facilitate a learning environment in ensuring THPS teams and HCWs have skills in data management, and using program data for continuous quality improvement (CQI). S/He is responsible for providing leadership in all SI issues along the HIV clinical cascade among all ages, gender, and risk groups for facility and community based services i.e. HTS, treatment, adherence, viral monitoring, CQI, services delivery models (SDM), cervical cancer screening, gender-based violence, voluntary medical male circumcision, laboratory and supply chain management and ensure that they are integrated into routine monitoring of program. The SID will oversee the design and implementation of effective and efficient data collection systems, quality improvement and data analysis, including information dissemination to relevant stakeholders and capacity building for strategic information use at all health system levels. The role involves ensuring program knowledge and technical evidence is effectively generated, packaged and disseminated for program learning and information, decision making and policy improvement/adaptation. Program knowledge includes all information generated through routine program implementation, analysis of routine/existing qualitative and quantitative program data and through targeted data-driven rapid assessments. The position involves at least 25% field travel.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide M&E leadership in the development and implementation of strategies, interventions and activities that address the needs PLHIV along the clinical cascade among general, key population, adolescent girls and young women, young adults, older men, pregnant and lactating women and TB/HIV co infected patients.
- S/He is in charge of data collection and reporting, Data quality Assurance (DQA) and timely quarterly reporting of Program data to DATIM including the APR and SAPR; other reports and papers summarizing project results and evidence, including presentation to be presented by the THPS in the biannual Advisory meetings and other forums
- Provide oversight on all routine comprehensive HIV and TB monitoring activities, working with M&E lead persons between IPs and HIMS unit of the MOHCDGEC.
- Ensure the development and maintenance of a functioning monitoring, evaluation and reporting system are available at all districts and HF and are used and updated as needed according to the Ministry of Health and PEPFAR indicators.
- Lead for priority setting of SI team and overall work plan including developing innovative strategies to strengthen data collection, monitoring, evaluation, analysis and reporting for various THPS supported programs
- Serve as resource to MOHCDGEC in health information systems (HIS) and evaluation of ongoing HIV/AIDS programs including subsequent development of new and expanded HIS systems
- Providing overall leadership of strategic information and improved data demand and use including analysis of the THPS-wide contribution to and impact on the national HIV response
- S/He is responsible for coordination and preparations of quarterly project data reviews and data quality management, PMM and SIMS for all SNU's.
- Identify capacity building needs of the SI team in collaboration with the leadership
- Represent THPS in MOHCDGEC M&E technical working groups, meetings and conferences
- Providing leadership in developing Client Monitoring Information System (CMIS) and other technology-based innovations for effective programme monitoring
- Review and approve Strategic Information Unit budgets
- Supervise generation of data feedback and critical review of data
- Lead on target setting and participate in development of Country Operational Plans (COP); responding to proposal development
- Identify capacity building needs of the SI team in collaboration with the leadership
- Perform any other duties as requested

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's Degree in public health, demography, sociology, epidemiology, biostatistics, or a related field
- At least five years of experience in monitoring, evaluation, and research related to public health programs
- At least three years of experience as senior leader of M&E systems for health initiatives
- Demonstrated experience in target setting and reporting against health programs
- Excellent knowledge of data collection protocols for quality data collection and verification
- Exceptional ability to analyze multiple sources of data to identify data trends and provide recommendations on program performance and improvement
- Demonstrated experience and familiarity with behavioral surveillance surveys, research methodologies, qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, sampling methods, and establishment of M&E systems
- Demonstrated experience in managing and supervising a team
- Exceptional English written and oral communication skills; fluency in Swahili also required
- At least five years of experience working senior position related to M&E in Tanzania.

2. POSITION TITLE : Data Manager
REPORTS TO : Regional Manager Pwani & M&E Manager
LOCATION : Pwani Regional Office (with frequent field travel)

OVERALL JOB FUNCTION:

To provide technical support in implementing high-standard paper-based and computer-based health facility record keeping systems for patient record management of CTC / HTS/APS/PMTCT, Cervical Cancer Screening, Nutrition and Gender based Violence programs in support of the Ministry of Health's National AIDS Control

Programme. To provide technical support in data management for public health evaluations as needed.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Lead in maintaining and updating regional databases for care and treatment, TB/HIV, HCT, and other databases as assigned
- Assist to provide technical assistance to regional supported facilities within Pwani region in collaboration with R/CHMT members
- Build capacity of R/CHMT in data management and data use for program improvement
- Implementation and evaluation of monitoring tools and data management
- Ensure that DQA is carried out quarterly according to DQA SOP's and that recommendations following the site DQA visit are implemented
- Ensure Pwani Region compliance to policies for data quality assurance and reporting requirements
- Train and supervise Data officers in the councils and in the supported CHMTs to ensure timely data entry, cleaning on a routine basis, generation of data queries and routine progress reports
- Collaborate with other team members to prepare monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports on supported program areas
- Develop and respond to queries related to data analysis
- To perform other duties as assigned

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree or certified training in Computer Science, IT/HMIS, data management or a related discipline. Advanced skills in Database programming, and analytical software an advantage
- A background in nursing, health science or a related discipline are an advantage
- 3+ years relevant experience years' experience with MS Access application development and use, data analyses with standard software packages and implementing protocols for data quality assurance.
- Strong supervisory and management skills
- Ability to work independently
- Fluent in English & Kiswahili
- Experience working with NGO's and/or donor-funded programs

3. TITLE : Transport Lead
REPORTS TO : Finance and Administration Manager
LOCATION : Dar es salaam

OVERALL JOB FUNCTION:

Under the leadership of Finance and Administration Manager, the incumbent will be responsible to oversee the transportation Department ensuring THPS Vehicles and staff are operating smoothly and effectively.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate, administer and monitor the maintenance, repair, replacement and logistics of the Organization Vehicles.
- Ensure preventive maintenance programs are carried out as per schedule and monitor past repair performance.
- Supervise and if necessary, undertake timely repair and servicing of damaged vehicles in order to minimize downtime.
- Manage the inventory of spares parts for vehicles, in coordination with the Supply Chain Manager in order to ensure an adequate supply of spares.
- Conduct analysis of vehicle status and make recommendations for timely replacement, including type of vehicles, spares etc in order to improve cost efficiency.
- Control transfer and movement of vehicles between project sites locations as required by Departments.
- Provide recommendations for lowering vehicle -- operating expenses and reduce idle time of vehicles.
- Ensure all vehicles operation policies and systems are up to date and enforced within field operations.
- Regularly review and update vehicle fleet related policies at least once a year.
- Communicate regularly with project staff and teams to ensure commercial controls are in place, understood and followed at all times.
- Analyse maintenance costs and provide recommendation on fleet utilization and replacement.
- Ensure the maintenance records for all fleet and equipment's are accurate and up to date
- In collaboration with Procurement and Logistics Manager, supervise the purchase of project vehicles, spare parts as well as tires.
- Supervise drivers, assign them work and appraise their performance.
- Manages transport department day to day operations, assesses risk and safety issues to ensure safe and efficient repairs to fleet and equipment's.
- Collaborates with Human Resources Department for effective recruitment and orientation of Transport department employees.
- Assist in appraisal and selection of Transport service providers and make recommendations
- Maintain and enhance a positive culture and work environment for Transport department employees.
- Drive projects vehicles whenever needed.
- Perform any other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- A Bachelor Degree in Logistics &Transport Management/ Transportation Engineering or Administration from a recognized University with 3 years' experience in Fleet Management, mechanical Maintenance, preventive maintenance,
- A minimum of 7 years of experience of which two (2) years' experience in a senior/supervisory level for candidates with Diploma/ Certificates in above mentioned subjects
- Holder of a class c driving license with clean records
- Thorough knowledge of principles, practices, tools, equipment and materials for vehicle and equipment maintenance and fleet management.
- Ability to research and understand safety and risk management issues, and identify appropriate methods to address them.
- Highest level of maturity, professionalism and ability to maintain confidentiality
- Ability to work in an environment of pressing deadlines.
- Multi-tasking, self-motivated, energetic team player with a flexible and adaptable approach to works.
- Flexible to work after normal working hours and weekends at various community locations
- Ability to interact well with all targeted groups and peer volunteers by facilitating a non-judgmental, non-discriminatory, and non-stigmatizing environment in the program, to welcome all beneficiaries regardless of their background

How to apply:

Interested applicants should send an email, recruitment@thps.or.tz attaching their application cover letter one page maximum and CV four pages maximum by **April 10th 2021** with a subject line for example: **Data Manager Pwani Region**. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted. Please do not attach any certificates when submitting online.

THPS is an equal opportunity employer, women, people living with HIV/AIDS and people living with disability are encouraged to apply.



CONGRATULATIONS



H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Board of Directors, the Management and the Staff of Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd (OGTL), Oryx Oil Company Ltd (OOCL) and Oryx Specialties Services Ltd (OSSL) wish to extend their warmest congratulations and wishes of success to H.E, Samia Suluhu Hassan. Beyond success, Oryx Energies want to salute the appointment of Tanzania's first woman President and the acknowledgment of female leadership at the highest level.

False claims seek to hurt prosperity of Xinjiang

BY CUI JIA

It has become clearer than ever that using fabrications to accuse the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region of tolerating “forced labor” is just the first step for anti-China forces in Western countries to curb the development of the region’s cotton and textile industry, as well as to inflict a heavy blow to the development of the region and the entire country, industry officials said.

Ultimately, the large number of vulnerable cotton growers and textile workers in Xinjiang, many from ethnic groups including the Uygur, Kazak and Uzbek, are the real victims. Many of them, particularly those from less developed southern Xinjiang, have just escaped from poverty as the labor-intensive textile industry has thrived in the region in recent years, the officials said over the weekend.

“We’re considering laying off some workers because of poor sales of cotton yarn after some big international retail brands have chosen not to source cotton and yarn from Xinjiang over the so-called forced labor concerns,” said a human resource officer with a cotton yarn factory near Korla, in southern Xinjiang’s Bayingolin Mongol autonomous prefecture.

The chain of effects is obvious and happening now, said the officer, who would give only his surname, Ma. “The suppliers of the retail brands no longer place orders with us. We then have to reduce production, which means many workers will be laid off,” he said, adding that most of the workers are from rural areas.

“Also, factories like ours will purchase less cotton, which will cause the price of cotton to fall. Then the cotton farmers will suffer,” he added.

Ma’s factory is located in Tarim Basin, one of the largest cotton growing areas in China. Xinjiang manufactures more than 5 million metric tons of cotton annually about 80 percent of the nation’s total production. By the end of 2019, there were 808 cotton processing companies in Xinjiang, accounting for 84 percent of the country’s total, according to the China Cotton Association. The cotton textile industry has created jobs for more than 600,000 local people in Xinjiang.

More than 50 percent of farmers in Xinjiang grow cotton, and over 70 percent of these farmers are members of ethnic minority groups including the Uygur, Kazak and Uzbek in southern Xinjiang. About 80 percent of their income comes from growing cotton, the association said.

“Such wrong acts (of excluding Xinjiang cotton and associated products from the supply chain) harm the legitimate rights of local farmers and workers who are entitled to improve their living standards by hard work,” it said in a statement.

“It actually harms the human rights of Xinjiang people in the name of supply chain compliance,” the association said.

Over the weekend, the Chinese public has continued voicing outrage on social media or in some cases staged protests starting on Wednesday after finding out that some big international retail brands, including H&M and Nike, had once issued statements saying they wouldn’t work with any Xinjiang garment manufacturing factories, nor would they source cotton from the region.

The companies claimed that they were concerned about some Western media reports of “forced labor” in the region an accusation that the Chinese central and local governments, as well as industry officials and local farmers in Xinjiang, have rebutted as groundless.

Dozens of Chinese entertainment stars have declared they would end commercial ties with the brands involved, and the products of some brands have been pulled off large online Chinese shopping platforms.

Ma said the biggest blow for Xinjiang’s cotton and textile industry is yet to come. “We’re still manufacturing with the cotton picked in 2018 and 2019. All we need to do now is to find new buyers,” he said. “But the situation will become more complicated and difficult for us and cotton growers in the next couple of years if the region’s cotton and textile industry remains a target.”

Ma said his factory received many inspections from national and local labor protection bodies in 2020 after some Western countries, especially the United States, constantly accused the region of using “forced labor”. But no irregularity has been found.

“At first I thought the claim is only about politics, but now it has become clearer than ever that it was just their first step. Their true intention, to curb Xinjiang’s development, has now been fully revealed,” Ma said.

“The whole thing must be carefully orchestrated because they know how important the cotton and textile industry is to Xinjiang and how many people would be affected.”



A farmer picks cotton in a field in Hami, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, in the autumn of 2020.

Business suspension

The companies that issued the statements about putting a halt to sourcing cotton from Xinjiang were members of the Better Cotton Initiative, a Switzerland-based organization. On March 30 last year, the initiative announced that it would suspend business with licensed growers in Xinjiang during the 2020-21 cotton season over allegations of forced labor, which means that growers in the region were no longer able to get certificates from BCI and enter the global supply chain.

Xinjiang Haoxing Cotton and Linen Co in Bole, in the region’s Bortala Mongolian autonomous prefecture, joined the initiative in 2013. Because the BCI suspended its cooperation, the sales of ginned cotton were heavily affected in 2020, Gao Ruinan, sales manager of the company, told Southern Weekly.

Because many of its clients involved in international trade did not want to be associated with cotton supplies from Xinjiang, by the end of December, the company had managed to sell only about 2 million metric tons of ginned cotton since the harvest season started, which was only about half of the amount it normally sold during that period in previous years, said Gao, whose company owns eight cotton farms.

Cao Huiqing, head of the cotton cultivation branch of the China Cotton Association, said the BCI’s requirements for ethical cotton are actually pretty low. “For example, it bans the use of certain pesticides that were prohibited in Xinjiang about more than 30 years ago,” he said.

Cotton growers in Xinjiang have all joined the Stockholm Convention a global treaty that took effect in 2004 to protect

human health and the environment from pollutants. Its requirements for growing cotton are higher than those of the BCI. Also, the initiative’s requirements for decent working conditions are all included in China’s labor laws, he added.

“I often wonder how an organization from a country that doesn’t produce cotton can draft standards for cotton. So maybe it’s never been about certifying quality cotton but about controlling cotton resources,” Cao said.

Some officials have said it seems that the BCI’s headquarters in Switzerland is turning a blind eye to reports submitted by its China branch. The organization’s office in Shanghai issued a statement on Friday, reiterating that it had found “not a single case of forced labor” in third-party verifications in Xinjiang since 2012. However, the BCI’s head office hasn’t made any changes in its previous decision to cut ties with Xinjiang growers.

Wu Yan, head of the initiative’s Shanghai office, said her team conducted careful inspections in Xinjiang after the accusations of “forced labor”, but found no such practice.

“We’ve submitted two investigation reports to our headquarters, and also submitted reports we compiled from some third parties such as SGS (a Swiss multinational company that provides inspection, verification, testing and certification services),” she said in a China Central Television interview broadcast on Saturday evening.

“We’ve reiterated many times to some international NGOs and stakeholders that we haven’t found a single case of forced labor in China.”

Wu said the decision by BCI headquarters to cut ties with Xinjiang growers will

block about 500,000 tons of Xinjiang cotton from entering the international supply chain.

Liu Haoran, a project manager with the BCI Shanghai office, said many international human rights groups have played a role in the initiative’s decision.

“They’ve demanded that BCI suspend Xinjiang cotton certification, and required that the BCI not publicly associate its decision with these human rights groups,” he said in the CCTV interview.

In addition, the United States Agency for International Development is a key sponsor of the BCI. The organization also heavily relies on membership fees paid by big US and European companies, according to the report.

Real intention

The cotton industry matters to people’s livelihoods, employment and trade in Xinjiang, so it plays an irreplaceable role in safeguarding the region’s stability and even national unity. So China needs to be vigilant in regard to the real intention of such a “precision strike” against Xinjiang cotton, said Mei Xinyu, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

“Large exports of Xinjiang cotton, and many foreign enterprises’ participation in the downstream portions of production lines such as clothing manufacturing and retail sales, provide opportunities for anti-China forces to apply downstream pressure,” Mei said in a post on Sina Weibo on Friday.

China must take action to prevent a possible chain reaction triggered by the cotton issue, which is created by anti-China forces in Western countries, particularly the US, to ensure that the country’s overall economic development won’t be affected, he added.

Over the weekend, a video of Lawrence Wilkerson, chief of staff of former US secretary of state Colin Powell, went viral on Chinese social media platforms. In the video, shot in August 2018, Wilkerson publicly suggested that the US Central Intelligence Agency exploit the Uygurs to cause unrest in China.

If the CIA should want to destabilize China, the best way to do it is to create unrest and join with those Uygurs in pushing the Han Chinese in Beijing, Wilkerson said in a public speech.

Shenzhen Ningnanshan, a popular blogger on China’s economic issues, released a post over the weekend on various Chinese social media platforms, saying that what the US and other Western countries are doing is to bar the Uygurs from modern industrial civilization so Xinjiang will be less developed. As a result, unrest could resurface in the region, he said.

The region has been China’s main battlefield against terrorism. For a time, it was hit by frequent terrorist attacks, particularly after the penetration of religious extremism from abroad. Many experts think that poor education and the low employment rate in rural Xinjiang contributed to the quick spread of religious extremism. Thanks to joint efforts, no terrorist incident has happened in Xinjiang for more than four years.

“The US and other Western countries cannot stand seeing Xinjiang prosper because it means that they cannot attack China with the ‘Xinjiang card’ anymore. Obviously, targeting Xinjiang cotton can create bigger damage to China than targeting certain high-tech companies,” said the blogger, who has more than 667,800 followers on Sina Weibo.

Xinhua

Another danger for children in age of Covid-19: Failing grades

WASHINGTON

Like millions of American children, Brody Cotton has not seen the inside of a classroom in more than a year.

As the COVID-19 pandemic left him navigating 7th grade from his couch in Carlsbad, California, Brody’s grades dropped from As and Bs to a D and two Fs last semester.

One of the Fs was in a “design and modeling” elective that would have entailed hands-on 3D printing projects in the classroom but became popsicle stick models at home.

“I never had to deal with any kind of educational issue with him before,” said his mother Christine Cullinan, 42, a single parent juggling her son’s schooling with a full-time job at an electronics company.

Brody’s peers also are struggling. The number of Fs received by students in Carlsbad, a small, affluent, mostly white city 30 miles north of San Diego, increased by more than three times during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year compared to the same period in 2019-2020, according to school district data.

Grades and test performance appear to have declined markedly around the country after school buildings closed - especially among students of color, according to Reuters’ review of an assortment of early data from multi-state assessments, local media reports, state education departments and 12 individual districts.

Under the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, many districts plan to bring students back to campus full-time next fall, if not sooner. But huge hurdles remain for educators and parents in getting students up to speed.

Escalating numbers of students are failing classes, according to data from some of the nation’s largest school districts, including Clark County School District in Nevada, which includes Las Vegas, Chicago Public Schools and Broward County Public Schools in Florida, which includes Fort Lauderdale. Clark County started bringing students back to classrooms this month, while Chicago started in January and Broward has offered in-person learning since October.

In Clark County, the nation’s fifth largest district, 13% of all grades were Fs in the first semester of the 2020-

21 school year compared to 6% the year before. In Broward County, with 260,000 students, 12% of grades in the second marking period this fall were Fs, up from 6% last school year.

The results of limited statewide standardized testing, which has often been delayed during the pandemic, also are grim. In North Carolina, more than half of the state’s high school students who took statewide end-of-course exams in math and biology this fall received a “not proficient,” according to results presented by the state’s education board. Math scores lagged the most, with 66.4% of students scoring “not proficient” on the Math 1 exam, typically taken in 9th grade, compared to 48.2% last school year, state data showed.

A December analysis by consulting firm McKinsey & Company of i-Ready test results, which assess math and reading skills for elementary school students in 25 states, estimated that white students were one to three months behind where their learning would have been in math, absent the pandemic. The gap was three to five months for students of color.

Jonathan Plucker, a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Education, said he thinks it will take at least two years to make up for the learning lag.

“If we don’t find ways to help them start to catch up, these gaps are going to get bigger,” he said.

WHAT’S IN A GRADE?

Grades can be subjective and don’t always reflect comprehension. An F can simply mean a child did not show up to class. But bad marks have



Liliana, who is attending virtual school for remote learning, gets help from her mother Lorraine as she encounters difficulties in her reading task amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions in Louisville, Kentucky, U.S., February 24, 2021. File photo

caused alarm lately in homes and school districts - in part because they can shake student confidence, delay graduation and limit college prospects.

In Chicago, Temple Payne, 48, quit her job as a school principal in December after watching her daughter Tristyn fall from straight As to a D in her 7th grade math class.

“This is devastating to her,” Payne said. “Now she has an ‘I can’t’ attitude.”

In the Chicago district, 14.3% of the more than 172,000 elementary and middle school students received Ds or Fs in math in the second quarter of this school year, a jump of 4.6 per-

centage points from last school year

Minority and lower-income families can be harder-pressed to provide a home environment conducive to learning, with a designated work space, consistent internet access and sustained adult oversight.

Less advantaged families also have been disproportionately struck by COVID-19, posing challenges for kids in addition to their studies.

In the Jefferson County Public Schools district in Kentucky, where some in-person learning resumed this month for the first time since March 2020, about 63% of the 96,000 students are on a free or reduced-price lunch program. The number of failing grades, or “unsatisfactoriness,” as the district labels them, more than doubled in the first half of this school year compared to the first half of last.

Liliana Anderson, 8, was one of Jefferson County’s students on the subsidized lunch program. She was strug-

gling to read and write before the pandemic hit, her mother said. Last fall, Lorraine Anderson, a 42-year-old former childcare instructor in Louisville, saw her daughter’s struggles worsen as the first-grader lacked basic computer skills and tuned out of virtual class.

Lorraine opted to teach Liliana herself this semester, creating a GoFundMe page to raise money for school supplies.

“I want to send her back in person, but I want her to be on the level that she’s supposed to be on,” Anderson said. “I don’t want them to open up schools and then throw her back into the second grade.”

Emilie Blanton, a high school English teacher in Jefferson County, told Reuters that some of her students have logged into class from McDonald’s, the only place they could get broadband access. Some are working two jobs to help their parents.

In Connecticut and some California districts, at least, absenteeism has surged - and disproportionately among students who were hardest hit by the pandemic, according to a February report from Attendance Works, an organization that researches absenteeism.

“Our worst fear is that a chunk of those kids have not done any learning and schooling in the last year,” said Betheny Gross, associate director at the Center on Reinventing Public Education, a non-partisan research organization. “And the losses for them are going to be really, really steep and the kind that we have not consistently been able to bridge.”

Unlocking the potential of smallholder farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

When Osmund Ueland met a group of farmers to pitch his idea about starting a goat milk project to help poor families improve nutrition and boost incomes, he elicited loud applause from the crowd. Huddled in a dimly lit mud-walled house, the farmers unanimously approved the idea saying it was the best step to curb malnutrition and fight poverty.

"I congratulate him. This is a grace we need to embrace. We cannot let it slip away," said Damian Muhomwa, a resident of Masukanzi in Tanzania's southern highlands. "Whoever doesn't use this opportunity, will remain poor forever."

The 72-year-old, Norwegian entrepreneur is chairperson and project manager for Farm for the Future -- a regional development project striving to increase agricultural productivity, improve nutrition and food security with the ultimate goal of reducing poverty in line with the country's 2025 development vision, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Under the proposed project, dubbed "Goat milk for nutrition program," to be implemented by the company in conjunction with ASAS Dairies and experts from Sokoine University of Agriculture, 20 families will be awarded two milk goats each to keep so that when the goats reproduce after three years, they can sell the offspring and collect four liters of milk to feed their malnourished children and give some to the company.

"The milk will mean a lot to the families," Ueland said.

Under a similar initiative, known as F-20, the company has sought a \$90,000 loan to purchase equipment to support a group of medium farmers in the village to increase efficiency and crop productivity.

"We want them to be good ambassadors for others," Ueland said with a grin.

The criteria for selecting beneficiaries is simple. The farmers should have at least five hectares of land close to the commercial farm run by Farm for the Future. They would use the equipment for free for two years and get unlimited access to subsidized inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, and chemicals provided by the company.

"We give smallholder and medium farmers the highest priority," said Ueland.

In an effort to showcase good agricultural practices and share knowledge to smallholder farmers, the Iringa based "Farm For the Future" has trained over 200 farmers from 16 villages in Ilula, Iringa Region.

The training was provided during celebrations to mark the annual Farmers Day, an event that involved a walk-through on its 250 hectare commercial farms growing maize, seeds and sunflower.

Speaking at the event, Farm For the Future project manager, Osmund Ueland said the event is a platform for sharing knowledge and practical experiences on best agricultural practices focusing on a wide range of top-



Farm For the Future supervisor Issa Kipande (L) trains farmers on crop protection and high-yield hybrid seeds at Farmers Day event held in Iringa municipality yesterday to facilitate the sharing of knowledge on good agricultural practices with smallholder farmers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ics including correct crop spacing, mechanization, conservation farming, crop protection, soil improvement and overall methods of improving productivity.

"We have been organizing this event for three years consecutively now with a primary objective to share knowledge on good agronomic practices and share results of commercial and community empowerment activities. The event also provided a rare opportunity to the farmers to connect with our key partners particularly the fertilizer and seed producers", said Ueland.

He pointed out that FFF has significant knowledge and experience in modern farming practices which they constantly share with smallholder farmers as part of its unique community empowerment model.

"The baseline survey is underway

to establish the impact of our work in the communities but we have so far trained 1,600 smallholder farmers, over 30 young mothers and 20 goat farmers. Improvement in productivity among smallholder farmers that we train already visible and this is a key component in raising incomes and quality of life," he added.

Participating farmers have expressed how the event enhanced their knowledge on good practices and have pledged to share the skills with their counterparts.

The knowledge exchange of these actors makes a great contribution to the introduction of new technology, their adaptation to the smallholder farmer's requirements in Ilula and further development of good agricultural practices.

According to the, the event has

proven to be an effective model in bringing together agriculture experts, agro input dealers and farmers to share knowledge, experience and forge partnerships that continue to advance agricultural activities among the smallholder farmers in Ilula and neighbouring villages.

Abdi Nyangatuke, a smallholder farmer from Matalawe village said he has learned about soil improvement and will now practice conservation farming which is key to preserving and enriching the soil health.

"Traditionally we burn all residues after harvest but I have learned that retaining them in the farm replenishes the soil with organic materials and serves as a cover to prevent soil erosion while maintaining moisture," said Nyangatuke

The Sokoine University of Agri-

culture (SUA) which has a research plot at the farm demonstrated how traditional methods of ploughing the land and lack of fertilization result in poor yields and encouraged farmers to embrace new farming methods.

Masukanzi Village Chairman, Dua Kitime said that farmers are grateful and proud of FFF empowerment programs.

The Farmers day which has been held for the past three consecutively has proven to be a very effective model in bringing agriculture experts agro input dealers such as Yara fertiliser, Monsanto, Corteva, BASF, Zamseeds and sunflower processors such as Pxylus and Bytrade.

Through the event, stakeholders connect and share knowledge on how to advance agricultural activities amongst smallholder farmers.

Chinese diplomacy delivers more hope to world peace, injecting more confidence into common development

By Wang Ke

A KEY event on China's political calendar, the annual sessions of China's national legislature and top political advisory body, known as the "two sessions" took place in Beijing this month. The "two sessions" are a window from which the international society observes the country's policy and an important platform for China to show its responsibility to the world.

A press conference held early this month on the margins of the Fourth Session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, during which State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi answered questions from Chinese and foreign media about China's foreign policy and external relations.

In 100 minutes, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi summarized the achievements of China's diplomacy in 2020, stated China's positions and proposals on various issues, answered 27 questions raised by reporters on anti-epidemic cooperation, the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, major power relations, regional hot spots, Hong Kong and Xinjiang affairs, etc. The answers manifest China's resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, show its responsibility as a builder of world peace, a contributor to global prosperity and a defender of international order, and display the distinctive features of China's diplomacy.

I. Adhere to the principal purpose of maintaining world peace and promoting common development to advance the building of a community with a shared future for humankind

At present, the world is encountering changes unseen in a century. The COVID-19 pandemic that has been raging the world since last year is speeding up the profound changes in the international power structure, and humankind is once again at crossroads.

Wang Yi pointed out that after a year of difficulties, the people of the world have understood the meaning of a community with a shared future for mankind more deeply than ever. To pursue peaceful development and win-win cooperation and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind is a provision in the Constitution of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and China's Constitution. It is also the goal of China's diplomacy. China will promote a new type of international relations, advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom as the common values of humanity.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the legitimate seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. Wang Yi reiterated China's solemn commitment to defending multilateralism. China will also set an example of equity and justice, by jointly upholding multilateralism, the authority of the UN, international law and basic norms governing international relations, and global strategic stability. China stands ready to work with other countries to tackle global challenges, boost international efforts on pandemic response, economic recovery and climate change, and add more stability to international relations.



II. Adhere to the path of peaceful development based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation

In 2021, China will grandly celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China and embark on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country. China is fostering a new development paradigm now. In 2021, China will continue to build a new type of international relations, deepen international and regional cooperation, continuously improve the level of opening-up and cooperation, and promote high-quality joint building of the Belt and Road.

Wang Yi pointed out that the purpose of fostering a new development paradigm is to adapt to the new development stage in China. We hope the strategy will enhance China's capacity for self-sustained development and achieve high-quality development in the country, and promote further opening-up to connect the Chinese market with the international market and better coordinate import and export. This promises broader cooperation prospects for all countries.

Wang Yi emphasized that COVID-19 has changed the world in profound ways, but the need for Belt and Road cooperation has not subsided, and China's commitment to cooperation has not changed. As China pursues a new development paradigm, China will explore better pathways for Belt and Road cooperation and offer greater opportunities to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

partners.

Regarding Sino-US relations, which are of general concern to the world, Wang Yi said that as two countries with different social systems, China and the United States naturally have differences and disagreements. China is open-minded to explore and deepen cooperation with the United States. The two heads of state had an in-depth exchange of views on the bilateral relations and pointed the way forward for bringing the relationship back on track. China is ready to work with the United States to follow through on the outcomes of this important phone call and set the bilateral ties on a new path of healthy and steady growth.

III. Adhere to the core national interests as the bottom line and safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests

Disregarding China's core interests, national dignity, and development rights, some international forces condone or even support the "Taiwan independence" forces, by using such inferior means as slander and smearing, make indiscreet remarks on China's internal affairs, such as issues relating to Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet, which seriously infringes on China's sovereignty. In response to this interference, based on the facts, Wang Yi clarified China's firm stances, and showed China's resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests.

Wang Yi pointed out that non-interference in other countries' internal affairs is

an explicit principle in the Charter of the United Nations and a basic norm governing international relations. The Chinese people are in the best position to tell whether China is doing a good job. The Chinese people can best decide what is the right thing for China to do. In the meantime, we are willing to communicate with all sides on the basis of respect for sovereignty to enhance mutual trust, dispel misunderstanding, and share relevant facts. But we will not accept groundless accusations or defamation, and we will not allow our core interests to be breached.

Wang Yi emphasized that the Chinese government's resolve to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity is rock-firm. We have the capability to thwart separatist attempts for "Taiwan independence" in whatever form. The two sides of the Taiwan Strait must be and will surely be reunified.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong's shift from chaos to stability fully serves the interests of all parties. We have the resolve to continue to implement "One Country, Two Systems" under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy. We also have the confidence to usher in a brighter future for Hong Kong.

The claim that there is genocide in Xinjiang couldn't be more preposterous. It is just a rumor fabricated with ulterior motives. Wang Yi pointed out that over the past four decades and more, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang has more than doubled from 5.55 million to over 12 million. In 60-plus years, Xinjiang's economy has grown by more than 200 times, and the average life expectancy has increased from 30 to 72 years. Some Western politicians refuse to acknowledge the progress in Xinjiang. This only shows that they are only interested in political maneuvering and creating the so-called Xinjiang issue to undermine security and stability in Xinjiang and hold back China's development.

IV. Adhere to the principles guiding China's Africa policy, including sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and build a stronger China-Africa community with a shared future

2021 is the last year to implement the outcome of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The FOCAC meeting scheduled to be held in Senegal in the second half of this year will be a new starting point for Africa-China cooperation.

Wang Yi pointed out that China and Africa enjoy a profound friendship forged during the struggle for national independence and liberation. We are comrades-in-arms as well as brothers and sisters. This bond of friendship is growing ever stronger as time goes by. China and Africa are perpetual good friends and good partners with a shared future. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of FOCAC last year. Over the past two decades, our two-way trade has increased 20 times, and China's direct investment in Africa has grown 100 times. There are now 150 pairs of sister cities between China and Africa. China-Africa cooperation stands as a model of South-South cooperation, and a shining example of international cooperation with Africa.

To help African countries fight the pandemic and bring the economy back on track is a top priority for China-Africa cooperation at the current stage. Last year, President Xi Jinping initiated and hosted the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19, and announced a host of new support measures. We have provided close to 120 batches of emergency supplies to Africa and sent medical expert teams to 15 African countries. We have started to provide COVID vaccines to 35 African countries and the African Union Commission. The construction of the Africa CDC Headquarters, a project for which we are glad to provide assistance, has started, and cooperation between 30 pairs of Chinese and African hospitals is well underway.

Wang Yi said that China will take the new FOCAC meeting as an opportunity to support Africa's efforts to defeat the virus and strengthen public health governance, to accelerate industrialization and build up capacity for self-generated development, to speed up African integration and embrace the trend of economic globalization, and to find political solutions to hot spot issues and maintain peace and stability on the continent.

Wang Ke (pictured) is the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

European countries tighten measures against COVID-19 resurgence

BRUSSELS

WITH the Easter holidays around the corner, many European countries, faced with a possibly worst third wave of COVID-19, have started to tighten their lockdown measures in an attempt to build a “breakwater.”

NEW LOCKDOWNS

Starting from Sunday, stricter prevention and control measures, including early closure of businesses and traffic restrictions, will be adopted in several major cities in Romania, including the capital Bucharest.

According to the decision of the National Committee for Emergency Situations, people’s free movement will be permitted over weekends till 20:00, and businesses are allowed to open till 18:00, in areas where the incidence of COVID-19 infection exceeds 4 per thousand inhabitants in the last 14 days.

The measure will cease to apply when the cumulative incidence rate in the last 14 days falls below 3.5 per thousand, said Raed Arafat, secretary of state who heads the Emergency Situations Department at Ministry of Internal Affairs.

“It’s good, it’s an extra prevention. Don’t you see how widespread it is,” said Adrian Spinei, a retired doctor.

“I think these restrictions are sufficient at the moment, if everyone, at least the citizens of Bucharest, the metropolis, can obey and enforce them sacredly,” said gallery owner Ioana Tomescu.

“I don’t think it’s so annoying to wear a mask, I don’t think it’s so annoying to get vaccinated. If we do not pay attention to these things, we will not be able to escape the pandemic,” Tomescu said.

The Lithuanian government on Friday decided to extend its current nationwide lockdown for another month, till April 30.

It has also imposed a ban on non-essential travel between municipalities from March 27 to April 6 in a bid to curb the spread of the highly contagious COVID-19 variants first detected in Britain and South Africa.

“The quarantine, I think it is very nice, because we changed our way of working. I don’t need to go to the office, I can work from my house,” said Rasa, an economist working with an agricultural information center, who only gave her first name.

“I don’t feel any pressure from this quarantine time,” she said.

In Croatia, the existing restrictions are expected to remain in force during the Easter holidays until the overall epidemiological situation improves in the country, which has a population of around 4



Two children in the scarfs of the colors of the national flag walk with their parents while celebrating the 103rd independence anniversary of Lithuania in Vilnius, Lithuania, Feb. 16, 2021. (Xinhua)

million people.

“We opened three weeks ago. We were closed for almost 80 days, so 70 to 80 days, and that’s really a long time,” said Marko Benkovic, a waiter at Cafe Kavanica in downtown Zagreb, the Balkan country’s capital.

“You can work only on the open terraces which are restricted to 3 meters between the tables. Everybody has to wear a mask. Everybody has to disinfect the hands,” he said.

In Estonia, the current restrictions affecting schools, shops, restaurants and public events entered into force on March 11 and will stay in place until at least April 11.

PRUDENCE DURING EASTER

Portugal on Thursday extended the state of emergency till April 15 to combat the spread of COVID-19. President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa called for “prudence” among the public during the Easter holidays to ensure the confinement is “successful.”

In Poland, where many people traditionally observe Easter by attending churches and traveling for family gatherings, the public has been advised to limit Easter celebrations to direct family members.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki warned Thursday that the country is reaching the limits of its healthcare system.

“The bottleneck does not lie with our equipment, but with the number of available medics and nurses,” he said.

In France, “reinforced braking measures” have been taken in three more regions – Rhone, Aube and Nièvre – in a bid to contain a third wave of the pandemic. Similar rules have been applied in 16 French departments, including Paris and its surrounding areas, to relieve the strained hospital system.

“The epidemic situation is not good. The trend is on the rise almost everywhere in France even if the level of virus circulation remains different from one region to

another,” Health Minister Olivier Veran said Thursday.

In Austria, three eastern states will go into a lockdown during the Easter holidays to contain a resurgence of infections, Health Minister Rudolf Anschober said Wednesday.

Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland will impose more restrictive measures on April 1-6, Anschober told a press conference. All-day exit restrictions will apply again as during the previous two lockdowns. Only a few exceptions will be made to meet some essential needs.

The goal is to install a “breakwater” by reducing contacts, further increasing testing and expanding the use of face masks, said Anschober.

In Germany, a general COVID-19 test obligation for all entries by airplane would come into force on Monday night, as the COVID-19 numbers were rising too fast and virus variants made “the situation particularly dangerous.”

If the country’s infection situation would “continue unchecked, we run the risk that our healthcare system will reach its limits in the course of April,” Health Minister Jens Spahn said Friday.

“There are very clear signals that this wave can be even worse than the first two waves,” said Lothar Wieler, president of the Robert Koch Institute, the government agency for disease control and prevention.

“We are only at the beginning of this development. And if we do not take massive countermeasures now, the consequences will be serious,” Wieler warned.

VACCINATION ROLLOUT

So far, most European countries and their peoples have pinned their hopes on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccination.

At a virtual summit on Thursday, European Union (EU) leaders agreed to boost the production of COVID-19 vaccines in Europe to improve the rollout of vaccination programs across member states, European

Council President Charles Michel said at the end of the meeting.

“It’s absolutely vital, of course, that we keep on working to improve vaccine production in Europe, and improve our ability to distribute those to member states,” Michel told a press conference.

Compared with the United States and Britain, the bloc is falling behind on its vaccination rollout, mainly due to the limitations of the pharmaceutical companies’ production capacity and supply chains. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has also blamed some companies’ failure to honor their commitments for the vaccine shortage.

The 27 EU member states have received some 88 million doses of the vaccines and 62 million have been administered. Among those vaccinated, only 18.2 million, or around 4 percent of the EU population, have fully received two jabs.

“We could have been much faster if all pharmaceutical companies had fulfilled their contracts,” von der Leyen said, with a clear reference to AstraZeneca. She warned that the Anglo-Swedish firm would have to “catch up” before it is allowed to export doses outside the bloc.

Xinhua

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



TIME	PROGRAMME
23.00 HRS	
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
09.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	DURU ZETU
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	AFRO TIZII

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



TUESDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-21:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
00:00-04:00HRS	LETE RAHA (marudio)
04:00-05:00HRS	SPOTI (marudio)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 174 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: CRY, LNB, ONE
 4 LETTERS: EAST, SAVE, GIVE, REAL,DARE, EASE RANK (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: EASEL, EDITS, DRIVE, DAILY EVOKE (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: ASSIGN, BETTER, ONLINE, DEARIE PASTOR (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: BARAKOA
 8 LETTERS: COLOMBIA
 10 LETTERS: ENGINE ROOM

CLUES: Across
 1 maize with high sugar content
 5 in control of
 7 a grass- like plant with triangular stems , growing in wet ground
 8 Identities of People
 10 an act that harms someone
 11 calm, peaceful
 13 a person who uses something
 15 a set of moral principles
 act a part in a play or film in an
 17 overly restrained or unemotional way
 19 very old
 20 a native of Ossetia

Down:
 1 a small mark
 2 flat, level
 3 kind of rocks which metals are found
 4 a person’s head
 6 fierce anger that continues with great force
 7 strict in judgment
 9 annoying
 12 to shout
 14 grasses growing in water
 16 indicating that a voice or instrument is silent
 17 United Arab Emirates
 18 Latin word for “deity”

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

S I T U A T I O N S
 A I L G E
 L O M E P A N E L
 T E N D E D D
 I D N P L Y
 R U S I A E
 N N L S
 S N A R S T A R K
 E O I I
 F L A M I N G O L
 T S L E R L
 G L O O S E R S

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

S H A B U S H A B U
 O T O A
 R O O K S M A L L
 T P A S T E B
 A A K R I B O Y
 A S K A R I A
 S V A N
 H A R P E S S A Y
 G I O A
 P A S S L A W S N
 R I O T E Z
 O T E N U R E A



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Orca Exploration says Songo Songo gas reserve down by 5pc last year

By Smart Money Reporter

GROSS natural gas reserve at Songo Songo Island fell by five percent or 12 billion standard cubic feet (Bcf) to 203Bcf as of December 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

In a report published earlier this month, the British Virgin Islands based company which operates the Songo Songo gas plant through its subsidiary, Pan Africa Energy Tanzania Limited said net present value of total proved value estimates decreased by nine percent to US\$216.4 million compared to US\$237.1 million during the period under review.

The independent reserves evaluation report undertaken by McDaniel & Associates Consultants Limited stated that the company's total proved plus probable conventional natural gas reserves were 229 Bcf.

"After adjustment for the company's share of gas produced in 2020, this represents a six percent or 16 Bcf decrease from the year end 2019. Net present value of P estimated future cash flows discounted at 10 percent were US\$216.4 million at year end 2020, compared to US\$237.1 million at year end 2019, representing nine percent decrease," the report said.

It further added that net present value of proved plus probable gas estimated future cash flows discounted at 10 percent were US\$241.3 million at year end 2020, compared to US\$282.6 million at year end 2019, representing a 15 percent decrease.

"The reduction in gross company present value reserves from year end 2019 to year end 2020 are primarily attributed to forecasted company gas sales of



Pan African Energy Tanzania Limited employees at work at Songo Songo Islands in Kilwa District, Lindi Region.

approximately 27Bcf for the year 2020, of which approximately 19Bcf were produced and sold," the report added.

The Orca report explained that actual sales of additional gas were lower than forecast in 2020 due to reduced power and industrial gas demand in the country attributable to abnormally high rain fall leading to increased hydro power production in addition to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic which impacted global supply chains and associated industrial gas demand in the local market.

"Company gas sales are forecasted to average approximately 65.3 million standard cubic feet per day (less 23.8 Bcf) in 2021 assuming normal hydro power generation, recovering industrial demand and prospective customer confidence," the report stated.

The reduction in future present values were primarily attributed to lower reserves at year end 2020

associated with the reduced number of years remaining on the primary license (5.8 years at year ending 2020 versus 6.8 years at year ending 2019, or a 15 percent reduction in producing days to end of license), the McDaniel prepared report stated. The Songo Songo license period is due to end in October 2026 when Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation will take over control from the investor.

"Reserves included herein are stated on a company gross reserves basis unless noted otherwise. Company gross reserves are the total of the company's working interest share in reserves before deduction of royalties owned by others and without including any royalty interests of the company, and are based on the company's 92.07 percent ownership interest in the reserves following the transaction with Swala Oil & Gas (Tanzania) Plc," the report concluded.

World's first wildlife bond to track rhino populations in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

A bond designed to raise funds to grow the population of endangered black rhinoceros in South Africa will be sold by the World Bank this year.

The five-year, R670 million (\$45 million) security will be the world's first wildlife conservation bond and the aim is to sell it in the middle of the year. Returns for investors will be determined by the rate of growth of the populations of the animals in two South African reserves, according to the Rhino Impact Investment Project, an initiative started by the Zoological Society of London.

If successful, the program could be expanded to protect black rhino populations in Kenya as well as other wildlife species such as lions, tigers, gorillas and orangutans, Rhino Impact said in a document detailing the proposal. It provides an opportunity for people interested in conservation to get a return on their support and possibly re-invest

money in new projects rather than the more traditional route where projects are funded by philanthropists or governments.

"The innovative wildlife conservation bond financing mechanism plans to use a World Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development IBRD AAA-rated bond," it said. Credit Suisse Group AG is advising on the project. The World Bank will also sell a \$100 million conservation bond at the same time, without specifying what it will be used for.

Under the terms of the rhino bond, investors will forgo an annual coupon and will instead receive their original capital and an additional payout depending on how much the rhino population has grown over five years. The principal of the bond and the possible payout at maturity will be paid by the Global Environment Facility, which has received donations from more than 40 countries and was formed ahead of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Of the 29 000 rhinos made up of five species globally, about 80% are in South Africa and almost all them are white rhino. Black rhino numbers have dropped to about 5 500 from 65 000 in 1970. The animals are found in four African countries, including South Africa, and can weigh as much as 1.4 tons – much smaller than the white rhino.

Growing populations

Rhinos are under threat from poaching, mostly because of demand in Vietnam and China for the powder from their horns that's believed to cure cancer and improve virility. "When working on innovative structures like this one, we start small and hope to learn from the first one and then get successfully larger in an ambition to ultimately scale what works," Marisa Drew, chief sustainability officer at Credit Suisse, said.

The two sites selected in South Africa are the Addo Elephant National Park and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve. Addo is a 1 640 square kil-



Black rhinos in Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa.

ometer (633 square-mile) reserve in the Eastern Cape province while Great Fish is a 450 square-kilometer park in the same province. Both are state run.

"It couldn't have come at a better time, we have to look after the rhino, its critically endangered," Nick de Goede, park manager at Addo, said in an in-

terview. "The whole idea is to look at the rhino as a pilot and then it can be rolled out for any species." The aim is increase the population by 4% per annum, he said, declining to say how many rhinos are in Addo because that information could be used by poachers.

Three sites in Kenya – Lewa Borana Conservancy, Ol Pejeta

Conservancy and the Tsavo West National Park – may be chosen next for a bond sale, Rhino Impact said. While the rhino security is a first, so-called sustainable bonds have been used to finance a variety of outcomes from marine and fisheries projects in the Seychelles to girls education in rural India.

Kenya exports to Africa markets hit 8-year high

NAIROBI

KENYA'S exports to key markets in Africa rose to an eight-year high in 2020, provisional international trade data show, defying delays at border points caused by efforts to stem the spread of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Data collated by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) indicate value of goods that were sold to other countries on the continent amounted to Sh243.68 billion, a 9.07 percent growth over the previous year. The growth in value of trade between Kenya and Africa to the highest level since 2012 (Sh247.60 billion) was largely driven by demand in smaller exports destinations on the continent.

Nairobi is championing a plan to remove trade barriers among African countries to grow movement of goods, services and labour through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which aims to create a market of at least 1.2 billion.

Kenya, whose sales to Africa accounted for 38 percent of total global exports of Sh641.21 bil-



Frank Matsaert, CEO of Trademark East Africa.

lion, lost to Accra in race to host the AfCFTA secretariat in July 2019, a pointer to its push for intra-Africa trade which remains at a lowly 10 percent of Africa's total trade with the world.

"For the full benefit of the (AfCFTA) trade deal to be realised, it is essential Kenya prioritises key and high potential sectors and markets and backs this with a well-thought action plan and strategic interventions," Frank Matsaert, the CEO of Trademark East Africa, told a meeting to review Kenya's AfCFTA implementation strategy on Monday.

The CBK data, sourced from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), shows exports to countries classified as "others," including South Sudan, rose at the sharpest pace of 23.13 percent to Sh53.62 billion. Only Tanzania and Somalia posted a decline in demand for goods from

Kenya amongst major trading partners on the continent.

Tanzania, which mid last year temporarily quarrelled with Kenya over Covid-19 protocols at the height of the pandemic restrictions and shutdowns in the second quarter of 2020, bought goods worth Sh31.3 billion – a 6.87 percent drop compared with a year earlier. Exports to Somalia, largely miraa (khat), fell a marginal 3.86 percent to Sh11.38 billion.

The two countries are embroiled in a bitter, long-standing diplomatic feud over ownership of a triangle in the Indian Ocean measuring about 100,000 square kilometres and believed to be rich in oil and gas resources. Exports to land-locked Uganda and Rwanda, however, rose 12.97 and 8.72 percent, respectively, to Sh71.97 billion and Sh25.20 billion.

Tigo Pesa subscribers share 110bn/- dividend since 2014

By Smart Money Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of Tigo Pesa mobile money platform have shared a whopping 110bn/- as 'dividend' since 2014 when the profit sharing scheme was introduced.

Tigo's Chief Mobile Financial Services Officer for Tigo Pesa, Angelica Pesha said in Dar es Salaam last week during events to commemorate 10 years of the mobile money platform's operations in the market that currently, a billion transactions are processed annually valued at over 27trn/-.

"It has been an exciting journey of transforming lives of millions of users across Tanzania while playing a significant role in advancing the government's financial inclusion agenda through our comprehensive ecosystem," said Pesha.

She said Tigo Tanzania through its flagship mobile money platform is committed to take its services to the majority of Tanzanians in rural areas as part of the financial inclusion agenda hence shaping a new digital era involving the largely disenfranchised rural folks who can hardly access main stream banking services.

"With the spirit of innovation and listening to our customers, Tigo Pesa managed to bring several firsts in the local market like: interoperability that made it easier to transfer funds across the different networks and banks something that fostered accessibility to financial services; international money transfer with currency conversion and self-care tools to give customers more control of their transactions and wallets, among many others," Pesha noted.

Other products debuted by the Dar es Salaam based telco include: micro-insurance services (BimaMkononi); interest distributions (Tigo Gawio); merchant payment services (LipaKwaSimu); and mobile financial services application (Tigo Pesa App).

Tigo Pesa's business activities have benefited people across all sections of the population from big corporate clients to



Chief mobile financial services officer for Tigo Pesa, Angelica Pesha, speaks at a past event in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

petty traders including 'Mama lishes,' 'Machingas,' and individual agents (Tigo Pesa Wakalas).

One such ordinary Tanzanian who has been using Tigo Pesa services for the past six years, is Zaina Machano, a mother of four who lives at Kiarka in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. Machano said in the past six years, the mobile money platform has transformed her life.

"I remember like it was yesterday, back in 2014, my husband and I started a small shop which allowed me to save some money in what is commonly referred to as a kibubu, but the biggest challenge was that, you can only access the cash at some agreed time," she said noting that the 'fixed' deposit model did not fit her well.

"If you have a pressing matter, and you attempt to break it open, everyone in the community feels you are not a good saver because you lack financial discipline but also its prone to theft as the kibubu can be stolen at any given day," Machano stated.

Because of such bottlenecks, she

opted to find an alternative saving mechanism but ruled out any access to banking services because of her small daily savings.

"If I used banking services, the monthly fees would be a burden to me, my best and the only option was Tigo Pesa, I started saving my meagre income into my Tigo Pesa account, and since then, I have never looked back," she narrated saying last year, the platform increased the amount one can save hence encouraging her to save more and earn more in terms of 'dividend'.

Though there are prospects for change, Machano's story represents the majority of Tanzanian small business owning women based both in rural and semi-urban areas where most families own informal micro businesses.

As Tigo Pesa clocks a decade this year, thousand of petty women business owners and traders are testifying on how the platform has helped them prosper through sharing of profits arising from Tigo Pesa business.

Over the last decade, financial inclusion has made its way into the center stage of development policy worldwide with an estimated over 2.5 billion adults said to not having access to basic formal financial services.

The main reported barriers for this include costs of services, physical distance to access points, and lack of documentation.

In Tanzania, the level of financial inclusion has seen a positive trend. In ensuring broader access and usage of financial services, the country is implementing thesecond National Financial Inclusion Framework (NFIF 2018-2022).

The NFIF 2018-2022 aims at increasing the percent of adult Tanzanians using formal financial services to 75 percent by 2022 from 65 percent in 2017.

Mozambique's Tax Authority gets mobile collection points

MELBOURNE

AS part of National Taxpayer Day, which take place every March 22, Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário on Monday visited the city of Beira for the official launch of the Mozambique Tax Authority's Mobile Collection Points initiative, which aims to mobilise more revenues and encourage the fulfilment of tax obligations.

Mobile collection stations in markets, bus terminals and on public roads are a Tax Authority (AT) strategy aimed at reducing taxpayers' travel costs, which can be a hurdle and a cause of non-compliance. The initiative provides greater convenience for taxpayers complying with their obligations. "The entry into operation of mobile tax collection stations will bring relief to taxpayers required to travel long distances to register and pay taxes," Carlos Agostinho do Rosário said.

The AT expects the initiative to reach around 240,000 taxpayers, the prime minister said, emphasising that it is through taxes that the government obtains the financial resources for the construction of public infrastructure. The mobile stations are adapted vehicles which, in addition to collecting taxes, can also issue unique tax identification numbers (NUIT) and register activities for tax purposes.

Fifteen mobile collection stations started operations on Monday, and the AT is currently mobilising resources for the acquisition of another 150 similar vehicles, for allocation across all districts of the country. According to AT president Amélia Muendane, it is expected that every district will by 2024 have a mobile tax collection station in operation.

"We intend this initiative to increase the efficiency in collecting revenue for the state, covering all potential taxpayers," Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário said. The business sector has commented that the initiative will encourage all Mozambicans to reflect on the strategies of the tax base and the continuous improvement of the tax system.

Mozambique's top five corporate taxpayers of 2020 were also awarded on the occasion, including the company Cervejas de Moçambique (CDM). According to the AT, Mozambique has in the last five years lost tax revenues equivalent to around 10% of gross domestic product - which stood at around €13 billion at the end of 2019.



Mozambican tax authority officials pose with their mobile van in Beira.

Sanlam posts Sh78m loss on higher claims

LONDON

SANLAM Kenya has returned Sh78.2 million loss for the year ended December 2020, the second in nearly two decades, majorly on account of increased claims in an environment of Covid-19 disruptions.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE)-listed insurer posted growth in net written premiums but the bottom line was weighed down by 18.5 per cent rise in net claims and policyholders' benefits to Sh5.731 billion. The higher claims pushed the insurer from the Sh14.4 million net profit it had posted in the previous financial year.

This is the second time since 2003 for the Patrick Tumbo-led insurer to post a loss, extending investors' wait for dividends amid falling share price on the Nairobi bourse during the financial year under review.

The insurer attributed the decline on Covid-19 disruptions on the local economy and foreign exchange rates which impacted negatively on the valuation of the group's net assets. Sanlam booked a Sh360.86 million fair value loss, down from a gain of Sh422 million in the previous year, underlining the impact of the weak foreign exchange rate.

The insurer's subsidiaries - Sanlam life and Sanlam general - however generating Sh499 million and Sh139 million respectively as after-tax profits. This came on the back of gross written premium growing 24 per cent to Sh8.69 billion driven by growth in long-term and short-term insurance business.



Sanlam Kenya CEO Patrick Tumbo



Angelica Pesha speaks at a past event in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

Chinese EV maker Nio halts production on chip shortage

BEIJING

ELECTRIC vehicle maker Nio will temporarily halt production at one of its factories in Anhui province because of a semiconductor shortage, becoming the first high-profile Chinese car manufacturer to succumb to the chip snarl that has silenced the factory lines of auto companies globally.

Nio's plant will cease operations for five working days starting from March 29, the company said in a statement on Friday. "The overall supply constraint of semiconductors has impacted the company's production volume in March," Shanghai-based Nio said. "The company expects to deliver approximately 19,500 vehicles in the first quarter, adjusted from previously released outlook of 20,000 to 20,500 vehicles."

Auto makers the world over have expanded and extended production cuts that first began in late December to cope with a worsening global shortage of semiconductors. The coronavirus pandemic caused a surge in chip orders that are needed for smartphones, TVs and computers as people try to make extended life at home more bearable, leaving less capacity for a stronger-than-expected rebound in vehicle demand. Recent weather-

related disruptions of petrochemical supplies in the southern US and a fire at a chip making plant in Japan have exacerbated the shutdowns.

The company's shares climbed more than 1,100 per cent in 2020, pulled higher by excitement around the prospects for growth in China's EV market, which is the world's biggest. The investor enthusiasm for electric cars comes as Nio, along with Chinese rivals Xpeng and Li Auto consider second listings in Hong Kong, according to people familiar with the matter.

As of January, Nio had delivered 82,866 electric cars in China since its first model came to market in June 2018. Its high-end sport-utility vehicles have proven a hit with wealthy consumers, helping to push Nio's gross margin to 17.2 per cent in the fourth quarter.

But Nio posted a wider-than-expected loss in the quarter, a year after a government cash injection saved the company from bankruptcy. Chief Executive William Li flagged at the release of the company's latest results earlier this month that production capacity may be constrained by the global chip shortage.

While monthly capacity has risen to 10,000 units, production will remain at 7,500 "due to supply-chain limits, including the chip shortage," he said earlier this month. "Though we believe we are able to meet expected demand for the second-quarter, there's indeed a higher risk."

SBL equipping youth with skills to foster economy's movement to full middle income status

By Smart Money Reporter

AS the country gathers pace to become a fully fledged middle income status economy, youths are a critical group of people that fuel such movement by making available their knowledge, skills and labour power.

Having graduated from least developed country to lower middle-income economy as announced by World Bank in 2020, Tanzanians are optimistic that sooner rather than later, the economy will leap into a complete middle-income status.

To this end, the country's five-year National Development Plan unveiled by the government last year, among other things, targets to consolidate its new economic position by empowering state institutions to deliver sustainable economic growth.

But one critical area to safeguard such sustainable growth, is to empower youth who are an important group to power growth. The group needs to acquire knowledge and skills conversant with the needs of a rapidly growing economy centred around industrialization.

While the state is investing heavily in this regard, the private sector also has an important role to play hence Serengeti Breweries Limited's decision to bankroll training of youth coming from struggling families with an agriculture background.

Under its flagship 'Kilimo-Viwanda' Scholarship Programme, SBL is fully financing the training of 70 underprivileged students at four selected tertiary colleges in various parts of the country. The program which started over two year ago, also provides youth with mentorship in agricultural production in addition to an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge of SBL's business operations.

One of the 70 beneficiaries of the SBL scholarship scheme is Winnie Mollé who is one of the 17 students attending training at Bagamoyo based Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture. "It's been a wonderful experience here at school and in the field, SBL's scholarship has completely changed my fortunes in life," said Mollé who comes from a struggling farming family in the district.

She said without the scholarship her life was likely to end in subsistence farming which would have led to getting married and becoming another young mother struggling to feed her children after sometime.

"But now with SBL support, I am becoming an extension officer that will not only advise farmers on modern farming methods but also become a commercial farmer producing commodities which



Winnie Mollé who is one of the 17 beneficiaries at Bagamoyo's Kaole Wazazi College of Agriculture giving her testimony when she visited SBL factory in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo courtesy of SBL

companies like SBL need in large quantities," she bragged. SBL's Managing Director, Mark Ocitti seconded Mollé's observation saying the brewer came up with the scheme to help develop capacity of youths whose skills are needed to take Tanzania's economy to full middle income status.

"Apart from providing financial support, SBL also offers the students with opportunities to learn other life skills and gain practical experience through activities such as brewery visits, field attachments to the farms, mentorship, entrepreneurship training and other forms of exposure," Ocitti said adding that in such a way, the Dar es Salaam based brewer hopes that the beneficiaries stand a better chance of becoming independent and more productive after completing their studies.

Other colleges which work with SBL under the 'Kilimo Viwanda' Scholarship Programme include, Saint Maria Goretti Agricultural Training Institute in Iringa, Igabiro Training Institute of Agriculture in Bukoba and Kilacha Agriculture and Livestock Training Centre in Moshi.

The SBL chief further noted that by working with the public colleges, SBL also helps them impart knowledge and skills to young people to employ themselves as the labour market is saturated to the brim.

"Our programme is also meant to complement government's efforts to improve the agricultural sector as the country heads towards industrialization," he added

while stressing that the 'Kilimo-Viwanda' Scholarship Programme which started in 2019, had also an objective of strengthening the agricultural value chain and transform it from subsistence to commercial status.

The brewer has already an existing value chain scheme involving over 400 local farmers spread across eight regions in the country who get support in terms of agricultural inputs such as free quality seeds, fertilizer, technical advice while being linked to financial institutions to access credit facilities.

SBL then provides a reliable market by purchasing cereals such as maize, sorghum and barley which it uses for beer production. In 2020 alone for instance, SBL sourced 17,000 metric tons of these grains locally, an equivalent of 70 percent of its annual total raw materials requirement. The company is looking to increase sourcing of raw materials from local farmers to 85 percent by 2025.

A global pollution price for ships is back on the agenda - here is how to get it right

BRUSSELS

A WORLDWIDE shipping carbon pricing scheme must reduce pollution fast, finance technologies that reduce more emissions, and support countries most impacted by climate change. It must not include offsetting nor be allowed to weaken national or regional measures.

The global shipping sector is still not paying for the climate damage it is causing. While carbon pricing discussions are picking up speed again at the UN shipping agency IMO, the recently concluded talks on short-term measures don't give much hope of a swift process that would yield effective results. After years of snail-paced negotiations, last November, governments agreed to allow climate pollution from ships to grow for another decade.

Our latest briefing outlines recommendations for a carbon pricing scheme that would help bring the shipping sector in line with global efforts to avoid a climate breakdown.

Why we need to act - now

According to a study by the IMO, ships are already responsible for approximately 3% of global climate pollution. Without imminent action, emissions are set to rise well into the next decade. This worrying trend means that the sector is falling far behind the decarbonisation targets set in the Paris Agreement and the IMO's own climate strategy, as well as the recommendations by the UN climate science body IPCC.

There are different ways through which a carbon price on the global maritime sector could move this industry towards a climate-friendly future. First of all, it would drive behavioural change when it becomes clear that pollution comes with a price. Secondly, it would raise capital that can be invested in innovation, zero-carbon infrastructure and whole ship demonstrations among other areas.

It's important to note though that an effective carbon price must be accompanied by other policies - such as stringent operational efficiency targets - to have the greatest possible impact.

Not everyone should be treated the same

In 1992, the UN climate agency UNFCCC divided the world into 'developed' and 'developing' which determined countries' responsibilities when it comes to taking action on climate. Today, this division is clearly outdated. It doesn't mean that every country should be treated the same, but the "whom to shield" should shift from "all developing countries" to "deserving countries." That, of course, is a very political question.

For example, the least-developed countries that did not cause climate change, but are hit the worst by its impacts need to be treated differently. However, simply exempting countries from a potential global carbon pricing scheme is not a good idea because it could lead to an overall weakening of the policy. Instead, "exemptions" should instead take the shape of rebates: revenues channelled to a specific list of countries.

No to offsetting

There should be no offsetting or free pollution permits allowed under a market-based measure for shipping. Offsetting does not reduce overall emissions - in some cases, it increases them. Carbon pricing needs to reduce emissions in the maritime sector itself, setting it on a path to full decarbonisation, and contribute to the globe as a whole reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement. Offsets and the zero-sum-game logic behind them can only postpone climate action in the sector.

Carbon Market Watch, therefore, proposes a worldwide carbon price, devoid of offsets, exemptions and free allocation, that incentivises fast emission reductions and supports the people and countries most impacted by climate change and global shipping carbon pricing.

If governments at IMO continue to drag their feet about tackling the shipping industry's climate impact, a carbon pricing scheme should at the very least not attempt to sink national or regional climate action. The European Commission and European Parliament back the inclusion of the maritime industry in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The question now is, therefore, how to price pollution from this sector in the EU, not if or when.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Sudan may get external debt forgiven under IMF and World Bank initiative

WASHINGTON

SUDAN could qualify for a World Bank and International Monetary Fund initiative to write off most of its foreign debt, which currently stands at \$49.8 billion. The move is expected to unlock additional resources to drive economic recovery and combat poverty.

The IMF and World Bank executive boards agreed that Sudan is eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. However, the assistance will be contingent on a preliminary assessment, the fund said on Saturday.

"It provides a clear acknowledgement of Sudan's sustained implementation of key economic and financial reforms under its staff-monitored programme with the IMF," said IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva. "Helping Sudan achieve debt relief and unlock access to the needed resources to increase growth and reduce poverty is a key priority for the IMF."

The HIPC initiative was launched in 1996 by the two Washington lenders to assist poor countries saddled with unsustainable debt burdens that could curtail economic growth and efforts to reduce poverty. To date, 36 countries have benefited from the initiative. The US removed Sudan from its list of state

sponsors of terrorism in December after about three decades.

This brightened the country's prospects of receiving much-needed external financing. In December, the US said it would give the World Bank a \$1.15bn bridge loan to help clear the country's arrears with the institution.

Sudan faces several economic challenges nearly two years after dictator Omar Al Bashir was removed from power, with Covid-19 compounding its economic woes. The economy, which contracted by about 8.4 per cent last year, is expected to shrink by another 2.3 per cent this year, according to the IMF.

The debt-to-gross domestic product ratio exceeded 259 per cent last year while inflation rose from 269 per cent in December to 304 per cent in January, according to the state statistics bureau. In February, the country's central bank devalued the currency to "unify" official and black-market exchange rates, a key debt relief condition set by the IMF and foreign donors.

"This is a breakthrough at a time when Sudan needs the world's help to support its development progress," said World Bank president David Malpass. "The steps taken so far, including arrears clearance and exchange-rate unification, will put Sudan on



Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

the path to substantial debt relief, economic revival and inclusive development."

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, a veteran UN economist who has been at the helm since 2019, said this was strong recognition of Sudan's "remarkable progress on economic reforms that pave the way to sustainable poverty reduction and economic growth."

To qualify for debt relief, Sudan established a six-month track record of satisfactory performance under the current IMF staff-monitored programme that began in September. It also removed large fuel subsidies and broadened the tax base in September.

The fund urged authorities to clear their arrears with multilateral creditors or agree on a strategy to do so.

They should also agree on the reforms that Sudan will need to enact. Prompt action on these measures could result in the North African country being granted debt relief by the end of June.

Sudan will qualify for irrevocable debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and for debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative by the World Bank's International Development Association and the African Development Fund. Paris Club creditors are also expected to provide further assistance, the IMF said.

WORLD

Traffic in Suez Canal resumes after stranded ship refloated



Stranded container ship Ever Given, one of the world's largest container ships, is seen after it ran aground, in Suez Canal

Egyptian state television.

He said it could take from two-and-a-half to three days to clear the backlog, and the canal source said more than 100 ships would be able to enter the channel daily. Shipping group Maersk said the knock-on disruptions to global shipping could take weeks or months to unravel.

CHEERS ERUPT, CRUDE PRICES FALL

Video footage posted on social media showed the ship had swung around, opening space in the canal. Other footage, filmed at dawn, included celebratory cheering and horns sounding from the tugs around the ship.

Crude oil prices dipped after the progress in refloating the ship, with Brent crude down around \$0.45 per barrel to \$64.12. Shares of Taiwan-listed Evergreen Marine Corp - the vessel's lessor - rose 1.75%.

About 15% of world shipping traf-

fic transits the Suez Canal, which is an important source of foreign currency revenue for Egypt. The stoppage is costing the canal \$14-\$15 million a day.

Shipping rates for oil product tankers nearly doubled after the ship became stranded, and the blockage has disrupted global supply chains, threatening costly delays for companies already dealing with COVID-19 restrictions.

Some shippers rerouted their cargoes around the Cape of Good Hope, adding up to two weeks to journeys and extra fuel costs.

Maersk said it had redirected 15 vessels around the Cape after calculating that the journey would be equal to the current delay of sailing to Suez and queuing.

"Assessing the current backlog of vessels, it could take 6 days or more for the complete queue to pass," Maersk said.

Agencies

ISMAILIA

SHIPPING traffic through Egypt's Suez Canal has resumed after a giant container ship which had been blocking the busy waterway for almost a week was refloated, the canal authority said.

The 400-metre (430-yard) long Ever Given became jammed diagonally across a southern section of the canal in high winds early last Tuesday, halting traffic on the shortest shipping route between Europe and Asia.

"She's free," an official involved in the salvage operation said.

After dredging and excavation work over the

weekend, rescue workers from the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) and a team from Dutch firm Smit Salvage succeeded in partially refloating her early yesterday using tug boats, two marine and shipping sources said.

Efforts to completely free her continued throughout the day.

At least 369 vessels are waiting to transit the canal, including dozens of container ships, bulk carriers, oil tankers and liquefied natural gas (LNG) or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vessels, SCA Chairman Osama Rabie said.

The SCA has said it can accelerate convoys through the canal once the Ever Given is freed. "We will not waste one second," Rabie told

Les misérables under America's masquerade of human rights defender

WASHINGTON

"ASIANS are not silent anymore!" cried protesters from more than 60 cities across the United States, who have been rallying against racism and violence on Asian Americans ever since the mass shootings in mid-March in Atlanta where eight people, including six Asians, were killed.

The unfolding campaign is the latest reminder of "les misérables" under America's long-time masquerade of a human rights defender, and of Washington's failure to tackle the systematic racial, social and economic inequality in the country.

Hate crimes targeting Asian Americans have seen a surge ever since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to U.S. nonpartisan research and policy organization the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, anti-Asian hate crimes rocketed by nearly 150 percent in 2020 in 16 largest cities in the United States.

Yet Asian American communities are not the only ones having suffered such traumatic injuries -- never forget African American George Floyd's desperate plea of "I can't breathe" before death last year, and the following massive Black Lives Matter protests, which are still ongoing.

For a long time, the U.S. government and media outlets have turned a blind eye to America's own terrible human rights record. Instead, they have thrown themselves into making groundless accusations against the human rights situation in other countries.

The same U.S. media outlets have raised not a single question about America's dire COVID-19 situation during President Joe Biden's first press conference on Thursday, but are busy pointing a finger at other countries' human rights issues citing their self-proclaimed investigative reports.

The same U.S. government has turned its back on the country's ethnic minorities who have been disproportion-



People attend a rally against racism and violence on Asian Americans in Flushing of New York, the United States, on Saturday. (Xinhua)

ately affected by the pandemic due to great and persistent racial differences in wealth and access to health services, but is busy retooling its alliances to smear China over Xinjiang.

In fact, Washington is merely playing the human rights card to make its own geopolitical and economic gains. For example, the ulterior motive of using such phrases as "forced labor," "concentration camps" and "genocide" to describe Xinjiang is to stoke divisions and instability in China,

and to contain the country's development.

Fortunately, more clear-eyed people worldwide have come to realize Washington's hypocrisy and double standards on human rights. During the 46th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United States and its allies tried in vain to boast their "human rights superiority," and were urged by a long list of countries to address their own issues including racism, discrimination, police

violence and hate crimes targeted at ethnic minorities.

Indeed, the international community has every reason to doubt the credibility of the high politics Washington is playing, not least at a time when solidarity and co-operation are badly needed in battling such tough global challenges as the pandemic, economic recession and climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught the whole world a lesson crystal clear: national boundaries matter very little in this age when different countries and peoples are inevitably and inextricably connected to one another, and any attempt to split the world into different camps is doomed to failure.

Only by conducting constructive dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights and discarding politicization and double standards could the international human rights cause be soundly developed.

Xinhua

MAPUTO

DOZENS of people were killed in an attack on the northern Mozambique town of Palma this week, a spokesman for the country's defense and security forces said, including seven people when a convoy of cars was ambushed in an escape attempt.

Hundreds of other people, both local and foreigners, have been rescued from the town, next to gas projects worth US\$60 billion, Omar Saranga told journalists on Sunday.

"The defense and security

Dozens killed in besieged Mozambique gas town

forces registered the loss of seven lives of a group of citizens that left the Amarula hotel in a convoy that was ambushed by the terrorists," Saranga said.

A South African woman, Meryl Knox, told Reuters her son Adrian Nel had died in that ambush. Her husband and another son hid with his body in the bush until the following morning, when they were able to make it to safety in Pemba. A British contractor had also been killed, Britain's Times newspaper said.

The province of Cabo Delgado, where the town is located, has since 2017 been the target of a simmering Islamist insurgency linked to Islamic State.

Hundreds of people fleeing the attack are arriving by boat in the port city of Pemba, a diplomat and an aid worker said.

Saranga said the security forces were seeking to "eliminate some pockets of resistance" after spending the past three days focusing mainly on rescuing local and foreign citizens. It has not specified the

name of the group and there has been no claim of responsibility.

"On March 24, a group of terrorists penetrated... the headquarters of Palma village and unleashed actions that culminated with the assassination of dozens of defenseless people," he said in the most specific information yet on the number of casualties in an area where communications are poor.

Militants struck Palma, a logistics hub for international gas projects worth US\$60 billion,

on Wednesday. The government has yet to re-establish control, the diplomat and a security source directly involved in the operations to secure Palma said.

Calls to officials at the foreign ministry and provincial government went unanswered or did not go through on Sunday.

The boats arriving in Pemba on Sunday carried both locals and foreigners, including employees from the gas projects, the aid official and diplomat said. One boat was carrying around 1,300 people, said the diplomat. Agencies

Thousands take to the streets in Myanmar after bloodiest day since coup

MYANMAR security forces killed three people in the main city of Yangon yesterday, witnesses and media reported, as activists called on ethnic minority forces in the diverse nation to back their campaign against military rule.

After the bloodiest day since the Feb. 1 military coup with 114 deaths on Saturday, thousands of people took to the streets in towns across the country, determined to show their opposition to the relapse into military rule after a decade of democratic reform.

A man was killed and several were wounded when security forces fired in one Yangon neighbourhood, media and a witness said.

"He was shot in the head," witness Thiha Soe told Reuters. "They were shooting at everything on the road, even a Red Cross team. It's still going on as I'm speaking to you."

Police and a junta spokesman did not answer calls seeking comment. Myanmar's Red Cross said in a message it was checking the report.

Two people were killed in another Yangon district when security forces moved in to clear protesters' barricades, a resident said.

"We can confirm two were killed in our ward," said the resident of the South Dagon neighbourhood who asked to be identified as just Win.

"About 15 members of the security forces came and shot all around," said Win, adding that the security forces were using grenades to clear barricades.

Based on a tally by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners advocacy group, 462 civilians have been killed since the coup.

But despite the violence, crowds turned out in the central towns of Bago, Minhla, Khin-U, Pinlebu and Taze, Mawlamyine in the south, Demoso in the east and Hsipaw and Myitkyina in the north, according to media and social media posts.

The General Strike Committee of Nationalities, a main protest group, called in an open letter on Facebook for ethnic minority forces to help those standing up to the "unfair oppression" of the military.

"It is necessary for the ethnic armed organisations to collectively protect the people," the protest group said.

'INTERNAL PROBLEM, PLEASE'

Insurgents from different ethnic minority groups have battled the central government for decades over greater autonomy. Though many groups have agreed to ceasefires, fighting has flared in recent days between the army and forces in both the east and north.

Heavy clashes erupted on the weekend near the Thai border between the army and fighters from Myanmar's oldest ethnic minority force, the Karen National Union (KNU).

About 3,000 villagers fled to Thailand when military jets bombed a KNU area, killing three civilians, after a KNU force overran an army outpost and killed 10 people, an activist group and media said.

Lebanon could sink like Titanic, parliament speaker says

BEIRUT

INFLUENTIAL parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri said yesterday that Lebanon would sink like the Titanic if it could not form a government as he opened a session to approve emergency funds to literally keep the lights on for two more months.

"The whole country is in danger, the whole country is the Titanic," Berri (pictured) said. "It's time we all woke up because in the end, if the ship sinks, there'll be no one left."

Lebanon is in the throes of a financial crisis that poses the biggest threat to its stability since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Without a new government, it cannot implement the reforms required to unlock desperately needed foreign aid.

But prime minister-designate Saad al-Hariri and President Michel Aoun have been at loggerheads for months over the makeup of a new cabinet. Parliament approved a loan of US\$200 million to pay for fuel for Lebanon's electricity company after a warning by the energy ministry that cash had run out for electricity generation beyond the end of the month.

"This should be enough for electricity for around two months or two-and-a-half," Cesar Abi Khalil, a member of parliament and former energy minister, told Reuters.

The Zahrani power plant, one of Lebanon's four main electricity producers, has already had to shut down for lack of fuel.

"Any shutdown in one of these big plants affects power generation negatively," Abi Khalil said. "This means Lebanese make up for it with generators that run on diesel that's 30 percent more expensive than the fuel that's bought by the electricity company." Lebanon already lacks power generation capacity and homes and businesses have to cope with power cuts for several hours a day, forcing many to turn to private generators. Agencies



Number of skilled workers in China exceeds 200 million

THERE are over 200 million skilled workers on the Chinese mainland by far, among whom more than 50 million are highly-skilled workers, according to China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MHRSS).

Skilled workers account for only 26 percent of the total workforce, said Liu Kang, an official with the MHRSS, adding that the country's total number of skilled personnel is still insufficient for China's job market given the huge demand of the country's economic development.

"All of our students graduating this year have received job offers. They will become regular employees as soon as they officially graduate from our school," said Wen Zhigang,

director of the enrollment and employment department of Guangzhou Technician College in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province. The ratio of applications to available jobs for graduates of the college is as high as 1:6, according to Wen.

"Some enterprises make 'reservations' for graduates from our college two years in advance. More than 60 percent of our students are often 'booked' a year before their graduation and some classes are even 'booked up' as soon as students enter the campus", Yang Haiying, director of the enrollment and employment department of Guangzhou Light Industry Technician College in Guangzhou, told People's Daily proudly.

During its 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China saw an increase of more than 10 million highly-skilled personnel. However, the country's highly-skilled workers account for only 28 percent of its total skilled workers. The figure still represents a considerable gap between China and developed countries.

As the country endeavors to improve the quality and efficiency of its development, constantly restructure its economy, and promote industrial transformation and upgrading, its demand for highly-skilled workers will increase with each passing day.

Given the great demand for skilled personnel, it's both imperative and farsighted that the country ramps up efforts to improve the

skills and quality of its workforce and expand the pool of its skilled workers.

At present, China is home to nearly 2,400 vocational schools, which have around 3.6 million students on campuses and provide about one million graduates for society every year on average, Liu said.

Enjoying a steady employment rate of over 97 percent, graduates from vocational schools have been popular among employers including enterprises, Liu said, stressing that vocational schools are the major source of highly-skilled personnel.

Although vocational schools in China have witnessed steady improvement in their capacity for cultivating talents, and registered

16 million new enrollments in 2020, a record high number in nearly nine years, the number of graduates they can offer the country is still far from enough, according to Liu.

In the coming years, China is going to intensify efforts to enhance vocational education, and increase the support of various parties for vocational schools, thus achieving new advances in vocational education and training, Liu noted.

As a country with more than 200 million rural migrant workers, China has also been building up its pool of skilled personnel by improving the skills and quality of its rural migrant workers and turning them into skilled workers. People's Daily

Xiplomacy: Xi's remarks on safeguarding global peace

BEIJING

ON various occasions, Chinese President Xi Jinping has expounded on his insightful vision on safeguarding global peace and China's role in advancing the cause of world peace.

"As long as the idea of peace can strike deep roots and the sail of peace can be hoisted in the hearts and minds of people all over the world, a strong defense will be built to prevent and stop war," Xi said in 2014 at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

Seven years later, Xi's words are still enlightening as the world is facing profound changes unseen in a century and rising uncertainties compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as increasing bullying and unilateral acts.

Chaos, displacement and violence are still afflicting people in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and other countries in turmoil.

"Throughout the centuries, people have yearned for lasting peace, but war has haunted mankind every step

of their progress. As we speak, many children on this planet are subjected to the horror of armed conflicts," Xi noted in the speech.

In January, the United Nations Children's Fund issued a statement, reminding all parties to the conflict in war-torn Syria of their obligations to protect children.

Ten years into the conflict, children continue to be the hardest hit by unprecedented destruction, displacement and death. They have lost their lives, homes and childhoods, said the statement.

Seven years ago, Xi said at the UNESCO headquarters that "we must do our utmost to keep war as far away as possible from mankind so that children across the world can grow up happily under the sunshine of peace."

The stone wall at the entrance to the UNESCO headquarters carries the inscription of one single message in several languages: Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.

Quoting the message, Xi stressed the



Chinese President Xi Jinping

importance of letting the idea of peace strike deep roots in people's hearts and minds.

"People hoped to promote inter-civilization exchanges, equality of educational opportunities and scientific literacy in order to dispel estrangement, prejudice and hatred, and spread the seeds of the idea of peace," Xi said. Guided by Xi's wisdom, China has been making great contributions to regional and global stability, development and prosperity.

In his National Day speech in 2019, Xi said "China will stay on the path of peaceful development." "We will continue to work with people from all countries to push for jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity," said Xi.

Last November, Xi delivered a speech via video at the third Paris Peace Forum, emphasizing the need to adhere to peaceful coexistence, as well as the need to respect other countries' right to development and their independent choice of development paths and models.

"We need to uphold multilateralism, oppose unilateralism, hegemony and power politics, and reject all forms of terrorism and acts of extreme violence," Xi said, stressing joint efforts to safeguard equity, justice, peace and security in the world.

Noting that China follows an independent foreign policy of peace, Xi said it is committed to the path of peaceful development. **Xinhua**

'Lies': Diplomat blasts NATO chief's remark Russia refuses dialogue with alliance

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has dismissed as lies NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's claims Russia is reluctant to hold a dialogue.

"All such statements by Mr. Stoltenberg to the effect Russia refuses to hold a dialogue are not true. They are lies," Zakharova told a news briefing.

"A very specific discussion was proposed, with the aim of not drifting away towards politicized PR affairs, something our Western partners are notorious for.

There was a proposal for holding a concrete discussion, with experts, including military ones, taking part, on a wide range of problems.

Zakharova stressed that all of those proposals were on Mr. Stoltenberg's desk.

"He may fumble through the papers, find them and stop spreading disinformation about Russia's alleged refusal to conduct a dialogue. Russia does refuse to participate in a preplanned PR campaign.

This is certainly not for us. As far as a concrete discussion is concerned - let me stress once again, with military experts taking part - nobody will ever refuse to hold it, because we were the ones who addressed you with this proposal," Zakharova said.

Stoltenberg told a news conference on Wednesday the alliance found it regretful not a single meeting of the Russia-NATO Council had taken place since the summer of 2019, allegedly because Moscow refused to give its consent to calling a RNC meeting.

German liberals cool on 3-way tie-up with Greens and SPD

BERLIN

THE leader of Germany's pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) poured cold water on the prospect of a national alliance with the ecologist Greens and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) on Sunday, saying he saw little common ground.

A slide in support for Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian CSU sister party - together known as the "Union" - ahead of a September's parliamentary election has focused attention on various coalition scenarios.

An opinion poll published on Sunday put support for the conser-



Leader of Germany's Free Democrats (FDP) Christian Lindner

vatives at just 25 percent, with the Greens closing in on 23 percent.

The FDP, which has been emboldened by gains in a regional vote this month, could be a kingmaker.

One scenario that is becoming more likely, at least mathematically, is a Greens-led alliance with the SPD and FDP, dubbed a "traffic light" coalition after the parties' colours.

The three parties already govern together in the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate. But FDP leader Christian Lindner seemed sceptical about whether the alliance would work at federal level.

"Where is the common ground in terms of economic policy?" he told ZDF television. "They want more

debt and higher taxes, we want to get out of debt and tax less."

Although the FDP has criticized the ruling conservative-SPD alliance for its handling of the pandemic and what it says is a violation of civil liberties from lockdown measures, the conservatives are the most natural fit for the FDP's pro-business policies.

Lindner said he saw a lot of common ground with new CDU party chairman Armin Laschet, particularly on questions of economics and financial policy. Laschet and CSU leader Markus Soeder want to settle the issue of who will be the conservatives' candidate for chancellor by May 23.

Agencies

Areas of desertified, sandified land keep shrinking in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

MONGOLIA Autonomous Region, one of the provincial-regions in China that sees the densest distribution of deserts and sandy land, has achieved remarkable progress of desertification control thanks to its enhanced science-based efforts.

In the past five years, the areas of desertified and sandified land in the autonomous region dropped drastically, during which an average of 12 million mu (800,000 hectares) of land was covered by vegetation on an annual basis, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the country's total.

In mid-March, plants are getting green again in an ecological demonstration zone run by Elion Group, a company committed to restoring eco-environment, in Kubuqi Desert, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Engineers from the Elion Kubuqi Desert Research Institute are planning to plant a forest to enhance the carbon sink in the desert, control desertification and protect rivers, with the help of a big data platform of Elion Group.

"We started geological investigation in February, and purchased seedlings that can be grown on the desert, such as Salix cheilophila, Caragana



The Horqin Sandy Land in Nugasitai Township, Horqin Left Wing Rear Banner, Tongliao, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, is covered by plants after sand control. File photo

korshinskii and pinus sylvestris," said Lv Rong, chief engineer of the Elion Kubuqi Desert Research Institute. Tests showed that the survival rate of these seedlings stood at over 85 percent, he introduced.

Apart from the plants that match local ecology, Kubuqi also introduced other drought-enduring plants from other regions on similar latitude to increase plant diversity.

"Quality planting resources are the essence of desert control, so we specifically established a resource base of desert shrubs and rare and endangered plants. So far we

have collected relevant materials of over 1,000 seeds of plants that can survive coldness, drought, as well as salt and alkali, and are developing and exporting some of the quality resources," Lv told the People's Daily.

The innovation of planting techniques improved the efficiency of desert control, too. The institute invented a series of new technologies, Lv said, including one that enables planters to plant a tree in a dozen seconds and saves over 50 percent of water. Such "minimally invasive" planting technique is widely applied, he noted, adding that by maximally reducing

the disturbance to soil and ecology, it results in an over 90 percent survival rate of seedlings.

Today, 53 percent of Kubuqi Desert is covered by vegetation, up from less than 3 percent in 1980s. Besides, the precipitation and biodiversity are also on a sharp rise there, while the number of sandy days has dropped significantly.

"Minimally invasive" planting techniques developed in Kubuqi Desert have been widely applied and introduced to other sandy areas, including Horqin Sandy Land, Mu Us Desert, Ulan Buh Desert and Tengger Desert.

Desertification control is bringing a better life to local farmers and herdsmen, including Bhejarlin Bheyel, a man who finally defeated poverty living in the central part of the Horqin Sandy Land.

In recent years, local authorities not only banned pasturing, land reclaiming and lumbering, but also implemented eco-restoration projects and made forests with economic returns. Today, sand dunes are fixed by sea-buckthorns, and Bhejarlin Bheyel also became a forest ranger. **People's Daily**

Australian PM promotes women in cabinet rejig amid poll slump

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison reshuffled his Cabinet yesterday as he sought to repair his standing following a series of damaging allegations about the mistreatment of female lawmakers and staff.

Morrison (pictured) has struggled to placate public anger amid allegations of sexual abuse, discrimination against women and misconduct in parliament.

In a move designed to regain voter support, Morrison said he would now have a record seven female lawmakers in his Cabinet as he awarded promotions and additional permits to five women.

"I have always wanted to ensure there is a strong voice of women in my government, and there has been. But I think what we are announcing today has gone further than that," Morrison told reporters in Canberra.

"I have very capable women operating in very important portfolios."

While promoting several female lawmakers, Morrison also moved two MPs who have been the subject of allegations. Both, however, remain in his Cabinet.

Linda Reynolds would



leave the role of defense minister and would be replaced by Peter Dutton, previously home affairs minister.

Reynolds has been criticized for her handling of an allegation of rape by a member of her staff two years ago.

Christian Porter will be replaced as attorney general and minister for industrial relations by Michaelia Cash, who was promoted from the role of minister for employment, skills and small business.

Porter is the subject of a historical rape allegation which he denies and is currently on mental health leave.

Police said on March 2 there was insufficient evidence to investigate the alleged rape as the accuser was no longer alive.

A Newspoll conducted for The Australian newspaper on Monday showed Morrison's public support dropped seven points in two weeks to 55 percent, the lowest level in a year.

Morrison's government also trails opposition Labor on a two-party preferred basis, where votes for minor parties are distributed, by 52-48. If the poll result was replicated at an election, Labor would win.

J&J, African Union in deal for up to 400 million COVID-19 shots

JOHNSON & Johnson will supply the African Union (AU) with up to 400 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine beginning in the third quarter, the drugmaker said yesterday, as the continent grapples with vaccinating 60% of its people.

The virus has killed almost 121,000 people across Africa and infected 4.18 million.

J&J unit Janssen Pharmaceutica NV has entered into a deal with the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) to deliver 220 million doses of its single-dose shot.

AVAT could order an additional 180 million doses through 2022. (re:fini.tv/3cyeFIB)

The deal follows months of negotiations with the AU, which announced a provisional agreement

in January to buy 270 million doses of vaccines from J&J, AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech.

The status of the talks with the other two companies is not known.

J&J's vaccine came to the market much later than those of AstraZeneca and Pfizer but has recently gained widespread acceptance globally, especially in Africa.

"J&J requires just a single dose, it makes it a very good programmatically to rollout," said John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

He said the price of the J&J's dose is likely to be \$10.

In February, South Africa put use of AstraZeneca's shot on hold after data showed it gave minimal protection against mild-to-moderate infection caused by the country's dominant variant.

Several countries in Europe have suspended using AstraZeneca's vaccine as they investigate a small number of reports of rare blood clotting in people who got the vaccine. Global regulators have said the shot is safe and effective.

Pfizer's shot has more complex storage and trans-

portation needs than other vaccines, making it more challenging to deploy in warmer climates or in poorer countries.

AVAT said on Monday that many of the AU's 55 member states had shown a strong preference for J&J.

Africa is also grappling with a more-infectious variant identified in South Africa amid concerns about delays of deliveries of AstraZeneca shots via the COVAX scheme which is aimed at supplying poorer countries.

The continent is far behind nations, including Israel, the United States

and Britain in its vaccination rollout. Almost half of Britons have received their first dose, while in contrast only 0.4% of South Africa's population has received one dose.

"We need to immunise at least 60% of our population in order to get rid of the virus from our continent. The J&J agreement enables us to move towards achieving this target," Nkengasong said.

Most of the supplies will be produced by Aspen Pharma in South Africa, AVAT said in a statement.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Monday that

South Africa will get 30 million vaccines from Aspen's facility while a total roughly 250 million will be distributed across the continent from the facility.

Aspen has contracted with J&J to manufacture 300 million doses.

As part of the AU vaccine plan, the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has approved up to \$2 billion in finance for countries to buy shots via the AU.

Europe approved J&J's single dose vaccine earlier this month. The United States, Canada and Bahrain have also approved the

shot.

Late last year, J&J said it and the GAVI vaccine alliance expected to enter into a deal that would provide up to 500 million doses of the vaccine to COVAX through 2022.



Several countries in Europe have suspended using AstraZeneca's vaccine as they investigate a small number of reports of rare blood clotting in people

SPORT



National beach soccer team's players feature in training session in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Burundi national team, which will take place in the city on March 30 and April 3.

Coach Pawasa focuses on free kicks as national beach soccer squad takes aim at Burundi

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NATIONAL beach soccer side's head coach, Boniface Pawasa, says he has put much emphasis on execution of set pieces so that his players could be clinical on the aspect.

Pawasa is tasked with leading the squad in Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers against the Burundi's national beach soccer team on March 30 and April 3 in Dar es Salaam.

The tactician stated that the normal preparations are 100 percent complete and the only thing left is completing final preparations by changing the tactics, aiming at winning.

He disclosed: "Preparations are in place, the only thing left is putting in place the little things that have been missing, especially in the shooting of dead balls as well as finalizing strategic plans that will give us results."

"Our belief is to make it a point that we are getting positive results especially considering that we are at home, we do not need to fear them. Our goal is to make sure they win by winning our matches," he said.

Pawasa's squad consists of a handful of experienced players with some playing in Vodacom Premier League in the past.

They include the likes of defender, Said Mourad, who brings a mix taste and competition as they head to ing to Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers.

However, Pawasa previously noted as Mourad is still a newcomer to beach soccer, there are a few tactics they are adding to him and he believes if the player gets used to them, he will be a dependable player in the team.

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

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

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

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

The tournament was due to take place in Jinja, Uganda between 23 and 29 November 2020.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rising water levels on the shores of Lake Victoria affecting the host beach, Uganda withdrew from hosting.

The 2018 edition's winners and current defending champions, Senegal, were subsequently chosen as the new hosts, with the tournament rescheduled to take place from 23 to 29 May 2021.

The event also acts as the qualification route for African teams to the 2021 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Russia, winners and runners-up qualify for the showpiece.

Tabora resident lifts SportPesa Jackpot award

By Guardian Reporter

TABORA resident, AbdulAziz Ibrahim, has been announced as the latest SportPesa Jackpot winner and he is set to receive prize of 521,471,360/- following his victory.

Sports betting firm, SportPesa, organizes the betting game, which targets to change the country's people's lives.

The winner, aged 24, disclosed: "I truly thank God I have emerged as winner, given I did not expect I will come out victorious. I was simply trying my luck, the same way other people did."

"I placed right bet on all 13 soccer matches and after the results I received a call from SportPesa issuing me with the details," the Tabora resident, an employee at a pharmacy in the region, noted.

SportPesa's Director of Administration and Compliance, Abbas Tarimba, noted: "We hope to present the winner to you anytime after we had issued the announcement, we will do so when we complete observing the 21 days of national

mourning."

He said: "We will present the cash to Ibrahim and listen to his narration on how he ultimately emerged as winner."

SportPesa's Public Relations and Communications' Manager, Sabrina Msuya, disclosed: "After the mourning, we expect to present Ibrahim with a view to seeing to it our customers and football enthusiasts listen to the winner, know how he took part in the game and emerged as winner."

She added: "The Jackpot's monetary prize has improved a lot, reaching 208,241,480/-, the game will be conducted this week and every person who will place right bet on 13 matches will emerge as winner."

She disclosed: "Those who will place right bets on 10-12 matches will be presented with the week's bonus."

"If there will be no Jackpot winner, the monetary prize will be increased up to the time we get the winner."

SPORTS

There should be more domestic tennis tournaments reserved only for senior players



Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) tennis player, Emmanuel Mallya, battles it out in a recent International Tennis Federation (ITF) East Africa showpiece in Nairobi.

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

FOR many years now, I have observed with mingled feelings of hope and increasing dread that there has been a seemingly limitless profusion of domestic tennis tournaments geared towards boosting youth tennis in our homeland.

Indeed, since the mid-2000s, there has been an encouraging mushrooming of various domestic tennis championships which are designed to boost, and promote the ever-buzzing domestic youth tennis landscape.

I hasten to add that there is nothing wrong at all about relentlessly straining every sinew to further the noble cause of laying a sturdy foundation for the advancement of domestic youth tennis on our home sports patch.

That notwithstanding, there is still a missing giant piece to the jigsaw puzzle which has remained disappointingly elusive during this spell when youth tennis on our sports scene has doubtlessly flowered and even flourished.

And, in my modestly-held opinion, the missing giant piece to this puzzle has been the gross failure to zero-in on our senior tennis scene, which I feel has been sadly neglected.

Indeed, the bald-faced truth of this weighty matter is that ever since the mid-2000s to this day, domestic senior tennis has been treated as something of an afterthought, which is truly mind-boggling to comprehend.

Let me state the case for this powerfully-worded criticism. Clearly,

in the interests of fairness, it would be unjust of me to argue that senior tennis in our homeland has been forgotten altogether, which simply isn't true.

However, despite that, what is true is that there has been an alarmingly little number of domestic tournaments which are strictly reserved for only our domestic senior tennis players for countless years now.

Indeed, for ages, we have heard lamentations aplenty about the embarrassing fact that we have precious few domestic senior tennis gems who can favorably compete with their counterparts hailing from fellow East African Community (EAC) member-states. In fact, this complaint has been less of a lamentation and more of a frustrating singsong, which has oft been expressed for many a year.

This then raises a pertinent query: if we are really dead serious about grooming starlets into bedazzling senior tennis stars, then what remedial measures can we take to as rapidly as possible change this deeply dissatisfying state of affairs?

It is to be hoped then that the sobering concerns which I have highlighted in this commentary will kick-start a crucially-needed debate about the future of domestic tennis in our homeland.

Moving on, in a recent piece on this very humble corner of The Guardian's sports pages, I excoriated our football fraternity and filmmakers to boot for the disappointingly small number of sports documentaries about our historic sporting feats and triumphs as a country chock-full of passionate and ardent sports devotees.

Having said all that though, it was a tad astonishing for me to realize that the continent at large deserves as well to be seriously taken to task for the infuriatingly small number of sports documentaries which have been produced for numberless years now.

Indeed, there can be no excusing Africa's culpability for this largely neglected issue.

And, what makes this neglect infinitely more exasperating to accept is that there is an

abundance of glorious continental sporting accomplishments which are just crying out for expertly done storytelling via the medium of documentary filmmaking.

Off the top of my head, I can think of a few examples already such as Nigeria becoming the very first African country in history to triumphantly claim a gold medal in soccer at those momentous 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and also the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon's herculean achievement in advancing as far as the quarterfinals of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, which was an epic and truly historic feat which had never before been accomplished by an African team at the World Cup finals.

Thus, to all budding filmmakers on the continent, I would like to call upon you all to home-in on any inspirational African sporting achievement and get raring to begin uttering those tell-tale words that are synonymous with all sorts of film storytelling: "Lights, camera and action".

Yanga to hire new goalkeepers' coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THERE are high speculations that Kenyan coach Razak Siwa has agreed to head Tanzanian side Yanga's goalkeeping department and he is already in Dar es Salaam to formalise the deal.

The 27-time Premier League champions are aiming at stabilizing their technical bench to end the season on a high.

The Jangwani Street team have been without goalkeepers' coach since the beginning of the month after the team opted to part ways with the entire technical bench headed by Burundian coach Cedric Kaze.

The 27-time champions have now opted to appoint the former Burundi trainer to sharpen their custodians.

"He is in Dar es Salaam and everything has been agreed on and a formal announcement will be made soon," an anonymous source close to Siwa noted.

"Yanga wanted someone with experience and the one that has worked for a top team, and this is the reason they went for him. He has also worked for the club in the past, which made it easier for the management to go for him," he said.

At the yellow and green outfit, Siwa will be reunited with Kenyan goalie, Farouk Shikhalo, who worked with the former while he was with Football Kenya Federation Premier League side, Bandari.

The tactician will be replacing Burundian Vladimir Niyonkuru.

Siwa had left Bandari in January alongside Nasoro Mwakoba after their contracts had expired.

"We announce that the club has



Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

parted company with assistant coach [Nasoro] Mwakoba and goalkeepers' trainer [Razak] Siwa after the expiry of their contracts," Bandari announced in a statement obtained by The Guardian back in January.

The statement noted: "The management and board of trustees would like to thank the two amazing coaches for their great service to the club. Siwa served for a period of six years while Nasoro was with us for nine years, both contributing to the club's success."

"We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. The club will,

therefore, provide direction concerning its technical bench alongside unveiling a new head coach early next week."

They joined coach Ken Odhiambo out of the Mombasa-based team. Odhiambo replaced John Baraza at Sofapaka FC, a team he helped to win the then Kenyan Premier League 's silverware back in 2009.

At Yanga, Siwa is expected to work with French Sebastien Migne who has been tipped to take over from Kaze.

The side hopes to win the Mainland Tanzania Premier League's to honour this season after losing out on it in three seasons.

South Africa fail to qualify for Cup of Nations finals as Sudan progress

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa suffered a major embarrassment on Sunday as a 2-0 defeat by Sudan in Khartoum saw the hosts clinch a place at the Africa Cup of Nations finals at the visitors' expense with first half goals from Saifeldin Maki and Mohamed Abdel Rahman.

Sudan qualified for only the third time in 23 attempts, finishing second in Group C behind Ghana, who won 3-1 at home to Sao Tome e Principe at the same time.

It was a major setback for South Africa, who needed at least draw but were defensively undone by their determined hosts.

Maki scored from a fifth minute set piece while Rahman's run down the left ended with an angled shot into the back of the net in the 31st minute.

Sudan are the 18th team to book a place at next January's finals in Cameroon, with the last six berths to be decided in the last round of qualifiers on Monday and Tuesday.

Ghana topped the group with 13 points after they beat the island minnows.

Nicholas Opoku scored first for Ghana followed, on the half hour,

by Jordan Ayew. Baba Rahman made it 3-0 on the hour mark but Sao Tome pulled one back late through Jokceleny Carvalho, commonly known as Iniesta.

Earlier on Sunday, Tunisia finished their Group J campaign unbeaten, registering a fifth win in six games as they edged Equatorial Guinea 2-1 at home.

But after Seifeddine Jaziri had given them a fourth minute lead, Tunisia were guilty of poor finishing and only extended their advantage when Carlos Akapo turned the ball into his own net in the 52nd minute.

Tunisia substitute Firas Chaouat returned the favour two minutes from time to give the visitors a consolation goal.

Tanzania, who finished third in the group, condemned Libya to bottom place as Simon Msuva's goal just before halftime separated the two sides in their clash in Dar-es-Salaam.

Namibia, who were already eliminated, came from behind to beat already-qualified Guinea 2-1 in Windhoek with two headed goals from captain Peter Shalulle. Mamadou Kane had given Guinea an 18th minute lead in the Group A game.

(Agencies)

US men lose to Honduras, miss 3rd straight Olympic soccer

GUADALAJARA, Mexico

AMERICAN players fell to the field at the final whistle. Another missed Olympics soccer tournament for the U.S. men.

Juan Carlos Obregón scored in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time, goalkeeper David Ochoa committed a blunder that gifted Luis Palma a goal two minutes into the second half and Honduras beat the United States 2-1 on Sunday in an Olympic qualification game at Guadalajara, Mexico.

U.S. captain Jackson Yueill pulled a goal back with a curling 23-yard shot in the 52nd minute, but the Americans mis-fired on several good chances to equalize.

"Obviously, we're devastated, absolutely devastated," U.S. coach Jason Kreis said. "In our locker room, the guys are like it's a tragedy – a tragedy."

U.S. men had trouble creating chances in the first half, and the Americans missed their third straight Olympics.

"They were very well man-oriented to stop players, which didn't give us a lot of time to kind of break them down," Yueill said.

The American Olympic skid is part of a trend that includes the senior national team missing the 2018 World Cup.

"We lose an opportunity to play in an international tournament with more pressure, where these players have to be in these environments and continue to improve with that pressure," Kreis said.

Olympic men's soccer is limited to players both Jan. 1, 1997, and later, and clubs don't have to release players.

In contrast, the women's tournament is open to senior national teams. The U.S. has won three of the last four soccer gold medals and is favored to win again this summer.

Still, there were chances. Jonathan Lewis' 63rd-minute header was headed off the goal line by Wesley DeGas, and Yueill's free kick in the 69th was batted away by goalkeeper Alex Barrios. Lewis had an open 4-yard shot off Tanner Tessman's pass in the 83rd minute but allowed the ball to bounce off a boot. Johnny Cardoso mis-hit an open header in second-half stoppage time.

"I don't know that if I've ever seen a game where we've had players mis-control the ball so much by going under people's feet, passing out of bounds," Kreis said. "These are things that are just really – you just really kind of scratch your head, you think of what's going on here? But I also have been around the game enough in our country at a pro level to tell you this is what you see in preseasons and at the beginning of MLS seasons it's typical."

Kreis had seen similar from his team during the group stage.

AP

Europe top teams win WCup qualifiers as Swiss move goalposts

By STEVE DOUGLAS

WORLD Cup qualifying in Europe took a quirky turn when the goalposts were removed before a match between Switzerland and Lithuania because they were deemed the incorrect size.

It was one of the few things that didn't go to script on Sunday.

All of the continent's heavy-weight countries secured victories, though Spain left it late – the second minute of stoppage time, to be precise – to see off Georgia 2-1 after falling behind.

Like Spain, France started its qualification campaign with an unexpected draw at home but also got back on track in its second game, easing to a 2-0 win at Kazakhstan.

Italy stretched its unbeaten streak to 24 games with a 2-0 win in Bulgaria, and England also moved onto a maximum six points in group play with a 2-0 victory at Albania. Germany made it two straight wins to open qualifying, too, by beating Romania 1-0 away.

Meanwhile, Denmark became the latest European team to use the World Cup qualifiers to direct attention to workers' rights in 2022 host Qatar. Its players wore red T-shirts with the slogan "Football supports change" for the team photo before kickoff against Moldova, which Denmark went on to beat 8-0.

The Danish soccer federation said the shirts will be signed and auctioned to raise money for projects with Amnesty International that help migrant workers in Qatar.

OLMO RESCUES SPAIN

Dani Olmo came off the bench to snatch a come-from-behind win for Spain, his long-range shot



Georgia's goalkeeper Giorgi Loria, back to a camera, misses the ball during the World Cup 2022 group B qualifying soccer match between Georgia and Spain at Boris Paichadze Dinamo Arena in Tbilisi, Georgia, Sunday, March 28, 2021. (AP Photo)

getting palmed into the top corner of the net by flailing Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Loria.

Ferran Torres' fifth goal in six starts gave Spain, the 2010 world champion, the equalizer in the 55th after Georgia went ahead a minute before halftime.

Sweden looks like being Spain's biggest challenger in Group B for the one automatic qualifying place after sealing a second straight win by beating Kosovo 3-0.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, freshly out of international retirement, had a hand in two of the goals having also claimed an assist on his first game back, the 1-0 win over Georgia on Thursday.

Spain started out by drawing 1-1 with Greece.

PENALTY MISS

A missed penalty by Kylian Mbappe had little effect for France in its comfortable win in Kazakhstan.

The world champions were already two goals ahead by then, through Ousmane Dembele – one of a raft of changes by Didier Des-

champs – and an own-goal by Sergej Malyy in the first half.

Mbappe came on after Anthony Martial appeared to hurt his knee getting his studs caught in the synthetic turf at Astana Stadium, and the Paris Saint-Germain star won the penalty himself – only to see his shot tipped around the post.

Ukraine and Finland drew 1-1 and have two points each to sit behind France in Group D.

KANE VS. LEWANDOWSKI

England plays Poland in a key Group I qualifier at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday and both of their world-class strikers look in good shape for it.

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski scored for a 10th straight game for club and country, netting a double in Poland's 3-0 win over Andorra. The Poles opened by drawing with Hungary.

Harry Kane scored one goal and set up another for Mason Mount in England's 2-0 win in Albania, which built on the 5-0 thrashing of San Marino on Thursday.

England leads the group with six

points. Hungary is level with Poland on four points after beating San Marino 3-0.

ITALY FLYING

Italy's back-to-back wins to open World Cup qualifying come after a perfect 10 wins in qualifying for Euro 2020.

Goals from Andrea Belotti, from the penalty spot, and Manuel Locatelli, the first for his country, followed up a victory over Northern Ireland on Thursday.

Switzerland is only behind Italy on goal difference after its 1-0 win over Lithuania, secured by an early goal from Liverpool winger Xherdan Shaqiri. The start of the game was delayed by 10 minutes because one of the goals was not regulation size and had to be changed.

GERMANY TOP

Germany tops Group J on goal difference after Serge Gnabry finished off a team move in the 16th minute that involved Chelsea players Antonio Rüdiger and Kai Havertz.

The Germans are rebuilding after a 6-0 Nations League loss to Spain in November.

Armenia is also on six points after beating Iceland 2-0, while North Macedonia cruised to a 5-0 win over Liechtenstein for its first points of qualifying.

RECORD WIN

Denmark earned its biggest win in a World Cup or European Championship qualifier.

Kasper Dolberg and Mikkel Damsgaard both scored twice in Herning for the Danes, who were 5-0 up after 39 minutes.

Denmark is the only team in Group F with six points. Austria is two back after coming from behind to beat the Faroe Islands 3-1, while Israel and Scotland drew 1-1.

AP

Why Bale and his mega-contract will return to haunt Real Madrid

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

GARETH Bale's announcement on Tuesday that he plans to return to Real Madrid when his loan stint expires, can be read two ways, like most of his career. (His agent, Jonathan Barnett, told ESPN that Bale's comments to the media were "taken completely out of context." Out of context? You be the judge. Either way, his loan expires at the end of the season and decisions will have to be made.)

On a granular, practical level, it was a tactical, logical thing for him to say – a natural next step. On a broader, metaphysical level, it fits the past 15 years of his career: ghosting, brilliant, flimsy, fleeting, the eeriness of the reluctant superstar with greatness thrust upon him.

In fact, this animation of his big European moment, the fabled Champions League hat trick against defending Treble winners Inter Milan in 2011, is a convenient metaphor. It's mesmerizing and intoxicating, right down to the spooky music, but also ethereal and leaving you wanting more. And when you check the score, you realize that despite the brilliance of the hat trick, two goals came in garbage time and Spurs ended up losing that game, 4-3.

"The main reason I came to Spurs this year was that I wanted to play football first and foremost, but going into Euro 2020 I wanted to be match-fit," Bale said Tuesday. "The original plan was only to do a season at Spurs and then after the Euros, I still have a year left at Real Madrid. My plan is obviously to go back, and that's as far as I've planned."

There's a way to read this in purely tactical terms. By going, public, Bale is giving himself leverage over Real Madrid and should Tottenham want to keep him – that part remains to be seen and will depend on many things – they get a bit of leverage too.

Bale will be entering the final season of his multiyear deal with Real Madrid, a contract that costs the club around €60 million a season, making him one of the five highest-paid players in the world. If the best abil-



Gareth Bale

ity is availability (as the cliché goes), that deal soon turned into a millstone around the club's neck, with Bale starting just 60 of Real Madrid's next 142 league games.

Part of it was injuries, an old bugaboo – since turning 25, he has started more than 21 league games in a campaign just once – and part of it was a deteriorating relationship with Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane and the Madrid media. It certainly wasn't all bad: in 2017-18, he scored 21 goals in all competitions, including two coming off the bench in the Champions League final victory over Liverpool. But Real Madrid had been trying to (unsuccessfully) shift him since the spring of 2019 due to a combination of his exorbitant salary, his age, his injuries and a refusal to restructure his contract.

Eventually, in the summer of 2020, they were able to persuade him to return to Spurs on loan, with

his old club covering an undisclosed portion of his salary – between a third and half, depending who you talk to.

It's pretty evident Real Madrid do not want him back. They'd be happy to let him walk for free when his contract expires or even, as they've been doing, subsidize his salary to send him on loan elsewhere until his contract expires. This was true before the pandemic and it's all the more true now, with the club registering massive shortfalls in revenue and Bale becoming a free agent in the summer of 2022.

By stating that he plans to return, he's sending an obvious message: "I'm going to come back as is my right, and you'll have to make sure I get paid down to my last cent, whether it's you writing the cheque or somebody else."

Real Madrid's best-case scenario involved Bale making a triumphant return to Spurs, having a monster season and agreeing to stick around, signing a multiyear deal in north London. He would have had to take a pay cut on a per-season basis, but he would have made up for it in terms of the length of his deal. That's not out of the question, but it's unlikely, hence his public pronouncement.

Even if Tottenham are paying him just a third of his Madrid package, he'd still be the second-highest earner at the club. And yet he's started just six league games, coming off the bench in another six and scoring

five goals. He has also been a regular in the Europa League, but only made the subs' bench in their past three outings, including the elimination at the hands of Dinamo Zagreb earlier this month. Perhaps the most telling number concerning his durability is that he has played 90 minutes at the club level just once in the past 14 months. For what Spurs are paying, you expect a greater return.

Bale has shown glimpses that he still has it in recent games against Burnley and Crystal Palace. But he'd still be a huge commitment for Spurs. And with media speculation regarding his relationship with Jose Mourinho, the club unsure of whether they'll have Champions League football (and Champions League revenues) next season and the impact of the global pandemic, it's not a commitment they can make now.

But, heck, we've got two months of the season plus the Euros to go. Finish on a high, prove your durability, do it again on the big stage, and who knows? Maybe Spurs will want to keep him, maybe somebody else will roll the dice on him and maybe – if he's serious about threatening to return to the Bernabeu – Madrid will cut somebody a sweetheart deal to take him away.

Some will see Tuesday's remarks as self-serving, but Bale's job is to do what he thinks is best for Bale. There's nothing wrong with that. To the neutral, however, you're left with a sense of melancholy.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Europe top teams win WCup
qualifiers as Swiss move goalposts

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Namungo FC

ABU Super Welterweight title fight pushed back

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title bout between Tanzanian boxer Hassan Mwakinyo and Zimbabwean Brendon Denes will now take place at the Next Door Arena in Dar es Salaam on May 28.

The bout was earlier scheduled for March 26 at the same venue, but, due to the 21 days mourning period for the late Tanzanian President, John Magufuli, the organizers postponed it to the new date.

Jackson Group Sports' Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kelvin Twissa said all boxers set to feature in the day's fights have been informed about the changes due to the current situation in the country.

He said: "As we continue to come to terms with the current reality, it is with great consideration that we have decided to move the date of the 'Rumble in Dar Second Edition' from March 26 to May 28."

"This is a difficult time for nation and the people of Tanzania, it is only right that we take time to mourn the passing of our late president," Twissa noted.

Twissa said their commitment to the "Rumble In Dar Second Edition" remains unchanged along with their partners, Global Boxing Stars and Epic Sports and Entertainment.

He said they are looking forward to bringing professional, world class boxing in the country as they have done for the past two events held last year and January this year.

"We thank all our partners, namely KCB Bank, Tanzania Tourist Board, Onomo Hotel, M-Bet and local broadcast partners, Plus Networks Limited and Multi-Choice Tanzania's DStv for their commitment to see to it 'Rumble in Dar Second Edition' is a true game changer for boxing fans, as well as international and local boxers, who will be fighting that night," he said.

He explained that the event targets to bring together different industries and ensure combined efforts in promoting boxing in Tanzania.

As per new date, the arrival of the foreign boxers and officials has been revised accordingly and all professional boxing stakeholders would be informed.

The bout has been organised to enable Mwakinyo to be listed in the World Boxing Council (WBC) records.

All boxers that will take part in the bouts are now continuing with training ahead of the bouts, for which general seats are on sale for 50,000/- each, and VIP seats cost 200,000/- each. The tickets are available through Nilipe and Ontapp services.

According to Twissa, they expect to have entertaining fights- taking into account the status of each of the boxers.

The day will further have undercards, whereby boxer Jongo Jongo will fight for the ABU Cruiserweight belt against Olanrewaju Durodora from Nigeria, while Ibrahim Class will take on Evans Takunda Husayihwevu from Zimbabwe.

Mwakinyo had, a few days back, noted that his preparations gear towards seeing to it he excels in the fight against Denes.

CAF dismisses Al Merreikh's COVID-19 claims against Simba SC



Simba SC's players jubilate shortly after they had notched a goal against Al Merreikh of Sudan in this season's CAF Champions League's group stage tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam in March. Simba SC won 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has dismissed a case launched by Sudan club, Al Merreikh, against Tanzania's Simba SC regarding coronavirus tests that were done before a Champions League's Group A encounter between the two clubs, which took place in Dar es Salaam in March.

Sudan's giants protested when eight of their first team players returned positive tests ahead of the tie in the city.

Al Merreikh had made a complaint to CAF regarding the outcome where eight of their players had tested positive before the March 16 encounter in Dar es Salaam.

Simba went ahead to win the game 3-0 as their Group A rivals headed to CAF after results indicated Abdelrahman Isaac, Bakhit Khamis, Ahmed Abdelmoneim, Tajeddin Yaquob, Ramadan Ajab, Tony Edjomariogwe, Bakri Al Madina, and Saif Ad Damazin were COVID-19 positive.

"We acknowledge the complaint of the Al Merreikh Club dated March 21 2021 as well as the correspondences of your lawyer Ahmed Abbas El Mag

and his powers of attorney," a statement by CAF as seen by The Guardian read.

The CAF noted: "We would like to hereby confirm that Al Merreikh's complaint regarding match number 101 of the CAF Champions League is well-received however, as per the current rules and procedures the FAQs for the return of football states that, 'The mandatory PCR test should be conducted no earlier than 48 hours before the match participants access the stadium'."

"The tests conducted before the match is the official that is taken into consideration for the eligibility of the players. As you are aware, the results of the tests can vary from one day to the other."

"Furthermore, several players from Simba tested positive as well as some CAF officials."

"We would like to hereby inform you that CAF has made some investigations regarding the testing procedures in Tanzania, and the investigations revealed that the laboratory does not issue or print any certification for positive cases."

"Certification is only provided for the negative COVID-19 cases. The positives ones are communicated through the established channels for various individuals and organizations."

"Thereby, we would like to confirm that the COVID-19 tests that were communicated to CAF are the ones to be taken into consideration for the tie in the frame of CAF Champions League."

Simba's 3-0 victory over Al Merreikh helped the former keep top spot in a group that also consists of Egypt's Al Ahly and AS Vita Club of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Msimbazi Street club will face AS Vita Club, a squad the former beat 1-0 at their own turf, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on April 3.

Simba will thereafter confront second-placed Al Ahly in Egypt six days later.

With just a win and three losses, AS Vita are placed third while Al Merreikh are at the bottom with a draw and three losses.

Namungo FC hopes to progress to CAF Confederation Cup's last eight

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NAMUNGO FC players are in top preparations heading to this season's CAF Confederation Cup's group stage fixture against Nkana FC of Zambia which is expected to be played in Dar es Salaam on April 4.

The Tanzanian outfit's skipper Hamis Fakhi said they are still preparing to make sure they do well in the continental tournament's clash.

Speaking to The Guardian, Fakhi said the game is important for them to win and restore hope to their fans.

"We were hurt by losing the previous game against Egypt's Pyramids FC, we don't want to lose another game at home, we are ready and our goal is to win the upcoming game against Nkana," he said.

Fakhi said with good preparation they zeroed in on under their coaches, they will fight to very best of their ability and effort to achieve the goal they set for themselves.

Namungo FC's head coach, Hemed Suleiman, further pointed out he believes his squad will do well and surprise people in the outfit's next four fixtures in the competition.

Namungo FC experienced a poor start to the group stage games, losing their first two clashes against Raja Casablanca of Morocco and Egypt's Pyramids FC in Group D.

Raja Casablanca handed Namungo FC 1-0 loss in the opening tie in Morocco.

The Tanzanian side went on to concede a 2-0 loss to Pyramids FC in the second fixture, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

The Lindi-based outfit is thus placed third in the tournament's group with no point.

Nkana, placed at the bottom of Group D, equally have no point, having played two fixtures.

The bottom two outfits will lock horns at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 2.

Commenting on their plans, Suleiman said: "We are continuing with rehabilitation practice, addressing our weaknesses, and we are well prepared for our next game against Nkana which will be played early in April."

He noted: "For us we believe that although we are not in a good position in the standing, there are high hopes of being able to do well in our remaining four games and get amazing results for people who think we have no chance to move forward."

The game can be tough as both teams are on the basement of the Group D's table with no point after losing two games.

EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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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

Flexibles by David Chikoko

