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TGNP marks Women's Day

COVID-19 e-reporting starts

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TRAVELLERS entering or leaving Zanzibar will from today have their Covid-19 tests taken from major hotels and results posted to relevant authorities electronically.

This follows the introduction of Covid-19 electronic laboratory reporting by the Zanzibar Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

The Permanent Secretary, Dr Omar Dadi Shajak, told reporters yesterday that the ministry has established testing centres at major hotels to enhance efficiency.

The decision also seeks to clamp down on fake Covid-19 test certificates and removing inconveniences and congestion of travellers at Mazizini and Lumumba testing centres in Unguja and one centre in Pemba, he stated.

Dr Shajak said the fee for Covid-19 testing has been increased to \$80 for all

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'Mercury importers, users must all register'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

IMPORTERS and regular users of mercury-based chemicals must register with the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority forthwith.

Umyy Mwalimu, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) issued this directive in an address to small-scale miners at Nholi area in Bahi district, Dodoma region at the weekend.

She said that the government has not banned the importation and use of the chemical but it needs to know those involved in its importation and use so as to set out the use of alternative chemicals. About 80 per cent of mercury imported into the country is used in mineral refining activities, where the government is committed to reducing the use of mercury by about 30 per cent by 2025, she stated.

"I would like to emphasize that mercury is not illegal, so those who import or distribute it should not hide as they will not be arrested. My office and the Ministry of Mining will work together to ensure that we have access to alternative technology to process gold," she stated.

Mercury is used more by artisanal gold miners, with about 25 to 35 percent of the miners being affected by the chemicals. More than 1.2 million people are involved in mining, with 13.2 to 20 tonnes of mercury used in gold processing annually, she asserted.

A report by the World Health Organization (WHO) found that mercury is one of the most dangerous minerals, endangering health as it could cause cancer and kidney disease, also harming animals and plants, she said. The miners need to take care of the environment around their mines by not cutting down trees and instead seek permits to use the trees for appropriate needs, she urged, advising the miners bury the used chemicals in one place to ensure mercury does not spread indiscriminately as it could cause harm.

"The government recognizes small-scale miners as they earn income

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INGENUITY WORTH APPRECIATING... Rahel Nicolaus of Kabita village in Busega District, Simiyu Region, is a Tanzania Social Action Fund support beneficiary. Correspondent Marco Maduhu caught up with her at the weekend in front of a pen she has put up outside her house, complete with a ladder, to protect her goats against attacks by rogue hyenas and other wild animals.

Ministers inspect transport projects at Burundi border

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

Tanzanian and Burundi cabinet ministers yesterday inspected implementation of shared strategic flagship projects in Kigoma Region, promising to further improve transport infrastructure and border security.

They urged the regional authorities to make sure the projects are completed within schedule to facilitate the taking up of economic and social activities.

Minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation), Dr Leonard Chamuriho (Works and Transport) and Burundi's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Albert Shingilo jointly made the inspection tour

Addressing residents at the Mnanila border village in Buhigwe District, Prof Kabudi asserted that the government is

“Apart from road infrastructures, the two governments are also working to improve railway networks to facilitate cargo transportation. We are building a 240 railway line from Uvinza in Kigoma to Msongati in Burundi

working to enhance economic opportunities in Kigoma through improvement of road infrastructures, railways and airports, noting that ongoing improvement of ports in the region would facilitate smooth transportation of people and cargo.

The construction of a One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at Kabanga and Kobero along the border would uplift immigration service efficiency and control sneaking into one another's territory, he said, elaborating that the infrastructure projects are funded by loans from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

"Apart from road infrastructures, the two governments are also working to improve railway networks to facilitate cargo transportation. We are building a 240 km

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Barrick has 30 days to map out closing Buzwagi safely

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko has given Barrick Gold Corporation 30 days to submit a work plan for the closure of its Buzwagi gold mine without degrading the surroundings.

He said the report should include details of development projects left behind that will benefit the neighbouring communities after the mine is closed down.

Visiting the mining site at the weekend, he received a report from Rebecca Ste-

“I do not want to see this place become a source of endless grief after you leave... ..and if you ignore the government's directives no permit ...

phen, the manager handling the intended closure of the mine and environmental issues thereof, where the minister noticed substantial deficiencies. He said there was no work plan in filling up the mine pit arising from mining activities.

The pit would pose danger to the people nearby as well as livestock, in which case a work plan was vital as to how the pit would be filled, he said.

"I do not want to see this place become a source of endless grief after you leave... ..and if you ignore the government's direc-

tives no permit will be given to export the minerals and sell away plant machinery," he declared.

As the mine was folding up, it wasn't pleasing to insect activities meant to economically empower the surrounding communities, he stated, noting that the presence of 350 beehives did not satisfy their needs as the mine ought to leave behind a legacy to enable them to establish more beneficial economic

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COVID-19 Zanzibar e-reporting starts

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travellers due to an increase in the cost of testing equipment, cautioning that Zanzibaris have no reason to complain for the increase cost of testing fees.

It is not treatment cost but strict requirements of airlines that require all passengers to have test certificates showing they aren't carriers of the disease, he emphasised.

The ministry has meanwhile signed a three-year cooperation agreement with India's SIMS hospital and medical consulting institution.

Zanzibar will be referring to India patients from Mnazi Mmoja and several Mainland hospitals for further treatment, under the accord signed by Dr Shajak and the SIMS Foreign Manager.

Other areas covered in the agreement include provision of long and short term training for Zanzibar medical specialists at SIMS Hospital and organising medical examination camps for various diseases. They will meet their exam costs while the government covers treatment costs.

Covid-19 electronic laboratory reporting has been introduced to ensure that public health officials and other relevant authorities have access to comprehensive and nearly real-time data to inform decision making in their response to Covid-19, he observed.

The new testing and reporting arrangement will electronically provide authorities with information needed to better monitor disease incidence and respond quickly, he added.



Brigadier General Julius Gambosi (R) shows Tabora regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati one of the bombs used during seven-day 'Show Ability' army exercises held in a forest in the region. Photo: Correspondent Vincent Tiganya

Ministers inspect transport projects at Burundi border

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railway line from Uvinza in Kigoma to Msongati in Burundi," he said, affirming that an 84 kilometer stretch of the 240 kilometers total length will be built in Burundi.

Minister Shingilo said decisions by Tanzania to link Burundi with the central railway line would boost its economic growth, taking into consideration the continued presence of sanctions imposed by the international community.

Burundians are ready to cooperate with Tanzania in boosting economic growth for the benefit of the people of both

countries, he said.

Minister Chamurilo urged the contractor for the 68 kilometers road from Kasulu to Mnanila to speed up implementation for the project to be completed within the 36 scheduled months. The road being constructed at a cost of 76.1bn/- shall also link Kigoma with Kagera Region, he stated.

Interviewed, some Mnanila residents appealed to the government to make sure that youth from nearby villages are given priority in implementation of the projects.

'Mercury importers, users must all register'

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from these activities and also provide revenue to the government," she said, telling mine owners to provide equipment to help protect diggers avoid the effects of mercury. A mining center was being planned so that local miners could learn these procedures, she affirmed.

Bahi District Commissioner Mwanahamisi Munkunda said

her area is implementing a directive from Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan to plant one million trees in each district.

Each ward in the district is to plant more than 50,000 trees and each household must plant at least five trees and take care of the seedlings as this help in environmental protection, she said.

The DC asked the minister to provide guidance on farm-

ing along river banks, causing expansion and flooding when it rains, also pointing out challenges for small-scale miners creating holes on the landscape as they aren't capable of conducting prior surveys to identify mineral ores.

Ministerial experts note that Tanzania signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on October 10, 2013 and aims to protect human health and the environment against the

effects of mercury-induced pollution. Its other objectives include protecting people from sources of pollution in areas where mercury is used intentionally or by accidental exposure, they said. Mercury affects the nervous system, hearing, speech, sight and digestion, impacts on vital organs such as heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and disturbs pregnancy in women, they added.

Dar entrepreneurs equipped with essential business skills

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

THE Tanzania Data Lab (dLab) has trained 45 small-scale entrepreneurs from Kinondoni Municipality in Dar es Salaam, capacitating them with essential skills on how to use a data-driven approach to expand their businesses.

The training was organised by Tanzania Data Lab and financed by The United States of America Government through Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

Speaking during the closure of the training, the director of data science, Research, and capacity development at the Tanzania DataLab, Mahadia Tunga said the training has been conducted as part of the "Data4Her" programme implementation.

She said the training involved female small entrepreneurs from 18 to 35 years who engage in small businesses like food vending, fish sellers, hairdressers, and fruit sellers.

According to her, the Data Lab has each year been conducting the same training every year to women who are employed as commemorations of international women's day but for this year, they have decided to focus on small-scale entrepreneurs.

Tunga said that small-scale entrepreneurs have less knowledge of the right data about their businesses, markets, and loans. Therefore after the training, the participant will do their businesses with confidence and make informed decisions for their businesses through data.

"This year's theme is 'Data for business', thus this training will act as a catalyst for young women to grow their startups towards successful and sustainable businesses," said Tunga.

She further said the training is also ideal for Tanzania Data Lab in complementing the government efforts towards gender equality.

"As we celebrate International Women's Day, we have decided to train female entrepreneurs because we realized their contributions in their societies. After this training, we hope they will adopt a data-driven approach to conduct their businesses efficiently and ultimately increase their incomes" said Tunga.

She said that the trainees were from Bunju, Tandale, and Kijitonyama and neighboring wards in Dar es Salaam city.

Tunga added that since January this year to date, Tanzania Data Lab has been conducting training for small-scale female entrepreneurs in other regions like Shinyanga, Kagera, and Mbeya and that makes a total of 150 of them.

Hamida Maliwa, one of the participants and makeup artists from Kinondoni said that the training has been an eye-opener and she wills the data skills to make informed business decisions.



Mahadia Tunga, Tanzania Data Lab's data science, research and capacity development director, makes a presentation at the weekend during a one-week Data4Her programme for 45 female entrepreneurs from Kinondoni municipality. It was organised by the firm and financed by USAID through the US Presidential Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Barrick has 30 days to map out closing Buzwagi safely

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projects.

Earlier, reading the report on the mine's closure, the mine's closure arrangements manager said the cost in filling the mine pit was gigantic due insufficiency of the quantity of rubble on the surface for the purpose.

She said the pit's volume was 82 million cubic metres, but the

rubble that was on the surface was just around 50 million cubic metres.

In order to fill entirely fill up the pit, they will have add more soil that has to be dug from other areas, and that would cost a lot of money apart from causing additional environmental degradation, she stated.

Kahama District Administrative Secretary Timothy Ndanya said Barrick Gold Corporation ought to bear the responsibility in ensuring the area's environment was safe. They ought to make sure they find a way to fill the pit for the safety of the people living in the area, he added.

World Vision Tanzania launches project to combat climate change

By Correspondent George Sembony, Handeni

AS the world ponders over an exacerbated environmental degradation situation, World Vision Tanzania has launched a special project aimed to increase youth involvement in local governance for climate action.

Dubbed -Sustainable Actions Uniting Tanzanian and Irish Youth (SAUTI), the project will be implemented in Mkumburu division inHandeni District, Tanga Region.

Project officer Joseph Mbiayi said the initiative which is funded by the European Commission has been launched in response to increasing effects of climate change resulting from continued destruction of the environment.

Mbiayi pointed out that Tanga Region, and especially Handeni district is one of the regions facing severe drought conditions fuelled by several human activities such as deforestation, something which endangers the environment and aggravates climate change.

"Poor farming, excess cutting of trees and lack of knowledge on strategies to face climate change impacts coping with a population increase are among major factors fueling the increase of the adverse effects of climate change," he said.

Mbiayi said that youth, children, women, elderly and the disabled are the most affected groups by climate change but young people are the important pillars in saving the situation.

He said the project has been established on the premises that young people are not involved in decisions that affect their lives and development in areas where they live.

Launching the project, District Commissioner, Toba Nguvula acknowledged that the increasing human activities in forests and water sources threaten the environment and bring negative impacts in the district.

The DC said he was saddened with the ongoing environmental degradation but the government will continue taking stingy measures to address the challenge.

"I commend the World Vision for coming up with the initiative. I hope that greater involvement of the youth in the project would reduce such destruction and direct them to conduct other kinds of economic activities rather than destroying forests," he said.

According to World Vision, the initiative is meant to empower youth to be stronger and champions of environment conservation so as to fight the surging impacts of climate change. The programme is expected to enable youth to engage directly with local government in relation to youth appropriate climate actions.

In the project, World Vision envisages having a number of empowered youth who are monitoring, engaging and influencing governments on climate change and sharing lessons from both contexts.

By 2030, Africa and Europe are projected to be the continents with the largest increase in youth population and although miles apart these youth share the same concerns regarding climate change. The effective participation by young people in Climate Policy Decision-making is essential for Climate Justice; however youth involvement in decision making processes continues to be a challenge.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald (L) speaks at the launch of the Kisarawe Ushoroba Festival at Chanzige Primary School grounds in Kisarawe District at the weekend. The event is meant to promote tourist attractions available in the Kazimzumbwi natural forest reserve, Zaramo culture and Mwalimu Nyerere National Park. Seated (2nd-R) is Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WHO all out to help women get going on career ladders

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed its commitment towards enabling women to advance in their careers and enhance their leadership potential, a senior official said yesterday.

In her message to the commemoration of the International Women's Day, WHO regional director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti said to support the vision, over 80 mid-level and senior female staff in the region have participated in leadership training which the organization is piloting its expansion to ministries of health. In the Republic of the Congo, 34 women leading decentralized primary health institutions participated in the programme.

She urged everyone to recognise the leadership skills and potential of women, towards moving closer to gender equality. "Overcoming inequities in our societies will lead to better health, development and prosperity for all people," she said.

This year's Women's Day theme

is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world. The day meant to recognize the achievements of women and to take stock of progress towards gender equality.

Dr Moeti said that COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the effective leadership of women, particularly in times of crisis – as Heads of State, senior officials, experts and innovators, business leaders and as 70 percent of the frontline health workforce (exposed to a heightened risk of infection), and as stewards of families and communities.

"Women have stepped-up to this challenge with courage and honesty, learning and adapting in a rapidly evolving situation."

At the same time, inequities that disadvantage women have been exacerbated in this pandemic. Stay-at-home orders brought the livelihoods of many African women – working as hairdressers or market vendors, for example – to a standstill.

"Lockdowns, coupled with

fears of infection, and health workforce shortages, are among the reasons for reports of drops in access to contraception, antenatal care and births in health facilities in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and other countries. These restrictions, including school closures, also increased the risks of sexual and gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, and dropping out of school, particularly for girls," she noted.

Moeti however said this pandemic will have long-term impacts on the social and economic fabric of our societies, including progress towards gender equality. UN Women projects that in 2021 eight million more women than men will be pushed into extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

"At WHO we are providing guidance and technical support to governments to ensure the continuous delivery of essential gender-responsive services and to assess the barriers girls and women face in accessing these services," she said.

Govt charts strategies to strengthen women's rights

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has reaffirmed commitment to chart strategies to strengthen women's rights for the country's progress, saying it will continue implementing various initiatives meant to eradicate all kinds of abuse and discrimination towards the group.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, John Jingu said this during the weekend in Dar es Salaam that several measures have been taken by the government to ensure that women and girls are empowered to take part in senior leadership positions in various sectors.

He said this in a speech read on his behalf by the ministry's principal social officer, Darius Damas during the dialogue on women peace and security organised collaboratively with the African Women's Leadership Network (AWLN)-Tanzania chapter and the Mwalimu Nyerere Menorah Academy (MNMA).

Jingu said Tanzania is a party to regional and international commitments on promoting gender equality and women empowerment and it has taken a number of measures and steps in addressing gender gaps in all spheres of development.

"The government recognizes that gender equality and women's advancement is a matter of human rights and a necessary condition to social justice. Even the country's constitution emphasises on equality and non-discrimination to all Tanzanian citizen, in that case no one is denied in the participation of employment, political and decision making," he said.

He said that for many years the government has taken various programmes to promote participation of women in leadership and decision making which include training and mentoring programmes.

"In 2015, for the first time Tanzania had the first Vice President who is a woman as well as a deputy speaker, the number of women ministers and deputy ministers have also increased. Furthermore the government has set aside special parliamentary seats that account 30 percent. Currently the number of women members of parliament (MPs) has increased from 127 in 2015 to 143 in 2020," he elaborated.

The PS said that the government has also passed various laws to support women's rights such as the Land Act No-4 of 1999 and the Village Land Act No 5 of 1999 so as to provide the right of acquiring, holding, using and owning land for both women and men. He acknowledged that in recent years, women have proven that they are able to bring changes in organizations and other several sectors calling on more women to continue taking part in various programmes which promote their advancement.

He said that more concerted efforts are needed to support women to enable them get leadership positions while also supporting those in the positions to maintain them so as to realize their limitless potential.

He noted that women are the most faithful and ethical workforce, so investing in them by providing top leadership positions is good for the country's development.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, chairperson of the AWLN-Tanzania urged parents to raise their children to become ethical, patient and confident in their future.

He said that by doing so, the nation will have more women leaders who are excellently delivered well in leadership positions. "Since Mwl Nyerere's era, he promoted education for all. He wanted to see both men and women having equal opportunity in education so as to enable them to be confident and strong," she said.

She urged for more awareness education on women and girls rights be conducted especially in rural areas.

She said the African Women Leaders Network works to mobilize women towards a continental movement that will elevate the status of women's leadership in Africa.

The AWLN was launched at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2017, under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations (UN) through the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and UN Women.

Dr Rose Mbwete, principal at the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy- campus of Karume in Zanzibar said the college is well prepared to increase the number of enrolment of female students but also expand the number of women workers at the college. "We are here today to discuss and encourage young girls to be strong and be able to participate in making changes in their communities through taking part in different leadership positions," she said.

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NMB Bank Plc's acting Chief Finance Officer, Benedict Baragomwa (C), has a word with journalists during the bank's 'Mastabata Siyo Kikawaida' final draw held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Twelve winners will get 8m/- each. With him are Gaming Board of Tanzania inspector Elibariki Sengasenga (L) and NMB Bank 'ambassador' Aii Masoud 'Kipanya'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Workers from conservation agencies replenish Mt Kilimanjaro forest cover

By Marc Nkwame - Rombo

FEMALE members of staff from Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania National Parks and CRDB bank have teamed up to plant trees on slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro replenishing vegetation that were destroyed by fires that erupted on Africa's highest peak last October.

A total of 30 women, mostly employees of Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and the CRDB Bank in Kilimanjaro Region, participated in the exercises conducted on the Eastern slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro falling onto the Usseri ward in Rombo District.

"As we observe the International Women Day 2021, we realized it is a noble cause for women to participate in replanting natural vegetation on the areas that were rendered bare from the last year's fires that razed Mount Kilimanjaro," stated the event coordinator Grace Vincent Mbirika, from the NCAA.

For his part, the ecologists from KINAPA, Rukumbaza Musoma and Siwema Oswald, said the area where more than 2000 tree seedlings are to be planted by the women conservationists, also suffered invasion of alien species.

"We had to uproot the invasive species and replace them with natural vegetation realizing the importance of Kilimanjaro, not just as a tourist entity but also as an important source of water," they said.

Tanzania is joining the rest of the world today (Monday) in observing the International Women Day marked annually on the 8th of March, the theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world," aimed at celebrating the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the gaps that remain.

Mbirika pointed out during the tree-planting exercise that, as water problems affect local households, where women suffer the most, they decided to take the lead to help protect Kilimanjaro vegetation.

Summitting at over 5890 meters above sea level, Mount Kilimanjaro has several distinct vegetation belts, being surrounded by rich biodiversity as well as the tallest trees on the continent covering the entire feature's low and middle slopes.

As we observe the International Women Day 2021, we realized it is a noble cause for women to participate in replanting natural vegetation on the areas that were rendered bare

TMDA reduces counterfeit drugs in the market to 1 pct

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has reduced the number of counterfeit drugs in the market to one percent, a senior official said over the weekend.

TMDA's director general Adam Fimbo told a group of journalists visited at the Lab in Dar es Salaam that the authority has invested in its state-of-the-art labs, which are equipped with the ultra-modern machines worthy over 5bn/-.

The facilities are manned with well-trained lab experts to the level of Ph.D.

He said: "The drug impurities and substandard of medical devices can not be identified by bare eyes, but only by taking the substance into the labs for completely testing."

According to World Health Organisation (WHO)'s 2008 statistics report, there was 10 percent of counterfeit drugs in Africa.

The TMDA official said that Tanzania has removed counterfeit drugs to

the level of one percent and "we're working tirelessly to make the country's market free from such drugs."

Fimbo said the country has about 8 neighboring countries with over 10 borders in which drugs imported, so Tanzania is doing better compared with other countries.

He said the authority has two main labs—Dar es Salaam and Mwanza that serves Lake Zone regions of Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Kagera, and Simiyu. Other 25 min labs are installed in the upcountry regions whose task

is to approve safe and quality medicines into the market.

Laboratory analyst from TMDA's Lab in Dar es Salaam Saxon Mwambene revealed that among the counterfeit medical supplies include surgical sutures—absorbable and non-absorbable, which are used in the closure of injuries to allow the healing tissue to recover sufficiently by keeping them closed when they are removed or absorbed.

Mwambene suggested the need for health practitioners and other users

of surgical sutures to test them before taking them into use.

He said non-absorbable sutures have tensile strength, used to provide long-term tissue support for holding external wounds for healing before removed manually for the required time.

In normal circumstances a patient can get wound infection without notice, this is after the breakage of the counterfeit sutures and leave it open while struggled to sit or stand up, the expert said.

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PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND DISCLOSURE OF FUNDING SOURCES FOR MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH (MSH) TANZANIA FROM 1ST JULY 2019 TO 30TH JUNE 2020

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) is a global not for profit organization that is committed to saving the lives and improving the health of the world poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health. The below are the extract of audited financial statements of MSH Tanzania for the period from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020.

This publication is made in accordance with regulation 13 (a) of the Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 which obliges NGO receiving funds exceeding TShs 20 million in a year to publish its fund received and its expenditure in a wide circulated newspapers and other media channels which are easily accessible by the targeted beneficiaries.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

| | 2020 TShs | 2019 TShs |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Income | | |
| Receipts from HQ | 5,676,062,444 | 3,607,942,841 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Program direct expenditure | 4,101,851,162 | 2,920,158,316 |
| Program operating expenditure | 1,574,211,282 | 898,493,666 |
| Deficit for the year | - | (210,709,141) |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | 2020 TShs | 2019 TShs |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Account receivables | 85,348,108 | 44,335,193 |
| Cash and bank balances | 19,982,733 | 40,618,661 |
| Total assets | 105,330,841 | 84,953,854 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Non-current liabilities | | |
| Equity and retained earning | (188,002,279) | (229,083,162) |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Trade and other payables | 293,333,120 | 314,037,016 |
| Total liabilities | 105,330,841 | 84,953,854 |

During the year under review the projects was funded by USAID, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Bills and Melinda Gates.

6th Floor - Diamond Plaza, Mirambo Street,
Telephone: 255 22 2700671/255 22 2701843 URL: <http://www.msh.org>



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, on International Women's Day 2021

Change up the pace: women at the table

Date: Monday, March 8, 2021

International Women's Day this year comes at a difficult time for the world and for gender equality, but at a perfect moment to fight for transformative action and to salute women and young people for their relentless drive for gender equality and human rights. Our focus is on women's leadership and on ramping up representation in all the areas where decisions are made - currently mainly by men - about the issues that affect women's lives. The universal and catastrophic lack of representation of women's interests has gone on too long.

As we address the extraordinary hardship that COVID-19 has brought to millions of women and girls and their communities around the world, we also look ahead to the solid opportunities of the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions to bring change.

During the pandemic, we have seen increased violence against women and girls and lost learning for girls as school drop-out rates, care responsibilities and child marriages rise. We are seeing tens of millions more women plunge into extreme poverty, as they lose their jobs at a higher rate than men, and pay the price for a lack of digital access and skills. These and many other problems cannot be left to men alone to solve. Yet, while there are notable exceptions, in most countries there is simply not the critical mass of women in decision-making and leadership positions to ensure that these issues are tabled and dealt with effectively, and this has affected the pace of change for women overall.

There are breakthroughs to celebrate, where women have taken the helm of organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank, and we look forward to more such appointments that help to change the picture of what a leader looks like. Yet this is not the norm. In 2020, as a global average, women were 4.4 per cent of CEOs, occupied just 16.9 per cent of



Dr. Phumzile Mlambo- Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

board seats, made up only 25 per cent of national parliamentarians, and just 13 per cent of peace negotiators. Only 22 countries currently have a woman as Head of State or Government and 119 have never experienced this - something that has important consequences for the aspirations of girls growing up. On the current trajectory, we won't see gender parity in the highest office before 2150.

This can and must change. What is needed is the political will to actively and intentionally support women's representation. Leaders can set and meet parity targets, including through appointments for all executive positions at all levels of government, as has occurred in the few countries with gender equal cabinets. Special measures can work; where countries have put in place and enforced quotas, they have made real progress on women's leadership, as have those that have policies to address representation. Where these measures do not exist, progress is slower or even

non-existent and easily reversed. No country prospers without the engagement of women. We need women's representation that reflects all women and girls in all their diversity and abilities, and across all cultural, social, economic and political situations. This is the only way we will get real societal change that incorporates women in decision-making as equals and benefits us all.

This is the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the vision of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It is the vision of civil society and multitudes of young people who are already leading the way and of all those who will join us in the Generation Equality Action Coalitions. We need bold decisive action across the world to bring women into the heart of the decision-making spaces in large numbers, and as full partners, so that we can make immediate progress on a greener, equitable and inclusive world.

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ARU don counsels employers to prioritise women in employment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ARDHI University (ARU), Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof Gabriel Kassenga has called on companies and institutions to give priorities to women when it comes to employment opportunities because they have shown the ability to perform different duties.

Prof Kassenga made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend by when opening the one-day workshop for women as part of commemorating this year's International Women's Day.

He said many women have done tremendous job in their current position which is contrary to the perception that they are not able to perform like men.

According to him, about 70 per cent of ARU workforce are women and they have proved that they are

able to perform better like any other men in the position they hold.

"The perception that women are not able to work hard like men is outdated so if there is any employment opportunities we must consider women because at our university they have proved practically that they are able to perform any task," he said.

ARU has 13 departments and eight among are under women leadership and the management is satisfied on how they are conducting their daily academic matters, he said.

Head of gender department at the university, Dr. Nelly Babere, said the aim of the workshop is to show the position of women in the society adding that the university has tried its best to balance gender in the managerial positions.

She said the university gives priority to gender equality in its daily

operations and all decisions made can't be buyers because all parties are engaged.

"Many things we do here is collaborative and even students are involved in our activities to open their eyes in many things because we need them to be aware of gender equality and gender discriminations," she said

Dr Nelly said the number of girls students were very low when the university was established but they have shown interest in the profession and currently they have increased and surpass the number of boys at the university.

"During those days it was common to see one or two girls student in a class but currently in some classes the number of girls students surpass the number of boys, we are proud of this achievement and we encourage more girls to join this profession."



Toyota Tanzania marketing coordinator Beatrice Rutatangwa (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend showing drawings submitted by children who participated in the recent 14th "Dream Car Art Contest". Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Pandemic response to feature at International Women's Day

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA will join the world in celebrating the International Women's Day today with discussions on response to COVID-19 among others.

Centered on the theme 'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Challenging world', the conference aims at giving new insights through sharing skills, knowledge and networks to effectively lead to unprecedented challenges including the pandemic response and recovery efforts.

Leading the organising team for the Ring the Bell event, Marsha Macatta-Yambi from UN Global Compact Network Tanzania, said in a statement yesterday that women and men in the leadership realm have agreed to share insights that are expected to be food for thoughts in the current practice and question the status quo to enhance improvement of what is being practiced and find out what they can do to make a difference on gender equality in works so as to uplift and amplify the unique

strengths that women and men bring to the business world

"Such actions to support women's empowerment and rights should be a complement, not a substitute for respecting women's rights," she said.

According to Macatta-Yambi, gender inequality concerns both women and men and has a strong impact on their daily lives. Historically gender equality policies have been contextualized mainly as a "women's issue" as women have been a driving force behind gender equality strategies and struggles.

This view, she said, has contributed to the perception that women are the only ones who will benefit from a more equal society. In reality, also men benefit from gender equality as they too face gender-specific issues such as lower life expectancy, bad health, lower education levels and rigid gender norms.

"It is essential that both women and men are aware of the benefits that gender equality brings to them as individuals and as members of communities and societies. It is also true that we can only suc-

ceed through the participation of both women and men. Therefore, it is important to engage more men in standing for gender equality for this is the way to bring about change. To do that it is also necessary to make men understand how gender equality is relevant for them."

This is the seventh year since the establishment of partnership for the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' initiative. The partnership is between UN Global Compact, UN Women in Exchange Traded Funds, International Finance Cooperation, Sustainable Stock of Exchanges (SSE) Initiative and the World Federation of Exchanges. These organizations encourage exchanges to participate in bell ringing events aiming at raising awareness about the business case for women's economic empowerment.

In Tanzania, the Ring the Bell for Gender Equality event is co-organized by UN Global Compact Network Tanzania, UN Women, International Finance Corporation and Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Illegal fishing threatens sustainability of stocks in Lake Jipe, says Mghwira

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

KILIMANJARO Regional Commissioner, Dr Anna Mghwira has raised concerns over increased illegal fishing at Lake Jipe and Nyumba ya Mungu Dam, saying the illicit activities threaten the sustainability of fish stocks.

"The increase of illicit trade in the marine industry follows suspension of 'operation sangara' which was implemented by the government to protect fisheries resources for national development," said the Regional Commissioner. Operation sangara was launched in 2018 owing to the increase in unauthorized fishing practices that were threatening the survival and number of fish species in the country's lakes, dams and rivers.

Lake Jipe is shared by two countries, Kenya and Tanzania, and is one of the water bodies where both human and natural activities have had great impacts both on the fish and fisheries. On the Tanzanian side, Lake Jipe is located on the east of the northern Pare Mountains in Mwanza District.

The situation has led to RC Mghwira directing fisheries officers and fisheries resource protection units in the region to start conducting patrols at both Lake Jipe and Nyumba ya Mungu Dam. She urged the officials to make regular visits at the lake instead

of preparing reports based on telephone conversations. "I want you to start controlling illegal fishing at the specific water sources," said the RC noting proper management of the lake would boost government revenues.

In 2016, Local governments in Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions closed down Nyumba ya Mungu Dam for one year, following increased use of illegal fishing methods.

The decision was reached during a meeting that was jointly attended by the neighbouring regions surrounding the Nyumba ya Mungu Dam. There was serious environmental degradation and decrease in the water levels in the dam, which might affect production of electricity and loss of fish.

In another development, the Regional Commissioner has directed district councils including Rombo, Moshi and Hai to establish new revenue sources from the tourism sector. She urged them to properly supervise cultivation of avocados and bananas which are exported to various countries.

Tamwa says journalists have crucial role to play in helping women utilise their potential

By Guardian Reporter

THE executive director of the Tanzania Women Association (TAMWA)-Zanzibar Dr Mzuri Issa has underlined that journalists play a huge contribution in enabling women to realize their limitless potential in the Isles.

According to her, media practitioners have contributed immensely to women's development and will remain a powerful tool towards supporting more women to take part in various leadership positions.

Dr Mzuri made the remarks over the weekend during the training provided to journalists from various media stations held at the association's offices in Tunguu, Unguja.

She called on the government, institutions, companies, and stakeholders to also continue making deliberate efforts to promote women's rights as well as support more women in leadership positions.

Dr Mzuri said the training was meant to capacitate the journalists with more skills and enable them to keep on the good spirit of promoting women's rights in society.

She wanted the media to prioritize women in their reporting as they are a very important tool in pushing the country's development to the next level.

"While fulfilling your daily duties, you (journalists) should not forget women and girls, we recognize the huge contribution you have made in women's development; we want that determination to go on for the country's development," she said.

Ummy Aley, TAMWA's member urged young journalists to learn from senior practitioners to learn several things to improve their careers.

"Journalists reporting have brought a transformation in the private and public sector. Media practitioners have supported the increase of transparency and accountability in various sectors," she said.

Khatib Suleiman, a senior journalist at the Habari Leo newspaper commended TAMWA for organizing the capacity-building workshop which has capacitated the journalists with more skills on women reporting.

He urged fellow journalists to all the time observe professional ethics and guidelines when executing their duties.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Advisor

Policy Development and Coordination in the Health Sector

As an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives.

The GIZ program "Improvement of Health Care in Tanzania" is looking to fill the position of Advisor Policy Development and Coordination in the Health Sector.

Duty station: Dodoma

Terms of the Contract: Fixed term contract

Responsibilities

- providing professional advisory services to and building capacity within MOHCDGEC
- liaison between the GIZ and MOHCDGEC and PO RALG (and other institutions as required) regarding the joint program "Improving of Health Care in Tanzania" and related aspects

Tasks

The advisor

- advises the Ministry of Health (MOHCDGEC) on the development of strategies and implementation plans for the health sector, in particular in the areas "health systems strengthening for UHC" under complementary special consideration of Reproductive and Child Health
- provides profound technical advice and actively supports the team at MoHCDGEC in the overall process of developing the new HSSP V/ One Plan III and other policies, strategies and subsequent plans in the area of Health Systems Strengthening for UHC and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
- supports the respective preparation, documentation including the preparation of documents and feed the results into other relevant processes
- prepares (written) concept notes and/or updates for different target audiences
- liaises with relevant stakeholders and partners of the Tanzanian-German Program "Improving Healthcare in Tanzania" and ensures continuous flow of information in both directions (in close consultation/ coordination with the Head of Program)
- communicates local interests and efforts, forwards these and encourages sharing ideas and information for the benefit of the programme
- travels from Dodoma to Dar es Salaam (and other places, as required)
- ensures knowledge transfer to the programme
- draws up reports and presentation documents and other briefs/documents as requested
- prepares appropriate input for various programme reports including annual reports, social media contributions and contributes to the other reports required by the programme manager and GIZ Head Office
- advises MoHCDGEC on stakeholder coordination and actively supports implementation, e.g working groups, stakeholder coordination meetings etc.
- participates in and contributes to all GIZ team and technical processes as required (online and in person)
- provides technical inputs to GIZ planning and reporting
- coordinates relevant project activities at local level in consultation with the manager and in cooperation with the partners, both as regards implementation and preparing organisational aspects
- compiles the relevant information for joint activities and assignments

Required qualifications, competences and experience

- medical doctor, nurse/midwife with university degree/ social scientist
- additionally Master in Public Health or similar in the field of Public Health required, preferably at International University
- 8-10 years of practical working experience in Public Health in East Africa
- 3-5 years working experience as a doctor preferably in the area of gyn/obs or nurse/ midwife
- 2-3 years working experience in an International organisation/international NGO/UN/ international university/ international exposure
- 3-5 years working experience within or with ministries
- excellent knowledge of the SDG approach to UHC and international evidence on effective interventions for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- excellent knowledge of the Ministries structures, processes and key persons
- excellent Swahili and English skills (fluent verbal and written English)
- excellent data analysis and writing skills,
- very good communication skills and proactive approach to work
- very good working knowledge of ITC technologies and computer applications (e.g. MS Office)

Applications:

Interested candidates should send their letter of application together with the CV and copies of academic certificates by email to hr.giz-tanzania@giz.de.

Please use the subject line "Advisor Health".

Applications in hard copy will not be accepted.

Closing date for submission: **18.03.2021**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

GIZ Tanzania is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all qualified and eligible candidates regardless of their gender, origin, religion/belief, disability or any other minority group.



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SMALLHOLDER COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CODE-P) SEEKING A CONSULTANT TO ASSESS THE VIABILITY OF FINANCING COFFEE SMALLHOLDERS AND DESIGNING OF APPROPRIATE SERVICES

Terms of Reference

1. Summary

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited (BTFL) seeks an experienced consulting firm to undertake in-depth research and product design exercise in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania using Human-Centered Design principles, to segment the market and develop key clients profiles, evaluate the business case for providing financial services to smallholder coffee farmers based on identified financial needs and market gaps, and design loan product prototypes for coffee smallholder farmers of Tanzania that are scalable, sustainable and impactful. This exercise is part of and will complement the Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P).

1.1 Background of the project

BRAC Tanzania is implementing a four years (2020-2024) project titled "Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P)" in a consortium of 5 organizations who are the Vi Agroforestry as the lead implementer, TaCRI, ANSAF and Cafe Africa. The project is part of the implementation of AGRI-CONNECT PROGRAM under the funding from European Union at eighty 80% through the National Authorizing Officer of the European Development Fund (EDF), at the Ministry of Finance and Planning, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. Another part of the funding for the CODE-P of Twenty per cent (20%) is from Sida through Vi Agroforestry. The main objective of CODE-P is to contribute towards inclusive and sustainable development of the coffee value chain for enhanced incomes and improved nutrition status of smallholder farmers in six (6) districts of three regions namely Ruvuma (Mbinga and Nyasa), Mbeya (Mbeya and Rungwe) and Songwe (Ileje and Mbozi). Specifically, the project seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Increased climate resilience, production, and productivity of quality coffee.
- Increased incomes from improved postharvest, processing capacities and linkages to market and financial services
- Enhanced competitiveness of coffee value chain with a supportive policy and regulatory framework.

BTFL contribute towards objective ii with mainly focus on facilitating access to inclusive financial service and Business development
Furthermore, the project envisages benefiting 24,000 smallholder farmers, comprising of 14,400 young women (60% women) farmers and 9,600 young men (40% men) farmers between the ages of 18 - 35 years.

2. About the organization

BTFL is focused on promoting financial inclusion especially among women living in poverty in rural and hard to reach areas. It is focused on women who have been left out by the mainstream financial institutions and aspired to contribute to their empowerment through entrepreneurship and employment. Together with its social development sister organization, BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania (BMT), it has been supporting women from all spheres of life.

BTFL started its microfinance operations in Tanzania in 2006 to provide access to finance to communities across the country. Fourteen years after its inception, BTFL is the largest microfinance institution in terms of the number of branches, serving more than 190,000 borrowers across 25 administrative regions, including both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

3. About the project

In line with BTFL's mission to serve women in rural areas as well as to develop appropriate products for target segments, BTFL has decided to undertake in-depth financial market analysis and conduct a client-centric product development exercise in Tanzania.

Currently, BTFL has a generic agriculture loan product that provides microloan to smallholder farmers in a group setting with monthly repayments. Starting in 2014, this product portfolio currently has over 15,000 borrowers in 2020. This product does not focus on any value chains or account for the unique cash flow pattern and other needs of smallholder farmers. BTFL has also been piloting a loan product in partnership with One Acre Fund focusing on the maize value chain, which discontinued in 2019, following a product review and lessons learned exercise after 2 years of piloting. Major issues were:

- The maize value chain was not the farmers' priority and interest.
- Farmers did not get quality maize seeds hence low productivity that led to low returns and failure to repay their loans,
- Transportation problems: Farmers could not get the required farm inputs in time.
- Inadequate supervision of farmers since they just depended on a centralized demonstration farm for further learning and practices.

In 2020, BTFL has partnered with Vi Agroforestry, Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI), Agricultural -Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania (BMT) and Cafe Africa to implement the **Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P)** with the overall objective "To contribute to inclusive and sustainable development of the coffee value chain for enhanced incomes and improved nutrition status of smallholder farmers in Ruvuma, Mbeya and Songwe regions of Tanzania". As a part of this project BTFL aims to investigate the business case of offering agrifinance loan products to smallholder coffee farmers, especially focusing on women and youth engaged in the coffee value chain.

As part of this project, the Bureau of Agricultural Consultancy and Advisory Services of Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, has conducted a Baseline Survey and Stakeholders Mapping to inform project implementation interventions. The baseline study highlights coffee production practices, potentials, challenges, and current market actors. The baseline study identified a few market players providing financing to coffee farmers.

Given this background, the consultancy opportunity has the following goal:

- Assessment of Business-Case for Financing Smallholder Coffee farmers:** Leveraging the baseline study for the project, further evaluate the coffee value chain in the southern highlands of Tanzania in the designated regions under the CODE-P, analyze the demand for

and challenges to financing smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, conduct detailed competition analysis (coverage, offers, pricing, gaps etc.). Recommend whether there exists a business case for BTFL to finance coffee smallholder farmers (women and youth) in a sustainable and scalable way.

- Design financial Product Prototypes: If there is a business case for financing coffee smallholders, using a client-centric design approach, the consultant will develop at least two prototypes of the financial product(s) and service(s) that address the specific needs of coffee smallholder farmers, especially female farmer. The prototypes must also consider BTFL's internal capacity and processes, and resources.

4. Scope

4.1 Area to be covered:

The assessment and following HCD design will be conducted in Mbozi & Ileje Districts of Songwe region, Mbeya & Rungwe Districts of Mbeya region, Mbinga & Nyasa Districts of Ruvuma region for coffee smallholder farmers.

4.2 Methodology:

The design will be conducted by the selected consultant(s) who will lead the study team and will work under the supervision and support of the BTFL Product Development Manager with support from the CODE-P team where needed. The consultant is expected to come up with a detailed methodology for conducting market research and product design, taking into consideration the local context of the project area. The consultant will develop appropriate tools and will also propose an appropriate sampling size and methodology that is statistically valid and cost-effective. The sample size and proposed tools will be discussed and approved by BTFL management before the commencement of the project.

The study should employ both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data collection and research methodology may include

- Secondary data collection that will involve a review of specific project start-up documents, baseline studies, monitoring and evaluation framework, other literature, documents and studies from BTFL and project partners, any other publicly available data about demography, market, infrastructure, competition, etc.
- Primary data collection of both qualitative and quantitative data.
- Focus group discussions with women (at least 80%) and men within the target communities
- Key informant interviews with farmers cooperatives (AMCOS), Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania Coffee Board, NGOs, Input suppliers, Financial institutions, transporting companies, coffee processors, local governments (Districts and Regional authorities), communities' cultural leaders and partners

4.3 The expected outputs/Deliverables:

- Deliverable #1:** An inception report (Completed 1 week after hiring Consultant)
 - Desk research. Identify gaps in available information (from the project baseline study and other secondary sources)
 - Research plan
 - Research tools/ questionnaire
- Deliverable #2: Identify Viability and Business Case of Financing Coffee Smallholders** (within 4 weeks after approval of 1st deliverable)
 - Map client segments across demography, economic activities, land size, technology use, etc. Identify priority segments/sectors (crops, locations, demographics, etc.) for developing financial products with BTFL.
 - Assess the coffee cycle so that the financial product matches the cash flow of coffee and assess the farmer economics (cost-benefit analysis of added yield/quality, given the average plot size), quantity demand for loans (loan size) and income per farmer per land size (repayment capacity)
 - Investigate in details the current finance providers' products, prices, performance etc. Identify market gaps and opportunity for BTFL in this sector.
 - Quantify long term costs and benefits from the project with different scenario analysis. Recommend whether developing and providing new loan products for coffee smallholders will be a viable, sustainable, and scalable opportunity for BTFL, based on the number of women involved in the coffee value chain, the demand and supply gap, risks and return of financing coffee farmers. Recommend whether BTFL's current products, services, and processes can be sufficient to support coffee farmers.
- Deliverable #3: Develop financial product prototypes for coffee farmers** (Completed after 6 weeks from 2nd deliverable approval)

IF found viable in Deliverable#2:

- Using client-centric methodologies (such as the human-centered design approach), design two financial product prototypes with potential clients
 - For each prototype, assess the need for and the appropriateness of any added services such as insurance or savings
 - Identify appropriate channels, and/or alternative credit assessment models for each prototype, including digital delivery channels
- With clients, identify, refine, and recommend at least two prototypes that BTFL can pilot in each area. In making the recommendations:
 - consider the internal capacity of the BTFL (IT system, staff skills, the financial resource needed, etc.)
 - consider the level of the country's infrastructure around connectivity, financial regulations, human resource availability, etc.
 - Include a recommendation for partner organizations and private sector actors as needed {Mobile Network Operators

(MNOs), fintech, banking agents, agriculture extension service providers, etc.).

- Provide a business case for each recommended prototype. Define parameters under which the products will succeed or fail. Identify major risks under each prototype and recommend ways to minimize risks.

IF found NO viability in Deliverable#2:

- Recommend alternatives to support smallholders with financing
- Develop an exit plan for a responsible handover to alternative financial service providers (FSPs) who could support in closing the gap on financing smallholder coffee farmers for the CODE-P.

- Deliverable #4:** Final report and pilot plan (Completed 2 weeks after producing the product prototypes)

- A final report compiling all recommendations with justifications and provide a detailed modality for each prototype. The final report will be submitted to BTFL in English
- With BTFL management, develop M&E tools, training modules, and product performance indicators for product pilot success.
- Final Validation workshop with BTFL, BMT and all CODE-P stakeholders on the findings of the exercise and planning next steps

Each deliverable must be submitted in a report format and a summary PowerPoint Slide (5-15 slides) for management consumption. Each deliverable must be reviewed by project stakeholders and approved by BTFL management, before proceeding to the next one.

1.4 Duration of the Consultancy & Reporting

This is a time-sensitive initiative and the probable start date for the product development exercise is expected to commence at the latest end of March, 2021, up to latest May 30th, 2021. The consultant should design the study to deliver the assignment in the shortest time possible without compromising the quality of the study. The consultant will provide an online database and data collection tools that will be accessible by BTFL authority for monitoring the progress.

5. Qualification of Consultant(s) / firm

- The consultant(s)/Firm should have the following qualifications/expertise:
- Postgraduate degree in Agriculture, Economics, Agribusiness, International trade, Natural Resource management, Environment or others as may be relevant
 - At least 5 years' experience of carrying out product design/development and research
 - Experience in working with financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and government in areas of agriculture production and value chain
 - Experience in conducting client-centred research/market assessments in financial services for the bottom of the pyramid. Previous experience in similar work in Tanzania is preferred but not required.
 - Deep understanding of issues around smallholder farmers' financial inclusion, especially that of female farmers, as well as broader issues that specifically affect women and youth living in poverty and rural areas in the country.
 - Preferably have experience in human-centred design (HCD) approach (or other client-centric methodologies) to understand the needs, behaviours, and motivations of the target client, and to iteratively design product prototypes across the complete client's journey and product experience
 - Knowledge of digital financial services/digital payment solutions and the supporting infrastructure in target markets
 - Strong analytical, research, and writing skills with expertise in survey and qualitative research in the form of interviews and focus groups with low-income communities. Field research must be conducted in the local language (Kiswahili)
 - Proactive project management skills with strong attention to detail. Experience working under tight deadlines with a multilateral team across time zones and managing a rigorous schedule of data collection
 - Fluency in English

6. Consultancy fees and modalities of remuneration

The consultant and BTFL will agree on the remuneration. As part of this negotiation process, the consultant should propose the fees s/he wishes to charge on each deliverable as the payment will be done based on satisfactory performance of each deliverable before proceeding to the next deliverable

7. How To Apply

The offer should contain:

- A letter of interest addressed to the Chief Executive Officer for BTFL
- A Technical offer showing the interpretation of the ToR and indicating a detailed proposed methodology. The technical proposal should be no more than six pages (excluding budget and CVs)
- CV(s) of the consultant(s) or consultancy firm showing previous relevant experience
- A detailed financial offer indicating the cost required for the undertaking of the work required (this should include consultancy fee and reimbursable costs)

Submissions should include: 'Expression of Interest to Design a Financial Product for BTFL' in the subject box.

Send proposals to "mohamed.madati@brac.net" and should be received no later than **12th March 2021**. Any questions can be submitted to "mohamed.madati@brac.net" and salome.kisenge@brac.net prior to the submission deadline.



Part of the funding has been obtained from Swedish development cooperation

The Guardian

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MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Expanding cassava's value chain technologies feasible

CASSAVA is an essential part of the diet of 500 million people and provides a livelihood for millions of farmers, processors and traders. In some parts of Africa, cassava is referred to as a 'complete' crop, complete in the sense of its versatility of use. Its leaves are high in protein and some essential minerals, and are therefore consumed by humans as a vegetable or can be fed to animals as silage. Its stems are used as a means of propagation. Its roots being carbohydrate or energy-dense can be used in a variety of ways for human food, animal feed or as an industrial raw material (starch, paper, pharmaceuticals, etc.).

Cassava leaves are widely consumed in most Eastern and Southern African countries as a vegetable. The nutritive value of cassava leaves has been found to be comparable to those of soybean, maize and amaranth but with higher amounts of vitamins and minerals.

The production of cassava in Africa is faced with serious biotic constraints, such as diseases and pests, poor logistics for the supply of planting materials, poor agronomic practices, small and unorganised production systems, poor postharvest handling and processing. These lead to inefficiency and high costs of production, poor quality and low-priced products and an unorganised marketing system.

All these contribute to the unprofitable nature of traditional cassava farming. Despite the high energy content of cassava roots and the superior quantity and quality of proteins in the leaves, the crop has wrongly been tagged an inferior food only on account of the low protein content of the roots.

Policymakers in some countries are undecided about commercializing the use of cassava in industries, for example, for ethanol or starch production, because of the

possible negative impact on food security. As a result, production systems remain small and unprofitable. This further perpetuates rural poverty. Many years of research that were focused on improving cassava productivity have not effected the much-needed impact on poverty. The research community has recently accepted that productivity-enhancing technologies alone, without access to profitable markets, cannot get poor farmers out of poverty. Cassava-dependent farmers in remote locations have no access to markets for their fresh roots; traditionally processed cassava products - although less perishable than fresh roots - are rebuffed in more rewarding markets because of their characteristic poor quality and safety. In some countries potential industrial users including food manufacturers are unwilling to use such products due to concerns about safety of the manufactured foods and a possible negative consumer reaction.

The cassava project with a vision of achieving a commercialised cassava seed supply chain of superior, disease tolerant variety in the country has been launched in Dar es Salaam recently.

The project known as BEST Cassava is a five-year project. It will be implemented by MEDA Economic Development Associates in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). It is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The project will create a network of government-certified commercial cassava seed entrepreneurs located throughout the primary cassava growing regions of Tanzania.

Varieties of quality-assured and disease resistant cassava seeds will be made available, accessible and affordable for small holder cassava farmers.

Food insecurity remains daunting challenge Africa needs to address

IT is widely agreed upon that the main cause of food insecurity is poverty. Poverty makes it very difficult for people to grow their own food and also to buy enough food. Due to the low-income levels in many areas, it is also not possible for people to grow their own food because they do not have money to invest in agriculture. The leading cause of food insecurity is the growth of the human population. The human population has been growing steadily, and the amount of food needed to feed the population has also increased.

Overall, the human population is expected to increase by about 2 billion people by 2050, and this will put a serious strain on the availability of food. Although currently enough food is produced to feed every human on Earth, as populations grow, the amount of people suffering from food insecurity will increase.

The increase in the human population will be particularly difficult in poor countries where people already struggle to obtain food and will have more trouble as the population increases. Additionally, the growing population can also influence food insecurity by limiting the amount of food available for consumption. As the human population increases, there is a higher demand for alternative fuel sources, such as biofuels. In recent years, this demand has led to large amounts of corn being used to create bio-

fuels, thus reducing the amount of corn available to feed people.

Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) defines food insecurity as 'or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.' Food insecurity may be long term or temporary. It may be influenced by a number of factors including income, employment, race/ethnicity, and disability. The risk for food insecurity increases when money to buy food is limited or not available.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional vulnerability committee chair, António Pacheco Dias Lima recently called on member states to find ways to share success stories, opportunities and progresses as the region battles COVID-19 and record high levels of food insecurity. 51.3 million people in both urban and rural areas of southern Africa are food insecure.

The Maputo in Mozambique the SADC - regional vulnerability assessment and analysis programme (rvaa) annual organisational meeting was convened virtually under the chairship of Mozambique.

It is the first time the meeting has been convened virtually due to the global COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and associated public health concerns.

The conference aimed to pro-

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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

World Women's Day 2021



TGNP marks IWD by involving media in women's rights agenda

By Special Correspondent

LILIAN Liundi, Executive Director of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), quotes the latest figures by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as showing that last year saw Tanzania come second in East Africa and 23rd in the world in terms of the percentage representation (36.9) of women in national legislative bodies - call them national assemblies, parliaments or houses of representatives.

According to the rating, Tanzania is one of the best performing countries in the East African region in terms of women's participation in leadership.

Now, IPU is highly regarded agency. It is an international organisation of national parliaments, its primary purpose being to promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.

Its other initiatives include advancing gender parity among legislatures, empowering youth participation in politics, and working for sustainable development.

The organisation was established in 1889 as the Inter-Parliamentary Congress but, as of last year (2020), the national parliaments of 179 countries were members of the IPU - with 13 regional parliamentary assemblies standing as associate members.

TGNP has this year decided to share its activities with the media and various other stakeholders in celebrating International Women's Day (March 8) by running an array of activities.

"We (Tanzania) have not been able to reach the 50/50 gender parity parliamentary and general representation and so we need to fight harder so as to increase the role of women at various levels of decision-making to achieve the intended goals," Liundi said in a recent interview.

She said she was saying so because the representation of women in political leadership positions at council level in Tanzania has remained a major challenge, despite the intervention by stakeholders such as the government, civil society and the country's development partners.

Statistics released last year by the National Electoral Commission showed that that only 204 women were elected councillors - representing wards - and this came to a dismally low 5 per cent of the total number of councillors.

This counts for much because elected councillors are the ones who are eligible to run for - and hold - the position of chairman of the council. This is the person who also chairs the general council - which has the authority to deliberate on and approve the council's budget.

It is also noteworthy that more than 80 per cent of Tanzania's population lives in rural wards, and the "foundations" accounting for the country's development are found at that level.

Thus, the limited participation of women in these positions of strategic importance stands as a daunting challenge with respect to bringing about inclusive gender equality and sustainable development.

This year, the global theme for International Women's Day is "Women in Leadership: Achieving Equality in a World of Covid-19", while the national theme for Tanzania is "Women in Leadership: Yeast for an Equal World".

TGNP insists on changing attitudes to bring about equality, with executive director Liundi arguing that this year's edition of the commemoration is unique in the revolutionary women's liberation movement - at least in that women and women rights activists come together in celebrating what they have jointly achieved.

"We are reflecting on the challenges still facing women and strategising on how to address them using whatever opportunities are available at the individual, group and national (systemic) levels," Liundi said.

It is also noteworthy that Tanzania has in Samia Suluhu Hassan its first woman Vice President. She is holding her second consecutive five-year terms, the first one having run from 2015 through 2020.

The TGNP executive director added: "This is a proud and commendable development. For the first time in our country, the 10th National Assembly had a woman (Anne Makinda) as Speaker - subsequently witnessing another woman (Dr Tulia Ackson) assuming the position of Deputy Speaker for two five-year terms running. However, the representation of women as parliamentary committee chairpersons remains awfully limited."

TGNP plans to hold this year's IWD celebrations for the whole of March - under both global and national themes, with the main message being "Change Attitudes to Equality".

The particular celebrations are aimed at recognizing and celebrating women's achievements in combating unfriendly systems, trends and practices in various sectors, Liundi notes.

This includes devising strategies aimed at increasing the number of women in leadership positions of various kinds, be it in politics, in the private sector or elsewhere, to ensure

that Tanzania has a genuinely sustainable "gender-equitable system".

"We hope to discuss in detail the importance of valuing and appreciating women's contribution to society and further highlighting the rise in the incidence of unpaid work for women as well as devising ways to ease the workload for women," Liundi elaborated.

She said this is meant to facilitate and expedite dialogue in society "on oral and non-constructive and productive statements relating to the well-being of women and the development of society, and to influence society to increase their participation in creating positive stories".

The TGNP executive director said five major events will be held this month as part of the commemoration of International Women's, one being visits to media houses and institutions in various parts of the country from March 5 through 30.

These visits will be aimed at continuing to provide education to the community and to touch off debate meant to sensitise people to take action towards positive change in the plight of women.

TGNP, in collaboration with information and knowledge centres in 18 councils in nine regions countrywide, will hold community-based celebrations to recognize and celebrate women who have brought positive change and development in their areas.

"Through these celebrations we will be able to document and honour the heroic women at the community level in those councils by having them introduced by the community members themselves," Liundi said.

She added that those in the information and knowledge centres referred to will also be connected to the media at the community level. This will seek to inform the public about their agenda of "recognizing and feting these women in order to motivate community members inside and outside their areas".

In collaboration with the YFF Youth Forum, TGNP hopes to visit the University of Dar es Salaam, Mzumbe University, Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, and Institute of Finance Management "to recognize and celebrate women's leadership in the higher education field".

"We will seek to attract young people to join this forum while they are still in college but also to establish such platforms in their communities to bring about change in the communities they come from," explained Liundi.

"The celebrations will see these young people bearing a rich variety of messages meant to reach the community and engender positive change, thus complementing efforts by the mainstream and social media," she added.

IPU figures show that, as of January 2019, the world had only ten female presidents out of a total of 152, which comes to a lowly 6.6 per cent of the total - and only ten female heads of government out of 193, or an even more

lowly 5.2 per cent of the total.

In the particular case of the African continent, the only women ever to have served as presidents were Malawi's Joyce Hilda Banda (April 2012 to May 2014), Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (January 2006 to January 2018), Mauritius's Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (June 2015 to March 2018) Ethiopia's Sahle-Work Zewde (October 2018 to date).

Liundi noted that by 2020 women parliamentarians constituted an average of 24.4 per cent representation in sub-Saharan Africa, an increase of 14.6 per cent relative to 1995.

Despite efforts to ratify various national, regional, continental and other declarations and agreements, she said, "women still face various challenges that hinder their development, especially their participation in decision-making positions".

She elaborated: "The levels of wealth and gender disparities are ever increasing in developing countries with limited resources, knowledge and technology. Poor urban and rural women are increasingly being marginalised and not viewed as an integral and equally important part of society."

Studies show that African countries lose about US\$105 million a year by not including women in the economy, while statistics show that women make up more than 70 per cent of the number of smallholder farmers who feed our country.

Women in the informal sector constitute 51.1 per cent of the total, while only 20 per cent of women own land. Access to social services also remains a particularly serious challenge for women - this despite decades of attempts efforts to free women from, say, walking long distances in search of water.

Healthcare services, especially reproductive health, also still pose a daunting challenge, with huge numbers of women needlessly succumbing to complications during pregnancy, at childbirth and soon thereafter. Figures point to places or situations where 556 out of 100,000 women giving birth succumb to delivery complications.

While commendable headway has been made in the education sector, there is every evidence that needlessly big numbers of girls still fail to attend classes simply because they are without basic items including sanitary pads.

Like many other people, Liundi says she is fully convinced that having more women in the country in positions of responsibility and decision-making will see society spared many of the problems and challenges of this nature greater speed.

The non-erasable digital footprint

THE latest craze we have so far is this word PRIVACY and its driving very many people up the wall.

Human Resources (HR) practitioners have continued to do now more than ever with finding out the applicant's digital foot print.

This applies to those who are still in the market for jobs and or still look up to advanced interactions with people in order to advance their career.

What does this mean to any of us? When we apply to fill in a job vacancy, naturally, we attach our CV / resumes as a key document of reference. The recruiting officer / HR Manager will read through and see what is catchy about it based on the position applied for. With our full names, in full glare, it's a matter of copy and paste on a search engine and then...there lies ourselves bare for the whole world to see.

So basically, we are posting stuff on social media platforms and then now claiming that we need to have some level of privacy even in our work place? - I will deal with this particular one on another article very very soon.

Some of us will post our bodies (clothed or non-clothed), our families - read (spouses / partners, our children), our locations - at home or just us out there chewing life with a 'huge ice cream scooping spoon' (to the envy of others), our laughs and sadness. We shall share these as pictures and or even written materials that express our views on various issues that may or may NOT even be directly or remotely relating to us. Some of these opinions are social, political and cultural including but not limited to religious and gender bias or orientation among other things. I mean, we have the world wide web - let us get unbottled, vent out and enjoy free speech? How free is free? And in this same space of being free, how much of ourselves are we putting out there for others to see, read, experience?

What we don't realize (and even if we do - we may not really care) is that some of these potential employers have very strong beliefs / opinions regarding certain issues that we too choose share online. We may be digitally very 'vocal and loud' to advocate certain principles and ideologies of life yet, these are the same things that others are totally against. Our CV may be super amazing and our credentials allow for obvious initial contact with the potential employer. However, our strong views may be subjected to serious scrutiny and at times in a very subtle yet subjective way, we lose out on job opportunities.

So, what am I really saying, that we should not express our strong opinions regarding matters of



life that we hold so dearly - just because of what? To the contrary, please feel free to do so at your heart's desire. Knowing all too well that people are watching to see, to read what you think and feel about these issues. Sadly, recently, unconfirmed reports insinuated that that someone's comment over a certain issue came out into the light. Yet it was written a long time ago and this was viewed in such bad taste and they did not get a job. OH well maybe there were other issues but the public chose to focus on the social media comment as a reason for a job opportunity lost. Yet the alleged comment could have been something done out of pure ignorance or an expression of ones open and honest opinion. However, on the flip side, it could also be these openly expressed ideas that make is a great candidate for a certain position. What an over these matters.

We are accountable for all our actions whether we admit it or not. If we are still out here for the for-

mal job market, then know the above. Some amazing people who may be willing to conduct business with us, are also checking us out to see what kind of people we are and whether we are the right fit for them.

Many organizations seek to have 'decent' employees in their teams with the confidence that they will be performers too. Yes, it's possible for these HR professionals to get a serious back lash over the same if it ever comes out in the open that the lack of job opportunity was based on the candidate's opinion (but then again- which HR practitioner would be willing to openly say that?). Imagine this, our public posts of body parts exposure, yet we apply for a job in a religious organization, or we are having no regard to animal treatment and seek to work in a vet's clinic, or we criticize a public political figure and yet they are the directors of a company that we have applied for a job?

We cannot deny that we all have strong opinions about certain matters in life and the need if not urge to share this at times tends to overwhelm us. We do so with or without obvious care of what the rest of the world with think, after all, it's a free world ...right?

But let us be reminded that not all opinions and ideas, however strong they may be, need to be shared. And if they need to then we need to know when and where this can be done, with little or no obvious acrimony.



College Comfort Zone
With
Salima Hamisi
saly30@gmail.com
0762 174 124



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wish to congratulate

Hon. Othuman Masoud Othuman Sharif
for being appointed as the First Vice President
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ZURA Headquarters, Nyerere Road, Maisara, Zanzibar P.O.BOX 2238, Tel: +255 24 294 1190, Fax: +255 24 294 1190,
Email: info@zura.go.tz Website: www.zura.go.tz, Facebook: ZURA Instagram: zura_mamlaka Twitter: zura_znz



Congratulations!

Outstanding Tanzanian companies awarded the 5th KAIZEN Award Competition

The Tanzania 5th KAIZEN Award Competition and Ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam from February 4 to 5, 2021. Since 2013, the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have been implementing the *Project on Strengthening Manufacturing Enterprises*

through Quality and Productivity Improvement (KAIZEN) in order to promote industrialization of Tanzania. The Award Competition and Ceremony was held as one of the activities of this project.

13 companies were nominated from the regional competitions, and in the

finals, 2 companies were selected: one company was chosen from the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) category and the other from the large companies category. Those 2 companies were awarded as "Outstanding Company" through that competition.

The selected Outstanding companies

will be given an opportunity to represent Tanzania in the coming competition of Africa KAIZEN Award 2021 during the Africa KAIZEN Annual Conference 2021 (AKAC 2021) which will be held jointly by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA), MIT, and JICA in coming August 2021 in Dar es Salaam. It is expected

that the selected Tanzanian companies will present their KAIZEN activities and achievements to representatives from other African countries at AKAC 2021, and thereby diffuse their best practices to the whole of the African continent. We give here below brief explanations about the two selected companies:

Cultural Crafts Consultant & Design Co. Ltd (CRACODE) - Outstanding company representing SMEs



Location: Dar es Salaam/
Founded: 2007 / **Number of Employees:** 18 /
Business: Manufacturing natural and local cotton items (cloths, carpets, bags, etc.)

Since its inception in 2007, the company has been manufacturing hand-made cotton items such as cloths, carpets, bags etc. These items are for use by individuals (including tourists), government, hotels, and private institutions. It has started to implement KAIZEN in their activities since June 2019. Previously, they faced some challenges such as insufficient productivity level due to poor working environment. There were no meeting room, no changing room, etc. This situation made it difficult for workers to timely search for materials and necessary working tools. Moreover, this situation caused huge risks to all the workers and the company. In fact, a number of safety incidents occurred at an average of at least once every month. Based on this situation, the company decided to introduce the KAIZEN approach to rectify the problems. Through KAIZEN, the company was able to adopt the 5S activities. The result? Working environment was tremendously improved. Walking passages were demarcated, machines were put in proper places, and searching time for items was largely reduced. All these measures resulted in the increase by 10% of the monthly production volume.



[Before 5S] No meeting room. No changing room. It took a long time to search for materials/tools.



[After 5S] Meeting room and changing room created resulting in the shortening of the searching time



[Before 5S/Visualization] Unorganized Workplace (Risks for Incidents)



[After 5S/Visualization] Decrease number of incidents based on demarcation between walking passages, machine position and working areas



Currently, the company is trying to create Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) to increase efficiency of production process and to improve stability of product quality. They have a vision to develop new markets through further improvement of productivity and quality based on continuous KAIZEN activities.

KIOO Ltd. - Outstanding company representing large enterprises

Location: Dar es Salaam / **Founded:** in 1963 / **Number of Employees:** 565 / **Business:** Manufacturing glass bottles



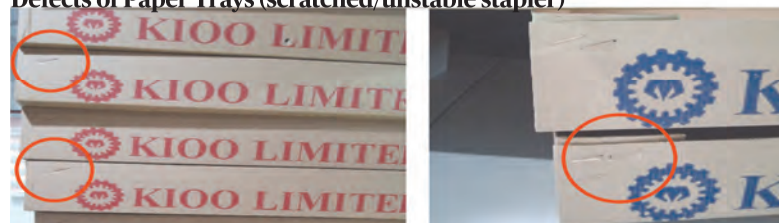
KIOO Limited is the largest company in East Africa which manufactures glass bottles. Its products are for both domestic use and for export to other countries in East Africa such as Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, etc. The company has started implement KAIZEN activity since June 2018.

At the beginning, they analyzed the current situation in order to identify and prioritize the most important three issues, namely, (1) productivity improvement of wooden pallet, (2) waste reduction of paper tray, and (3) decrease defects of products. Based on the analysis, three KAIZEN teams were organized in the company as Task Forces to address those issues.

One of the KAIZEN Teams for addressing Productivity Improvement of Wooden Pallet



Defects of Paper Trays (scratched/unstable stapler)

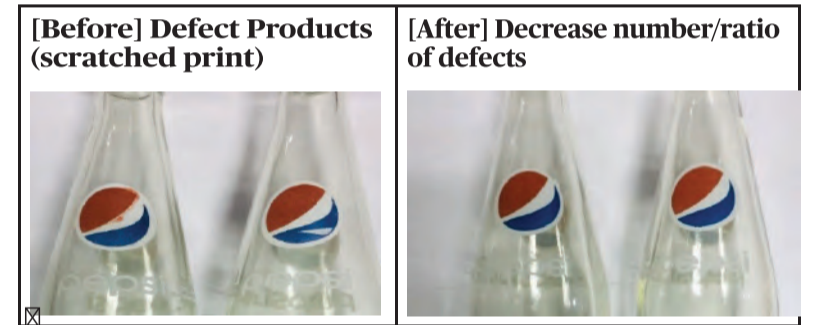


Each KAIZEN team identified/prioritized the cause of the concerned issue using both numerical data and problem-solving method. As a result, the company has increased productivity of the pallet by 50%, decreased waste by 10%, and minimized defects by 24%. Each improvement provides positive impacts for financial condition of the company (e.g. sales, profit, cash flow) as well.

[List of 3 KAIZEN Teams]

| Team No | Name of Team | Issue/Challenge | Rate of Improvement |
|---------|----------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Matsunoki Team | productivity improvement of wooden pallet (to increase production volume of glass bottles) | Increased by 50% |
| 2 | Muda dori Team | waste reduction of paper tray | Decreased by 10% |
| 3 | Chapisha Team | decrease defects of products | Decreased by 24% |

* "Matsunoki" means wood pallet, and "Muda dori" means waste elimination in Japanese.



The company is planning to continue the above activities with other countermeasures because it aims to achieve further improvements for those issues. Simultaneously, the company is looking for other possibilities to implement KAIZEN activities, and planning to share KAIZEN philosophies to their stakeholders. The company would be a leading company of KAIZEN in Tanzania.

Reference for specific words:

| Word | Meaning |
|--------|---|
| KAIZEN | KAIZEN is originally a Japanese word meaning "Improvement", and a management philosophy and know-how for continuous quality and productivity improvement of concerned organizations. It is also a human-oriented approach fostering teamwork, mindset change, self-reliance, creativity, and ingenuity to come up with ideas for solutions to the problems faced in Tanzania. |
| 5S | Abbreviation for "Sort", "Set in order", "Shine", "Standardize", and "Sustain". It is a discipline approach to keep the workplace clean and organized to improve productivity and quality. This is one of the basic, fundamental, and beginning activities of KAIZEN. |

About JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

An incorporated administrative agency in charge of administering Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance). It is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agency supporting socioeconomic development in developing countries in different regions of the world. In Tanzania, JICA has been a long partner of Tanzania for more than 50 years in many sectors since 1962.

Africa Kaizen Annual Conference (AKAC) and Background

AKAC is the largest international event for KAIZEN in Africa, which is composed of conference and competition of KAIZEN activity (i.e. Africa KAIZEN Award). It has been organized annually since 2016 by African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and JICA. AKAC 2020 was held in South Africa last September, and AKAC 2021 is planned to be hosted by the Government of Tanzania and held in Dar es Salaam in the end of August. Companies from 16 African countries, incl. Tanzania, will be participating as representatives of each country, and "Outstanding Company in Africa" will be selected through the Africa Kaizen Award competition in AKAC.

Since the late 2000s, JICA has started several projects for private sector development in Africa introducing "KAIZEN". Private sector development is one of the key factors for industrialization, and creation of employment and decent work. For further development of KAIZEN activities in the African continent, JICA and AUDA-NEPAD jointly organized "Africa Kaizen Initiative" (AKI), and AKAC is one of the core activities of AKI. AKI tries to implement KAIZEN for more than 18,000 enterprises and over 280,000 people in 25 African countries in the future.

For further information, please contact:

Tanzania Kaizen Unit (TKU), Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT)
P.O. BOX 2996, Dodoma; Tel +255 (026) 2963470

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tanzania Office
P.O. Box 9450, Dar es Salaam, Tel: 022-211327/30

Why is important to uplift and amplify the unique strengths women have

By Felister Peter

"I never imagined that one day I would become a manager at such a big company as Puma Energy Tanzania. My top bosses have always been providing support to me since I joined the oil marketing firm in 2013. However, my commitment to hard work enabled me to achieve the targeted goals," says Rehema Migambile, the company's Sub-Regional Aviation Commercial Manager.

Rehema (31) narrates that her desire to do new things has contributed to her being promoted to different posts within the company.

"Despite being a young woman, I have been attending senior leadership meetings where over ten of delegates are men; my contributions and suggestions have always been considered for action," explained Rehema noting under her new role she manages aviation fuel business at eight airports in Tanzania and two in Malawi (Blantyre and Lilongwe International Airports).

According to her, celebrating the International Women's Day would be meaningful if people, especially those in senior positions, take responsibility to uplift and amplify the unique strengths in women. She commends Puma's Human resource manager, Loveness Hoyange and several other managers for seeing the talent in her as well as trusting her for the various posts.

This year's International Women's Day is centred on the theme 'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Challenging world'.

Her responsibilities at Puma as the aviation commercial manager includes finding markets/customers for jet fuel as well as maintaining them. She adds that Puma with the 80 percent market share in Tanzania has been selling jet fuel to the world's leading airlines and airports.

"We have specialized experts to ensure the quality of our fuel is not compromised. We ensure our customers with security of supply of high quality fuel approved to international standards," she says.

Drawing back to when she joined the company, Rehema calls upon young girls to study hard and keep their dreams high. She says in October 2013 when she joined Puma as a graduate trainee, they were five graduates from different universities but to date, only two of them are



Rehema Migambile, Puma Energy's Sub-Regional Aviation Commercial Manager.

working with the company.

"Girls should not give up on anything; they should instead work hard to achieve their desired goals. I had dreamed of working at Puma since I was at secondary school, but my dream came true after a couple of years," says Rehema as she insists on young women not to give up.

Rehema, who lost her father

when studying Form Five at Marian Girls' High School, believes that every woman has a potential and ability to do great things to earn a living, hence the importance of being uplifted and supported. She gave an example of her mother who struggled to make sure she continued to study even after her father's death.

"Women are heroes, most of us

have stepped-up. I remember the day when I was barred from doing my exams at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) over pending school fees payment. My mother struggled to pay the money, but she managed," says Rehema who is the second born in a family of three children.

It is high time to amplify women's voices and promote their par-

ticipation and leadership in public institutions, parliaments, the judiciary, and the private sector, she says.

COVID-19 outbreak

Rehema recounts back to when the pandemic was firstly reported in the country last year, she says by that time she had just assumed her new roles as the company's Sub-Regional Aviation Commercial Manager, and most of the airlines companies had suspended flights as part of measures to contain the spread of Covid-19.

"That was the hardest period in my career because there was no business; I was worried on whether I could meet my bosses' expectation because the department I lead contributes to almost half of the company's revenues," says Rehema adding President John Magufuli's decision to reopen tourism activities gave her a relief because some world airlines resumed their scheduled flights to Tanzania.

Rehema adds: "Growing of the country's tourism sector is good news to us because our jet fuel business relies on the sector by over 70 percent. That's where we sell most of our jet fuel."

At Puma Energy Tanzania, Rehema also worked as the Business to Business (B2B) Sales Manager, the position she held from Aug 2016. She was an administration assistant at Engage Africa Limited (September 2012 - August 2013). Apart from IFM, she also studied Post Graduate (Diploma on Economic Diplomacy) at the Centre for Foreign Relations.

When justice turned Helena into an inspiration

By Guardian Correspondent

ONE of the three main thoroughfares out of Songea town heads south towards Mbinga town where soft-spoken Helena Kantimbo welcomes us into her quiet home situated on the upper side of the street.

Her backyard is a hive of activity, where several other women gather to produce home-made soap bars that, they distribute to small shops around the town. This small enterprise is Helena's brainchild, a deliberate group initiative designed to increase her income and that of other women who need to enhance their small fortunes. In addition to soap-making, these women also raise chickens to supplement their income.

"This business has been a remarkable help to me in the obvious sense that I'm now able to earn income that allows me to run my life, and also engage in other worthwhile activities all because of this house that is back in my hands," says Helena with

a grin.

The house she is referring to was at the centre of a protracted conflict that threatened to turn her life upside down. She was married in 1991 and lived happily until 2005 when her life began to be rocked by her husband's unreasonable behaviour that included beatings, humiliation, and death threats.

He persistently demanded they sold the house, which she refused to do, and that elicited further abuse forcing her to return and live with her parents.

One of her husband's close friends was Daniel Chindengwike, a local paralegal, to whom he went and narrated the conflict.

"Helena's husband informed me that she had left and he didn't know why, but when I examined the matter having spoken to both of them I discovered that she had left complaining of beatings and being pressured to sell the house they shared. I also learned that she built the house before they were

married, thus making it her own property;

"Repeated efforts to dissuade her husband from demanding the house be sold couldn't convince him until legal proceedings become necessary. Seeing no way out, he relented and returned to her the title deed, which he had snatched from her, and then turned his anger against me," says Chindengwike.

Threats, intimidation, and false accusations by Helena's husband intended to smear Chindengwike's public image became the order of the day, however, the paralegal was never cowed. This experience illustrates some of the challenges that paralegals who work on a voluntary basis encounter with some going beyond verbal threats and turn into actual acts of physical harm.

Helena represents a broad spectrum of women across the country, who have harnessed sufficient confidence to stand their ground and pursue their rights, especially

with the available assistance of legal awareness extended to them by paralegals.

These women often share the fruits of their toils for justice with other less fortunate women, and in that process become not only a source of inspiration, but the first step in the journey to transform their lives, and build foundations for the futures of their families.

Tabia Rashidi says her neighbor, Helena, invited her to join the soap-making enterprise because she believed it provided an avenue for changing their lives for the better.

"Helena's case was a sad episode in her life, and it certainly had a negative effect on us. The successful end of her ordeal brought joy to us because we value her, and always wished good on her. My group colleagues were trained in this trade and paid for the lessons, but I was lucky because when I was invited all I had to do was emulate what they did and that I learned the craft," says

Rashidi.

Laita Ismaili adds that the few months they have been in the enterprise has been rewarding; "I feel there's a bridge I have crossed and today I'm able to use new-found skills to uplift my own life. When we women stand firm, our rights cannot be lost, we need to follow Helena's footsteps and seek the readily-available help from paralegals," she insists.

"Honestly-speaking, I lived through very difficult times and there were moments when I simply wanted to give up. Deep in my heart, I knew my experience wasn't what I deserved, and when I was called to explain my side of the story, and eventually rewarded with what was rightfully mine all along I felt tremendous relief," recalls Helena.

"The tenants that live here, the chickens I raise and the soap-making enterprise all help me live a more comfortable life a far cry from my awful experience," she adds.

How plastic is polluting human body

By Fiona Macrae

WHEN we think of the devastating toll that plastic pollution can have, it is usually images of turtles caught in single-use bags or piles of plastic bottles in landfill that we conjure up – for most of us, it is an environmental problem.

But there is emerging evidence that plastic waste could become a health issue, too.

The problem lies with plastic as it breaks down into tiny particles – so-called microplastics, which are 5 mm in length (the size of a lentil), or less.

These tiny particles are everywhere: they are produced from the breakdown of bags and bottles, the wear and tear of the soles on our shoes as we walk, and the tyres on our cars as we drive.

The problem lies with plastic as it breaks down into tiny particles – so-called microplastics, which are 5 mm in length (the size of a lentil), or less +2

The problem lies with plastic as it breaks down into tiny particles – so-called microplastics, which are 5 mm in length (the size of a lentil), or less

Even putting on a load of laundry generates hundreds of thousands of microplastic fibres (from fabrics such as nylon, acrylic and polyester).

What's more, mask wearing may increase our exposure, says Alex McGoran, a microplastics researcher at Royal Holloway, Uni-

versity of London and the Natural History Museum. "Single-use face masks likely shed microplastic fibres into the air around us. But the benefit we gain from wearing them probably outweighs the cons of potential microfibre inhalation."

These tiny particles are in our water, food and on surfaces we touch – and we only just understand their impact.

While our bodies are thought to clear some of the microplastics that build up inside us, according to a 2018 review by King's College London, newer research suggests it's possible for microplastics to pass from the airway or gut into the blood and to our organs. In theory, the plastic could then cause damaging inflammation or leach harmful chemicals.

In one of the latest studies, Italian scientists found microplastics in human placentas for the first time, which could affect foetal health and development.

The findings, published last month in the journal *Environment International*, led the researchers to suggest women are giving birth to 'cyborg babies' – and British experts now warn that while we don't know the exact impact this plastic can have, the fact it makes it to the placenta is less than reassuring.

As Alex McGoran explains, microplastics are everywhere: "We hear about fish with plastic in



them and the perception is that most of the microplastics we consume come from seafood.

In a 2018 animal study in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at the University of Plymouth, who first coined the term microplastics in 2004, showed pieces of plastic can pass from the gut into the circulatory system. "But we are surrounded by plastic. For instance, at home, you might be walking on an artificial carpet, closing curtains made from polyester and sitting on a chair with an artificial cushion – all of these shed fibres into the air which we can then breathe in."

A 2018 study from Heriot-Watt and Plymouth universities calculated that the average Briton will swallow up to 68,415 pieces of microplastic a year from dust.

And our diets (microplastics have been detected in everything from beer to sea salt and honey) provide another 52,000 or so of these particles per year, according to the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* in 2019. But, what, if anything, could be the consequences of plastic particles building up in our bodies?

In a 2019 study by the University Medical Centre in Utrecht, scientists wanted to investigate how human immune cells deal with microplastics. They put the cells in a petri dish with microplastics and found that while our immune cells recognised and engulfed the plastic particles, they died as a result.

This cell death can be linked with potentially harmful inflammation. Research is ongoing to see if this happens in animals and humans.

Meanwhile, there are concerns that some microplastics are small enough to get into our bloodstream and organs. A 2018 study analysed stool samples from eight people from Europe, Japan and Russia and found that plastics, including polypropylene (commonly used in food containers and packaging) and polyethylene terephthalate (a polyester used in clothing and food packaging), were present in human stools, showing that mi-

croplastics could get through the human gastrointestinal tract.

Plastic in the gut could affect the digestive system's immune response or aid the transfer of chemicals and pathogens, the researchers said, adding that this may have implications for 'patients with gastrointestinal diseases'. In a 2018 animal study in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at the University of Plymouth, who first coined the term microplastics in 2004, showed pieces of plastic can pass from the gut into the circulatory system.

He told *Good Health*: "If we have shown in scallops that small pieces can pass from the gut to the circulatory system, it's likely that could occur with humans, too. But that doesn't necessarily tell you it is harmful."

In the recent Italian study, 12 plastic pieces were detected in four placentas that were donated after birth.

Three of these pieces were recognised as polypropylene, while the other pieces appeared to be plastic particles from 'man-made coatings, paints, adhesives, plasters and cosmetics'. The women had healthy pregnancies but the authors said that, given the crucial role of the placenta, the 'presence of plastic particles is of great concern'.

Try walking up four flights of stairs within a minute to test your heart health, suggests new research from University Hospital A Coruna in Spain.

Women in leadership: An economist's view of International Women's Day



By Raghendra Jha

THE COVID-19 pandemic (henceforth pandemic) has women particularly hard. In almost all countries, women constitute the bulk of the labour force in the service sector, which was hardest hit by the pandemic. Furthermore, they also represent a disproportionate share of the work force in particularly vulnerable sectors such as health care. Women also have disproportionate if not sole responsibility for home work including taking care of children.

In many developing countries where most families are engaged in the informal sector women also had to bear the additional cost of their men folk losing their jobs as workplaces were shut down because of persistent and repeated lockdowns.

Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that during the pandemic, casualization of the work force has increased substantially. Because of their filial responsibilities, women are disproportionately represented in the causal work force. This has meant a further loss in incomes for many women.

When analysing women's attain-

ments it is helpful to view it as a sequence of two steps. First, one could look at indicators of human development followed by women's actual attainments in terms of wages, salaries and representation in key positions.

Indicators of human development disaggregated by gender is available in the Gender Development Index (GDI) computed and published annually by the UNDP as part of its Human Development Report.

The GDI views disparities women and men in three different dimensions of human development: health, schooling and measures of living standards. The GDI first calculates Human Development Indicators using these three measures for both women and men separately and then takes the ratio of the index for women to the value of the index for men. The closer this ratio is to 1, the more equal is society for both genders.

Every year the UNDP computes this index for 167 countries which are classified into five groups based on the absolute deviation from gender parity in HDI values. This means that grouping takes equally into consideration gender gaps favoring males, as well as those favoring females.

The latest GDI for the world as whole is 0.943, with HDI value of 0.714 for females and 0.757 for males. Women marginally outperform men in the area of life expectancy; they have equal attainment as men in expected years of schooling but fall behind men in key areas of mean level of schooling and gross national income per capita by gender.

Although the GDI is a useful measure, of how much women are lagging behind their male counterparts and how much women need to catch up within each dimension of human development, there are a number of areas in which they are unable to capture key underlying trends. For instance, in the area of nutri-

tion within the family standard measures assume that there is equal access for males and females within the household. Recent literature emphasizes that this may not be the case. Indeed, female children may be discriminated against in comparison to their male counterparts.

<https://academic.oup.com/wbro/article/10/1/1/1684910?login=true>

Moreover, in some countries although enrolment of females in primary is quite robust, secondary female enrolment in school drops off. See chapter 8 of <http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9781349953417>

In many countries female students are under-represented in key disciplines of study such as science and mathematics and over-represented in less remunerative areas of study.

When we analyse the second step - women's actual economic attainment - the conclusions are even less sanguine. For example, in the case of Australia (a country with a GDI of 0.976) women are underrepresented in almost all leadership and management positions.

<https://www.wgea.gov.au/women-in-leadership>
According to the latest data, women hold only 32.5% of key management positions, 28.1% of directorships, 18.3% of CEOs, and 14.6% of board chairs.

An international comparison of women's attainments in some key countries is available in:

<https://www.catalyst.org/research/women-in-management/>

Such trends have caused many observers to feel that women face a broken rung in the ladder for leadership in organisations.

<https://pragmaticthinking.com/blog/women-in-leadership-statistics/>

As if such results were not enough, there is compel-

ling evidence to suggest that men are paid more than women (gender gap) <https://www.epi.org/publication/what-is-the-gender-pay-gap-and-is-it-real/>

In recent years, although the gender pay gap has narrowed this progress has now stalled.

<https://www.epi.org/publication/what-is-the-gender-pay-gap-and-is-it-real/>

With this as background, one comes to the conclusion that women are economically worse off than men largely because women's work is not fully priced in the marketplace. From the family to the frontiers in science, technology, politics and the armed forces women provide absolutely critical services, but these services are not always valued adequately.

The primary reason why such gaps have persisted for so long is attitudinal. From the household to the board room women face attitudes that are inimical to their interests. So, along with legislative and other measures to ensure equality for women all sections of all societies must work on their attitudes towards women.

The author is Professor of Economics and Executive Director, Australia South Asia Research Centre, Australian National University



In many developing countries where most families are engaged in the informal sector women also had to bear the additional cost of their men folk losing their jobs as workplaces were shut down

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



MONDAY TIME

- 05.00 AM
- 06.00 AM
- 06.30 AM
- 06.50 AM
- 07.00 AM
- 7:10 AM
- 07.15 AM
- 07.25 AM
- 07.40 AM
- 08.00 AM
- 08.10 AM
- 09.00 AM
- 09.10 AM
- 09.20 AM
- 10.00 AM
- 10.03 AM
- 10.10 AM
- 13.00 HRS
- 13.10 HRS
- 13:30 HRS
- 16.00 HRS
- 16.03 HRS
- 16.30 HRS
- 18.30 HRS
- 19.30 HRS
- 20.00 HRS
- 20.10 HRS
- 21.00 HRS
- 21.05 HRS
- 22.00 HRS
- 22.15 HRS
- 23.00 HRS

PROGRAMME

- HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
- AMKA NA BBC
- NIPASHE
- MATANGAZO
- NEWS BULLETIN
- MATANGAZO
- TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
- UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
- KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
- HABARI NYEPESI
- KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
- HABARI ZA BIASHARA
- MATANGAZO
- BRAND TALK
- NEWS BRIEF
- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- YALIYOMO YAMO
- NEWS BULLETIN
- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- DJ SHOW
- NEWS BRIEF
- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- HOJA YA LEO
- DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
- SPOTI LEO
- NEWS BULLETIN
- RADIO ONE DOCTOR
- NEWS BRIEF
- DAKIKA 45
- NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
- AFRO TIZII
- NEWS BRIEF

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



| JUMATATU | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 05:00-09:00HRS | MORNING JAM |
| 09:00-13:00HRS | LETE RAHA |
| 13:00-14:00HRS | DW-RADIO |
| 14:00-16:00HRS | CLUB 101 |
| 16:00-18:00HRS | DALA DALA |
| 18:00-18:10HRS | HABARI |
| 18:10-20:00HRS | BOZOUK TIME |
| 20:00-21:00HRS | HALI HALISI |
| 21:00-22:00HRS | SPORTS |
| 22:00-00:00HRS | DALA DALA (marudio) |
| 00:00-04:00 HRS | LETE RAHA (marudio) |
| 04:00-05:00 HRS | SPOTI (marudio) |

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 165 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: PET, APE, CUM
- 4 LETTERS: FLOW, OVER, EVEN, REAL, OVER ROME, MOOS, POUR
- 5 LETTERS: LARGE, NOVEL, OMBRE, SPORT METER
- 6 LETTERS: EAGLES, LEAN TO, MTWARA MODERN, REJECT
- 7 LETTERS: MOROCCO
- 8 LETTERS: ACCOUNTS
- 10 LETTERS: FREE MARKET

CLUES: Across

- 1 fail to impress
- 5 a memorandum
- 7 accumulate over time
- 8 a corner
- 10 heaven
- 11 known about by many people
- 13 the refuse of grapes that have been pressed for winemaking
- 15 out of the way
- 17 Kuala Lumpur is her capital city
- 19 one as a quantity
- 20 a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water

Down:

- 1 Muslims bound together
- 2 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia
- 3 a house
- 4 Zambia's capital
- 6 on to
- 7 Largest state in U.S.A
- 9 vehicle equipped for living in
- 12 the holding of an office
- 14 a slatted wooden case used for transporting goods
- 16 an accomplice of a hawkler
- 17 Mother
- 18 labium

WORD-FIT

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

By Magezi: 0755429240 felixmagezi@gmail.com

BUSINESS

Faidika Microfinance allots 50bn/- to lend to eligible Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM'S Microfinance institution, Faidika has allocated over 50bn/- for lending to government employees and certified institutions.

Speaking yesterday, Faidika's Chief Executive officer Baraka Munisi said the borrowers are able to be granted processed loans within three days after complying with the set terms and conditions.

"All you have to do to qualify for a loan is to produce your employer's Identification, one passport-size photograph, your latest one-month salary slip, and your bank account statement at least for the past two months," said Munisi.

He explained that Faidika has decided to allocate that relatively huge sum of money aiming at improving the living conditions of Tanzanians.

Munisi said under the new lending scheme, Faidika is able, willing, and ready to issue loans ranging from 200,000/- to 70m/- to lend to eligible Tanzanians, and repayment in full is made from within 6 to 84 months, depending on the size of the loan.

He also said that Faidika has reduced the interest rate to 3% only which is very low when compared to other microfinance institutions and has increased repayment period to provide relief to their customers and improve

their lives.

"Faidika Microfinance believes that everyone deserves access to financial products and services, therefore by using some of the available sophisticated technology systems, we are committed to reaching all Tanzanians with a view to improving their lives," Munisi said, brimming with confidence.

He went on to say that, Faidika will provide a top-up loan to its customers as well as buying loans from other financial institutions while offering a new loan at a low-interest rate which is three (3) percent.

Munisi said the benefit of a loan is to enable Tanzanians to improve their lives in the areas of education, health, and agriculture.

He also, issue special discounted loans to the members who meet their criteria and conditions.

Apart from that Munisi also said that repayment of loans are canceled if and when a debtor dies.

In addition to this, Faidika Microfinance will provide up to 200,000/- to the late borrower's family by way of condolence.

"Our institution aims to continue with improving the lives of Tanzanians. We, therefore, urge all eligible citizens to undertake these great opportunities," he said.



National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) executive secretary, Beng'i Issa (R) and SANLAM General Insurance CEO Geofray Masige sign a pact on insurance programme for VICOBA groups aimed at enabling members to access insurance services that will help them when disasters erupts. The launch of the initiative took place at NEEC offices in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NEEC, Sanlam, TIRA inaugurate insurance programme for Vicoba

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), in collaboration with Sanlam General Insurance firm and Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has launched an insurance programme for Village Community Banking (VICOBA) groups aimed at enhancing the participation of the groups in the financial sector and reducing costs during disasters or death.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam at the weekend soon after launching the programme, NEEC Executive Secretary Beng'i Issa said NEEC will closely work and supervise the plan to ensure the set goals are attained.

"The Council has been bringing the people to economic activities, hence the coming of Sanlam will push them to know the importance of insurance in the country's economic development, but also to know to confront various challenges facing the people during disasters and death," she said.

She said NEEC was preparing guidelines for the management of the programme to ensure its implementation, including bringing together empowering coordinators in the regions and districts with Sanlam officials in order to reach the people.

"Our responsibility as Council is to ensure we advertise this programme to be understood by the people and to bring together

regional coordinators with these Sanlam officials to ensure the programme's success," said Beng'i Issa.

Sanlam Insurance Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Masige, apart from praising the government for putting in place an enabling environment in involving private sector stakeholders to solve people's challenges, he said the agreement reached was a good step in empowering small entrepreneurs countrywide especially those operating in groups.

"The cost of this insurance for every group member is 7,000/- per year and Sanlam Insurance will extend a hand of condolence to a member or inheritor who dies a natural death or from accident,"

he said.

He explained that for any natural death the member will be paid 1m/- and for accident related death 2m/-, while their inheritors will be paid 5,000/-.

TIRA Planning, Research and Market Development Director Zakaria Muyengi said they will continue to supervise the provision education to the people on the importance of insurance.

The programme was praised by VICOBA officials including its representative Agatha Lema who said it will provide a big relief to members of the groups especially in the issues of disasters and deaths as well as understanding the entire concept of insurance in the country.

StanChart Tanzania celebrates steady growth in gender equality

By Francis Kabugi

STANDARD Chartered Bank Tanzania is celebrating achievements realised in the period of three years since it started collaborating with the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) in women's welfare issues through its flagship Finance2Equal Tanzania programme.

In honour of this year's International Women's Day themed 'Choose to Challenge', the bank basks in the growth of gender equality at the workplace in Tanzania, the area that it has worked on diligently for years now.

The Finance2Equal programme is aimed at increasing women's participation in social and

economic affairs such as leadership, employment, and entrepreneurship from April, 2019.

In a statement released by the bank over the weekend, Anne Kabugi, IFC's Regional Gender Lead for Africa, pointed out that from last November's IFC case study on equality at place of work, the bank was proved to have been performing incredibly well.

"Preliminary results from the case study indicated that our bank is creating a culture that supports gender equality, from having one third of its board members and executive committee members being women, to having a strategy focused on catapulting more women to leadership

positions," said Kabugi adding,

"IFC is working on finalizing the report which will be shared widely in the financial sector as a best practice learning for other organisations within and outside the sector."

Commenting on the initial results by IFC, the Bank's CEO, Sanjay Rughani said the bank is honoured to work with IFC in women matters and is pleased with the results.

"These preliminary results represent the significant progress we have made on our diversity and inclusion agenda. Finance2Equal not only will help see more women take up leadership roles within the financial sector, but it will also result in more women taking up finan-

cial products and services as part of the next leg of the partnership and project with our bank," said Rughani.

According to him, gender equality is taken as a critical factor that can fasten the bank's success and management is committed to empowering women in the workplace as it has a number of policies, commitments, interventions and initiatives that support women.

In particular, he said the bank has put emphasis on supporting childcare as a key barrier to women's participation. To this end, the bank offers global flexible working practices especially for returnee mothers and increased benefits for new parents.



Siana Ndesaulwa, (C) financial reporting manager with Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania flanked by her junior colleagues from the bank at a meeting on Women Leadership held at the weekend at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of Standard Chartered Bank

"The bank has one of the best parenting policies that grants new mothers a fully paid maternity leave of five months, compared

to the market practice of a three months maternity leave;

New fathers are also granted a two weeks' pa-

ternity leave compared to a market practice of three days. Other initiatives include the Women's Network that provides

an international platform to inspire and encourage women working at the bank to contribute and share best practices" affirmed Rughani.

At a group level women occupy 30 percent of its top four levels of senior roles. In Tanzania, the bank has already achieved this target with a third of its top management team comprising women.

Caption: Siana Ndesaulwa, (c) Financial reporting Manager, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania flanked with her junior colleagues from the bank follows a session on Women Leadership held over the weekend at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of Standard Chartered Bank.

Deputy minister pledges govt support to telcos

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will continue putting in place policies and regulations that encourage investment in the telecommunications sector which will translate into job creation and increased revenue collection.

The Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Andrew Kundo, said in Dar es Salaam on Friday when he visited Vodacom Tanzania head offices that over the years, the government has encouraged foreign investment to promote economic growth and social development in the country.

Eng Kundo said as a result of the conducive investment climate, the country's telecommunications sector is the most vibrant and liberal in Africa. "We are mindful of the contribution that the telecommunication sector makes to our economy and we want to nurture this. We want to remove challenges impeding operational efficiency and growth in the sector," he assured Vodacom Tanzania Plc's senior management officials.

The Deputy Minister further noted that with the telco sector contributing over 1.9 percent to gross domestic product, efficiency in operations have a direct impact on tax

revenues, employment, access to digital tools and economic prosperity.

Eng Kundo who was accompanied by senior officials from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority and Universal Communications Services Access Fund and other agencies further noted that the industry has also speeded up economic growth of the country through financial inclusion.

"Our visit today aims to build closer cooperation between government and the communication industry and deliberate on ways to increase customer value and ensure industry profitability beyond just

operational efficiency in order to increase its contribution to the economy," he added.

Vodacom's Managing Director, Hisham Hendi told the minister's delegation that the telco has been instrumental in driving digitization through provision of customized solutions impacting customers, payment systems benefitting millions of Tanzanians.

"We believe that effective use of technology, innovation and customer immersion are critical enablers for socioeconomic growth. We have a huge responsibility and opportunity to leverage on technology and innovation in order to accelerate the digital

transformation and economic growth of our country," Hendi said.

He noted that as per market analysis by BuddeComm for last year, the country's smartphone penetration reached 25 percent which signals emergence of a digital economy in Tanzania.

"Sustainability and technology integration can be assimilated into our strategies to enable us to continue contributing to society as well as amplify the telcos impact in lives of many Tanzanians," he added. Among issues deliberated included; industry pricing structure, spectrum accessibility and national fibre connectivity.

World Vision hands over toilets worth 189m/- to Babati schools

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to ensure that pupils and communities adopt a culture of building decent homes with toilets, World Vision Tanzania has donated 44 modern toilets valued at 189m/- to three public primary schools in Babati District of Manyara Region.

The Project's Coordinator, Esther Mushendwa said that the three schools from Endadmet Ward in Babati had serious challenge with toilets which compelled World Vision Tanzania to initiate the project thanks to funding from World Vision Japan.

"As we mark 40 years of service in Tanzania, we have been in the forefront of backing government efforts to develop rural areas with our target mostly on children," said Mushendwa in a speech during the handover ceremony that was presided over by Babati District Commissioner, Lazaro Twange.

She said the toilets will benefit over 1,600 pupils, teachers and other members of the community around Endadmet, Gidas and Endanachan Primary Schools hence contribute towards improving performance of the pupils.

"The Gorowa development Project started in 2008/9 and involved various

projects in Gorowa Ward which includes construction of modern toilets," she noted while adding that in all 18 villages have also benefited from income generating activities funded through the project. Under the Gorowa Project, a vocational training centre was constructed but also classrooms for several public schools in the area.

In a vote of thanks, Babati District Education Officer for primary schools, Getrude Tarimo thanked World Vision for the support in improving the learning environment in public schools many of which face a number of challenges.

"One of the biggest challenges was

shortage of toilets in these three schools and these new toilets means that we have solved the challenge of diseases spread by human waste by over 59 percent," Tarimo said while adding that UTI was one of the major diseases affecting pupils in the area especially girls.

In his speech, DC Twange also joined Tarimo to thank World Vision Tanzania for a job well-done as pupils now have a decent place to relieve themselves.

"The government appreciates a lot such kinds of investments by development partners and not for profit organizations such as World Vision Tanzania," he concluded.

Sh4.5bn missing in budget for buying Covid-19 vaccines

NAIROBI

THE Treasury has failed to allocate Sh4.5 billion needed for the next phase of Covid-19 vaccination, raising the risk that targeted Kenyans could miss out on the jobs against the infectious virus.

The Parliamentary Budget and Appropriation committee yesterday disclosed that the allocation was not included in the spending plan starting July, when the second phase of the inoculation is expected to kick off.

The budget hitch could derail Kenya's target to ship in 36 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines by June next year when it expects to have 16 million people inoculated.

Kenya this week received 1.02 million doses of the vaccines enough for slightly over 500,000 people requiring two doses eight to 12 weeks apart.

This would cover health and care-home workers, with the other top priority being teachers and security and immigration personnel.

The second phase of vaccination would involve 9.7 million people, comprising all those above 50 years old and those above 18 years old with underlying medical conditions, running between July this year and June next year.

The third phase, to unfold concurrently with the second, will be aimed at 4.9 million people, including those living in congested areas and seen as particularly vulnerable.

The parliamentary Health committee has raised the alarm that the Treasury had failed to allocate money for the vaccines in the 2021 Budget Policy Statement—a policy document that indicates priorities to guide the national government and counties when preparing budgets for the new year starting July.

"That there is no mention in the BPS 2021 regarding the acquisition and availability of vaccines for Covid-19 and whether it is one of the government priorities in the 2021/22 and over the medium term as part of Covid-19 interventions. Further, no resources have been provided for the acquisition of vaccines," said the health committee.

Similar comments were made by the budget committee.

"Sh4.5 billion for acquisition of Covid-19 vaccines and Sh4 billion for procurement of HIV drugs..." said the committee in reference to the unfunded items in Ministry of Health budget for the New Year.

Kenya's first batch of vaccines, which arrived on a Qatar Airways passenger flight on Tuesday, is the first of an initial allocation of 3.56 million doses by the global COVAX facility.

"We have received ... machine guns, bazookas, and tanks to fight this war against COVID-19," Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe remarked as the doses arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.



A resident of Endadmet, Anna Bayo (L), presents an African loose cloth to World Vision Tanzania's Gorowa Project Coordinator, Esther Mushendwa, in appreciation of 44 modern toilets funded by the organization during a handover ceremony held in Babati District last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Postal bank and NIC in drive to scale up insurance services

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Postal Bank (TPB) has partnered with National Insurance Corporation (NIC) to offer loans on premium insurance schemes.

Announcing the partnership over the weekend, TPB Managing director Sabasaba Moshingi said the partnership is built on the strength and experience by NIC in serving the insurance industry.

Under the partnership, NIC will cover marine, house, vehicle and life insurance among others. He said due to the wide distribution network of TPB, they are assured of reaching out

to many people.

Moshingi said the partnership will be instrumental in making insurance products more accessible and affordable to Tanzanians, thereby contributing to increased insurance penetration rate.

"We have opened a new chapter in banking and insurance in the country, under this partnership TPB will be offering NIC premium insurance on loan at a very small interest rate, the aim is to see that many people have insurance," he said.

He said the country's insurance penetration rate is not convincing, but under the partnership, he expects to reach

many people.

"The partnership will also be key in demystifying insurance for potential customers. A person can walk to TPB bank anywhere in the country and directly access information on insurance," he said.

Moshingi also disclosed that under the partnership, customers will get yellow card insurance which is vital for motorists travelling to the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA) countries.

"COMESA Yellow Card Scheme offers emergency medical cover to the driver and passengers of the foreign motor vehicle involved in the traffic ac-

cident," he said.

NIC Managing director Dr Elirehema Doriye hailed TPB for the partnership which he said will help many people in the country as his corporation target is to reach 25 percent of market share by the year 2026.

"National Insurance Corporation (NIC) is a rejuvenated and transformed insurance provide in the country, we are the most profitable insurer in the country, our current market share is 15.2 percent, but our target is to reach 25 percent of the market share by the year 2026, with this partnership with TPB am sure we will realize our dream," he said.

He said the partnership augurs well with the government efforts of deepening the insurance sector and improving the country's low insurance penetration.

"In terms of product distribution, Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) plays a unique role of being able to reach out to high net worth individuals and also the population in the underserved markets. Because of this fact, statistics around the globe show that provision of insurance products and services through banking institutions has grown significantly over the years," he said.



Treasury Cabinet Secretary (minister) Ukur Yatani.

Investment managers body acquires big stake in Ghana's Ngoya Etix DC

ACCRA

AFRICAN Infrastructure Investment Managers (AIIM), one of Africa's largest infrastructure-focused private equity fund managers, together with the management team of the new Onix Data Centres Limited (Onix DC) platform, have acquired a majority stake in Ngoya Etix DC (Ghana) Ltd, a carrier-neutral data centre with a current capacity of 170 racks (expandable to 680 racks), via AIIM's flagship pan-African infrastructure fund, AIIF3.

Located in the Greater Accra region of Ghana, the facility - to be renamed Onix Accra 1 - is the only Tier IV* data-centre in the country and is expected to be the largest operational datacentre in Ghana once fully ramped-up, providing physical space, power, cooling, connectivity and security to customers.

According to the companies, the ac-

quisition comes at a time when Africa's digital economy is growing exponentially. Between 2010 and 2019, more than 300 million Africans gained access to the internet, marking a shift towards digital processes and lifestyles.

A statement released by the companies reads: "Digital access is increasingly fundamental to economic growth and the socioeconomic advancement of individuals. Although small, the sub-Saharan African datacentre market is growing fast with co-location capacity increasing by 50 percent in 2020, from 2019 levels.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further demonstrated the need for digital infrastructure investment, with 75% of the population expected to have access to the internet by 2025."

Connectivity for Onix Accra 1 is provided by Vodafone, Comsys, and CSquared, offering both primary and redundant capacity, with other carriers

lined up to provide additional capacity.

Onix DC has plans to install an Internet Exchange Point (IXP) in the facility, ensuring a comprehensive and robust connectivity ecosystem for its customer base of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telcos, governments, Content Distribution Networks (CDNs), cloud providers, hyperscalers and large enterprises.

The acquisition consortium was led by AIIM, alongside key members of the Onix DC management team.

Ed Stumpf, Investment Director at AIIM, commented: "The acquisition marks AIIF3's second investment in the digital infrastructure sphere during the last four months. Whilst we have seen considerable interest in the African datacentre sector, the evolution of in-country capacity in many markets outside of South Africa, remains nascent and inadequate to meet

rising data demands, migration of enterprises to the cloud, and the need for content closer to end consumers.

Datacentres underpin and enable the digital economy and present strong growth prospects for long-term investors such as AIIM. We look forward to partnering with our in-country partner, Sam Ankrach of Africa Investment Group Properties Ltd and the management team, who will assist with the establishment of the Onix Data Centre platform and help establish Onix Accra 1 as a market leader in Ghana."

Michael Nahon, CEO of Onix, added: "I am delighted that we have been able to acquire this datacentre, with the support of AIIM, who are longstanding supporters of, and investors in Ghana. We have well-developed plans to deliver a high-quality facility and see this as an optimum time to be investing in the Ghana market."



WORLD

Democrats push Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID bill through Senate on party-line vote

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Senate on Saturday passed President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan in a party-line vote after an all-night session that was delayed repeatedly as the Republican minority tried but failed to push through around three dozen amendments.

The plan passed in a 50-49 vote with the support of every Democrat but no Republicans. It is one of the largest stimulus bills in U.S. history and gives Biden his first major legislative victory since taking office in January.

The partisan victory was made possible by Democrats winning two Senate seats in Georgia special elections in January, giving them narrow control of the chamber.

Biden said on Saturday he hoped for quick passage of the revised bill by the House of Representatives so he could sign it and start sending \$1,400 direct payments to Americans.

"This plan will get checks out the door starting this month to the American people, who so desperately need the help," Biden said at the White House after the vote.

The final bill includes \$400 billion in one-time payments of \$1,400 to many Americans, with a phase-out starting for those with annual incomes above \$75,000.

It also includes \$300 a week in extended jobless benefits for the 9.5 million people thrown out of work in the crisis.

Democrats agreed to reduce those benefits from \$400 a week in order to secure passage in the Senate. They want the bill signed into law before current unemployment benefits expire on March 15.

About \$350 billion in aid was also set aside for state and local governments that have seen the pandemic blow a hole in their budgets.

SENATE FIST BUMPS

House of Representatives Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said on Twitter that the House will vote Tuesday on the Senate-passed bill.

Democrats broke out in applause amid passage of the bill in the Senate on Saturday and liberal independent Senator Bernie Sanders fist-bumped Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Schumer said the bill would help the country get the upper hand against a pandemic that has killed more than 520,000 people across the United States and upended most aspects of daily life.

"I want the American people to know that we're going to get through this and someday



President Joe Biden

soon our businesses will reopen, our economy will reopen and life will reopen," Schumer said.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, however, had harsh words about the measure. "The Senate has never spent \$2 trillion in a more haphazard way or through a less rigorous process," he said.

Republicans had sought a new round of aid about one-third the size of Biden's plan.

McConnell argued that even without this legislation, "2021 is already set to be our comeback year" because of relief bills enacted last year.

The measure comes as an increasing number of states have relaxed restrictions designed to curb the pandemic.

Texas earlier this week allowed most businesses to operate at full capacity and California saying it would soon allow Disneyland and other theme parks as well as sports stadiums to reopen at limited capacity.

But even as more and more Americans get vaccinated

against COVID-19, top infectious disease official Dr. Anthony Fauci has said that "now is not the time to pull back."

TWELVE-HOUR STANDOFF

Disagreements among Democrats over the jobless benefits and the all-night effort by Republicans to amend a bill that polls show is popular with voters illustrated the difficulty Biden will face in pushing other policies through a Senate that Democrats control by the narrowest of majorities.

The chamber set a record for its longest single vote in the modern era -- 11 hours and 50 minutes -- as Democrats negotiated a compromise on unemployment benefits to satisfy centrists such as Senator Joe Manchin, who walks a tightrope as a Democrat representing West Virginia, which backed Republican former President Donald Trump in the November election.

The extended unemployment payments, which are to be paid out on top of state jobless benefits, proved to be the most contentious part of the bill. The House bill had set the supplemental benefit at \$400 a week, but Senate Democrats finally agreed to knock that down to \$300.

The House bill also featured a measure to more than double the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which the Senate rejected.

Moderate Democrats had feared that the higher jobless benefits and minimum wage hike would overheat the economy and hurt businesses in rural states.

Agencies

Abbas battles Fatah party discord ahead of Palestinian elections

RAMALLAH



FACING elections for the first time in 15 years, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is battling a growing rift within his powerful Fatah party that poses a new threat to his dominance over Palestinian politics.

A breakaway bid by one of Abbas's party allies has intensified speculation he might cancel a presidential vote planned for July, fearing a potential challenge by Marwan Barghouti, a popular Palestinian leader jailed by Israel.

Abbas's office denies he has plans to delay or scrub the presidential vote.

Barghouti, now 61, was a driving force in Palestinians' 2000-2005 uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He was sentenced by an Israeli court in 2004 to life imprisonment after being convicted over multiple lethal attacks on Israelis by Palestinian militants. Barghouti has always denied the charges.

Abbas, 85, has ruled the Palestinian Authority (PA) in self-rule areas of the West Bank by decree for over a decade. In January, he announced presidential and legislative ballots -- a move largely seen as a response to domestic and Western criticism of his presidency's democratic legitimacy.

Adding to that criticism is Nasser al-Qudwa, a longtime member of Fatah's top Central Committee who last week announced he was forming a new list that would run separately from Fatah in the legislative election, in May.

"(Palestinians) are fed up with the current situation ... internal behaviour or misbehaviour, things like the absence of the rule of the law, the absence of equality, the absence of fairness," Qudwa, a nephew of late Fatah founder and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, told Reuters.

It is rare for leaders on the 19-member Central Committee members to publicly break with Abbas.

Qudwa, 67, said he hoped his list would be led by Barghouti, a Fatah leader long floated as a potential Abbas successor.

Barghouti has not said if he will join the list or run in the presidential ballot. He and his lawyer declined a request to interview him. But opinion polls suggest he would win comfortably against Abbas and leaders from Hamas, the Islamist movement that seized control of Gaza from Fatah in 2007.

Aides to Abbas point to the split with Hamas as having contributed to the long delay in holding new elections.

FATAH DISCORD

Abbas has tried to resolve the discord by dispatching a loyalist to visit Barghouti in prison and, through emissaries, preaching party unity after Qudwa announced his new list.

"Fatah, with strength and power, will run united in the upcoming democratic elections to strengthen democracy, maintain the national liberation project and protect Palestinian national unity," Hussein al-Sheikh, Abbas' civil affairs minister, wrote on Facebook.

Palestinian officials have privately questioned how Barghouti would contest the elections from prison and what would happen if he won. Any move to free him would likely ignite a political firestorm in Israel.

Two Western diplomats told Reuters that European countries were urging Abbas not to backtrack on his election pledge.

"There's concern he (Abbas) might see a middle ground in allowing the legislative elections to go ahead, but postponing or cancelling the presidential election," one of them said.

Abbas is due on Monday to convene a meeting of Fatah's Central Committee, where he is expected to formally sanction Qudwa.

Qudwa told Reuters he does not plan to attend committee meetings. It was not immediately clear how much support Qudwa's list would garner. About 250 Palestinians joined a Zoom conference call he held last week to announce the move.

Agencies

Xi stresses safeguarding people's health, boosting education

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping on Saturday stressed giving "strategic priority" to safeguarding people's health and building a high-quality and balanced basic public education service system.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks when he joined national political advisors from education, medical and health sectors in a joint group meeting.

The meeting was held during the fourth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the top political advisory body.

Xi called for focusing on tackling major diseases and problems that affect people's health.

The country's public health protection network should

be fortified and efforts should be made to promote the high-quality development of public hospitals, he said, demanding comprehensive health care for the people at all stages of life.

Noting that China had scored hard-won achievements over the past year, Xi commended health workers for "putting up an iron wall" against COVID-19 at a critical time.

The fight against COVID-19 has once again proved that prevention is the most economical and effective health strategy, Xi said, calling for reforming and improving the disease prevention and control system.

He urged efforts to strengthen the capabilities for initial monitoring and early warning, rapid testing, emergency response and comprehensive treatment.

Stressing the "main force" role of public hospitals in fighting COVID-19, Xi called for



strengthening construction of public medical and health institutions.

Health infrastructure at the grassroots level should be improved and support policies for rural doctors should be implemented in an effort to enhance the grassroots capacity of disease prevention and treatment, he said, calling for efforts to deepen the reform of the medical and healthcare system.

Xi also urged the preservation and development of traditional Chinese medicine and breakthroughs in core tech-

nologies in key areas, as well as more protection, care and support for health workers.

On education, Xi said China must strive to build a high-quality and balanced basic public education service system.

He emphasized the socialist orientation in running schools, the non-profit nature of education and developing education that people are satisfied with.

Education is essential to the country and the Party, Xi stressed.

To build a high-quality education system, the reform of the evaluation system should be in the lead, so as to push forward reforms in other aspects of education, said Xi.

He called for efforts to train more talents who can contribute to the country's high-quality development and high-level self-reliance.

Teachers are the central pillar of education, and strengthening the professional ethics

of teachers must be a top priority, Xi said.

He praised education workers for their contributions to fighting the epidemic. He also demanded more support for teachers in rural areas.

Ahead of the International Women's Day, which falls on March 8, Xi extended festive greetings and best wishes to the country's women of all ethnic groups and from all walks of life. He applauded the contributions made by Chinese women to the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

The joint efforts of the whole Chinese nation, including Chinese women, are needed in realizing the development goals of the Party and the state, Xi said.

Party committees and governments at all levels should fully understand the great significance of women's cause and protect women's rights and interests in accordance with the law, he said. *Xinhua*

Many diplomats in Vienna interested in Russian vaccines, envoy says

MOSCOW

MANY representatives of diplomatic community in Vienna as well as members of various international organizations have displayed interest in inoculation with Russian preparations, Russian Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov stated yesterday.

"Many colleagues from dip-

lomatic corps in Vienna, as well as from local [international] organisations expressed interest in being vaccinated with Russian vaccines," he wrote on Twitter.

The diplomat added that the work on this issue is underway but "it will take some time (not less than a month)." He noted that "partially it will depend on European authorities."

On Thursday, the European

Medicines Agency (EMA) announced that it began the procedure of a rolling review of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine.

The EU regulator stated that during the review specialists will evaluate the compliance of the preparation with EU stand-

ards of efficacy, safety and quality.

As Head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev noted, the approval by the EMA will allow to provide the Sputnik V vaccine to EU residents starting in June 2021.

Earlier, it was reported that a number of EU countries have already individually approved the use of the Sputnik V preparation without waiting for the

EMA's registration.

Currently, the vaccine has been registered in Hungary and Slovakia.

Sputnik V is among the top three vaccines against the coronavirus worldwide in terms of approvals received from state regulators.

To date, Sputnik V has been registered by 45 countries with the total population of more than 1.1 bln people.



98 percent once-impooverished residents in China benefit from policies on reducing poverty via industrial development

SINCE 2012, departments of agriculture and rural affairs of local governments in various areas of China have continuously boosted industries in poverty-stricken regions.

Over the years, the country's 832 national-level once-impooverished counties have established over 300,000 industrial bases of various kinds, and 98 percent of the once poor residents in China have benefited from policies on eliminating poverty through developing industries. Meanwhile, poverty-stricken regions in China have seen significant improvement in the environment for the development of industries.

Industrial development is considered the most direct and effective route to poverty reduction as well as a long-term solution

to pumping new blood into poor areas and helping impoverished villagers secure jobs in their hometowns.

Reducing poverty via industrial development has become the most widely adopted, the most effective, and most sustainable approach in China's fight against poverty, said Liu Huanxin, China's vice minister of agriculture and rural affairs.

The approach helped increase the per capita net income of poor residents to 9,808 yuan (about \$1,520) in 2019 from 3,416 yuan in 2015, logging an average annual increase of 30.2 percent, according to Liu.

"Thanks to the black cardamom industry, we have become better-off," said Ma Wenjun, a villager in Bapo village, Nujiang Lisu

autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan province. Last year, Ma achieved a bumper harvest of his over 60 mu (about 4 hectares) of black cardamoms and gained an income of over 100,000 yuan.

According to Ma, local people are enthusiastic about the industry, which is now the village's pillar industry.

In 2020, Nujiang Lisu autonomous prefecture became a core production area of black cardamoms in China. The prefecture planted 1.11 million mu of black cardamoms, benefiting 165,000 poor villagers.

Tianlin county, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, has continuously upgraded its bamboo shoot indus-

try for poverty alleviation by measures including improving low-yield bamboo groves, introducing preliminary processing factories, and setting up core demonstration zones for bamboo shoot industry.

The county's annual output value of dried bamboo shoots has exceeded 200 million yuan.

Taking advantage of local bamboo grove resources, Tianlin county has built a sightseeing passage to bamboo groves, developed a series of products such as bamboo shoot canned food and pickles, and continuously increased the value of low-yield bamboo groves.

"I have grown bamboo shoots for over 20 years, yet it was until recent years that

I have been able to double my income," said Wu Zaimeng, a resident in Pingxi village of Tianlin county, who attributed her income growth to the county's efforts to upgrade bamboo shoot industry.

Last year, Wu sold all the fresh bamboo shoots of her family to a local processing plant and earned over 70,000 yuan.

The 832 once-impooverished counties in China have built 43,000 preliminary processing facilities for agricultural products, which have helped increase the preliminary processing capacity of the industries in these counties by nearly 8.3 million tons and create more jobs and revenues from added value of industries.

People's Daily

In Iraq's ruined city of Mosul, pope hears of life under Islamic State

MOSUL

MUSLIM and Christian residents in the ruined Iraqi city of Mosul told Pope Francis of their lives under brutal Islamic State rule yesterday as the pontiff blessed their vow to rise up from ashes and told them that "fraternity is more durable than fratricide."

Francis flew into the northern city by helicopter to encourage the healing of sectarian wounds and to pray for the dead of any religion.

The 84-year-old pope saw ruins of houses and churches in a square that was the old town's thriving center before Mosul was occupied by Islamic State from 2014 to 2017. He sat surrounded by skeletons of buildings, dangling concrete staircases, and cratered ancient churches, most too dangerous to enter.

"Together we say no to fundamentalism. No to sectarianism and no to corruption," the Chaldean archbishop of Mosul, Najeeb Michael, told the pope.

Much of the old city was destroyed in 2017 during the bloody battle by Iraqi forces and an international military coalition to drive out Islamic State.

Francis, who on a historic first trip by a pope to Iraq, was visibly moved by the earthquake-like devastation around him. He prayed for all of Mo-

sul's dead.

"How cruel it is that this country, the cradle of civilization, should have been afflicted by so barbarous a blow, with ancient places of worship destroyed and many thousands of people - Muslims, Christians, Yazidis and others - forcibly displaced or killed," he said.

"Today, however, we reaffirm our conviction that fraternity is more durable than fratricide, that hope is more powerful than hatred, that peace more powerful than war."

Intense security has surrounded his trip to Iraq. Military pickup trucks mounted with machine guns escorted his motorcade and plainclothes security men mingled in Mosul with the handles of guns emerging from black backpacks worn on their chests.

In an apparent direct reference to Islamic State, Francis said hope could never be "silenced by the blood spilled by those who pervert the name of God to pursue paths of destruction."

He then read a prayer repeating one of the main themes of his trip, that it is always wrong to hate, kill or wage war in God's name.

Fighters of Islamic State, a Sunni militant group that tried to establish a caliphate across the region, ravaged northern Iraq from 2014-2017, killing Christians as well as Muslims who op-



A handout picture provided by Vatican News shows Pope Francis (right) meeting top Shi'ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, in the Iraqi shrine city of Najaf, yesterday. (AFP)

posed them.

'AFRAID TO RETURN'

Iraq's Christian community, one of the oldest in the world, has been particularly devastated by the years of conflict, falling to about 300,000 from about 1.5 million before the U.S. invasion of 2003 and the brutal Islamist militant violence that followed.

Father Raid Adel Kallo, pastor of the destroyed Church of the Annunciation, told how in 2014 he fled with 500 Christian families and how fewer than 70 families are present now.

"The majority have emigrated and are afraid to return," he said. "But I live here, with two million Muslims who call me father and I am living my mission with them," he added, telling the pope of a committee of Mosul families who promote peaceful coexistence among Muslims and Christians.

A Muslim member of the Mosul committee, Gutayba Aagha, urged the Christians who had fled to "return to their properties and resume their activities".

Francis then flew by helicopter to Qaraqosh, a Christian enclave that was overrun by Islamic State fighters and where families have slowly returned and rebuilt ruined homes.

In Qaraqosh, he received the most tumultuous welcome so far on the trip, with thousands of ecstatic people packing the roadsides to get a glimpse of their religious leader. Most were not wearing masks despite a rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

"I can't describe my happiness, it's a historic event that won't be repeated," said Yosra Mubarak, 33, who was three months pregnant when she left her home seven years ago with her husband and son, fleeing the violence.

Francis has stressed inter-religious peace from the start of his trip on Friday.

On Saturday he held a historic meeting with Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric and visited the birthplace of the Prophet Abraham, condemning violence in the name of God as "the greatest blasphemy". **Agencies**

WHO warns of 'mass trauma' caused by COVID-19 pandemic

GENEVA

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) officials said on Friday that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused more "mass trauma" than World War II and warned of its lasting consequences.

"The world has experienced mass trauma because World War Two affected many, many lives," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a virtual press conference.

"And now, even with this COVID-19 pandemic, with bigger magnitude, more lives have been affected, almost the whole world is affected," he said, adding that the pandemic induced mass trauma is "beyond proportion and even bigger than what the world experienced" after the Second World War.

Merck & Co Inc US drugmaker Merck & Co Inc said on Saturday the experimental antiviral drug molnupiravir it is developing with Ridgeback Bio showed a quicker reduction in infectious virus in its phase 2a study among participants with early COVID-19.

"The secondary objective findings in this study, of a quicker decrease in infectious virus among individuals with early COVID-19 treated with molnupiravir, are promising," said William Fischer, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, in a statement from the companies.

The antiviral is being currently tested in a Phase 2/3 trial that is set to be completed in May.

Merck decided to focus on therapeutics after its two COVID-19 vaccines failed to generate desired immune responses, prompting it to abandon the program in January.

Agencies

US, allies have dropped 46 bombs per day on other countries since 2001 - research

LOS ANGELES

AN average of 46 bombs have been dropped on other countries per day by the United States and its allies since 2001, a recent research by anti-war group CODEPINK has revealed.

According to the research by Medea Benjamin and Nicolas J.S. Davies of the U.S.-based group, which was published Thursday on the Common Dream website, the United States and its allies have

dropped at least 326,000 bombs and missiles on other countries since 2001, including over 152,000 in Iraq and Syria.

The conclusion was made primarily on official U.S. military releases, as well as data from the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, the Yemen Data Project, and the New America Foundation, the research said, adding since the Trump administration ceased publishing figures of its bombing campaigns in 2020, the total number

was underestimated.

Moreover, the data also had not included bombs or missiles used in helicopter strikes, AC-130 gunship attacks, strafing runs from U.S. bombers, or any counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations in other parts of the world, the research said.

"The United States has been at war for nearly every year of its existence as an independent nation, fighting in 227 years of its 244-year history," it read. "The American

public and the world are left almost completely in the dark about the death and destruction our country's leaders keep wreaking in our name," it added.

The research was published after U.S. air forces drop seven 500-pound bombs in eastern Syria on Feb. 25, reportedly killing 22 people.

"President (Joe) Biden has foolishly tried to use airstrikes in Syria as 'leverage' with Iran, instead of simply rejoining the Iran nuclear

agreement as he promised during the election campaign," the writers said, noting "the U.S. airstrike has predictably failed to halt rocket attacks on deeply unpopular U.S. bases in Iraq."

"Biden cannot restore the world's respect for American leadership, or the American public's support for our foreign policy, by piling more lies, secrets and atrocities on top of those he has inherited," the research concluded.

Xinhua

Domestically produced ultra-thin stainless steel foil showcases China's strength of manufacturing

AN ultra-thin stainless steel foil developed by Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Precision Strip Co., Ltd., which is the thinnest in the world, recently won a big prize at the Sixth China Grand Awards for Industry ceremony.

The stainless steel foil, as thin as a cicada's wings when unfolded, can be ripped effortlessly by hands. It is a sophisticated basic material that is in urgent need in major emerging industries. However, China was not able to produce it in the past and had to import it at extremely high cost.

In recent years, the increasingly higher demand for the product in China further exposed the supply-demand imbalance when aerospace, nuclear power and new energy industries soared. It was under this background that the domestically made ultra-thin stainless steel foil was developed, which reinforced the industrial chain, effectively lowered production cost, and enhanced China's control over relevant sectors.

To gain the ability to independently produce steel sheets 1/4 as thin as typical printer paper, Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Precision Strip Co., Ltd. spent over 10 years improving its technologies. After conducting over 700 experiments and tackling more than 170 challenges and



A worker displays the 0.02 mm ultra-thin stainless steel foil produced by Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Precision Strip Co., Ltd. (Photo courtesy of Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Precision Strip Co., Ltd.)

450 problems related to manufacturing equipment and techniques, it finally mastered the way to produce 0.02 mm steel sheets.

Last year, it once again made breakthrough in the limits of rolling and other techniques, and produced stainless steel sheets that are only 0.015 mm thick which can be used to manufacture batteries for new energy vehicles. It was because of such perseverance that the enterprises embraced perfect transformation and upgrading.

To improve the quality of supplies through scientific innovation is a vital experience for Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Precision Strip Co., Ltd. and even the entire steel industry to achieve better-than-expected

growth.

According to statistics, major iron and steel enterprises across China created total revenue of over 4.7 trillion yuan (\$619 billion) last year, up 10.86 percent from a year ago.

The success of the industry to have withstood the impacts from COVID-19, despite the throes of its de-capacity, came from its complete industrial chain, as well as the innovative cooperation between enterprises on the industrial chain. The sales of new products such as ultra-thin stainless steel foils, quality bearing steels and gear steels embraced a rise against headwinds. They not only stabilized the production capacity of the steel industry, but also expanded market space, maintaining

steady growth of the industry.

Winners of the Sixth China Grand Awards shared one similarity - seeking breakthroughs in high-end and frontier technologies. From the ultra-thin stainless steel foils to auto gears, and from superconducting materials to open AI platforms, many enterprises are racing to tackle new technologies and set standards, acting as forerunners of scientific innovation and technology translation, which indicated the strength of China's manufacturing sector.

Today's China has further consolidated its role as the world's largest manufacturer. The added value of the country's manufacturing industry accounted for 28.1 percent of the world's total in 2019; profits of its major industrial firms rose 4.1 percent year-on-year in 2020; over 10 national manufacturing innovation centers were approved or established during the last five years. These figures are accelerating China's steps to build itself into a manufacturing power.

In the future, the country will further enhance independent innovation and improve the quality of supply system in the manufacturing industry, so as to continue progressing towards the higher end of the global value chain.

People's Daily

EU member states have legal right to buy Sputnik V vaccine – European Commission

WASHINGTON

EU member states have all legal rights to procure Russian or Chinese coronavirus vaccines, but they themselves will shoulder the consequences of their use, European Commission Chief Spokesman Eric Mamer said on Friday.

According to the spokesman, the EU has established a portfolio of purchases of European Medicine Agency (EMA)-approved vaccines. However, an emergency procedure exists that allows individual member states to purchase vaccines from other suppliers, as long as these contracts are not signed with suppliers already included in the EMA portfolio.

"We [the EC - TASS] have defined a portfolio of joint purchases for the vaccine; this imposes on member states who do participate in this [an obligation] not to have parallel agreements with companies within that portfolio. Outside that portfolio, member states do have - legally speaking - the right to purchase vaccines from other suppliers," Mamer said.

Starting in August 2020, the EC signed contracts on



preorder of 2.6 billion of vaccine doses from Western companies, of which only three are currently certified: Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca.

All three vaccine makers have already commenced shipments, but in smaller volume than planned due to certain production and logistics issues.

Starting in January, Brussels was rocked by a series of scandals over consecutive statements of inability to fulfill the contracts for vaccine shipment from all three certified producers.

According to the EC estimates, EU member states will receive only 106 million doses in the first three months of 2021, and only in the second quarter will the

shipment reach the projected level of 300 million doses. As a result, most EU member states have already reviewed the vaccination procedure.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) announced Thursday that it launched a procedure of the Sputnik V expertise.

The specialists will determine the vaccine's compliance with the EU standards for efficiency, safety and quality.

According to the Russian Direct Investment Fund head Kirill Dmitriev, EMA's approval will make it possible to provide the Russian vaccine to the Europeans starting in June 2021.

Agencies

BEIJING

Chinese leaders join discussions with political advisors

SENIOR Chinese leaders Saturday joined national political advisors in different group discussions at the fourth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The leaders - Li Keqiang, Li Zhan-shu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng - are all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

When joining discussions with political advisors from the economic sector, Premier Li Keqiang called for an accurate understanding of the new development stage, full application of the new development philosophy, and creation of the new development paradigm to promote

high-quality development.

The premier also called for efforts to keep the economic operation within an appropriate range without major fluctuations, unleash domestic demand potential with a focus on improving the people's wellbeing, and consolidate the foundation for economic stability and recovery.

Li Zhan-shu, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, called for a deep understanding of the political strengths of the CPC leadership, firmly sticking to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, visits national political advisors from the economic sector, and joins a group discussion with them at the fourth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in Beijing, capital of China, on Saturday. (Xinhua)

giving full play to the institutional strengths of multi-

party cooperation.

Wang Yang, chairman of

the CPPCC National Committee, called on non-Com-

munist parties to strengthen their study and education of the CPC history at a time when the CPC celebrates its centenary, asking the non-Communist parties to carry forward their glorious tradition of cooperation with the CPC.

Wang Huning, a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, attended the joint group meeting of political advisors from the social science sector. He called on the sector to unswervingly adhere to Marxism as the guidance and take the study and research of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Char-

acteristics for a New Era as the top priority.

Zhao Leji, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, called on national political advisors to actively offer suggestions on state affairs with a focus on implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). He also called for unremitting efforts to fight corruption to create a sound political ecosystem and development environment for implementing the five-year plan.

Vice Premier Han Zheng urged efforts to ensure that the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region suits Hong Kong's realities and reflects the overall interests of the society, so as to guarantee in accordance with the law the extensive and balanced political participation of Hong Kong compatriots. **Xinhua**



Mecky Mexime

Kagera Sugar now part ways with coach Mexime

By correspondents Ismail Tano & Nassir Nchimbi

MECKY Mexime, Kagera Sugar's head coach, has confirmed his departure from the Mainland Premier League outfit after a mutual agreement with his former bosses over allegations of unsatisfactory performance in the top flight.

The coach's exit was made public after Kagera Sugar lost 1-0 to Namungo FC in Kagera last weekend.

Sixtus Sabilo scored the all-important goal for Namungo FC who now move to the ninth position with 27 points.

Namungo have played the least number of games as the outfit's participation in CAF Confederation Cup has seen them engage in just 18 games.

Kagera Sugar, who have played 23 games, are placed 13th with 24 points.

Mexime last season gave Kagera Sugar success by finishing fifth and, with the coach being hunted by Yanga, Kagera Sugar's bosses gave him a two-year contract which however could not keep him due to the ongoing poor results.

He has confirmed his departure from the team, explaining that since last Friday evening he met his bosses and negotiated a peaceful departure.

He said the main reason for reaching the decision was due to unsatisfactory results.

According to him he is now free and he would welcome a team which needs his services

"It's true as you have heard, since last Friday evening I spoke to the officials and today (Saturday) we have parted ways, it is mainly a result but if any team wants my services we can sit down talk and work," he noted.

The decision came just an hour after the team conceded a 1-0 home defeat to Namungo FC.

It was a second consecutive home defeat for Kagera Sugar, they previously suffered 2-1 loss to Azam FC last week.

Mexime claimed that Yanga were interested in his services early this season but he turned down the offer after they failed to agree on certain terms.

At the same time, the former defender for senior national team, Taifa Stars, said that coaching top sides such as Azam FC, Simba and Yanga is an easier role compared to handling mid-table clubs.

The 44-year-old gaffer, former Taifa Stars' skipper, started his coaching career at his boyhood club, Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar.

Loss to Coastal Union skirts Yanga out of comfort zone

■ Must now solve coaching problem, sort out club culture

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

BEING handed a 1-2 defeat by lowly Coastal Union has dragged Young Africans SC (Yanga) out of its comfort zone, despite that it is just one defeat for a fairly long period.

The defeat rattles spirits because the club fan base was hanging on a thread, that they were still the Premier League leaders and had not been defeated so far, where at least one datum has been disrupted by this defeat.

What comes out of the defeat isn't whether the side is still league leaders but whether there is a possibility it may be repeated, as at that point the confidence wanes completely, and since this is a middle ranking club at best, repetition is likely.

It is hard to see how this is avoided as in the first place there is too much of traditional type of soccer where scoring is a matter of luck, instead of field programming on ball possession and recovery, when the side loses the ball.

This is ultimately the mark of technically respectable soccer and the side has difficulty keeping to possession, seemingly interested in kamikaze long balls, risky jumps to collect the ball from the air, vain dribbling ending in dis possession or ball being put to a throw in.

Then a restart begins of the same techniques, with good passing noticed when players are close to one another, a clear shortcoming.

In 1974 or thereabouts Simba SC were in Brazil and when they came back they had picked up something that at times used to be known as 'diagonal' football, which comes down to the W playing formation.

Players at the five at regular intervals give back passes of a timely kind to avoid dis possession as well to give chance to a player facing no direct adversary to figure out whom to pass the ball.

The idea is chiefly that the next



Yanga

person to have the ball will be in a better position to avoid being dis possessed, and thus see if the ball can be passed forward fruitfully, where it stands a good chance of being guarded too.

Evidently it can't be said that coach Cedric Kaze is unaware of possession techniques, but there is a problem of player habits and fan base pressures, where excitement is about how the ball is thrust forward towards goal, and who can shoot brilliantly to score an all-important goal.

Coaches in the past have tried to get past that sort of culture and while it can't be said that Kaze has not been trying to overcome that habit, it must be said that the proper 'diagonal' way of playing wasn't in view in the Coastal Union tie.

That means the coach is still following club culture and hebeats, rather than introducing clear patterns.

When one recalls the sort of outrageous disputes and exclamations of the former Yanga coach, Zlatko Krmpoti, and how he was

dismissed from his job, it appears that these problems are far too entrenched for Kaze to actually take the bull by the horns.

In that way he may choose to play along with what it is believed is what the fans want, where every moment of play is a chance for one player to show his running and dribbling skills, loses the ball and then someone else tries out his abilities, repeatedly.

No question that goals can be scored in this manner as well, but engineering a move isn't easy as not one player is predictable in play.

There are of course other problems that can be traced to overall limitation of experience (in the sense of comparing for instance with higher leagues abroad rather than with their city rivals) as even in the most watched premier leagues such mistakes happen.

It is to angle to the far right or far left when a goalkeeper comes diving at the ball, instead of flicking it over, which pundits will say 'easier said than done.' Surely that is

the case, and it needs players with coolness of mind and deftness of control to think or do the trick.

Thinking of these tactical issues and trying to figure out how the tag 'people's team' comes up, it would appear that the side is for a certain while to come tied down to playing by the dictates of the stand, where the fans don't support the side but teach them, boo them etc.

This is what riled the previous coach and it appears the situation has remained the same, despite that other teams are picking up composed and resolute possession football, at least for long periods in the 90 minutes engagement.

For Yanga to actually use the skills of the players it possesses, it will have to cut out the unpredictable running and continuously losing the ball to set up a genuinely professional playing pattern.

Players need to be used continuously in keeping the ball and seeking space to make a well connected pass in wide ground, not crowded runs, falls.

Zanzibar hosts East Africa Judo Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's East Africa Judo Championship got underway at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar on Saturday.

Zanzibar Judo Association's Chairman, Mohammed Juma, said teams from Burundi, Kenya, Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar are ready for the championship, which will take place two days.

"All preparations for the East Africa Championship are ready, we are happy that teams have arrived ready for the event which ends on Sunday (Tomorrow)," he said.

Zanzibar will have 18 athletes at the championship. They are led by coach, Mohammed Hamis, who also takes part in the showpiece.

The hosts' team's other judokas are Ibrahim Mohammed, Ali Juma, Mohamed Haji, Khalid Juma, who will

compete in 60kg event, while the 66kg event has Alaw Abdulrab, Mussa Haji, 73kg event's judokas are Abdul Shakur, Ali Said and Walid Issa.

Judokas participating in 81kg event are Hafidh Suleiman, Mbarouk Suleiman, 90kg event's judokas are Khamis Hussein and Mansab Alawi while Haji Mohamed and Santo Meshack take part in 100kg event.

Juma said the team have two female judokas, Rayuu Abdallah and Mjigan Silima, who take part in 57kg event.

"The players are in good shape fitness wise, I'm sure we will defend the title," he said.

Juma said they had an administration and technical meeting for all competing nations a day before the competition.

Zanzibar are the East Africa Judo Championship's defending champions.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemán Jafo (L), Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega (2nd R), Vodacom Tanzania Foundation Manager, Sandra Oswald (R), and the WWF Environment Conservator, Severin Kallonga, in a group picture with overall winners of Kisarawe Ushoroba Half Marathon, Omary Maulid (C), Rebecca Machege (L) and Grace Charles, after the event, sponsored by Vodacom, which took place in Kisarawe District, Coast Region yesterday. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Government vouches for improvement of athletes' well-being

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega, has instructed the ministry's Sports Department to sit down with institutions in charge of the sports sector in the country to discuss and find the best way for improving the lives of players during both work and retirement.

Ulega mentioned the institutions as the National Sports Council (NSC), the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), the Premier League Board and the Tanzania Soccer Players Union (Sputanza).

He pointed out the living conditions of players should be closely monitored because they have made a significant contribution to the nation.

He issued the statement at a joint

meeting of stakeholders of sports governing bodies in the country to discuss the interests and how to find new players from the grassroots level, who will help the country achieve success in soccer.

"I direct the ministry's Sports Department, the NSC, the TFF, the Premier League Board, Sputanza and our sponsors to sit down and discuss the future of our players including health care

and preparation for life after retirement," he stated.

In addition, he urged the institutions to see to it the Sputanza is properly strengthened by designing permanent sources of funding to protect the interests of players and the game of football in the country.

He noted: "I also want you to work together to create sustainable sources of

income, I sincerely want to see the soccer players' union grow stronger."

He said: "There should be a reliable source that will better manage their rights."

"Today you will find a retired player living in pathetic condition, this has come about because we did not create a good environment for them from the beginning," he stated.

Barca teen Ilaix will take first goal 'to the grave'

BARCELONA

ILAIX Moriba says he will take his first Barcelona goal "to the grave" with him after opening his account for the club in Saturday's 2-0 win over Osasuna.

Ilaix, 18, scored Barca's second goal with seven minutes to go to seal victory as Ronald Koeman's side cut the gap on La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid to just two points.

The midfielder, who joined the club's academy in 2010, only made his professional debut in January and was making just his fifth appearance for the senior side.

"I like to shoot," Ilaix told reporters after the game. "Thanks to God, [Lionel Messi's] passed me the ball and I don't know how I cut back, but then I shoot with my left [foot] and it's a goal."

"I need a little time to take it all in. I will never forget it. I will take it to the grave with me. I just want to dedicate the goal to my dad, to my mum... and to all my family."

Ilaix, who was born in Guinea but has represented Spain at youth level, is one of several youngsters to have been given a chance by Koeman.

He came through the La Masia academy at the same time as Ansu Fati, whose first Barca goal also came away against Osasuna last season.

"Ansu is like my brother, we've spent many years together," Ilaix said. "I love him a lot, he's family to me. I'm delighted to have scored my first goal in the same goal as him."

Asked what advice Messi, who set up the goal, has given him, Ilaix added: "He's said to me from the start: 'You always have to be there. Get there and look for the goal.' And today he gave me the pass and I've shot..."

Ilaix has long been highly rated within the club -- he signed an unprecedented contract for an academy player in 2019 when he was just 16 -- but Koeman still deserves credit for the faith he's shown in him.

"Ilaix scored a fantastic goal, the decisive goal that sentenced the game," the Barca coach said in a news conference.

"Every time he comes on, he gives the team something extra, because of his personality and his energy. Most of all, he's good with the ball and physically he's a strong kid. He's gaining ground and showing he can be with the first team more."

"For me, the most important thing is that we're competitive. Age doesn't matter, it's about what I see on the pitch."

Jordi Alba had earlier opened the scoring but Barca were indebted to a string of saves from Marc-Andre ter Stegen to keep them in front before Ilaix's clincher.

Koeman conceded his team weren't at their best but still felt they "deserved" to leave Pamplona with three points.

The Dutch coach will be an interested viewer on Sunday when leaders Atletico host third-placed Real Madrid in the Madrid derby.

(Agencies)

Klopp: Liverpool 'too big' to just focus on UCL

LONDON

LIVERPOOL boss Jurgen Klopp has said that the club cannot afford to solely focus on winning the Champions League by giving up in the Premier League.

Klopp's side find themselves in sixth position in the league and four points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea after losing 1-0 to Thomas Tuchel's team on Thursday.

Liverpool could still secure a place in the Champions League next season by winning the competition this year but Klopp insisted that his team will remain competitive in the league.

"We are not in the next round so I can't think about winning the Champions League now," he told a news conference ahead of Sunday's home clash against Fulham. "We have to go through difficult rounds and this round is difficult."

"I didn't think that far [ahead] obviously. This week, we play these three games again late in the season with two days in between, so it's Thursday, Sunday, Wednesday which is tough."

"We will see who we can field on Sunday and then we make a decision on who we can field on Wednesday but it's not because we gave up in the Premier League, that will never happen."

"Liverpool is too big, too many people are interested and we don't really play behind closed doors without cameras. It's in front of our people and we feel the responsibility that in each game, we have to give absolutely everything to win it. That doesn't change our attitude."

Liverpool are in a good position to progress into the Champions League quarterfinals with a 2-0 lead over RB Leipzig going into the second leg of their round-of-16 clash on Wednesday.

Klopp also said that Liverpool's season cannot be compared to his final campaign at Borussia Dortmund in 2014-15.

(Agencies)

Sundowns end 74-match unbeaten home record of Mazembe

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African club Mamelodi Sundowns ended the 74-match unbeaten home record in African competitions of Democratic Republic of Congo team TP Mazembe with a 2-1 CAF Champions League victory Saturday.

While Sundowns celebrated, title-holders Al Ahly of Egypt were held 2-2 at home by V Club of DR Congo, keeping them third in Group A and raising doubts as to whether they can reach the quarter-finals.

Runaway Group C leaders Wydad Casablanca of Morocco beat closest rivals Horoya of Guinea 2-0 via Ayoub el Kaabi and Simon Msuva goals, leaving them and Sundowns as the only sides with perfect three-win records.

Sundowns set-piece specialist Lyle Lakay scored direct from a free-kick with 20 seconds of regular time remaining to earn the Pretoria outfit a famous triumph in



South African club Mamelodi Sundowns pose before their greatest triumph -- winning the 2016 CAF Champions League in Egypt. (Agencies)

southern Congolese city Lubumbashi.

Namibian Peter Shalulile put 2016 African champions Sundowns ahead on 67 minutes as Mazembe players appealed for offside in a spectator-less stadium due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Veteran Tresor Mputu, widely regarded as one of the greatest African footballers never to play in Europe, levelled on 82 minutes by punishing defensive hesitancy

from Mosa Lebusa.

"We prepared extremely well for this match against great opponents," Sundowns joint head coach Manqoba Mngqithi told AFP after becoming the first South African club to win in Lubumbashi.

"The boys entered the match brimming with confidence born out of going 22 domestic and international matches without defeat since last October."

Five-time African

champions Mazembe last lost a home CAF match in October 2009, going down 2-0 to Al Hilal of Sudan in a Champions League semi-final.

The Ravens won 61 matches since, drew 13, scored 166 goals and conceded 34 in Champions League, Confederation Cup and Super Cup matches before facing Sundowns.

Good day for South Africa -

Success took Sundowns to a maximum

nine points from three matches at the halfway stage in Group B while Mazembe, Hilal and CR Belouizdad of Algeria have two each.

On a good day for South Africa, third-place Kaizer Chiefs won for the first time in Group C with goals from Eric Mathoho and Happy Mashiane delivering a 2-0 victory over Angolan visitors Petro Atletico.

In Cairo, Ahly lacked winger Mahmoud Kahraba -- suspended for one month and fined \$12,500 (10,500 euros) after clashing with coach Pitso Mosimane -- as they trailed and led before securing only one point.

Makadi Lilepo gave the Kinshasa outfit a half-time lead, substitutes Mohamed Sherif and Marwan Mohsen scored within two minutes to turn the tide, but Ricky Tulengi levelled from an 80th-minute penalty.

Surprise Group A frontrunners Simba of Tanzania followed up a home win over record

nine-time champions Ahly by drawing 0-0 with Al Merrikh of Sudan in Omdurman and lead V Club and Ahly by three points. Merrikh, bottom of the table with just one point from three outings, sacked Tunisian coach Nasreddine Nabi after the match.

Zamalek, who lost to Ahly in an all-Egyptian 2020 Champions League final, had Ahmed el Fatouh sent off on 58 minutes after being yellow-carded twice as they fell 3-1 away to Esperance of Tunisia.

El Fatouh cancelled a goal by Ivorian William Togai before Mohamed Ali Ben Romdhane scored on the stroke of half-time and again early in the second half for the Tunis club.

Esperance top Group D with seven points, Mouloudia Alger of Algeria have five after a 1-0 win at bottom-of-the-table Teungueth of Senegal, and Zamalek only two.

AFP

Likely Champions League changes would help big clubs, again

Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

VERY soon -- most likely in late April -- UEFA will confirm changes to the Champions League, both in terms of format and access. Those reforms -- which will kick in from 2024 -- will be heavily tilted in favour of already wealthy teams in already wealthy leagues, much like most of the changes we've seen since the creation of the competition in 1992.

It will be presented as UEFA having no choice but picking the lesser of two evils. It'll be making concessions to big clubs, but that's a better alternative than watching them break away and form their own Super League, ignoring the Champions League altogether. We've had these threats before, but this time they felt credible, as I wrote in October. With interest rates close to zero, private equity firms flush with money and top clubs short on cash due to the pandemic, it was the perfect storm for the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester United to either form their own breakaway competition and divvy up the revenue among themselves -- or, as appears to have happened, pretend they would do just that and use the leverage to carve out a better deal for themselves.

The effects of the pandemic, the need for -- to use a buzzword among football execs -- innovative formats and the reminder that club football is a business will be used to justify loading the dice even further in favour of the rich and powerful. But that argument doesn't hold water, and Bundesliga CEO Christian Seifert put it best recently, speaking at the Financial Times' Business of Football Summit.

"The brutal truth is that a few of these so-called super clubs are in fact poorly managed cash-burning machines that were not able, in



Is UEFA going the wrong way in its attempts to reform the Champions League? (Agencies)

a decade of incredible growth, to come close to a somehow sustainable business model," he said.

Somehow, despite a decade of continuous growth that has seen European club revenue double (with most of the increase flowing to the top) and despite Financial Fair Play keeping costs down (and ensuring that the system as a whole was profitable in the last three seasons pre-pandemic), some of the game's biggest clubs realize they are over-extended and short on cash.

And their solution is to make pretty much permanent changes that will serve only to increase the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Details are still sketchy and subject to last-minute horse-trading, but after consultations with clubs and leagues, it looks like the Champions League will be adding four teams, introducing something called the "Swiss Model" that will increase the number of group games from six to 10, giving the French league another automatic spot and having a safety net allowing up to two clubs with a good European pedigree (read: UEFA coefficient ranking) to automatically qualify.

There'll be time to analyse the new format -- especially the "Swiss Model," which, I guarantee, few will understand -- when it's confirmed. But, broadly speaking, the idea is to have more European games and generate more money to help off-set the damage done by the pandemic. For what it's worth,

I'm not averse to clubs playing more European games, and that includes the Europa Conference League, which kicks off next season.

There are hundreds and hundreds of European top-flight clubs that never get to play international football and, even among those who do, for all but 80 of them, the season is over by September. Why shouldn't they get to play? Nor do I necessarily have a problem with trying to squeeze more money out of the Champions League and Europa League. These are professional clubs; they're running a business. What's more, of the €3.25 billion (\$4 billion) these competitions generate, some €400m (\$485m) goes back to support grassroots, national associations and other development initiatives.

There is no question either that these are tough times for clubs, particularly as COVID-19 measures mean stadiums have to stay closed longer than expected and broadcasters de-

mand rebates. Back in September, the European Club Association estimated that clubs would take a hit of around €4 billion (\$4.85 billion) over two seasons. In January, ECA president Andrea Agnelli revised that estimate upwards talking of losses of between €6.5 billion (\$8 billion) and €8.5 billion (\$10.3 billion).

And, obviously, in absolute terms, bigger clubs with bigger stadiums (and therefore more matchday income) and bigger TV deals bear the brunt of these losses. What grates though is the de facto land grab by big clubs that not only want more for themselves, they also want added insurance against -- gasp! -- failing to qualify for the Champions League in the form of the extra places. (And, let's face it, if you're one of the half dozen super clubs outside the Premier League, you really have to screw up something fierce to fail to qualify as it stands.)

It's wrong on two levels. First and foremost, it's simply unethical. Folks from big clubs always justify the fact that they have gotten a bigger share of revenues with the fact that they take on more "entrepreneurial risk" -- i.e., spending more to get the biggest stars and sponsors, with fans paying to see those players. It's their presence that generates the money, not Skenderbeu vs. Midtjylland. That's why 15% of Champions

League revenue is distributed based on the "market pool" -- the size of the TV market in a club's domestic league. If you're in the Premier League or Serie A or the Bundesliga you get a lot, because these are big TV markets in big economies. If you're from Albania or Denmark ... not so much.

It's also why another 20% of revenue gets handed out based on "coefficient ranking." Basically, if you performed well in Europe over the past decade, you get more than if you didn't. The argument here is that teams that have done well in the past have helped to build the Champions League brand and deserve to reap more of the rewards. (It's also, in practice, a way of funneling more money to the established elite.)

Fine. But "entrepreneurial risk" is just that: risk. You have more skin in the game, so you get more of the upside when things go well. But, equally, it means you lose more when things go badly. It's free-market economics 101. The other aspect is that we're talking about making de facto permanent changes that only make it even more difficult for others to compete. In theory, of course, they're not permanent -- UEFA operates in three-year cycles -- but, in the real world, every format change that has been introduced since the creation of the competition back

in 1992 has benefited bigger clubs from bigger nations.

That means that once the toothpaste is out, it's not going back into the tube. Nobody wants to see a club go bust. But -- guess what? -- at the highest level it's virtually impossible. Wage bills can be cut. Debts can be renegotiated. Players can be transferred. Regulations can be loosened to help meet obligations. Does it mean you can do all this and still remain competitive? No, odds are, if you do that you'll be worse on the pitch. It might take you some time to get back to where you were. But that's life. That's business. You overspend, you pay the price.

In the 10 years before the pandemic, club revenues around Europe nearly doubled, from €11.7b (\$14.2b) to €21.1b (\$25.6b). Not quite Bitcoin, but not too shabby either. And, thanks to Financial Fair Play, the system as a whole was profitable in the past three years.

So yeah, Seifert kinda has a point. If you cry poverty now -- and if you try to change the whole system to help bail you out and further create a permanent ruling class of clubs -- you should expect the world's smallest violin. UEFA would probably say it had no choice but to cave.

But the fact is that it's been caving for the past two decades. It's getting old. And it's not good for the game.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

IT'S NOT THE BALL THAT IS KILLING FANS, IT'S THE FOOTBALL!

YOU ARE KILLING ME WITH YOUR WORDS DOC!



Haki Marathon now suspended

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Simba SC ought to work hard for qualification for 2020/21 CAF CL last eight-coach



Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC's head coach, Didier Gomes, is adamant he still has a lot of work to do to see to it his team qualify for the quarterfinals of this season's Champions League.

In a monitored interview held after Simba SC's goalless draw with Sudan's Al Mer-

reikh in Khartoum on Saturday, Gomes said he needs to ensure his side prepares well before facing the Sudanese side in the next fixture on March 16.

He said there are some mistakes which his players made in Sudan and he promised to work on them.

"We played well in the clash, but we did not score," he noted.

"We need to prepare well for our next game, it will be a difficult game but, with good preparations, we can collect the needed three points," he said.

Simba are leading Group A of the showpiece with seven points from three games and for them to reach the quarterfinal stage, they need to win the next game at any cost.

Before the team's departure to Sudan, Gomes

pointed out he anticipated a tough encounter against Al Merreikh, his former employers.

He said that the match was expected to be extremely tough for his side as the Sudanese team have not won any CAF Champions League group stage game.

Simba players, who went to Sudan for the game, are Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, Ally Salim, Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, Paschal Wawa, Erasto Nyoni, Gadiel Michael, Mohamed Hussein, Jonas Mkude, Rarry Bwalya and Mzimiru Yassin.

Others are Luis Miquissone, Hassan Dilunga, Ibrahim Ajibu, Clatous Chama, Francis Kahata, Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Miraji Athuman, Chris Mugalu, Peter Muduhwa, Thadeo Lwanga, Kennedy Juma and David Kameta.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA-1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Conghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor.

And Tanlix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

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

Senghor, Anouma confirm withdrawals as Motsepe set for CAF presidency

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Senegalese candidate for the CAF presidency, Augustin Senghor, has officially withdrawn from the race and pledged his support for South African Patrice Motsepe.

With Ivorian Jacques Anouma also confirming his withdrawal from the election, Motsepe is set to be confirmed as CAF president at the March 12 elective congress in Rabat, Morocco.

This follows the reports that Senegalese Football Federation president Senghor and Mauritanian Football Federation president Ahmed Yahya had agreed, in a deal brokered by FIFA president Gianni Infantino, to withdraw their candidacies in a meeting in Rabat last weekend.

Senghor, in a statement announcing his withdrawal, confirmed the meeting, where it was agreed that Senghor and Yahya would serve as Motsepe's vice-presidents.

The fourth candidate, Anouma, confirmed his withdrawal on Ivory Coast television, saying: "After several reflections and consultations, I decided to give up my candidacy for the election to the presidency of CAF."

Anouma, also part of the meeting in Rabat, reportedly agreed to a role as Motsepe's adviser.

Senghor's statement added: "The parties also agreed that the final agreement should be concluded in Nouakchott [in Mauritania] on the sidelines of the CAN U-20 [Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations] final on Saturday March 6, 2021."

The statement read: "After consultations with the Senegalese authorities during the discussions in Rabat and the approval of the FSF emergency committee during its meeting held on Tuesday March 2, 2021, taking into account the particular context of this campaign, we have decided to accept the consensual proposal submitted to us by FIFA, Morocco and Egypt, in the name of the superior interest of the unity of African football that we have put forward in our profession of faith."

"It seems to us that this is the best decision that we could take after a lucid analysis of the current situation of CAF and of the imperative need to favour a synergy of actions of all the skills to rectify it: a team, a team to raise African football."

Senghor's statement said the discussions agreed on, 'a programmatic axis consisting in agreeing on a common management programme resulting from the synthesis of the manifestos of the four candidates' and 'an axis of collegial and concerted governance based on consensual distribution of functions within the office of the executive committee between the candidates in the running.'

"A report sanctioned the said discussions in the presence of Fouzi Lekjaa, president of the Federation Royale Marocaine de Football, which was declared a depositary without the power to disclose it."

"The withdrawal of my candidacy for the presidency of CAF for the benefit of another candidate will not be shared by all for various reasons, I am aware of this. But I think it's a good decision, the right decision."



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, Filbert Bayi.

Olympic Committee worried by Tanzania's participation in Games

By Correspondent Nassir

Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has expressed concern over the participation of the country's teams in the July Olympic Games which will take place in Tokyo, Japan.

Boxing, athletics, judo and swimming teams are preparing to participate in the Games.

Two athletes have already qualified for the Olympic Games, whereas in other sports, athletes will have to meet the standards before going to Japan

for the Games.

"There are worries the qualifying tournament will not be available, but we are waiting to see whether the number of attendees will increase or not," Filbert Bayi, TOC secretary general, disclosed.

He said the TOC has received a number of names for participation in the qualifying tournaments.

He noted: "Judo has brought 15 names, there are as well 10 boxers, eight athletes and two swimmers."

He stated: "In athletics, there are two who have

qualified (Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Abdi) while Athletics Tanzania officials have said they are in the process of finding qualification standards for the other six athletes."

"Although our concerns are where they will get the qualifying race, especially those on the field race which is now a challenge, we believe the sports clubs are still fighting for the opportunity," he said.

He noted that the judo team, according to the judo governing body's secretary general, Innocent Mallya, would be heading to the Af-

rica Nations tournament in Morocco in search of standards.

"Boxers will also compete in France, but if they could, they would reduce the number of teams they want to take to the qualification and have at least four people who will fit them well for international competition," he said.

Tanzania will participate in the Olympics this season with a record of winning two medals at the Games since Tanganyika's independence in 1961, the medals were won in 1980 at the Moscow Olympics.

Namungo FC says ready for Raja Casablanca

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's representatives in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, Namungo FC, say they are well prepared for their Wednesday match against Raja Casablanca of Morocco, to be played in Casablanca on Wednesday.

The Group D game will be played at Stade Mohammed V and Namungo FC will take on the Morocco outfit, Nkana of Zambia and Pyramid FC of Egypt.

Namungo FC's head coach, Hemed Suleiman, said they are well prepared for the game.

He said he has analyzed his opponents and he is confident his club will come up with good results on Wednesday.

"The morale in the camp is good, we are well prepared for them, it will not be an easy fixture but we are prepared, our two Premier League games have also helped us be in shape for the game," he disclosed.

Namungo FC booked a place in group stage of the tournament after commanding 7-5 victory over Angolan side, Primeiro de Agosto, in play offs.

Commenting on the game against Kagera Sugar that ended with Namungo FC cruising to 1-0 victory, courtesy of Sixtus Sabilo's goal, he said they prepared well for the encounter.

"It was a tough game, we played well but I must thank my players for playing according to plan," he said.

The win has seen Namungo FC move to ninth position in the domestic top flight with 27 points from 18 games.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

